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Through Thick and Thin Season 1 by Cassie

Chapter 1

THE LIAR

I woke up with my head banging like crazy. I can't remember the last time I had so much fun. I looked at my clock on my bedside and almost fell off the bed.

It was 7am and I had a class at 8am. I quickly cleaned myself up. My hair was a mess, I had eyebags because I hardly slept and there was no way I could skip class.

By 7:20 I was dressed up. I still had a headache so I made myself strong black coffee on the go.

I took my backpack and left.

I arrived at campus around 7:50am. I was relieved that I'm not that late.

I'm doing my first year. I'm studying for a degree in optometry. I'm studying at UJ and trust me when I say the pressure is too much.

I can't afford to stay at campus so I had to rent a backroom in dusty Soweto. Basically, I live to survive.

I'm Diana Moreo by the way.

Being a optometrist has always been my dream and after slaving for two years, I could finally afford to take myself to varsity.

I did apply for NSFAS but it only pays for my tuition. I have to make sure I work hard so I can get a bursary. For now, I have to slave.

It was after my class when I received a call from my little sister Aphiwe.

Me: "Hey you"

Aphiwe: "Hi. Look, I just received my pocket money and I sent you half "

Me: "Aphiwe, we talked about this"

Aphiwe: "No Dee. I can't spend it alone while I have a sister who would give up her life for me. Enjoy "

Then she hung up, making me scream.

She's at UFS, studying Bcom accounting. She's also doing her first year.

I'm 20 and she's turning 18. I've lived my life for her, literally. She was lucky enough to receive a bursary. She's studying to become an accountant. Things worked out in her favour and I was very proud.

It was March and she did this even at the previous month.

I must admit that the money helped. I usually used it to pay rent and for some groceries.

At least I had bought second hand books.

And no, I'm not dumb. I have two distinctions in my matrix certificate. For English and Life Science, I had a B for Maths, Physical science, Geography, Life Orientation and Setswana. Basically, I had good marks but the system is never loyal.

Remofilwe came to me during my lunch time. I usually have it around 1H30.

We hugged And sat down.

Me: "Where's Lunga? "

Remo: "Probably chasing some ass. How are you? "

Me: "I'm good, you? "

Remo: "I'm fine, just a little stressed. Lefa caught flu"

Me: "Oh, I'm sorry. He'll be fine. Babies heal fast"

Remo: "That's what mom said "

I shrugged.

She always offered to buy my lunch.

She could afford it. At first, I didn't want to but figured my pride won't get me far.

I don't like sponging off anybody but she didn't mind.

We had been friends two years back when I was a waitress back at home. She usually worked during holidays.

She dropped out last year after she fell pregnant and only came back this year, two weeks after varsity opened, leaving her infant child.

Lunga came just when we finished with our drinks.

We sat at the same spot, each day. They were sharing a flat around town.

He was well off.

Lunga: "You guys always finish without me"

Me: "Because you're always late "

He rolled his eyes.

Lunga: "Well, this bitch I'm trying to fuck is playing hard to get"

We laughed. He was always chasing someone.

Remo: "You should stop, before you catch AIDS"

We laughed. Between you and me, Remo was the good girl in our trio.

Although she had a child, she Was single and played far away from guys.

Lunga: "Not this again. I wish it was Friday. I need to get sloshed"

Me: "Don't remind me. I woke up with a gruesome headache "

Remo: "It's that job of yours. I wonder how you still come to school looking fresh after knocking off at 3am"

Me: "I gotta do what I gotta do"

Unfortunately, I had to go back to class.

I just had to push my exhaustion to the back of my head and focus on the now.

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THE HOE

After Dee left, Remo and I still chilled.

I had a very greasy lunch.

Remo: "Who is he? "

Yes, I am gay.

Me: "He calls himself Leo. I don't get it. I have the looks, I'm every guy and girl's dream yet I still have to chase"

She laughed. It was frustrating for me because I really liked him.

Remo: "What happened to Ona? "

Me: "He was clingy and there was once a time when I was trying to get it on and he wanted me to be a bottom"

She laughed even more loudly. Although we were roommates

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we spent more time together on campus than at our flat.

Maybe because I was always out and about.

I have to keep up appearances.

Remo: " Maybe you should try it"

I looked at her like she's crazy.

Me: "Do I look like I want someone to dominate me during sex?
I'm a man for fuck's sake"

She laughed, frustrating me even more.

I've always been the dominant one in a relationship and believe in being in control.

Being gay doesn't mean you'll find me rocking nail polish or wearing tight girly jeans.

It means I'm attracted to men yet I keep my masculinity.

It doesn't make me any less of a man and the guys I go for are usually the one who want to be the women in the relationship.

I'm the only child of Olivia and Jacob Khoza. My mom is coloured and my father is a Zulu man.

Although he's Zulu, he doesn't have a problem with my sexuality and my mom is just the best.

She's met my boyfriends in the past but it's been three years since I introduced her to someone.

I'm 18 by the way and yes, I'm the youngest in the crew.

Remo: "I gotta go to class now"

She hugged me and left, leaving me to finish my meal.

I was studying a course in business management.

Dad wanted me to take over his business and I didn't mind. I had always been interested in following his footsteps and apart from my sexuality, I'm really my father's son.

He owns a company that deals with manufacturing, marketing and logistics.

Leo came as I stood up after finishing with my meal and I rolled my eyes.

Leo: "I'm sorry Lu"

Me: "What exactly are you sorry about? "

I said that, looking at him sternly with my hazel brown eyes.

He looked down nervously. Oh, he's white.

I've never done white but something about how he danced, swaying his little Ass about a week ago got to me. Or was it how pink his lips are or his black, silky hair?

I don't think I can put a word on it.

Leo: "What I said. I shouldn't have spoken to you like that"

There's nothing I hate more than being disrespected, after not having my way of course.

Me: "Make it up to me"

He looked at me, smiling.

Leo: "How? "

Me: "I'm pretty sure you can figure it out"

I said and kissed his cheek, leaving him in thought.

I would call myself light brown in colour. I have soft hair that I got from my mother but tall and handsome like my father. Yes he's quite a catch.

I had a brush. I didn't like growing my hair because I felt it made me look like a girl, and more like my mother, which is something I hated.

What I knew however was I was going to smash that little ass in a few.

Don't judge, YOLO baba.

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THE MAMFUNDISI

I arrived at my flat and once again, I was alone.

Lunga was hardly here. We spent more time together at campus.

We had been friends since I was 5 and my mom had secretly hoped we would hook up.

She was very disappointed when she found out he's gay and well, it never bothered me.

He's more like my little brother yet he looked older than me.

I'm 19. I should have been doing my second year but I had to dropout immediately when I found out I was pregnant.

It was just one mistake when I decided to go out with Dee and Lunga. I'm the uptight one in the bunch.

Anyway, we all went home with someone and a few weeks later, I was throwing my intestines up.

My mom immediately knew what was up but being the Nurse she was, she took measures.

I went with her to her workplace where she forced me to take a pregnancy test and it came out positive.

I didn't even finish a semester because I was always sick.

I came back and she took care of me. I'm the last born and only girl. She is a single parent. Our father passed away when I was 16 years old.

I have two brothers. Oreneile who is 22 year old and Oteng who is 27.

I called my mom because I was worried about my son. He was just 5 months and I was very worried.

I can't believe I lost my virginity to a one night stand over my first alcohol experience but it happened and I love him so much. My son I mean, not the douche.

His name is Mojalefa or just Lefa.

Me: "How is he? "

She laughed sweetly.

Mom: "Hey Tshidi, I'm good and you? "

I sighed.

Me: "Are you sure I don't have to come over? "

Mom: "He's teething. It's normal and no, you haven't been there for a month but already you want to come over "

Me: "I'm just worried mom "

Mom: "I know but I have everything under control. He's not my first child "

I smiled.

Me: "I'm sorry for nagging mom. How are you? "

She giggled.

Mom: "I am fine, how are you? "

Me: "I'm good and I'm blending in well. I have caring friends "

I'm doing a Bcom in Information systems.

Mom: "And Lunga? I'm sure he's not home. You're probably alone and bored"

I chuckled.

Me: "As usual. I don't know where he gets the energy "

I talked with my mother for a while and hang up.

My focus here was on my books and church. I have always been a Christian although I felt bad after falling pregnant, my mom and the word healed my shame.

I now didn't want anything to do with men. It was bad enough that I had a child with a big curly Afro and a father who's name I didn't know.

It was the first and last time I had sex before marriage and drank alcohol.

It's a vow I made to myself.

Can you believe I woke up alone the following day ? The guy didn't even bother leaving his number.. Just some notes and breakfast.

He had booked into a hotel.

Every time I remember that night, I become disgusted

Anyway, I caught up with soapies, read a bit then went to sleep, with no trace of LUNGA.

I wasn't even surprised.

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DIANA

I wish I had a bursary like other kids, then I would not have had to slave. Anyway, I learnt from a young age to fight.

To fight for what I want and to fight for what I believe in.

I know that one day I'm going to be proud of all my efforts.

It was Thursday and I had just come back from campus.

It was from Thursday when the club got very busy.

I took a bath. I am a size 30 yet I have sort of an hour glass figure. I'm caramel skinned, with an Afro. I had been thinking of doing my hair which is why I had to make sure I make a lot of tips.

We were coerced to wear high heels at the club and our uniform was very skimpy. That didn't bother me because I was used to showing off my skin.

I solemnly believed that there was nothing wrong with showing off your body.

I wore black jeans with a black sweater and sneakers. I always had a backpack in which I put my uniform.

I can't trust the perverts around here. We were forced to put on makeup, which was nothing compared To having perverts touch your thighs.

Fortunately for me, I can pull a mean no-nonsense face.

There was a taxi that picked the bartenders and waiters at their designated stops. I knew I was going to find Lunga at club 360. He was a regular there.

We arrived at the club. Sophie and I went to the stuff toilet where we changed.

She was studying at Rosebank college.

Sophie: "It's going to be popping tonight"

She said, after we changed. She was light skinned and two years older than me.

I actually looked younger than my age. Especially without the makeup. I used it to appear older.

Our boss, Craig came to us after we got out.

Craig: "Today you're both hosting the VIP section. I don't want any complaints. Remember that the customer is always right. Try your all to entertain and ensure people have fun. Of course you'll get extra money for that"

Truth is, I didn't like working there. The men are too touchy and we couldn't even complain about it.

I had never imagined myself selling my body for money and those men liked assuming that we will.

Because they had money and we were hustling for money, they were convinced that we would do absolutely everything for it.

The club got busy around 9pm.

That's when I saw Lunga who came to hug me then kissed my cheek.

Sophie was just blushing. She had a huge crush on him.

Me: "You look like a snack "

He laughed.

Lunga: "Don't I always? I thought you would have managed to convince Remo to come"

I laughed.

Me: "I'm tired of fighting a losing battle. She'd rather be cooped up on the couch than come here"

Lunga: "I wish you weren't working "

I sighed.

Me: "I wish I wasn't too. I would be on the dance floor, getting it down"

Lunga: "Plus you sure can. My very own babes wodumo"

I laughed.

I was having fun talking to Lunga until some guys came.

It was a group of five and they didn't even look old.

Me: "Duty calls "

Sophie looked annoyed when I arrived at this group of fuckboys.

Yes, they looked like fuckboys. I'm actually never wrong when it comes to reading character.

Me: "Good evening gents, how may I be of service? "

Two of them were coloured and three black.

Guy: "Someone with good manners. I have to wife you "

Guy2: "I know her. She's a first year"

Me: "Are you going to tell me what you want or should I excuse myself? "

Guy3: "Feisty, I like "

I rolled my eyes. I was really getting annoyed.

Lunga came and spanked my butt.

Lunga: "Get me double whisky on the rocks"

I was just glad I was out of there.

I just knew it was going to be a long night for me.

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LUNGA

club 360 was booming. I never expected the VIP to be any fun but this time it was.

I was with some girls from varsity. The soccer team was also here feeling like they're the shit.

I don't think Dee knew them. Actually she and Remo didn't know a lot of people.

My phone rang while I was still drinking up a storm with these bitches.

Me: "Lunga Khoza"

There was silence on the other side.

I looked at my phone and spoke again.

Me: "Haibo, speak or forever hold your peace "

"It's... It's Leo"

Imagine the music pumping, the bottles popping while I'm trying to find who I'm taking home and this bitch calls.

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "What the fuck do you want? "

On top of that, I had to deal with these girls throwing themselves at me

I don't know if I should start walking around with a tag written "gay" on my forehead.

Leo: "I.. I'm sorry "

He hang up. I was so frustrated. I started ordering shots.

When I was in the right mood, I went to the dance floor and got my groove on.

I was scanning around, looking for my target until I found him.

Thing about being in the VIP is you have the best view.

You get to see what's happening even in the general entrance.

I went to Dee

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who was still with those annoying fuckboys.

Me: "I'm leaving "

I whispered in her ear.

Dee: "I trust you"

She said, winking at me.

I kissed her cheek.

Me: "Don't entertain these fuckers, you know I'm a very jealous man"

She giggled.

Dee: "Yes daddy"

I looked once at them then left.

I found my target trying to get through a line for drinks at the bar.

He was beautiful. He had dyed his hair red but was wearing male clothes.

Don't ask me how I saw he's gay.

Me: "Hey there"

He looked at me, from my feet to my head.

Mm, he's a little feisty.

Me: "You can take your time "

He gave me a side smile before stretching his hand.

"Khotso"

Me: "Lunga. A pretty little bird like you shouldn't stand in such a long line"

He giggled. He was really trying to fake a soft voice but I really just wanna fuck.

Khotso: "Well, I gotta do what I gotta do"

Me: "I want us to go somewhere a little more private. The vibe here is dying out"

Khotso: "Well, if you insist"

That's a fucken gold digger.

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REMOFILWE

the first thing I do every morning when I wake up is pray.

If God didn't see it fit for me to alive, I would not have woken up.

I thanked God, prayed for my day and for Him to protect me and my friends and I also prayed for my family.

It was a Friday which meant no classes for me.

I needed to go shopping and to also do my hair.

It was long overdue. I just wanted braids, preferably a twist in maroon.

I took a shower while humming a gospel song.

Call me holier than thou, I don't care but I won't change.

I did everything then dressed up.

I wore a summer dress with my sandals and a cap.

I found LUNGA in the kitchen looking like hell.

Me: "Hey you! "

I shouted on purpose.

Lunga: "Hai man Remo "

Me: "You look like hell"

I said, hugging him from behind.

Lunga: "I met a freak who took me to hell and back. I think it's time I went to church "

Me: "I wouldn't mind taking you with"

I made myself some coffee while listening to him tell me of last night's events.

I bid him goodbye and left.

I would have called Dee to come with but I figured she's tired or maybe she had class.

Frankly, I don't know how she did it. Working so late and waking up early.

I love my sleep so much. I doubt I would survive.

The first thing I did when I arrived at the mall was to go to the salon.

I knew I had to get it over and done with first

I spent about three hours and I was so happy when I was done.

I hate sitting around and doing nothing.

Anyway, I paid and left.

I was hungry so I made my way to Wimpy and got myself a table.

"Hi"

I looked up.

Me: "Can I help you? "

Man: "No but I am joining you"

Remember what I said about males and not wanting anything to do with em?

I was very much still on that tip.

I folded my arms and looked at him with my eyes squinted.

Me: "May you please leave me in peace? "

Man: "But I do come in peace. The word of God teaches us to be kind"

Me: "I was polite"

Man: "Actually, it's love that is kind, it does not perish but I love this one, it keeps no records of wrongs "

Me: "Well, you are going to have to pay for my order"

He smiled at me, raising his hand to probably call a waiter.

I just rolled my eyes.

At least I'll be able to treat Dee tomorrow.

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REMOFILWE

Me: "I need to go now "

Him: "I'm Luke, Luke Smith"

Me: "Remofilwe Mogale "

Luke: "Well, Remo, where are you going now? "

Me: "I need some stuff. Look, this was great but it ends here"

Luke: "I'm not trying to get into your pants, we're just talking "

Me: "Well, that's how it all starts -with talking"

He chuckled but I didn't even care that he found this amusing.

I was still going to stand my ground.

Luke: "I might be gay or married "

He says, showing me his left hand which has a silver band on his index finger.

Me: "You're married to a man? "

Luke: "I'm telling you the possibilities, the point is, I don't see you that way. You're beautiful, very attractive but I don't want you "

Me: "Oh"

Luke: "You sound disappointed "

I laughed.

Me: "Unfortunately, I'm not. OK Mr Smith, we can be friends "

Luke: "So how about you give me your number so I can let you go? "

I just gave him my number. He did sound legit and I hoped he doesn't have any ulterior motives.

I trusted myself though and I knew I wasn't going to make the same mistake twice.

English does say "Once bitten, twice shy"

Luke: "And you look beautiful, the new hair do suits you. Enjoy the rest of your day"

Me: "Thank you and enjoy yours"

I went to pick n pay where I took a trolley and started buying stuff I need.

I worry so much about Dee. She doesn't like it but I couldn't help it.

I have my mom and brothers who help me but she carries the weight of the world on her shoulders.

Anyway, I went to pay then left when I was done.

I called Dee when I arrived at the flat.

Me: "Okae"

Dee: "Campus. I'm left with one class "

Me: "Do you have plans for tomorrow? "

Dee: "Not really. But I'm working from 6"

Me: "Great, we going out"

Dee: "Kana your idea of going out doesn't include alcohol. You know the Bible says we should drink a little wine for our stomachs "

I laughed.

Me: "And next you going to remind me that Jesus turned water into wine"

Dee: "Mare he did"

We both laughed.

Me: "Just be here by 12pm. I love you"

Dee: "I love you too"

She hang up and my phone rang.

Me: "Miss me already? "

"You read minds too? "

I regretted saying that. I thought it was Dee.

Me: "Luke? "

Luke: "You thought it's your boyfriend? "

Me: "I don't have a boyfriend. I thought it's my best friend "

He chuckled.

Luke: "OK. Well, I wanted to check if you gave me the right number"

Me: "I'm a fairly honest human being "

Luke: "I'm impressed. We need more people like you "

I laughed.

Me: "You're mocking me"

Luke: "It's a compliment "

Me: "I'll just pretend it is"

Luke: "So, when am I seeing you again friend? "

Me: "I don't know, maybe you can go with me to church on Sunday "

Luke: "OK, you'll text me the time "

I was actually surprised he agreed. I thought he wouldn't.

It would be great to have a friend who goes with me to church.

These two are always tired on Sunday's

Me: "Awesome "

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DIANA

the thought of going back to work was one I dreaded.

I hoped I would be working behind the bar, instead of the VIP.

If Lunga wasn't there the previous day, I would have busted a
vain.

Anyway, I walked out from the computer lab and made my way
to McDonald's.

I was just going to buy myself a macflurry.

I was craving it.

I don't know what happened or how it happened but I felt
hands holding me and pulling me away, only to realise that I
almost got hit by a car.

"You have to watch where you going. This is Joburg"

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "Well

thank you for saving my life but you can let go now"

He did. He was taller than me, tall tall. I am short but not too short.

He wasn't dark, just brown like coffee powder brown. He had nice brown eyes.

Him: "I'm sorry. I'm Wandile "

Me: "Diana. I really have to rush"

Wandile: "You're that girl from the club, are you not? "

I looked at him with my arms folded.

Me: "You were part of the fuckboys? "

He chuckled.

Wandile: "Well, if that's how you would want to describe us, yeah"

Me: "Right, to think I liked you a minute ago"

I looked at the road so I can cross.

He was following me even until I got to McDonald's.

He had a dreadlocked Mohawk.

It suited him to be honest.

Wandile: "I just saved your life"

Me: "And I thanked you. You can leave me alone now"

Wandile: "You owe me your life"

Me: "There's no guarantee that I would have died. Can you just leave me alone? "

Wandile: "OK, can I at least pay for whatever you buying? "

There's nothing I hate like a man or boy who thinks I can be bought.

I would never in my life allow a male to do anything for me.

I'd rather starve.

Me: "No. Leave me alone before I cause a fucken scene"

I was so annoyed at this point.

Wandile: "OK, are you working tonight? I promise I'll leave you alone "

Me: "Yes"

And he left, true to his word. He joined some girls who were sitting outside.

Anyway, I bought my macflurry and left.

I didn't want to be late for work and have Craig breathing down my neck.

I took a bath when I arrived. I then wore leggings, a hoodie and sneakers.

I needed to do my laundry which meant not going out on Sunday.

That's the only day I'm free, unless I'm off at work.

Other than that, I'm busy. If it's not school, it's work.

Sophie was off, which meant no friendly chats.

She was the only one I'm used to. The other girls were too bitchy for my liking.

I'm not judging but I think it's up to me to choose the kind of people I befriend.

It was like my prayers when I worked at the bar, instead of the VIP.

Those girls were happy though. They enjoy entertain the guys for extra money.

I don't know to what extent does the entertainment go but it's none of my business.

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LUNGA

Me: "Mara Remo, come on "

Remo: "No. I'm not going with you Lunga "

Me: "But Dee will be so happy when she sees you"

Remo: "She'll be working. I know you going to leave me when you disappear with your victim and I'll be looking like a wet chicken "

This wasn't going anywhere.

Me: "There won't be another Lefa"

Remo: "That was the first and last time I go out with you guys. And I don't get why you're forcing while I never force you to go with me to church "

Me: "I'll go with you on Sunday "

Remo: "No. I'm going with a new friend "

I sat down. I was very interested now.

Me: "Is it a guy? "

Remo: "Yes and it's not what you think. We're not dating. He's not interested in me"

Me: "And how did you reach that conclusion? "

Remo: "Because he told me. And he's married "

Me: "I wanna meet him"

Remo: "You mean seduce him? "

I laughed.

Me: "I'm hurt. "

Remo: "Anyway, you will. Just don't try anything. Adultery is not a sin I imagine you committing "

Me: "True plus I want to fix my relationship no Nkulunkulu. "

She laughed.

Remo: "I'm proud of you. Hopefully today you are going to abstain "

Me: "I've had enough for the week"

I thought of Leo and how I last heard from him when he called the previous night while I was at the club.

It was Friday which meant partying all weekend for me.

Me: "Girl, I'll see you tomorrow. "

I kissed her cheek and left. They were the only best friends I had.

I had never really had guy friends. I know I would have ended up fucking them anyway.

There was always a thrill with fucking straight man.

I called him when I was in my car.

He picked up on the second ring.

Me: "Are you busy? "

Leo: "Hello Lu, how are you? "

I sighed, rolling my eyes.

Me: "Hi Leonardo, I'm good and yourself? "

Leo: "I am fine, thanks"

Me: "Back to my question, are you busy? "

Leo: "Not really. I have just showered. I was actually about to sleep"

Me: "Get dressed. We're going out"

Leo: "You mean.. You and I? "

Me: "Yes. I did say we"

That was a really stupid question.

Leo: "I'm not a fan of clubs and-"

Me: "I'm giving you a chance to make it up to me"

I heard him sigh. Mission accomplished.

Leo: "I will send you my address"

Me: "Good boy"

4

LUNGA

It has always been interesting for me how alcohol changed people's personalities.

When we arrived at the club, Leo was quiet and all shy but after a few drinks, he was finally engaging.

Dee came to me, laughing.

We weren't in the VIP, just at the general but it was popping.

Dee: "What did you do to him? "

She asked, laughing.

Me: "Not me, he's the one who wanted more shots "

Dee: "Yoh yoh yoh "

I chuckled.

Me: "I know. I hope he won't give me any trouble tonight. I wanna cuddle "

She laughed then clapped once.

Dee: "Cuddle? Wena? "

I laughed.

Me: "Yes. I'm toning it down. I'm only 18 kana. I can't die young"

She laughed again.

Dee: "Well, enjoy. I'll bring him water"

Me: "You're the best"

I said, spanking her butt. I liked doing that.

And yes, I do it to both girls and boys. I don't know with Leo because there's nothing there kodwa I like him.

He pulled me to the dance floor. I knew he could dance.

I once saw him and I liked it.

Dee came with the water which I gave to him so he could sober up.

I knew it was time for us to leave.

I hugged Her.

Me: "I feel like a father "

She laughed.

Dee: "Well, duty calls. I'll see you tomorrow "

I kissed her cheek and left with Leo who looked like he was about to black out soon.

He did, the minute I started the car.

I wasn't even hungover when I woke up on Saturday.

He, on the other hand looked like he had been hit by a truck.

He looked at me, shocked.

I had even showered. I had booked a room at the hotel and ordered breakfast.

Me: "What? "

Leo: "How did I... Did we..? "

He was stuttering, I laughed.

Me: "Honey, if we did, your ass would be on fire now. Go shower, you stink"

Our breakfast Arrived when he was in the shower. I can't believe I slept next to someone and we didn't do anything.

Me: "Should I drop you off? "

He nodded. Since I was done and he had eaten, we left.

Me: "I had a good time last night "

Leo: "You did? "

Me: "Yes. It's a pity you blacked out before I could do anything. Can you believe I had to carry you from my car? Fucked up I tell you"

Leo: "I'm sorry about that. I really had too much to drink"

Me: "I'm only going to accept your apology as a kiss"

I was looking at him with a serious face.

He looked down first before leaning closer and our lips touched.

He was a good kisser and it was the kind of kiss that leaves you wanting more.

I watched him as he left then drove to my flat.

Remo: "You're glowing "

Me: "Good morning Remofilwe, how are you? "

She chuckled.

Remo: "What did you do Lu? "

Me: "Nothing. I didn't fuck anyone last night "

Remo: "You're in love "

She said, pointing at me with her index finger.

I shrugged.

Me: "Asazi"

I heard her laugh as I walked away.

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REMOFILWE

Dee had just called me, told me she was waiting for me.

I knew she could probably still be in her room and about to get out.

Anyway, I took an apple then left.

I had missed her. I hadn't seen her on Friday. It sucked that she was working. I could have asked her to sleepover.

Anyway, I found her at the bus parking and we hugged.

Me: "How are you? "

Dee: "I'm fine, just a bit tired"

Me: "Let's go to the spa"

Dee: "Really? "

Me: "For facials and back massages"

Dee: "I can't allow that Remo"

Me: "Come on. It's not a big deal"

Dee: "Fine but I'll buy us lunch. I made lots of tips last night "

And we left, first to the spa and then lunch.

It was amazing. We were at Dros and she even ordered a glass of wine for herself.

Me: "So, anything interesting that happened at the club? "

Dee: "Leo was fucked up"

I laughed.

Me: "So it's Leo? "

She looked lost.

Me: "Lunga came in a rather good mood in the morning. He was glowing"

She laughed.

Dee: "Yeah. I think he really likes him "

Me: "They do look cute together "

Dee: "I know, right "

Unfortunately, we had to leave since she was going to work.

On Sunday

Advertisement

I woke up and got ready for church.

I always wake up in a good mood on Sunday.

The good thing was having received a call from my mother the previous day and she had told me that Lefa was well.

It was such a relief for me.

I wore my black and white dress with black wedges and tied my braids into a bun.

I wore a black blazer on top, took my bag which had my Bible and everything then went down to the kitchen.

I started making breakfast for myself. Just toast, some eggs then squeezed oranges to make juice.

Lunga: "You're in a good mood"

Me: "It's Sunday "

He rolled his eyes and I laughed. He was wearing sunglasses.

Lunga: "I think I should slow down now. Ngizo fa"

I laughed.

Me: "Yeah, you should "

There was a knock on the door while I was eating so Lunga went to get it.

He had plugged the coffee machine for himself.

Probably needing black coffee for the babalas.

Lunga: "This guy says he's your friend "

He came in with Luke who was wearing a black suit with a navy blue T-shirt inside.

Me: "You look so formal"

I said, hugging him.

Luke: "That's how people dress up for church, look at you "

Lunga: "So, he's the new friend? "

Me: "Yes, this is Luke. Luke, meet my friend Lunga "

Lunga: "I don't trust him"

Luke just chuckled.

Me: "What? "

He took his coffee then left.

Me: "I'm sorry about that. How did you know where I leave? "

Luke: " I've passed here a few times"

Me: "OK. We can leave. I usually take a bus to church "

Luke: "I have a full tank. You can direct me"

I actually still didn't believe that he had come.

I really thought he wouldn't.

He even stayed through out the service.

Luke: "Admit it, you didn't think I would come"

I laughed.

Me: "Yes, I'm still surprised. My best friends have never went with me to church, even after they said they will"

He laughed.

Luke: "You judged me too early "

Me: "So I realise"

Luke: "I'm not doing this to lure you"

Me: "I didn't say that "

He laughed.

Luke: "Goodbye "

We hugged briefly and I walked to my flat.

Church was great.

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DIANA

I groaned, putting a pillow over my ear. It was the second time my alarm is ringing and I was so tired.

I knew I had no choice but to get up.

It was 6am.

Yesterday I did my laundry, cleaned and studied.

Lunga and I went out to some jazz thingy at 10pm and came back around 2am.

Anyway, I took a bath, did everything and when I was done, got dressed.

I wore a short denim dungaree with a black tupac T-shirt inside and my white sneakers.

I wore a cap to cover my eyes and sun glasses.

I knew I was going to take them off when I get in class.

I had black tea for breakfast.

I took my phone and backpack then left.

I was about 5 minutes late for my class but at least the lecturer wasn't there.

I was busy on my phone, asking Remo where she is when I heard someone whistle behind me.

I was already annoyed when I turned.

Wandile: "Damn girl, you just get more and more beautiful everyday "

Me: "Because I'm wearing something short? "

Wandile: "You have a beautiful body, no doubt "

Me: "And I know. Typical fuckboys"

I clicked my tongue and he laughed.

Wandile: "Let's go grab some lunch "

Me: "My friends are waiting for me"

Wandile: "You're always with your friends, you guys can do lunch tomorrow "

Me: "Dude, you're just annoying. I can't imagine spending a minute with you"

He laughed.

Wandile: "You're hurting my feelings Diana. It's just lunch. I promise we won't fuck "

Me: "What? "

Wandile: "Akere o mpitsa fuckboy. I won't try anything funny. "

Me: "No"

Wandile: " You want me to beg?"

Me: "I want you to leave me alone "

Wandile: "I will, after lunch. I just want to feed you "

Me: "Do I look like I'm starving? "

Wandile: "What? Of course not. That's not what I meant "

Me: "Abuti, please leave me alone "

Wandile: "I can't. I like you"

Me: "I bet you do. "

Wandile: "OK, can I get your number? That way I can bother you when you don't have to go to your friends "

Me: "Fine"

He gave me his iPhone and I put my number.

The good thing was that I'd be able to block him.

I found Remo with Lunga and they already had food.

Me: "Sorry I'm late, I got held up"

Lunga: "By who? "

Me: "Who said it's a person? "

Lunga: "I know it is. "

Me: "Some douche bag who's probably trying to get into my pants "

He laughed.

Lunga: "Wena you need to get laid "

Me: "Argh, he's too young for me anyway "

Remo: "Guys, can we please change the topic? "

Lunga and I laughed.

She knew where we were going with this.

We ended up talking about school and what plans we have for recess.

The truth is, I didn't have plans.

All I wanted was to get a day job so I can make enough money to move from where I'm staying.

It wasn't safe and I knew I couldn't continue putting my life at risk like this.

5

ONE WEEK LATER

DIANA

It was mid March and I had gotten a few days from work.

Actually, Craig only wanted me to work from Friday because he didn't want work to interfere with my studies.

I had to study for semester tests and I was glad he was understanding.

I didn't mind because I still got my monthly wages. Even though I got to lose on tips but my school work was not going to be affected.

The good part was getting to spend more time with my friends.

Me: "Nare what's happening between you and Luke? "

Lunga: "I also wanna know "

It was a Tuesday and we were having drinks.

Actually, Lunga and I had ours mixed with vodka.

Remo: "We're just friends who have things in common "

Me: "Really? "

Remo: "Yes, he's never made any advances towards me"

Lunga: "He might be gay"

I laughed.

Me: "Kana you know these things "

Lunga: "I'm trying to understand his story"

Me: "But do you remember your baby daddy? I mean Luke is coloured "

Remo: "Dee, I really don't want to go back there. Please tsala "

Me: "I'm sorry friend "

Lunga: "I'm going to seduce him "

Remo and I laughed.

Me: "Abuti, what about Leo? "

Lunga: "Angithi he's the main and Luke is going to be my coloured side dish"

We laughed again. Someone cleared their throat.

It was Wandile and the look on his face made me want to laugh.

I blocked him on my phone and whatsapp. I had managed to avoid him until today.

I gulped down my drink. I was already tipsy.

Lunga: "Ufunani? "

Wandile: "Diana, can we talk? "

Lunga put his hand over my shoulder. We were sitting on a bench that's on a garden.

He then kissed my cheek.

Lunga: "What do you want to talk with my lady? "

Wandile: "Nana, stay out of this"

Lunga removed his hand and stood up.

Lunga: "Uthini? "

Wandile: "I'm not going to entertain you so I would suggest you sit down. Diana, I said I want to talk to you"

I could see that Lunga wanted to fight. I knew that there's nothing he hates like being disrespected.

I looked at Remo who suggested I go with Wandile. She indicated with her head.

Me: "Baby, let me sort him out"

I said, touching his face.

Lunga: "You better. "

He said down and I sighed, taking Wandile by his hand.

We walked away until we weren't visible to the two.

Me: "O batla eng? "

Wandile: "Why did you block him? "

Me: "Because I am not interested in talking to you"

Wandile: "Are you scared you might fall for me? "

Me: "You don't know me Wandile, you don't know the kind of girl I am. I'm trying to protect you"

He chuckled.

Wandile: "I'm not a kid and you're not my mother. If I'm playing with fire, then I expect to get burnt "

He said, biting his lip.

He looked so cute, too cute for me.

Me: "Are you sure? "

He nodded, looking down at me. I pushed him on the wall

I just wanted to kiss him. My fear was ending up using him or worse, letting him into my world.

I drew circles on his chest. He switched us over so I can be the one pressed on the wall.

He licked his lips before leaning towards me.

I knew I couldn't do this. I had allowed the alcohol to get me to this point. I'm not the kind of person who allowed alcohol to control her but I knew I had slipped. We all make mistakes.

He tried kissing me but I turned. I pushed him away.

Me: "Please, stay away from me"

I then ran back, leaving him like that.

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REMOFILWE

me: "And then wena? "

Dee: "I... I should go "

Me: "Are you OK? "

Her eyes were glassy, like she was about to cry.

Dee: "I'm fine. I just really need to leave "

Me: "But I thought -"

Lunga: "Let her go Remo"

Dee took her bag then left. She left in such a hurry and I was still very worried about her.

Me: "What's going on? "

He shrugged.

Lunga: "I wish I knew but she needs her space. We should also leave "

We left, went to his car and he drove us home.

It was around 5pm when I received a call from Luke.

I hadn't heard from him in a while.

OK

since the Sunday when we went to church together.

Anyway, I answered.

Me: "Hey "

Luke: "Hi, are you busy? "

Me: "Not really. Why? "

Luke: "I need someone to talk to"

He sounded distressed and having a good heart, I got worried.

Me: "You can come over. I'll make some hot chocolate for us"

Luke: "Thank you Remo "

He hang up and I filled the kettle with water.

He arrived after about twenty minutes.

I hugged him then allowed him in.

I made the hot chocolate and we sat in the kitchen.

He took a few sips.

Luke: "This is nice "

I smiled.

He sighed.

Me: "So, what's going on? "

Luke: "Someone has asked me to repay him for a favour and I don't think if I should do it "

Me: "Is it illegal? "

Luke: "I don't think so but I swore I was done with that life. On top of that, I don't know where my life is headed. Everything is just complicated "

Me: "From how you're putting it, you don't want to talk about it. I don't know, I'm 19 with not that much experience. Do what you think is right. I believe our heart can guide us and pray, confide in God. He's the only one who can judge us"

Luke: "You're so perfect "

I chuckled.

Me: "I'm far from being perfect but I strive for perfection. The Bible says for all have fallen and fell short of the glory of God"

Luke: "But have you? "

Me: "Can I tell you a story? "

He nodded.

Me: "I have a son "

His eyes popped out.

Luke: "What? "

I laughed.

Me: "I know. He's five months old and I don't even know his father. I was just 17, having finished my matrix when I went to the club for the first time with my friends. I had never drank. We all left with someone and I woke up with a hangover, breakfast and some notes. I didn't even remember what happened but I was naked and I could feel the fire down there. "

Luke: "But you don't even look like a mother. Or that you're not a virgin "

I laughed.

Me: "I know. See, I was able to pick myself up with the help of my mom and God. I stopped blaming myself, repented and here I am. I told myself that I will never make the same mistake twice "

Luke: "That's why you pushed me off like that, that day? "

I chuckled, nodding.

Luke: "I wish I had your strength "

Me: "It starts with not blaming yourself, accepting your faults then forgiving yourself. It starts within"

Luke: "I'm glad I met you Remo. You don't know it but you just saved my life. You're a true friend "

I smiled.

Me: "Thank you "

.

LUNGA

it had been three days since I last saw Dee and I was worried.

Remo and I both didn't know how she managed to make herself scarce at campus and it was worse because we didn't even know where she stayed.

The only place where I knew I could find her was at work.

Things between Leo and I were turning good. He actually made me happy and I slowed down on the fucking.

It was his kisses that I couldn't get enough of and he was slowly getting used to me.

Of course I didn't want him to be comfortable around me.

It was Friday and I was visiting him in his room.

He was cooking and I was drinking beer while watching his movements.

Me: "Are you done? The aroma is killing my nostrils "

He laughed.

Leo: "Almost. Patience Mr Khoza"

I groaned and he laughed again.

Leo: "Done"

He said. The wings looked juicy, the ribs were appetising.

It was meat guys. The way to my heart has to be fucken meaty.

The wings were spicy. Mexican spicy wings.

Me: "Is this you trying to get me to put a ring on it? "

He laughed.

Leo: "How am I doing? "

Me: "Good, very good "

I smiled at him. It was nice chilling with him, cuddling on the sofa while he forced me to watch a reality show.

Things we do for love, SMH

Anyway, I had to leave.

We kissed once more and I left.

Sooner or later later I was going to hit that.

Anyway, I drove to the club.

I needed to talk to Dee.

6

LUNGA

I arrived at the club in a mood to get down.

It had been a while since I did. It don't matter if a while is a day or two but either way, I was up for it.

The first task however, was finding my best friend and knowing what's up with her.

Dee and I have been friends since I can remember. I might not be staying with her but I'm more close to her than anyone else.

Me: "Sthandwa sam"

I said, giving her a squeeze.

Me: "Have you been drinking? "

Dee: "I took a few shots, nothing major. You look good"

I chuckled.

OK, she doesn't seem to be in a foul mood.

Me: "Thanks but we need to talk "

She sighed.

Dee: "I know "

She called Sophie to cover for her then took my hand and we went outside and got into my car.

Me: "What's going on babe? "

Dee: "Lunga, I don't want to let him into my world. I like him"

Me: "That fuck boy? "

She giggled while nodding.

Me: "That's why you were avoiding us? "

Dee: "I was avoiding questions. You know I hate being pitied "

Me: "Kodwa we care baby. Remo was very worried "

Dee: "I'll talk to her"

Me: "You can go for him but don't make it easy "

She chuckled.

Dee: "Yes and no falling in love. I get it"

Me: "You don't know anything about love wena but one day... Nc nc... You'll get Prince Charming who will make your knees melt with just one look "

She actually looked scared when I said that, which made me laugh.

Dee: "It's not funny "

Me: "Love is a beautiful thing. You can't run away from it forever "

She sighed.

Dee: "I know but I'll keep running either way "

I laughed as we hugged.

Me: "I love you, OK "

Dee: "I love you too"

Me: "And it's high time I knew where you living. "

Dee: "Yeah yeah. I need to go back to work now"

Me: "I'm serious"

Dee: "I know. You can come tomorrow. I'll send you the coordinates"

Me: "My little coconut "

I said, pulling her nose.

Dee: "I'm still older than you "

Me: "Age is nothing but a number "

We went back inside and I kissed her cheek and let her go back to work.

The following day, I took it upon myself to see where she lives.

Her and I are from very different backgrounds but that has never had any effect on our friendship.

My phone rang when I had just gotten into my car.

I answered without looking at the caller ID.

Me: "Lunga Khoza"

Dad: "That's how a man answers his phone "

I laughed. I heard nje by the voice that it's him.

Me: "How are you father? "

Dad: "I am fine but your mother and I miss you"

Me: "I'm coming home soon dad. I miss you two also"

Dad: "I hope the city of gold is treating you well and that you've toned down on the guys"

I laughed.

Me: "Come on dad, have a little faith in me"

Dad: "I know you son. I also know that you can't keep your pants up"

We both laughed at that. I really missed them.

Me: "I try dad. Give me some credit"

Dad: "I just don't want you to get sick. You're still young"

Me: "I appreciate your caring father"

We continue talking after which I hang up and start my car.

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DIANA

I was busy chatting with Mpho, who's my neighbour.

We saw each other once in a while and he had good stories.

We were actually smoking a joint while talking things that didn't make sense.

I saw Lunga's car enter into the yard.

Me: "My guest is here"

Mpho: "Sure case. I got to go hustle. You know akulalwi when it's the weekend "

I chuckled.

Me: "Yeah. Thanks for the joint "

Mpho: "It's a pleasure "

He left

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going out the gate. LUNGA came to me and we hugged.

Me: "I'm glad you didn't get lost"

Lunga: "The directions were precise "

Me: "Coordinates hun "

He laughed, rolling his eyes.

Lunga: "Yeah, that. Err, this area looks like it never sleeps"

Me: "The noise is way too loud but I'm used to it. Let's go inside "

It was nice having him over. We talked and even drunk the bottle of wine I had.

Me: "One day you're going to get arrested for drunk driving "

Lunga: "I'm a sober driver. That day might never come "

Me: "Thank you for coming "

Lunga: "At least I'll know where to come dig you out when you decide to disappear " I laughed.

Me: "Yeah. But I want to move out. It's not safe for a girl"

Lunga: "Any place in mind? " I shrugged.

Me: "I'll find one after recess "

Lunga: "You know I don't mind helping you out, right? "

Me: "I know. Well, you can help me out with the moving when the time comes"

Lunga: "I'm just a phone call away love "

As usual, I prepared myself for work.

Unfortunately for me, I was working at the VIP section.

I hate it there but I needed the money. More especially because I didn't work until Friday.

I wore a maxi dress with sandals and a denim jacket on top.

I took my bag, locked my door then left.

This time, the club was busy when I arrived.

It was not what I expected. I went to change, did my makeup, put my bag in my locker and went to work.

Everything was going well until I saw Wandile.

I had managed to avoid him but work is work.

As usual, his crew was being difficult and trying to talk to me.

I didn't even look at him.

Me: "You'll tell me when you've decided what you want "

Guy: "And if it's you? "

Me: "Do you see a price tag on me somewhere? "

I heard the others gasp. Me: "Exactly "

I walked away. I wasn't going to entertain them.

7

REMOFILWE

I was so excited when I got done with my tests.

It meant I could finally go home. I missed my mom, my son and my brothers. I even missed our dog.

Dee came in while I was packing. It was a Wednesday, on the last week of March.

Dee: "Yeiy wena! "

We hugged.

Me: "You should help me pack "

Dee: "I don't understand why you have to leave "

Me: "I miss Lefa so much"

Dee: "I forget you have a son sometimes. He's more like your little brother "

I laughed.

Me: "Yeah, I know "

She helped me pack. I was leaving at around 2pm and I packed at 10.

The door-to-door guy was going to call me when it's time to leave.

We went to the kitchen where I poured juice for us and had some cookies on a saucer.

Dee: "You're really such a wife"

I laughed.

Me: "But you cook better than me"

Dee: "Because food to me is art"

She said, winking which made me laugh.

Me: "So, you only going home in June? "

She nodded.

Dee: "There's no point in going when Aphiwe won't be there. We both agreed we'll go ka June"

Me: "Alright. So, have you spoken to Mr cute eyes? "

She laughed.

Dee: "No. I'm not about to chase him. If it's meant to be, ena he'll come to me. Simple "

I laughed.

Me: "Things always work in your favour anyway "

Dee: "Yes but I have guys more interested in my body and face than me"

We laughed.

Me: "Perverts "

She left after a while.

Time went on and soon, my transport had arrived.

Lunga helped me carry my bags to the taxi.

He was to leave on Friday.

He hugged me and I left.

I arrived home around 8pm. which is always the case with these taxi.

The good part was that I was dropped right off the gate.

I really couldn't wait to see my mom and my son.

The dog barked as I got in. It felt good being home, no lie.

My mom opened the door and when she saw it was me, she came and helped me with my bags.

Mom: "Why didn't you tell me you're coming? "

Me: "And ruin the surprise? "

She smiled.

Mom: "I'm so happy you're home"

We had lights all around the yard. They were on the wall surrounding our yard.

Me: "I'm glad to be here. I missed you guys"

She helped me take my bags to my room.

I went to check up on my son, who was sleeping peacefully.

I kissed his forehead then joined mom in the lounge.

Mom: "So, how was it like this time? "

Me: "Good, and I've been going to church, studying. I haven't done anything out of the way"

Mom: "I'm proud of you baby. Have you met anyone interesting? "

Me: "That will be Luke. He's my friend. He goes to church with me now and he's a nice person to be around "

She nodded.

Mom: "Has he shown any interest in you? "

Me: "Ma! "

She laughed.

Mom: "I'm just asking. He sounds like a decent young man"

Me: "No. We're just friends and he's made it clear that he has no interest in me"

Mom: "OK but you will tell me if you have someone aker "

I laughed.

Me: "Eya MMA but I don't see that happening anytime soon "

Mom: "You never know "

I laughed, shaking my head.

My mom is something else.

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LUNGA

I had invited Leo over since I was home alone.

We were just chilling on the couch, watching movies.

It wasn't the same without Remo but I wasn't complaining.

It was a Thursday afternoon and the good part was that I was going out tonight.

Leo: "I'm hungry. Do you have food? "

Me: "I think so. You want to cook? "

He nodded.

Me: "Go check in the fridge but give me a kiss first"

He giggled and gave me a kiss.

There was a knock on the door which I went to check out.

Me: "Can I help you? "

Man: "I'm looking for Remo. I believe she stays here"

Me: "And who are you? "

Man: "None of your fucken business. Is she here or is she not? "

So much attitude from such a yummy hunk.

Me: "She went home"

Then he turned and left, just like that.

Me: "OK, that was weird "

Leo: "Who was it? "

He asked, when I got back in.

Me: "My sugar daddy. Pity he didn't even wait for me to invite him in"

Leo: "Oh?"

He sounded sad but what are we to do with people who don't have a sense of humour?

Me: "How's it going? "

Leo: "Fine"

I rolled my eyes. I wasn't going to beg him.

I took a can of beer from the fridge and went to sit down.

I got a text from my mom who told me she had booked my flight.

My parents treat me like a baby but I don't mind.

I replied thanking her.

I knew when I got home

I was going to be showered with love.

I knew this bitch was pushing me when he didn't dish up for me.

How dare he cook my food and not fucken dish up for me?

Me: "What do you suppose I'm going to eat? "

Leo: "You have hands"

He said, rolling his eyes.

I chuckled. Not from amusement but from anger.

Me: "Heh wena, don't you fucken piss me off! This is my food! "

Leo: "You think you're the only one who has money? I'll pay for your food"

I was so defeated. I stood up.

Me: "Phuma"

He looked at me in confusion.

Me: "Get out"

Leo: "What? "

Me: "You heard me. Get out with that filthy plate and you'll come back here when you've learned some manners."

Leo: "Lu, I'm sorry"

Me: "Get out before I call security to come take out the trash"

I could see he wanted to cry but I didn't care.

Not after he disrespected me over a joke.

That's pure childish and I don't think I can deal with that.

For the first time in a while, I got ready around 5 for the club.

I needed to get my groove on, more especially because of what happened earlier.

I wore all black. A black Jean, black adidas T-shirt with a black denim jacket and black all star.

I wore a cap, which I hardly do then left.

It was my last night partying in a club until I come back.

I knew at home I would be going to pubs and the likes.

There were a lot of students. Probably because we were done with writing.

I arrived around 6pm. I went to the VIP section.

I sat down and two chicks came to me. I wasn't even surprised because this always happens.

They come to me with hopes that I'm going to leave with them but that never happens.

Girl: "I'm Linda and this is Bino "

Me: "Lunga "

Bino: "Can we chill with you? "

Me: "Uh, sure"

They were pretty fun girls and I was glad they weren't all over me or anything.

It was around 11pm when they said something about a party somewhere.

Bino: "It's really fun and most of the people are from Rosebank college and UJ. I think you going to love it"

Me: "Is it far from here? "

Linda: "No. We can take my car "

Me: "Oh no, I'll follow you there"

At least it was better than a random one night stand.

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DIANA

By midnight, I was already exhausted. The club was so full that I had to run up and down trying to make sure everyone is satisfied.

My feet were killing me, which is why I had hoped to be working at the bar but no no.

Wandile's crew wasn't here, which was good for me.

More people just kept coming at the VIP section.

It doesn't usually get full but since some people had gotten paid, it was understandable.

"You look like you could use a break "

Said a rather deep voice behind me.

I turned to find a fairly buff guy in front of me. He wasn't too buff but I could see he works out.

He was tall and dark.

Me: "I wish I could "

Him: "Have a drink with me"

Me: "I'm on duty "

Him: "Don't worry about Craig, I can handle him"

Me: "You know him? "

Him: "We're friends. What do you wanna drink? "

Me: "I'm suppose to ask you that "

He chuckled.

Him: "You're taking a break, remember? "

Me: "I forgot. Some Hennessy will be nice "

I said, sitting down. I was grateful for the break and it was good that he knew Craig.

My feet could finally get a break. He came with the bottle and two glasses.

He was wearing formal, which meant that maybe he had been working late.

I wasn't interested in him or anything.

He poured for us and gave me a glass.

Him: "You know, I wasn't planning on drinking "

Me: "Really? "

He nodded.

Him: "What's your name? "

Me: "Diana "

Him: "You look rather too young to be working here"

I laughed.

Me: "I get that a lot. I'm actually 20"

Him: "What do you do during the day? "

Me: "I'm a student. I'm sorry but is it rude that you haven't told me your name? "

He chuckled.

Him: "It's better this way. You'll know me when our paths cross again. I have a meeting to get to"

Me: "After midnight, are you a criminal? "

He laughed.

Him: "No but I'm not a good guy"

He kissed my cheek then left. He was going to Craig's office. I finished my glass and went to put the rest of the Hennessy in my bag.

At least I had gotten the break I deserve.

The following day, I went to campus.

It was so boring without my friends.

I didn't stay for long though.

Sophie had invited me to some pool party which was for next week but I decided to just buy the swimsuit already.

I went to buy it then took a taxi back to my room.

At least I had enough time to rest.

Next week meant that I was going back to working from Monday to Saturday.

Now I had to find something to keep me busy during the day.

8

LUNGA

I doubt there would ever be something that beats my mom's cooking.

It was Sunday which meant I got to have about three pieces of braai meat.

Sunday's have always been braais at home.

We would go to church and when we come back, dad and I would braai the meat while mom made the salads and pap.

Me: "How is it going dad? "

Dad: "Well but I need to retire now. Vele when are you graduating? "

I chuckled.

Me: "Dad, the semester hasn't even passed yet "

Dad: "Nawe you can see that I'm getting old"

Me: "Because of those few strands of grey hair? "

Dad: "Hai suka "

We laughed. It was good being home.

Mom came and we had dinner while filling each other up about what's been happening in our different worlds.

Of course with the folks it was just about business.

I called Remo when I got into my room.

I missed her and since I was home, I could visit her.

Remo: "Hey you"

Me: "Hi love, unjani? "

Remo: "I'm good tlhe, wena? "

Me: "I'm amazing. Are you busy? I wanna come over "

Remo: "I can never be too busy for you. Come"

Me: "I'm on my way. Plus I miss my son"

Remo: "I'll be waiting. Say hello to the parents"

Me: "Will do. See you soon"

I just had to receive a call from Leo on my way to my father's car.

I had left mine behind.

Me: "What? "

Leo: "Hi"

Me: "Just get straight to the point "

I said, rolling my eyes.

I was just annoyed.

He sighed.

Leo: "You're still mad at me? "

Me: "You sound surprised "

Leo: "I'm really sorry for the way I spoke to you"

Me: "Vele, that's all you know. I don't know how many times should I stress the respect. I'm tired shame and it hasn't even been a month "

Leo: "What do you mean? "

Me: "You don't understand your mother tongue? "

Leo: "I.. Well-"

Me: " I just want to enjoy my recess and not worrying. Can I have that? Thank you "

Leo: "But -"

Me: "Goodbye Leonardo"

Then I hung up.

I wasn't in the mood for him anyway. I mean I was miles away.

The least he could do was give me a break.

I found Remo sitting on the veranda with her mom while holding Lefa.

I greeted then sat on the chair her mom had been sitting on.
I think she wanted to give us space. I took the little lad from her.

Me: "Seeing Lefa reminds me of something "

Remo: "What? "

Me: "Some handsome coloured guy came to look for you"

Remo: "Me? Where? "

Me: "Back at our flat on Thursday. I think he's your baby daddy
"

Remo: "What? "

I shrugged.

Me: "He looks like Lefa nje and I don't think it's a coincidence that they look alike. Why would he come look for you? "

Remo: "But why now? I mean it's been more than a year. Kana I went through this pregnancy alone, where was he? "

Me: "I really don't know. Maybe he didn't know. I can't say I know "

Remo: "Argh. I'm not going to stress"

Me: "Haibo, you haven't even offered me a drink. Juice please "

She laughed, rolling her eyes.

Remo: "Coming up "

She said as she stood up.

.

DIANA

I had found a job as a temp waitress at Wimpy.

I actually didn't think it was going to be easy but having experience helped.

Anyway, it was Wednesday and my first day.

At least I didn't struggle for too long. I guess the gods were on my side.

I took a bath as always and wore a black Jean with a printed throw.

My hair was still just my Afro and I really had to do something about it.

Anyway, I wore some sandals and made myself food. I also made lunch for work.

Anyway, I washed the dishes after and left.

My first day wasn't bad at all. It only got busy when I came back from lunch.

Someone tapped me on the back

Advertisement

I turned and it was Wandile.

He was with a girl whom I assumed was his little sister.

Me: "Hi"

Wandile: "You never rest, do you? "

I chuckled.

Me: "Nop. A girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do"

Wandile: "So what should a guy do to get his number unblocked?"

Me: "Ask. The Bible does say that you should ask and you shall receive "

Wandile: "May you please unblock my number?"

Me: "Only because you're with your little sister. She probably looks up to you"

He laughed.

Wandile: "You're something else"

Me: "I'm not a thing Wandile"

Wandile: "Can I pick you up after this? "

Me: "Why? "

Wandiile: "So we can talk "

Me: "Fine, as long as you won't hit on me"

Wandile: "Not yet but I won't allow myself to be friend zoned either"

I laughed.

Me: "We'll see but I have to go back to work"

Wandiile: "You'll let me know when you knock off Ke "

Me: "Awesome "

I had just placed an order when a girl came to me.

She introduced herself as Leah. She was fairly dark in complexion with a slim model body and a lace weave.

I personally thought this place isn't for her.

Yes, she was a waitress but permanent.

Leah: "The Dlamini brothers are flames "

Me: "Huh? "

Leah: "I'm talking about Wandile and his brother. Are you guys dating? "

Me: "Uhm, not really "

Leah: "Whatever but I need you to hook me up with his brother "
"

Me: "And why would I? I don't even know his brother "

Leah: "You're kidding! "

Me: "Am I smiling? "

Leah: "Who doesn't know him? He's part of the springboks and is like one of SA's most eligible bachelors. I need one night with him. I'd let him hit it raw anytime "

OK, this bitch is too forward for my liking.

Me: "Yeah, whatever "

I left her there and went to attend to people who had just entered.

The good thing about working here was not wearing heels but I looked rather too short with flats.

Anyway, I did unblock Wandile and switched my phone off.

I wasn't ready for whatever talk he wanted us to have and although I knew he could find me, I had to avoid him for the time being.

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REMOFILWE

As much as I didn't know how to feel about what Lunga told me a few days ago, I didn't tell my mom.

I just told myself to not worry about, mostly because I was far from Joburg.

Anyway, it was on Thursday when I decided to take my son out.

Even though he couldn't walk or talk but I loved being in his presence.

Mom: "Are you sure you don't want me to come with? "

I laughed.

Me: "Mom I'm not a baby. Lefa is"

She laughed.

Mom: "But you're my last born"

Me: "I thought he is "

I said, frowning and we both laughed.

Mom: "Oreneile will drive you"

I nodded. I waited for him while having some yoghurt.

I think he was taking a bath.

He came, smelling fresh and wearing shorts.

I whistled and he laughed.

Oreneile: "And then wena? "

Me: "I'm in awe. You look yummy "

He touched my forehead.

Oreneile: "Are you OK? Because you don't sound like my little sister.

I laughed, pushing him a little.

Me: "Not having a boyfriend does not mean I can't look "

He laughed.

Oreneile: "I know I'm hot and all but I'm still your brother. You can't be lusting after me"

I chuckled.

Me: "Get off your high horse. I was just complimenting you"

Oreneile: "I know "

He took out water from the fridge and poured a glass for himself.

Oreneile: "Where's that curvelicious friend of yours? "

He meant Dee.

Me: "You can't describe her like that"

Oreneile: "But she has curves moss and an ass for days. Wena you're just average "

I laughed.

Me: "Whatever but you're talking about my best friend "

Oreneile: "Yerr but she broke my heart "

I'd be lying if I said I know what happened between these two.

Dee just said I'm too young to understand.

I think I was 17.

Me: "Can we just leave? "

He laughed.

Oreneile: "Maybe I should visit you there"

Me: "Ha.a"

He laughed again.

We finally left and he dropped me off at town.

He told me to call him when I want him to fetch me.

The first thing I did was go to KFC for a krusher.

I had Lefa on his pram.

I also bought some zinger wings.

All he had to do was be my company.

I went around browsing nje and even bought him so clothes at Ackermans.

I had just got out of Edgar's when I saw a little boy who looked like Lefa.

It was like my eyes were deceiving me. He was running around a bit. A lady came and took him.

I just brushed it off and called my brother.

I didn't want to think that maybe I might have slept with a married man.

I didn't want to go back there. I couldn't.

9

DIANA

I switched my phone on during lunch but I never got to attend to it.

It was Thursday, with the pool party approaching and I suddenly thought of buying another swimsuit.

I was actually not even sure what I want.

I didn't know who was going to be there and the kind of people they are.

I didn't even know who's party is it but I was hyped up either way.

My phone rang just as I was at pick n pay after knocking off because I was craving wine gums.

Me: "Hi"

"I'm outside, in the parking lot"

I looked at my caller ID. I couldn't even recognise who it was. The number wasn't saved.

Me: "Who are you? "

The person had hang up. Anyway, I bought the wine gums with a packet of Lays and went to pay.

I didn't want to think about going to work but I was going anyway.

Getting outside, it was Wandile.

I had actually forgotten about him. He had whistled at me when I made an appearance so I went to him.

He had a straight face on.

Me: "Uh, hi"

Wandile: "Why do you like playing hide and seek? "

Me: "I hate being whistled at, just so you know "

Wandile: "Why are you ignoring my question? "

Me: "I'm not playing anything. I'm just always busy"

He opens the passenger door for me and I get in.

He's driving a tsi, navy blue in colour.

Wandile: "Are you in a hurry? "

Me: "Actually, yeah. I have to get ready for work "

Wandile: "I don't usually do this "

Me: "Do what? "

Wandile: "Chase a girl like this. "

Me: "I'm not even running "

He chuckled.

I was surprised the car wasn't moving yet.

Me: "Can we leave? "

Wandile: "Askies, I forgot "

My phone rang just after he had started his car.

Me: "Baby"

I said, it was Aphiwe.

Aphiwe: "Yerr, I've been trying to call you since yesterday "

Me: "I was busy tlhe "

Aphiwe: "Whatever, anyway I'm coming there tomorrow "

Me: "Wait, what? "

Aphiwe: "Yes and I'm going to crush at your crib"

Me: "Haibo, I can hardly breathe in that room"

She laughed.

Aphiwe: "I don't care. I'll call you to come pick me up. Love you "

Me: "Love you too"

Then she hang up. I didn't even get to ask why she's coming, how and with who.

Wandile: "Where are we going? "

Me: "Oh, askies "

I told him where and we drove there silently.

He even got in with me.

Me: "Shouldn't you be somewhere? "

Wandile: "I'll drive you to work "

Me: "I don't need a chauffeur. We have a taxi that picks us up"

Wandile: "I don't remember asking that"

Me: "So you'd go to such extremes for pussy? "

He laughed.

Wandile: "You know, I can control my dick but I can't say the same about my heart"

Me: "Uh.. I need to bath. You'll be fine moss"

Wandile: "I'll just make myself comfortable. Don't you have food? "

Me: "Check in that little fridge. I think there's something "

He waited until I was done with everything, which is something that was annoying me.

Me: "You're still here? "

Wandile: "You See now that I know where you live, I'll always be here "

I rolled my eyes.

If only he knew that I'm going to move out from here.

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REMOFILWE

I really think that I was being paranoid.

Anyway, I had decided to stop thinking too much about this.

I was sitting outside with my mom and Oreneile.

Ore: "Weitse mama, I'm worried about Remo"

Me: "Bathong!"

Mom: "What's going on? "

Ore: "It's not right for her to be alone, maybe I should hook her up"

I laughed. My brother is something else

Me: "I'm only 19"

Mom: "And wena makoti o kae? "

Ore: "Akere Remo is keeping me away from my future wife"

Me: "Ha.a

don't make your problems my problems. And you've never seen me date any of your friends so you stay away from mine"

Mom: "So why didn't Diana come home? "

Me: "She's coming ka June and so is Aphiwe. It's something they agreed on"

Ore: "But Remo you're old now, you can start dating man. In fact, I know someone who-"

Mom: "Leave my baby alone wena and Diana. She's young and focused"

Ore: "Diana is a bad girl ma, if I could tell you half the things-"

Me: "I'm going to tell her so she can sort you out"

Ore: "I'm just playing man, don't do that"

We all laughed.

I went back to my room where I called Dee to check up on her

Dee: "Love"

Me: "Hey, how are you? "

Dee: "I'm so good, wena? "

Me: "I'm fine"

Dee: "You don't sound fine, what's up? "

Me: "I'm going mad tthe. I think my baby daddy is looking for me and I'm scared because I don't even know what kind of person he is. What if he's married? "

She laughed.

Dee: "Are you in love with him? "

Me: "What? No but the thought of having slept with a married man is one I can't stomach "

Dee: "How did you leave with him vele? "

Me: "Wena who did you leave with that day? "

She laughed.

Dee: "I didn't get fucked if that's what you're asking "

Me: "You're not making things better Dee "

Dee: "I'm saying don't stress. He might have gotten married last year maybe. Relax man "

Me: "It's not that easy but I'll try"

Dee: "That's my girl. Listen sweetie, I have to go "

Me: "OK, bye"

Dee: "Bye love "

I must admit that I did feel better after talking to her.

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LUNGA

I had just taken a shower and I was getting ready for going out.

I had been locked up in the house for too long.

It didn't help that I was leaving on Sunday.

A person hardly spent time at home but I was glad I enjoyed the time I spent with my family.

This time, I was wearing Chino shorts with a Polo T-shirt.

Anyway, I brushed my hair which clearly needed to be cut because it was growing.

I took my purse and car keys then left.

I was going to some chisanyama just to chill and drink.

Anyway, the vibe was chilled. I went to pay for some meat to be braaied then bought myself a six pack of beer.

I sat down while looking through, just chilling.

Me: "Haibo, Remo "

We hugged. She was with her brother. I really didn't expect to see her here.

Me: "And then? "

Remo: "We're just here for the meat. He actually forced me to come"

Ore: "I really think she should stop being so uptight "

Me: "This our mamfundisi. She prays on our behalf when we're out sinning "

We all laughed.

Ore: "Remo man, let's just chill for an hour then we'll leave "

Remo: "That's not what we agreed on "

Me: "Come on sthamdwasam, it's been a while since we chilled together "

Remo: "Fine but I'm only staying for an hour and I'm not drinking "

Ore: "Fine with me"

So we chilled together, even for more than an hour.

Ore neile went to drop her off and we went to some other joint where it was popping.

Ore: "Man, now I have to find myself some chicken "

I laughed.

Me: "Some things will never change "

Ore: "Says the man whore. Kana you've been doing this before you were a teenager"

Me: "Hai fotshek wena. You talk like you're ten years older than me"

Ore: "Argh whatever. I'm surprised you still haven't slept with a chick"

I laughed.

Me: "If I were straight man. Yazi chicks still throw themselves at me. It's hectic "

Ore: "I should skeem you moss. That way I'll have chicks all over me"

Me: "Only if you hook me up with your brother"

He laughed.

Ore: "Family is off limits "

Me: "That's a bummer"

Anyone, he ended up getting himself a chick.

I wasn't really into getting anyone.

I don't trust the guys In my hometown.

They're ones that need you wearing two condoms.

I'm too young to be losing weight.

I guess I'm still abstaining but not for long.

I called Leo when I got in my room.

I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss him.

He answered on the second ring and it sounded like he had been sleeping.

Me: "Hey, did I wake you? "

Leo: "Uhm, yeah but it's cool"

Me: "I... I miss you "

Leo: "You do? "

Me: "Yes and I hate how things are between us"

Leo: "Me too. I'm sorry for how I spoke to you. I just get jealous sometimes "

Me: "It's OK. I shouldn't have joked like that. I don't even know that guy "

Leo: "Yeah. I guess I'm the one lacking a sense of humour "

Me: "Yep, you do"

He laughed.

Leo: "Don't rub it in"

Me: "I won't baby. Are we good? "

Leo: "Yeah we're good. When are you coming back? "

Me: "On Sunday"

Leo: "Can I take you out then? "

Me: "On a date? "

He giggled.

Leo: "Something like that"

Me: "OK but it'll have to be dinner"

Leo: "Cool with me. See you then"

Me: "Sleep tight "

Well, I knew I was going to have a good sleep after sorting that out.

10

DIANA

I only believed that Aphiwe was really here when I went to fetch her.

We shared a tight hug.

Me: "What the hell is going on? "

Aphiwe: "I'm going to a pool party man. "

Me: "That's interesting. I'm also going to one tomorrow. "

Aphiwe: "We're probably going to the same one. It's going to be fun"

So my sister has those model bodies with black clear eyes. She's beautiful and light skinned. She looks more like our mother than me.

She had a small sports bag.

Aphiwe: "Who's fetching us? "

Me: "We using a taxi"

Aphiwe: "I'll have to get myself an HIV here"

I laughed.

Me: "WTF? "

Aphiwe: "Banna ba mo Ke Aids fela. Everyone knows that "
I laughed.

Me: "Come help me choose a swimsuit and stop talking like that "

Aphiwe: "I also need one. Something that leaves little to the imagination, if you know what I mean"

Me: "Uh, whatever "

Aphiwe: "You also need to do your hair ausi. My treat to you "

Me: "Haibo"

Aphiwe: "It's not debatable. We have to look hot tomorrow babe. I'm tired of being single "

Me: "Thought you would have gotten yourself a person ko Bloem "

Aphiwe: "They're just boys who want to fuck you then leave. As if they're good in bed"

I laughed.

Me: "You're something else"

We went to firstly do my hair. She forced me to have a curly fringe weave on. It made me look cute I admit and forced us to take pictures.

I'm really not a picture fan

Anyway, we went to buy the swimsuits after. It was red for her and yellow for me.

Mine was a two piece, a bra top that you tie on the sides and behind the neck and so was the underwear.

Hers was wide open on the back and also revealed her stomach.

I couldn't wait for us to get dressed in them.

Me: "You going with me to work? "

I asked after I had gotten ready.

Aphiwe: "I'm sleeping. "

I nodded. Wandile just had to come after I had closed the door.

I waited for him to park his car then he got out and gave me a hug.

Me: "You smell good"

Wandile: "And you look good, I'm jealous "

I chuckled.

Me: "Imagine the tips I'm getting today "

Wandile: "Those fuckers will be looking at you with thirsty eyes"

Me: "And you aren't? "

Wandile: "Mine are hungry. You're such a snack"

He said this coming closer to me. He put his hands on my waist which travelled to my butt as he pressed our bodies together.

Me: "Wandile"

Then he kissed me. It was slow, it was sweet and his lips were so soft and I just replied after a while.

He stopped then looked at me with those beautiful brown eyes.

Wandile: "Let's get you beautiful to work"

Me: "You're not making sense"

He laughed.

Wandile: "Whatever. I didn't think our first kiss will be so good"

I laughed.

Me: "I'm good in that and other things "

I said that, winking at him. He chuckled and went to open his door for me.

The following day, which was a Saturday, my sister and I were hyped up about the party.

I don't know who invited her but I knew someone was picking us up.

I had told Sophie that I'll meet her there and Wandile only knew that I'll be busy.

She insisted we dress up already but I had a little bag where I put a dress in.

The car hooted outside and we Got out since we were done.

We had makeup on and even sunglasses. We looked good, no doubt.

It was a girl who was driving. She didn't look straight. Anyway, she opened the door for us and we got in.

We drank wine on our way to the party.

Aphiwe: "This is Musa, she's my date to the part. Musa, that's Diana, my sister"

Me: "No one told me to bring a date moss"

They laughed. We arrived at this yard in the burbs which had a huge ass house. It was a double Storey.

There weren't lots of cars, which meant that it wasn't a huge party. Anyway, we got out and went to the back and that's where the people were.

Sophie came to me and we hugged.

Sophie: "You look beautiful babe"

Me: "Thanks, and you look sizzling "

Sophie: "Craig and his hot friends will be here. I'm trying to seduce him"

I laughed.

Me: "Craig? "

She nodded with a naughty smile.

Me: "Yoh "

Sophie: "There's just something about him girl, something that makes me just want him"

Well

from there we drank cocktails while swimming and doing silly things. The music was loud. It was actually nice.

Sophie was right. I did see Craig come and I was already drunk with Aphiwe who was dancing on my lap. Yes, we do that.

Someone covered my eyes and it was too loud for me to ask who it is.

He uncovered them and Aphiwe chuckled.

Aphiwe: "I'll see you tomorrow "

Me: "And where are you going? "

She pointed to Craig, who was leaning by the wall. I didn't even ask anything.

Him: "We meet again. I think you should cover up"

Me: "Not before you tell me your name "

Him: "I'm going to allow you to find that out on your own, right now, I think it's party over for you "

I laughed. This guy must be crazy.

Me: "No one makes decisions for Diana. Not even my mother. You can't come from whatever hole you've live in and dictate to me"

Him: "I'm sorry but this is my house "

Me: "Nice. Typical of rich niggers to think they own people because they got the paper "

He laughed.

Him: "I'm offended "

Me: "And I've just lost my mood for this. I'll depart from your premises sir"

Him: "But you're barely dressed"

Me: "Which means it won't be hard for me to get a ride. Now, you can go fuck yourself for all I care"

I left him there before he could even say anything.

I was actually pissed. For him to think he can make decisions for me while I don't even know his fucken name.

I luckily found Musa who agreed to take me home. More like offered but I was going to find a way.

I was drunk which only meant I would be able to sleep right away.

I thanked her when we arrived. I was already wearing my dress.

I opened my door then got in, making sure to lock after.

I then threw myself on the bed and it was lights out.

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APHIWE

Craig: "I'm sorry I'm late"

Me: "I'm not surprised. You're never really there"

He sighed.

Craig: "That's not fair "

We were in the house, in one of the bedrooms and he had forced me to cover myself with a towel.

Me: "Is it not? I slept with my sister and oh, you sent Musa to fetch me. I had to lie to Dee and say she's the one who invited me here"

Craig: "Why can't you tell her about us? "

Me: "How? When I don't even know what's happening here"

Zendae just opened the door and threw himself on the bed.

Zendae: "And then? "

Craig: "Couldn't you find another room? "

Zendae: "You know I love drama"

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "I am leaving "

I said, taking off the towel and he followed me out.

Craig: "Baby please"

Me: "What Craig? What?! "

Craig: "I'm working so hard for us. Please just give me a chance "

Me: "So you can break my heart? Rather not. You're just like your friends "

Craig: "I thought I was protecting you by keeping my distance but I love you "

Me: "Then prove it"

Craig: "Spend the night with me please"

Me: "I'm leaving tomorrow "

Craig: "I'll drive you "

I sighed. Craig and I have known each other since last year.

We just met when I came to this party but we had been talking on the phone, video calling and everything.

We met on Facebook and things picked up from there.

Me: "Why did I come here? "

Craig: "So we can finally meet"

Me: "Are you seeing someone else? "

Craig: "What? Of course not"

I've seen the reputation his friends have on social media. They're the bad boys in the country. More like bad men since they're around 25 years.

Me: "Do you love me or were those just words to bring me here? "

Craig: "I love you. I do. I've fixed my life and any misunderstandings, which is why I had you come here"

Me: "And why was your phone off yesterday? "

Before he could answer, Dee's friend came.

I rolled my eyes.

Her: "Craig "

I looked at him. He sighed.

Craig: "Sophie, we're not friends. What do you want? "

Sophie: "Your dick, that's all"

Me: "Wow"

I said, in my attempt to leave and he held me.

Craig: "I'm not going to allow you to talk to me like that in front of my girlfriend"

I rolled my eyes.

She laughed.

Sophie: "This kid? Does Dee know you screwing her little sister?
Actually, I don't care. I want you "

Craig: "Don't make me fire you over this "

Me: "So, she works for you? Wow"

I said, clapping my hands.

Sophie: "Fire me? "

She laughed.

Sophie: "Your little club is nothing without me"

Me: "Fire her"

Craig: "What? "

Me: "Either that or you let me go. I can't have a bitch who's
lusting for you succumb to you"

Craig: "You heard the lady. You're fired"

Sophie: "Fuck you and your bitch"

She clicked her tongue and walked away.

Me: "Can we leave now?"

He took my hand and we left.

He was driving a red Mercedes AMG.

He opened the door for me then went to his side.

The drive wasn't that long. He arrived just as I was about to sleep.

We went in. The door wasn't even locked.

Me: "You don't think people might break in? "

Craig: "They wouldn't try, trust me"

I nodded.

Craig: "You wanna shower first?"

I nodded again.

He snuggled behind me after I showered and wore his pyjama top.

I was so tired. It didn't even take long for me to sleep.

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APHIWE

I woke up and I was alone the following morning. However, there was a nice aroma hovering in the whole house which captured the heart of my nostrils.

I went to his bathroom. It was beautiful and so transparent. I wondered who does the cleaning for him. I knew I would never survive.

I'm not really domesticated. Neither is my sister. My mom was always on our case, busy wondering who's going to marry us. We would just laugh and tell her we'll hire a maid.

Anyway. I used Craig's stuff to take a shower. He had a new teeth brush so I brushed my teeth.

I was wearing his gown when I went to the kitchen.

He had an apron on and yet he was topless.

Me: "Good morning "

He turned and came to hug me.

Craig: "Good morning. You look so beautiful "

I laughed.

Me: "Without the makeup. Just say it"

Craig: "So when am I getting a lap dance? "

Me: "Are you entitled to it? "

Craig: "I'm your boyfriend "

Me: "Since when? "

Craig: "Today. Can you be my girlfriend? "

Me: "OK. Although I was looking forward to finding myself an HIV "

He laughed.

Craig: "Well, you just found yourself a future husband "

I laughed, rolling my eyes. He drove me home, which of course is Dee's place.

I was leaving already.

I knocked once then opened the door. It looked like she had just showered.

Me: "Good morning "

It was around 11am.

She nodded.

Me: "Are you OK? "

Dee: "I'm just trying to understand what relationship my little sister has with my boss "

I laughed.

Me: "He's my boyfriend. Actually, we started today. He's driving me to Bloem "

Dee: "So he can't book you a flight? He has money moss"

Me: "Diana, please"

Dee: "What happened to his fiancée and child? "

Me: "What? "

Dee: "Oh, she died. I think you've just agreed to being a mother. All the best"

I didn't say anything but just took my bag. I was wearing his clothes.

We hugged and she bid me farewell. Craig took my bag which he put in the back and my sister waved at me until the car disappeared.

Me: "You have a child? "

He sighed and nodded.

Craig: "I'm sure Diana told you that. I still don't understand how she knows so much about my life "

I wasn't going to answer that.

Me: "How old? "

Craig: "He's 1 year 2 months"

Me: "So, you were engaged? "

Craig: "Yes. She died a day after giving birth to Mpilo. He's staying with his grandparents but I do get to see him every chance I get. You're actually the only woman I've been with since her death"

Me: "You still love her, don't you? "

Craig: "I don't think I'll ever stop. We were together since high school and though I had cheated here and there, she still stood by me"

Me: "So you going to cheat on me? "

He laughed.

Craig: "I'm old now. Imagine cheating at 25. I'm actually waiting for you to grow up so I can wife you "

I laughed. I think him opening up eased me up.

.

LUNGA

Every time I had to go away from home, my mom would literally get depressed.

She packed my luggage with tears falling down her eyes. You would swear I was leaving forever.

I hugged dad then hugged her tightly. She wiped her tears.

Mom: "I'm going to miss you so much ma "

Dad: "But you're such a baby my dear. We should just try for another child"

I laughed. My mom shot him a death stare and he shrugged.

Me: "I will be back before you know it ma "

We exchanged I love yous and they finally let me go after mom prayed.

I knew I was going to get back at the flat before Remo.

Anyway, I arrived around 5pm. I was tired so I took a shower then napped.

My phone was what woke me up. I answered it with my eyes still closed.

Me: "Yes? "

I heard Leo's voice.

Leo: "Hi, are you back? "

Shit, I forgot about the date.

Me: "Yes. I got here about two hours ago. I was tired so I slept"

Leo: "It's fine but are you at your flat? "

Me: "Uhm

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yeah"

Leo: "I'll see you in an hour then. "

Me: "OK "

I was forced to get up. I wore black adidas pants with a black vest and just sleepers.

I was hungry and hoped he'd come through for me.

The door opened wide when I got downstairs and Remo threw herself in.

I laughed as I went to her and we hugged.

Me: "How was the trip? "

Remo: "Long as always. I'm so tired, I just want to sleep "

Me: " Don't you have food? "

Remo: "I have pizza. You can warm it up"

She took out the container from her bag and gave it to me.

I warmed it up then poured myself a glass of juice.

There was a knock on the door just as I finished.

I went to open and it was Leo, who gave me a hug.

Leo: "So, I brought the dinner to you"

Me: "You love me wena. You just don't want to admit it"

He giggled shyly.

Leo: "It's chill chicken with rolls and chakalaka. Nothing hectic "

Me: "Please dish up"

I have a huge appetite for those who might be wondering.

He dished up for us and we ate, while just having a casual chat.

He left around 10pm and he had come with his car.

I went to sleep right away.

I woke up on Monday and prepared myself for campus.

I was happy because I missed Dee and hadn't seen her in a while.

we hugged during our lunch. Remo was also here.

Dee: "You're glowing, wow"

I laughed.

Me: "And you look beautiful and so delectable, I wanna have you right here and right now"

She giggled.

Dee: "Take me daddy, I'm all yours "

She said that with a very sexy voice. I laughed, squeezing her butt.

Me: "I missed you man"

Dee: "I missed you too man. It wasn't the same without y'all. Remo, o siame? "

Remo: "Oh, I'm good. I'm just hungry "

We laughed.

Me: "Why do you eat because you don't gain weight? "

She laughed, rolling her eyes.

Remo: "Maybe the food goes to my brain"

Anyway, we went to buy food then sat down, filling each other up on what transpired in our lives the previous week.

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REMOFILWE

me: "So, are you and Wandile dating? "

She laughed.

Dee: "I don't date love "

Lunga: "I'm sorry I'm gay. I know you want me"

We laughed.

Me: "But the guy seems to like you"

Dee: "A little too much maybe. I don't know. I like him too but I don't want to end up Catching Feelings "

Lunga: "Rather catch the flu? "

Obviously I couldn't be the one to commit. I had never dated.

Dee too but she had had a few casual acquaintances or however they might be described.

Me: "So Aphiwe and your boss?"

She groaned.

Dee: "I can't imagine that fucker on top of my little sister. I feel like killing him"

We laughed.

Me: "Is he not a bit too old? "

Lunga: "Age is nothing but a number "

Dee: "We'll talk after you find your baby daddy. He might be 40 with 5 kids"

Me: "Don't say that "

They laughed while I panicked. I knew I would never be able to leave with that.

We went back to class after.

I went to Wimpy after my classes for their strawberry milkshake.

I got it on takeaway and walked to my flat.

I was just about to unlock when I noticed that the door was slightly opened.

I just assumed that Lunga was here and got in.

I went to pour myself a glass of water from the fridge then walked further into the flat.

I found my bedroom door open and that's when my heart started beating fast.

I contemplated entering and finally decided to.

The man stood up with a very serious look on his face.

Me: "Pl.. Please don't kill me"

Tears were already streaming down my face.

He chuckled for a second and got serious again.

He was wearing all black.

Him: "Is that the first thing you going to say to your virgin breaker? "

My throat dried up. I couldn't say anything.

I couldn't even move.

I remained frozen as he moved towards me, with my heart beating very fast.

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REMOFILWE

I looked at this guy. I wouldn't even need him to take a DNA test to conclude that he's my son's father.

However, I wasn't going to allow him to waltz into my room. Actually, to break him and just continue like he didn't commit any crime.

Me: "How did you get in here? "

I managed to say with a shaky voice. He still came towards me and I kept moving back until my back was against the wall.

Him: "You're beautiful, yet you look so young. How old are you? "

He was close to me. Too close if you ask me.

He had short curly hair and a little goatie beard. His eyes were sparkly and blue. He smelled good. He looked good.

He stared at me. He was a little taller than I am. I believe I'm tall.

His eyes were the only thing not making him scary. His voice was scary. Deep and scary.

Me: "I... I'm 19"

He nodded.

Him: "Wait, you were 17 when we made love? "

Did he have to come back and remind me of my past?

I slowly nodded.

Him: "Damn. And I'm 31. So I was 29 when we happened. "

My eyes struck out. I didn't think that I slept with someone so old yet he didn't look old.

He chuckled.

Him: "Nothing to be ashamed about. I'm the one who slept with a teenager. And I wasn't even that drunk but you... Damn"

Me: "Please... Please stop"

Him: "We have to talk about this sweetheart because it's clear you don't remember. You don't even remember me"

He took my hand and sat me on the bed. He went to close the door.

A part of me wanted to know what happened and how it happened.

Him: "Was it your first time drinking? "

I nodded.

He chuckled.

Him: "Wow. I mean... I can't remember the last time I broke someone's virginity. I think I was 20, 21. "

Me: "What happened was out of my control "

Him: "But honey you were in control. You're the one who wanted me. We started kissing, which wasn't bad for a first time kisser and I started touching you. Oh, you moaned. Actually, I think it would be better if I show you"

It took a few seconds for that to register.

Me: "What? "

He brushed my face.

Him: "We're just going to kiss. Plus you're sober now so you will remember it"

Me: "I don't kiss strangers"

He laughed.

Him: "But you slept with this stranger so it doesn't make me a stranger"

Me: "I want nothing to do with men"

Him: "That's unfortunate for you because I'm not going anywhere "

He smashed his lips on mine. I literally froze but he didn't stop. I don't know what possessed me but I followed his lead.

I didn't let that go on for long and pushed him away, gently.

He smirked.

Him: "I think we going somewhere "

Me: "I... Please leave "

Him: "No. I'm not going any where. Maybe I've been too nice with you "

I looked at him turn bitter. His face was serious. Very serious yet so scary but cute.

Him: "I want my son Remo"

He knew? I was so shocked. My heart was beating so fast and tears even fell without my consent.

Me: "I.. He.. How do you know he's yours? "

Him: "You're a bad liar Remofilwe. Your little friend told me"

I looked at him waiting for a further explanation.

Him: "Luke. I'm Marcus Smith and that son of a bitch is my cousin. The only reason I didn't kill him was because of his precious little mother"

I swear I choked on my own spit. This man looked dangerous and I could feel the honesty in his speech. How was I going to let someone like this into my son's life?

And I couldn't believe that Luke would do this. He.. He betrayed me.

Me: "You sent him to me? "

Marcus: "Why the hell would I do that? He likes you. I was having him followed and that's how I saw him with you. I gave him a few punches here and there and he started singing like a canary"

He could see how scared I was. I was literally shaking.

Marcus: "Don't worry sweet, I would never put my hand on you. Unless we.. You know. Anyway, I have to go. Call me"

He said, giving me a card. He kissed my forehead and left.

I didn't even want to think about the horror of what just happened.. This man seemed dangerous.

There was no telling what he would do if I kept Lefa away from him.

However, I needed to talk to Luke. He had some serious explaining to do.

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DIANA

Thinking of work and the fact that Craig and Aphiwe are together was a bitter pill to swallow.

I couldn't really stomach having to slave for someone who's screwing my little sister.

This was a mess. A fucken mess.

There was a knock on my door just as I was about to get dressed.

I didn't even know what to wear so I was still in my bra and underwear.

I went to open, hiding my body with the door.

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "What do you want?! "

He pushed the door and allowed himself in.

Him: "My name is Bandile. Bandile Dlamini "

Me: "OK Bandile, get the fuck out"

Bandile: "I came to apologise. Craig gave me your address"

Me: "OK, I'm listening "

Bandile: "I am really not the kind of guy you think I am. I'm sorry if you think I am dictating. It's really not the kind of impression that I wanted to make "

Me: "Can you turn so I can dress? "

Bandile: "You're not the first woman I've seen half naked. I'm not even drooling "

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "OK

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please leave. I don't want my boyfriend finding you here"

He laughed.

Bandile: "See you at work. Nice butt you have "

Me: "Pervert"

I said, throwing a pillow at him. He just laughed, going out.

More and more people seemed to know where I live which I hated because it meant I would have more uninvited guests.

Anyway, I got dressed in just black pants and a black vest then I wore a sweater on top.

I brushed my weave, then took my bag. I firstly ate then I left, making sure to lock my room.

My phone rang at the gate.

It was Wandile.

Me: "Hey"

Wandiile: "Hi, are you at work already? "

Me: "I'm on my way "

Wandile: "I really need to talk to you. When can you spare some time? "

Me: "We can have lunch together, provided you're buying"

Wandile: "I'd like that. Is it OK if we have lunch off campus? "

Me: "It's fine with me"

Work wasn't the same without Sophie. I tried calling her but her phone went to voicemail. It was a loss for me because she was the only one I could talk to around here.

I really hoped she was fine.

I went to Craig's office because I wasn't going to work like this.

I knocked once and got in.

Craig: "I don't remember saying you can get in"

Me: "Then you can't blame me for you amnesia. Where is Sophie? "

Craig: "I fired her"

Me: "And why would you do that? Who do you expect to fill her place? "

Craig: "I don't answer to you Diana but I'll tell you. She disrespected my girlfriend and I. Your sister wanted me to do it and I was on her side "

I laughed.

Me: "That's pathetic "

Craig: "I love her and I would do absolutely anything to make her happy "

Me: "Don't give me that bull. You're going to call Sophie and tell her to come back to work "

He laughed.

Craig: "You're crazy "

Me: "Oh trust me I am, and if you don't want to see my crazy side, you'll do it"

Craig: "Why the hell would I do that? "

Me: "Do I need to remind you? "

He sighed.

Craig: "No. I'll find someone to replace her"

Me: "You better have that someone here by tomorrow or you'll be forcing my hand "

I clicked my tongue and left, bumping into Bandile at the door.

Bandile: "Hey"

Me: "Bye"

Craig really doesn't know me.

I went home and slept. I was really wondering what Wandile wanted to talk about.

Anyway, I took a bath in the morning then wore black and white high waist pants with a black one hand crop top.

I wore all black sneakers then went to make myself some cereal. After eating, I rinsed my plate then left.

Wandile: "Hey"

He said, hugging me.

Me: "Hi"

Wandile: "You look beautiful. "

Me: "Thanks. Where are we going? "

Wandile: "A restaurant at the CBD"

Me: "You look nervous "

Wandile: "Do I? "

We were at the restaurant. He pulled a chair for me and I sat down.

Me: "Yeah"

We placed our orders.

Wandile: "Can you be my girlfriend? "

I looked at him and he was serious. I almost laughed.

Me: "Are you for real? "

He nodded, biting his lip.

Me: "Why? "

Wandile: "Because I really really like you and I can't continue hiding the fact that I want to be with you. "

Me: "You can't be serious Wandiile. You just can't "

Wandile: "Please give me a chance to show you my love "

Me: "I don't do that. I don't do love. I can't "

Wandiile: "Then try. Just give it a try and see where it goes"

I sighed. I never thought I'd see this happen.

Me: "Can you give me some time to think about it? "

Wandile: "You just have to say yes or no. What's there to think about? "

Me: "OK. No"

Wandiile: "I'll give you some time to think about it"

I laughed.

Our order came and we ate. He kept asking me questions about myself and I'd tell him where I want.

Me: "How old are you? "

Wandile: "I'm 18"

Me: "So you want me to date a teenager? I'm two years older than you "

Wandile: "So? It's just two years"

Me: "it might mean I'm more experienced than you "

He laughed.

Wandile: "Then you'll teach me what I don't know "

I laughed.

Me: "I wouldn't mind, trust me"

Wandile: "So it's a yes? "

Me: "Yeah. You're my first ever boyfriend "

We laughed.

Trying wouldn't hurt, right?

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THREE MONTHS LATER

LUNGA

The last three months haven't been that hectic unless we were to talk about my love department.

The semester was done and dusted and I was glad I passed all my modules.

We all did, with Diana having higher marks which made me wonder how she really did it.

She's amazing really and very good at time management.

My parents were very happy. I was still home, left with just a week before I go back.

It was July, the second week and a Monday.

My mom had left to visit her cousin. She wanted me to come with but I declined. I'm too old to be following my mom around.

Dad was mostly busy with business and I spent most of my holidays shadowing him.

He had given me this week to rest and to do whatever I felt like doing.

My phone rang. It was Diana.

Me: "Hey you"

Dee: "Hey, are you home? "

Me: "I am. I've just ate breakfast "

Dee: "I'm on my way "

Me: "OK "

I poured myself a glass of juice as I waited for her. I was actually in a foul mood and sexually frustrated.

Yes, I admit. I didn't even remember my last sexual encounter. Leo was being difficult and my patience had really ran out.

I opened the door for her and we hugged. She had a bottle of Hennessy with her.

I laughed.

Me: "And then? "

Dee: "I need to drown my sorrows friend"

Me: "Trust me, I know exactly how you're feeling "

Dee: "It sucks really"

She took out two mugs and poured for us.

Dee: "Our morning tea"

Me: "That's crazy "

I said as I took the mug.

Me: "What's bothering you? "

Dee: "Someone broke into that room and took everything "

Me: "What? "

Dee: "I even regret moving. I mean, it was not safe yes but my stuff was safe."

Me: "Who told you? "

Dee: "The roommate. I want to see that bitch when we go back and see if she's being completely honest or not"

Me: "Don't do anything to her"

Dee: "I'll try not to. "

Me: "Diana! "

She rolled her eyes.

Dee: "I said I'll try. It's something "

She sighed.

Dee: "This sucks really"

Me: "It does. Well, Leo won't give me. Can you believe we fought about this before I left? We haven't spoken since then"

Dee: "It's been weeks, almost a month "

Me: "Exactly. I don't get what's the big deal "

Dee: "Maybe he's not gay "

She said, shrugging.

Me: "I've fucked straight men, I've fucked bisexuals. This is bullshit. I mean if he has a problem, he should at least speak out "

Dee: "Exactly. He can't treat you like this"

Me: "Argh, fuck him. I'm going out tonight "

Dee: "I'm game"

Me: "Just don't forget you're in a committed relationship "

She laughed.

Dee: "I'm not going to get married Lu, I'm just going out"

I actually thought she was going to correct me but no.

So later during the day, I took a shower as she left.

I was going to pick her up when I'm done.

It was cold since it was still winter but not very cold.

I wore a denim Jean, with a black polo neck and my beige coat on top. I wore a beanie, boots then took my phone, keys and wallet.

I called Dee who told me she was ready and with Aphiwe.

I drove to town to pick them up. They stayed close to town.

They were actually waiting for me.

They got in and we left.

Aphiwe: "This is going to be a good night, I can feel it"

Me: "Are you guys drunk? "

Dee: "More like we're already in the mood"

I just laughed, shaking my head.

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APHIWE

I have often heard that alcohol can never be an escape but sometimes, it's worth a shot.

From what I saw as we were drinking, we all had our own troubles. It seemed we were all drinking because of something that was bothering us and which we were trying to suppress.

The more I drank, the more I forgot about my troubles.

My phone rang. It was around 10pm and I was drunk. Dee was dancing with Lunga.

You would swear this two are a couple.

It was Craig and I wasn't in the mood for him. I gulped down the shot of vodka before I went out so I can answer.

It was now on the third ring.

Me: "Hello"

Craig: "Where are you? I've been knocking at your house "

Alcohol really makes us react differently to situations.

Instead of wondering how he came to Mafikeng or how he knew my house, I laughed.

Me: "I'm drunk"

Craig: "Don't fucken piss me off. Where the fuck are you? "

I laughed again and heard him click his tongue then hang up. I wasn't even scared.

I shrugged and went back inside. I went to our table where Dee was.

Me: "Where's Lu? "

Dee: "Lying to some guy there"

She pointed and we laughed.

We went on with drinking. I was having ciders and she has beer, Heineken.

Dee: "Someone is in trouble "

She said

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looking at the door. She was facing it.

Me: "Who? "

Dee: "Wena girl"

And she laughed. I turned to find Craig. His eyes met with mine and I could see he was pissed. Shit!

Craig: "Diana, I'm leaving with your sister"

Dee: "As long as you won't hit her"

He laughed.

Craig: "I would never. Get up"

He said, looking at me. I don't get why he would be so rude to me. His look was scary so I did. I was stumbling a little.

Craig: "You have some serious explaining to do"

My head was banging. He had given me a cup of coffee when we got at his hotel room, probably to sober me up.

Me: "I do? "

Craig: "Why are you being like this? I've been calling, worried sick but you're out, drinking like a fish"

Me: "Well, I'm fine"

I was actually drowsy.

Craig: "We'll talk in the morning "

Me: "Where are you going? "

He took his car keys, looked at me then left.

I sighed as I put the coffee mug away and got under the covers. I immediately fell asleep.

I woke up and he wasn't there. I went to take a shower then wore the clothes I was wearing yesterday. I didn't even care about hangover.

He came while I was going through my phone while laying on the bed.

Craig: "You hungry? "

I shook my head.

Craig: "What's going on with you? "

Me: "Nothing "

Craig: "We have to talk about things Aphiwe. You can't just act up like this and expect me to know what's bothering you. "

Me: "Please take me home. How did you know where I live and how did you find me yesterday?"

Craig: "It's not important. I'll take you home but I'm not going to stop bugging you about this because I fucken love you"

I melted. I wish I could tell him but I just can't.

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DIANA

Fuck. Yesterday was very fucked up. I didn't know I could drink like that.

I don't even know how I got into this room and with whom.

I was woken up by the shower running. I knew I had little time to get the fuck out of here.

I can't remember the last time I blacked out. I literally only remembered Craig getting Aphiwe but that was it.

I wore my clothes. I didn't care about showering or whatever because I knew I didn't have sex. I never have sex when I'm drunk or even tipsy and I would never really have sex with a random stranger.

Anyway, I rushed out. At least I had a few notes on me for a taxi.

I was hungry when I got to town so I went to buy myself some chips with bread and coffee.

It was so cold. Probably because it was early.

I walked home after that. I found Aphiwe in the lounge, watching TV.

Aphiwe: "Morning "

Me: "I'm tired. I'm going to sleep "

When I got into my room, I realised that I didn't have my phone.

Me: "Fuck! "

It sucked because it didn't require a password or any pin.

That meant whoever that bitch was had access to it.

I was too tired to stress about it so I slept.

Now I had to get myself another phone, on top of having no furniture.

I was really screwed.

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REMOFILWE

Where can I start? Oh, Marcus. Sigh.

You know even after three months, I still wondered how I left with him that night.

I was scared of him yet Lefa was so fond of him. He was good with him and my family had accepted him as the father of my son.

He had never threatened me but I still felt intimidated by him.

This day, which was Tuesday, he was going to introduce us to his older son.

His name was Trey. He was five years old.

Lefa was nine months now and so big.

Anyway, I had bathed him and myself and we were waiting for Marcus to come fetch us.

Mom: "Marcus is calling for you"

I nodded. She took his bag while I held him with my phone in the other hand.

He was having tea.

me: "We can leave "

Marcus: "Good morning Remo, how are you? "

Me: "I.. Good morning, I'm fine"

Marcus: "I'm good. Ma, thank you for the tea"

Mom: "You're welcome "

He took Lefa from me and I took the bag from mom.

We went to his car where he opened the passenger door for me then put Lefa in his car seat at the back.

He came and drove off.

I couldn't even hold a conversation with him.

We'd be silent most of the time.

We arrived at the house. I didn't know if it was his or what and I didn't really care.

He, was holding Lefa while I had his bag.

He just opened the door. I was on my phone, chatting with Dee and, Lunga who were making me laugh.

These two are really crazy.

Marcus: "Can you just put your phone aside for a minute and focus on this family moment? "

Me: "Sorry "

I put my phone in my pocket.

It was the boy I saw that time when I thought I was paranoid. He ran to him and hugged his legs.

Trey: "Daddy! "

He looked happy. We went to sit down in the lounge.

The help came.

Her: "Can I get you anything? "

Me: "Hot chocolate please"

Marcus: "Trey, this is Lefa, your little brother "

Trey: "He is little. Can he talk? "

He laughed.

Marcus: "Not yet but I know you'll teach him how to talk. This is his mom, Remo "

Trey: "Hi Remo"

Me: "Hi"

He was inviting, unlike his father.

Trey: "Can I hold him? "

Marcus: "He's heavy. You can play with him though "

He put Lefa down who was sitting.

Trey: "I love his fair"

He looked excited. I just smiled.

This wasn't as bad as I would have thought. It was actually good. Marcus: "Still good step-mom? "

I rolled my eyes and he laughed.

Argh.

14

LUNGA

I don't remember when last I had so much fun. The memories kept flooding into my mind, leaving a grin on my face.

It was epic. I only got home the following day around 2pm and went to sleep.

Diana's phone had been so busy. I'm not one to pry so I didn't really attend much to it. I don't think she remembered giving it to me or she would have made attempts to get it.

Anyway, I was going to bring it to her. I had to switch it off. She was pretty wasted the previous night.

I woke up and took a shower. It was around 5pm and I was very hungry.

I got dressed up in warm clothes and shoes then put her phone in my pocket.

The food was all ready for me so I ate then left.

Aphiwe was the one who opened for me, still in her gown.

Me: "Haibo"

She laughed as we hugged.

Aphiwe: "It's not like I'm going anywhere "

Me: "Where's Dee?"

I asked as we walked inside.

Aphiwe: "She's in her room. She's been sleeping since she got back "

Me: "What if she's dead? "

She laughed.

Aphiwe: "I highly doubt "

So I went to her room and woke her up.

Me: "Girl, this is so unlike you"

Dee: "What do you want Lunga? "

Her head was buried deep in the blankets. I pulled the blanket from her and she groaned.

Me: "Go bath. You look like someone who just got their heart broken "

Dee: "Argh I don't care how I look. I don't have to impress you"

Me: "True but go bath"

She stood up, complaining but she knew I was right. She had to bath. Diana is usually someone who's always in control and this was something rare to see.

It took her about 30 minutes to come back with a towel covering her body.

Me: "Now that's better"

Dee: "I feel better too"

She lotioned then also dressed up in her pyjamas.

Me: "I brought your phone. It had been ringing none stop, I had to switch it off"

Dee: "You have my phone? "

I laughed. She looked shocked.

Me: "That's what I just said. What did you think? "

Dee: "I woke up in a strange place. I thought that son of a bitch had it. I'm so relieved. Thank you "

Then she hugged me tightly.

Me: "It's a pleasure. Just don't drink like that next time "

Dee: "I wouldn't. I hate the amnesia "

I gave her her phone which she switched on.

Dee: "You literally saved my life "

We talked for a while then I left.

It was late when I got home but I was happy to find my mom back.

She gave me a tight hug.

Me: "When did you come back? "

Mom: "A few minutes ago. I missed my boys "

Dad: "Hey, I'm not your boy wena "

I laughed.

Me: "Loosen up dad "

Mom: "He wouldn't Have said that if you weren't here"

Dad: "How was your trip? I missed you so much "

I laughed. Dad had always been good in changing the subject.

We listened to mom as she spoke tales about her trip.

It was great having her home.

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REMOFILWE

Me: "I'm not sleeping with you "

He laughed. We had put the kids to sleep. In fact, Trey was the one who slept rather late yet he had school tomorrow.

Marcus: "I don't know how long you think you can resist this"

Me: "Just because you broke my virginity doesn't mean that -"

Marcus: "Here we go again. Don't you get tired of preaching? "

Me: "What? "

Marcus: "What are you going to tell me next? Oh, that sex before marriage is a sin? We all know that. In fact I know the ten commandments and I've disobeyed 9 of them except for 1"

Me: "Which is? "

Marcus: "You shall have no other gods besides me. I'm not going to bow before you Remo. "

Me: "You don't have to be so rude"

Marcus: "You don't get to tell me how to behave, you're not my wife "

Me: "I never said I was"

Marcus: "I'm going to bed. You'll find your way around. This house is big enough for all of us"

Me: "That's how you treat your guests? "

Marcus: "You're not my guest. This is your home "

He left me and I was forced to figure my way out.

I regretted agreeing to this. Marcus is... I actually don't know how I can rightfully describe him.

I went to the kitchen where I poured myself a glass of milk then went into this big house, searching for a guest bedroom. I found one and settled in it.

I had to go to where Lefa was sleeping to get the bag then I took out my Bible. I read then slept.

I woke up on a Wednesday having slept peacefully the previous night

I wished my bed was as comfortable as this one. I was only wearing a vest and leggings which I slept in. The room was an en suite so I went to take a bath. Everything in the bathroom was sealed so I even brushed my teeth.

I just wore the gown then went to the kitchen. I was hungry.

Marcus was feeding Lefa while Trey had cereal.

Me: "Morning "

Marcus: "Good morning Remo, how did you sleep? "

Me: "I slept good, thanks"

Marcus: "Make breakfast please. "

Me: "You trust my food? "

Marcus: "Do you have to be so difficult in the morning? "

Trey laughed and I just rolled my eyes. I made the breakfast. It was mostly fried food like bacon, eggs and sausages.

Marcus: "Not bad"

Me: "Some gratitude would be appreciated "

He laughed.

Marcus: "Thank you Remo "

Trey was playing with Lefa on the floor, who wouldn't stop laughing.

Me: "Where is his mom? "

Marcus: "Around. She comes to see him every once in a while. We're not together anymore "

Me: "Divorced? "

Marcus: "Oh, she's not the type I will marry. Besides, one failed marriage is enough for me. I think that's the reason she broke up with me after dating for three years. "

Me: "So

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you were once married? "

Marcus: "Yes for like three months. It happened six years ago "

I nodded.

Marcus: "You've never dated? "

I shook my head.

Me: "I've never been interested in guys"

He laughed.

Marcus: "You're lesbian?"

Me: "No. I'm just not into the whole idea of boys and sex. It's not me but I would like to get married in the future "

He laughed. I just stared at him. I wasn't going to apologise for being true to myself.

Marcus: "How do you plan on doing that? People get to know each other, make love and make out. Or you expect a man to come knocking at your door and ask for marriage? "

Me: "Well, I... "

I didn't even know what to say. I was tongue tied.

Marcus: "It doesn't work like that sweetheart. You have to make mistakes, get your heartbroken and live. You can't expect to only get the good. This is the real world and you have to get out of your shell"

Me: "You sound like my friends right now "

Marcus: "Think about it"

He stood up and left to whatever.

I needed my Bible.

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APHIWE

Dee: "I can't believe you leaving me in that big ass house alone
"

I laughed.

Me: "Throw a party"

Dee: "Hai no. I don't have the energy "

It was Friday morning and we were walking to the taxi rank.

I was leaving. She was to leave tomorrow.

I missed my flat and being in that small space. It was like therapy and I knew I was going to think a lot when I get there.

We hugged tightly, bid goodbyes then I got in the taxi.

The taxis to Bloemfontein always got full fast, especially after recess.

It took just an hour then we were leaving.

I was so tired from sitting in that taxi for hours.

I was happy when I finally arrived. I called my sister to let her know I got in safe then I went to take a shower.

After that, I slept. I was woken up by a bang on my door.

I groaned and went to open, to find Craig.

He didn't say anything but just pushed himself inside.

Me: "Please, you can get in"

Craig: "Why did you block my number? "

Me: "You're not my favourite person right now"

That seemed to hurt him but even I couldn't control the things that were coming from my mouth.

Craig: "What? Did I do something? "

Me: "Yes, you did. You squashed my dreams. My sister will be so disappointed, not to mention my parents. Gosh, I'm in such a mess"

Craig: "What are you talking about? "

I went through my bag and took out the letter and gave it to him.

Me: "I had everything. A bursary, good marks but now... I can't allow this"

Craig: "Why... Why didn't you tell me? "

Me: "You talk like its good news"

Craig: "You're pregnant. I thought I'd be the first one to know "

Me: "You know now so you can stop bugging me. I don't know why I allowed this to happen. I'm even scared to take an HIV test"

He laughed, not in amusement though.

Craig: "Wow"

Me: "I'm freaking out Craig. I'm not ready for this. I'm only 18 and we just got together. I just can't "

The tears were down my cheeks. He hugged me, patting my bag.

Me: "Your baby is, so small. I'm sorry for this "

Craig: "Will you stop? Yes, you're 18 but I am not. Maybe if I was a teenager I would be freaking out but I'm the older one here and this is my fault. Your life has just began and now this"

Me: "Diana is going to kill me"

Craig: "She loves you. I don't think she'd do that "

Me: "She waited two years to go to varsity. I get my chance and I screw it like this"

Craig: "You don't have to drop out. Actually, I'm not going to allow that"

Me: "So, what? "

Craig: "You're five weeks pregnant and it's not showing. You'll be able to finish this semester and I'll find someone to take care of you next year. For now it's no drinking for you "

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "It's not even a baby"

Craig: "There's a heartbeat and that shows life. I'm going to add you to my medical aid and you'll go for checkups every two weeks "

Me: "I wish I was as excited "

Craig: "It's not the end of the world "

Maybe for him but definitely not for me.

15

DIANA

The thought of going back to varsity and having no furniture made my head spin.

I had to start from zero and I actually wondered how that would be.

I hoped I had a bed. I didn't really know what was stolen and I regretted not going for a fully furnished room. It would have been better than this.

It had been stressing me out since I found out but I knew I had to take control of things.

Remo and I were leaving with the same taxi.

I wanted us to catch up, more especially because she had found her baby daddy.

Me: "I was hoping your baby daddy doesn't offer to pay for your flight "

I said jokingly as we hugged.

Remo: "He doesn't even know I'm leaving. I'm sure my mom will tell him I'm gone when he goes to check on Lefa"

Me: "So, how's it working out? Have you guys kissed, made out? "

Thing about me is, I could tell when someone is lying partially because I'm a good liar.

Remo was bad at it.

Remo: "What? No"

She couldn't even maintain eye contact with me.

Me: "Again?! "

I laughed while she covered her face with her hands.

I knew she felt ashamed.

Me: "You don't have to be ashamed "

She uncovered her face. Everyone in the taxi was having their own conversation with whoever.

Remo: "I'm scared Dee. I mean I replied to his kiss yesterday and I... I liked it. I can't allow this"

I laughed. She was panicking.

Me: "It's just a kiss "

Remo: "Who knows what it might lead to? I've sinned. I need to repent"

Me: "Remofilwe, you sound crazy. What is the sin here? He's the only guy you've ever kissed anyway. "

I rolled my eyes. She was being dramatic.

Remo: "You're right but it can't happen again. Good thing I'm going back to varsity which means I won't be seeing his face "

Me: "I wouldn't be so sure if I were you"

Remo: "What do you mean? "

Me: "He's going to come check on his baby mama. He'll probably also go back to his house but he'll definitely come over once in a while. Just keep your feelings in check. "

Remo:" Feelings? "

Me: "Your hormones. To avoid performing the act of fornication "

I laughed while she sank down on her seat.

I really didn't see the big deal.

She was the first one to be dropped off then I followed.

I actually got depressed the minute I unlocked the door.

Kaona looked at my direction. She seemed to be as defeated as I was.

There was literally nothing, just the beds with no blankets.

Me: "This is bad"

She sighed.

Kaona: "I know. They even took our clothes. They took their own time doing this. I can't help but imagine what they would have done to us if they found us here"

Me: "And the landlord? "

Kaona: "He doesn't care. This place is not monitored by cameras so he can't help"

I sighed. I only had about R1000 in my bank account and that wouldn't really buy anything.

Kaona: "We have to move out before they take us "

I laughed but she was right.

Me: "I hardly have any money but I agree. We have to move somewhere with security "

Kaona: "I know somewhere but we'll have to share with two other girls. It's fully furnished but we catering for ourselves "

I sighed.

Me: "I'll make a plan. Just make it happen. We have to be out by month end"

Truth is, I didn't know what I was going to do but I had to be safe.

That I knew. I wasn't about to end up being a rape victim. That would kill me.

On Sunday, I was meeting up with Wandile. We hadn't seen each other in over a month and I was a little nervous. I didn't know what to expect.

I met up with Wandile the following day, which was a Sunday.

We shared a very tight hug. I had honestly missed him and well, I needed the embrace.

He kissed my forehead then pulled a chair for me at the restaurant.

Wandile: "How are you baby? You look thin"

He frowned and I laughed.

Me: "Happens when I don't see my love for such a long time "

I swear he almost blushed.

Wandile: "I missed you too. So much"

Me: "How much? "

He bit his lip. He looked so cute.

Wandile: "I can't show you here"

Me: "Scared your girlfriend might see you with the side chick? "

He chuckled.

Wandile: "What? No"

Me: "Mm"

I said

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taking a sip of my milkshake.

Wandile: "You're not doubting me, are you? "

I chuckled.

Me: "Not at all. I'm just playing with you"

Wandile: "I love you "

Me: "Then kiss me"

He chuckled and we both leaned over the table and kissed.

Me: "We should get out of here. I want to see where you live "

I said after we broke the kiss.

He grinned.

Wandile: "Really? "

I rolled my eyes and he chuckled.

Me: "Yes and don't have any thoughts "

Wandiile: "Me? Never"

Then he smirked. I just smiled.

He called the waiter to settle the bill then we left.

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REMOFILWE

I was surprised to see Luke after church. Actually, I wouldn't really know if he had been coming since I only got back.

He offered me a ride back to the flat and I agreed because he had some explaining to do.

Yes, I hadn't seen him since Marcus surfaced and it was necessary that I get his side of the story.

Me: "So, where have you been hiding? "

I managed to say, breaking the silence that had filled his car.

He sighed.

Luke: "It's a long story. We'll talk at your place "

Me: "And don't think I'll forget "

He chuckled.

Luke: "I wouldn't dare"

I thought I would find Lunga but he wasn't there.

Maybe he hadn't come yet.

Anyway, I poured us juice then we sat in the lounge.

Me: "Sooooo"

Luke: "I think Mike told you. I really didn't mean to but he swore I had some sort of ulterior motive so I spilled the beans. Plus, I owed him a favour so I didn't think telling him is a bad thing. Your son knows his dad"

I smiled.

Me: "He does. I'm glad you helped him find me. Though I wasn't really searching for him"

Luke: "I hope you're not mad at me"

Me: "Not at all. I miss my friend"

Luke: "I miss you too. Though he would kill me if he heard me say that "

We both laughed.

Me: "Is he really a murderer? "

Luke: "Was. Having Trey sort of tamed him but you can't mess with him. "

I nodded.

Me: "How come I haven't met your wife? "

He chuckled.

Luke: "I don't have one. I'm 24"

Me: "Woah, what? "

Luke: "Yeah. Don't you remember what I said? "

I shook my head.

Me: "When? "

Luke: "Our first encounter. I said I might be married. A ring signifies different things to different people. I'm just trying to throw away vultures who prey on men like me"

I laughed.

Me: "Mine like you? "

Luke: "There are many gold diggers out there. I don't want to fall victim to their claws"

I laughed.

Me: "So you're single? "

Luke: "I have a girlfriend. Her name is Gina. Do you want to meet her? "

I nodded.

Luke: "We'll go out for dinner, the three of us or you can come with Marcus "

Me: "I want to be free"

Luke: "So you're not in his presence? "

Me: "He's intimidating. He scares me and I can't really have a conversation with him"

He laughed.

Luke: "He can be like that but he doesn't bite, unless provoked. You're the mother of his son, I don't think he'd do something to you "

Me: "I know he won't but that doesn't make it better"

He laughed.

Luke: " I think I should observe the energy between you two then make my own conclusion "

Me: "What? No"

Luke: "Why not? "

Me: "I'm not a fool Luke "

He lifted his hand in surrender.

I just rolled my eyes.

I can't believe I missed this idiot.

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DIANA

Wandile lived in a beautiful apartment that had two bedrooms, a bathroom and study room at the top and on the bottom was his kitchen, lounge and living room.

It was really beautiful and so was the decor. It reeked of life.

We had been watching movies while having pizza and wine but it was getting late.

Me: "I have to go"

Wandile: "Please sleepover. I don't want to let you go yet"

Me: "I have school tomorrow "

Wandile: "I do too. "

Me: "What am I going to wear? I can't wear your clothes to campus "

Wandiile: "We can go fetch your clothes "

Me: "I'm lazy baby. How about I give you my keys then you go fetch it? "

Wandile: "OK. I'll do that "

Me: "Kaona will help you if you need anything "

We kissed shortly and he left. I went upstairs and took a shower while singing. Let's not talk about my voice and no, I'm not a bad singer.

I just wore his pj top. The house was warm anyway.

I went back and checked what's on The fridge. I did a mini braai. I marinated the meat and vors then put it in the oven.

There was a knock on the door.

I went to open and just rolled my eyes and he laughed.

Me: "Can I help you? "

Bandile: "Where's Wandiile? "

I let him in.

Me: "How's that your business? "

Bandile: "He's my little brother. What do you want here? "

Me: "He's my boyfriend. He went to fetch some clothes for me. I'm sleeping over "

Then I faked a grin.

He chuckled.

Bandile: "This is... Wow. I mean I could have never imagined. And he never told me, which is the weird part"

Me: "Really? It's been like three months "

Bandile: "Maybe you're not that important. How long do you think he's going to take? "

Did he just say that? He didn't. Did he?

I felt so inferior. So low. It's official, I hate him.

I just shrugged.

I went to check on my meat. Wandile was really taking longer than I expected.

Bandile: "So Diana, where do you come from? "

Me: "I'm really not interested in a conversation with you "

Bandile: "But I like you Diana. I want to know you"

Me: "I'm with your little brother "

Bandile: "Surely you don't think I forgot "

I sighed.

He came to stand by me. He was close. Too close for my liking.

Me: "What are you trying to do? "

Bandile: "I'm not doing anything. Can you dish up for me? I'm so hungry "

Me: "No. I... I'm just going to call him"

Well the devil came in right at that moment.

Me: "Why did you take so long?"

Wandile: "Why didn't you tell me about the break in? I thought we're a team, that you trusted me"

Me: "Do we have to do this In front of your brother? "

That's when he noticed him.

Bandile: "I wanted to check up on you"

Wandile: "When did you come back? "

He said as they hugged. I just dished up the meat for myself and started eating while they talked.

Bandile: "You didn't tell me about her"

Wandile: "I did. I told you way before I approached her"

Me: "I'm just going to lie down "

I was just feeling a little dizzy.

I hate when I over think and I could feel myself about to go into that zone, which is why I had to sleep.

I was trying to understand what all of that was. Bandile implied something and I read something.

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LUNGA

Monday. That was the first day of the second semester.

I had arrived late on Sunday. Anyway I had showered, dressed up and was in the kitchen , already with my cup of coffee.

Being back here meant having to face Leo and I wasn't sure I was ready for that.

Remo: "Morning. I missed you yesterday "

We hugged.

Me: "Unjani mamfundisi? "

She laughed.

Remo: "Don't call me that. "

Me: "But that's how you behave kodwa don't worry, I'm not judging you"

Remo: "Good. I'm glad you're back "

Me: "I gotta push this

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school thing"

I was worried about Dee and I hated the situation she was in.

Me: "Diana had a break In. They took her furniture, and some clothes "

Remo: "What? "

She seemed shocked. It was clear she didn't know about this.

Me: "I'm worried about her. No doing anything makes us very bad friends "

Remo: "We have space here. She can just come stay with us"

I shook my head.

Me: "I doubt she would ever agree. She doesn't like being pitied or whatever "

Remo: "But we're her friends "

Me: "Yes, we are. I don't know how we going to do this really"

Remo: "Maybe Aphiwe can help. We can go through her"

Me: "True but we try her first"

I was really worried about her.

I didn't even have breakfast.

We left together to campus.

We had lunch together like we usually do.

Dee was there.

I cleared my throat. It seemed we were all deep in thought.

Me: "So.. Uhm, how are you? "

Dee: "I'm fine, better. I slept over at Wandile's apartment yesterday. I think he wants it"

I laughed.

Me: "Then give it to him"

She chuckled.

Dee: "It might be all he wants from me but he's very certain. His brother doesn't like us together though"

Remo: "That's a bummer. Why? "

She shrugged.

Me: "He can go drown himself for all I care. "

Dee: "It's whatever. I can't be some thing that they're both chasing. I'm not about to allow that"

Me: "Remo, get a pen and paper so you can write some pointers"

We laughed.

Remo: "Really? "

Dee: "Yes, to give your baby daddy a run for his money. Plus he's rich "

She rolled her eyes.

Remo: "He's annoying and so intimidating "

Me: "You seem to pay a lot of attention to this guy"

Dee: "I miss my boyfriend guys"

Me: "Are you falling for him? "

Dee: "Only you have my heart "

Remo: "I'm glad we're no longer talking about me"

Dee: "We're not done dear. You have a man, who's single and you're playing. "

Remo: "Guys please"

Me: "And wena, what are you going to do about your living arrangements? You can't stay there. "

She sighed.

Dee: "I know but where will I stay? "

Remo: "I just remembered that Marcus is in property"

Me: "I thought you were scared of him"

Remo: "Fear will just have to wait "

Dee: "I get you but I'm broke. Literally. I need a girlfriend allowance "

I laughed. I'm sorry but I couldn't contain myself.

Me: "This one should just soften up the baby daddy for a discount "

Dee: "Please Remo. I'm desperate. The last thing I want is to have to cohabit with Wandile. He's pretty persuasive and those eyes... Gosh, I can't say no to that "

We laughed. I squeezed her into a hug.

Remo had to really come through for us.

I guess that was easier than we thought.

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REMOFILWE

I was glad our talk was successful.

I would be lying if I said the confronting Marcus wasn't making me nervous.

I sent him a text when I got home. It was simple : 'I need favour'

He didn't reply but I knew he saw it.

As usual, he barged into my room whilst I was lotioning.

I had to cover my body and that's when he laughed.

Marcus: "It's nothing I haven't seen before "

Me: "You could have at least knocked"

Marcus: "What favour? "

I wore my gown. I was really so uncomfortable yet he didn't seem to care.

Me: "My friend needs a place to stay "

Marcus: "I'll need the deposit and first month's rent"

Is it just me or this was turning to be harder than I thought?

Me: "That's not doing me a favour "

Marcus: "You don't need a place to stay Remo. I can't be doing your friends special favours "

Me: "But you're doing it for me. It'll make me happy. Do you want me stressed? I don't have anymore weight to lose"

Marcus: "You're good at this emotional blackmail thing"

Me: "But she's been through a lot hle. She needs a break "

Marcus: "What do I get? "

I sighed.

Me: "What do you want? "

Marcus: "I'll think about it. I'll bring the keys tomorrow. "

Me: "Thank you so much "

I smiled. It was genuine. He came to me then kissed my cheek.

Marcus: "Love you"

I rolled my eyes and he laughed.

I got dressed in my pyjamas then called Diana.

Dee: "Miss me already? "

I laughed.

Me: "He's bringing the keys tomorrow "

Dee: "That was fast"

Me: "I'm glad I could help"

Dee: "I owe you one"

Me: "I'll think about it"

We laughed. I really wasn't expecting anything in return.

Dee: "Alright love, see you tomorrow "

Me: "Bye love "

I was curious though.

What will he want?

I guess I'll have to be patient.

Hopefully it won't be anything sinful.

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DIANA

Two days later and I had moved in. I was with Kaona. The room was big enough for us. I had saved money from work since I was now just working in the VIP section. I wanted to buy spy cameras.

I just had that crazy idea in my head. The thought excited me. I was going to be able to know everything that happens in my absence.

Since Sunday is my off day, I was going to check them every Sunday.

Anyway, it was Wednesday night and I was going to work.

Wandiile was picking me up. I was already dressed in my uniform and had make up on. As for my hair, it was just my Afro. Good thing was, the month was ending soon which meant I would be able to do my hair.

Wandile: "Baby?! "

He screamed and I laughed. I wasn't even late. He was in the lounge. I run to him and threw myself in his arms.

He picked me up and spun me around. He kissed me when he put me down.

Wandile: "These heels make you so tall"

I giggled.

Me: "I know, right. Let's go"

His hand was on my butt all the way to his car.

The good thing about work was hardly seeing Craig. I had a new friend, Gina. She was 19 and so full of life. She had taken Sophie's space and we got to know each other through the months.

I kissed Wandile and left. We hugged when I came in.

Gina: "It's really nice having someone who loves you"

She was smiling so I did too.

Me: "Yeah, it is"

Craig: "I don't pay you to hold hands and smile at each other. Go back to work! "

We turned to look at him then laughed walking away. Such grumpiness.

Mr grumpy called me into his office when I was about to knock out.

Me: "Sir? "

Craig: "Close the door please "

I did as instructed then sat down.

Craig: "Well, you may sit"

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "How may I help? "

Craig: "I'm worried about Aphiwe. When last did you speak to her? "

Me: "Well since its already the next day, yesterday. Why? "

Craig: "She didn't seem offish? "

Me: "She told me she's sick. Like she has a headache and blocked nose. No, she didn't. What's up? "

Craig: "I'm worried about her"

Me: "Craig, I'm really not interested in your relationship with my sister. I know you're hiding something from me and I can't help if you won't tell me. Can I leave now? "

He sighed then nodded.

OK. Now I really wonder what's up.

Anyway, I slept immediately when I got into my room.

I was so tired.

I woke up in the morning and got ready for class.

I took a shower, got dressed and, wore a beanie.

I greeted Kaona, who was making breakfast.

Me: "Are you ever here? "

She giggled and nodded. OK, that's weird.

I ate bread then left. I was a bit late

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which wasn't anything new.

My period pains started whilst I was in class.

It was before lunch and I felt like I was being stabbed in my abdomen. I had to leave.

I called Wandile because I couldn't really walk and he's my boyfriend either way.

Me: "Please take me back to my place "

I said, immediately after he picked up. I told him where I was and he came.

Wandile: "Are you OK? "

He looked worried. I shook my head and got into his car.

I rested my head on my knees. I even had a headache. These things don't really knock.

Wandile: "What's wrong? "

Me: "Just period pains. I'll be fine "

He just had to pick me up bridal style after we had arrived. I rested my head on his chest.

He went to put me down gently. I took out painkillers which were right next to my bed then he brought water for me. I drank and slept.

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APHIWE

I thought I would be able to make peace with the pregnancy but I couldn't. It was hard. So hard because it was all I thought of.

I couldn't imagine myself having a big stomach or let alone, a baby.

I regretted telling Craig. If I hadn't, I would have been able to terminate but now, I couldn't.

I still hadn't told Dee. How was I going to do it?

She's so unpredictable and you can't really tell what happens in her mind.

I looked at the scan with tears falling down my eyes.

I was so disappointed in myself.

"Not this again "

I knew that voice very well.

Me: "Don't you have a club to run? "

Craig: "How can I do it when you're all I'm worried about? Why haven't you told Diana? "

Me: "I'm not ready OK and you shouldn't be here"

Craig: "You're my girlfriend and I care about you. There's no where else I'd rather be"

Me: "I don't think I want to have a child "

Craig: "You're not having an abortion "

Me: "Do I look like I can do that? I've heard it's, as painful as child labour "

Craig: "I think it's time you saw someone "

Me: "No"

Craig: "You're slowing becoming depressed. It's not good for the baby "

Me: "Is that why you're here? Because of the baby? That's what sucks. It's going to be all you care about. I won't even matter"

Craig: "What? Of course not. You'll always be number 1 in my life. Please stop over thinking "

He was holding my cheek. I nodded. He leaned In and kissed me.

I didn't reply but he was persistent so I did.

He pulled me to sit on top of him as we continued kissing. I felt myself calm more and more.

He broke it and kissed my forehead.

Craig: "Stop freaking out "

Me: "I think I need a little more convincing "

Craig: "Oh? "

Me: "Yes"

I said then kissed him.

He replied and his kisses always make me melt.

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LUNGA

I called Diana since I didn't see her during lunch and the boyfriend answered.

He told me she's in pain and of course I knew I had to go check up on her.

I arrived around 7pm and parked my car. I knew she wasn't going to go to work.

My baby literally becomes weak when she's sick, even if it's mere period pains.

I bumped into someone just After getting out of my car.

My keys fell. Thank God my phone was in my pocket.

Me: "What the fuck?! "

"I.. I'm sorry "

OK. That voice sounded familiar. It was a bit shady.

Me: "Leo? "

Leo: "I... Uhm... It's... "

I laughed.

Me: "It's not a big deal. What are you doing here? "

Leo: "I'm moving here. I know it sounds dodgy because it's at night but I'm just going to fetch the rest of my stuff"

Me: "So why haven't I heard from you? You don't love me anymore?"

He looked down.

Me: "Never mind "

I just walked away and didn't even look back.

I knocked on her door and the roommate opened.

Me: "Hi"

Kaona: "Hey, you here for Diana? "

Me: "Nop, you. Have I told you how delectable you look? "

You know this had always been fun to me. Flirting with girls while I knew I don't mean any of the shit.

She was even blushing, which made me laugh.

Me: "Where's my baby? "

Kaona: "In her room"

I went to her room, knocked once and got in.

Me: "Sthandwasam? "

She peaked through the blanket with one eye.

I walked over to her.

Me: "How are you feeling now? "

Dee: "Like death"

Me: "You look even worse"

She, rolled her eyes and I laughed.

Me: "But it's only for today which is almost over and tomorrow "

She, sighed.

Dee: "I know. I can't believe you know me this much "

I laughed.

Me: "You know me way more than that"

She chuckled.

Dee: "True. Eish and I can't even eat. "

Me: "You'll be a slender after this. No ass to grab"

Dee: "Damn, what's my boyfriend going eat like groceries? "

We laughed. At least her sense of humour was still there.

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REMOFILWE

Me: "It's late, you shouldn't be here"

It was Marcus. I was in the kitchen having tea while listening to music.

He switched it off.

Marcus: "I thought church is Sunday "

It was gospel music.

Me: "That music is food to my soul "

Marcus: "You taking this good girl persona to the extreme "

Me: "You came all the way to insult me? "

Marcus: "Truth hurts princess "

Me: "What do you want? "

Marcus: "I missed you"

I looked at him, thinking maybe he will crack and laugh but nothing.

Me: "You're serious?"

Marcus: "I am. I want us to go out on Friday "

Me: "You and I? "

Marcus: "Yes or you want your friends to tag along? "

I thought about it.

Me: "I.. I can't do that. I can't go out with you"

He snickered.

Marcus: "You don't have a choice. You should know that "

I sighed.

Me: "Where are you taking me? "

Marcus: "To my house. "

He came to stand next to me.

Me: "Your... Your house? "

Marcus: "Yes. I have a house. I'm going to cook and whatever "

Me: "Just don't get any ideas. I'm doing this because I owe you"

He laughed.

Marcus: "Whatever. I still haven't told you what I want"

Me: "But I'm going out with you "

He kissed my cheek a couple of times until I stopped him.

Marcus: "See you on Friday "

OK, I was confused. It seemed I had bitten more than I can chew.

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LUNGA

I was so happy, ecstatic actually when Friday came. I needed the break.

We were having lunch. I was glad Diana was better now and as for Remo, she was in a world of her own.

I poked Dee and we both stared at her.

Remo: "What? "

Me: "We should be asking you that. It seems you're in your own world nje"

She sighed.

Dee: "Seems serious "

Remo: "I'm going to Marcus's place tonight. I couldn't even say no"

Me: "I think you seem to forget your role"

Remo: "My role? "

Dee: "You're the baby mama, you have power. You're just too soft on him"

Remo: "I'm scared of him"

Me: "He's intimidating and so hot"

We laughed.

Dee: "I want to meet him"

Me: "You have a boyfriend wena "

She chuckled.

Dee: "I'm not a hoe. I just want to see what the fuss is all about "

Remo: "You will. I'm just so nervous. He's so unpredictable and what if I end up falling into the snare of temptation "

Me: "If you do, make sure you enjoy every minute. Regret like that is always good and God is all forgiving "

Remo: "Haibo, guys"

Dee: "You're the one who's scared of what you might do. Kore he's irresistible NEH. You can't control yourself around him"

Me: "Heh girl, just be careful. He has decades of experience. You, on the other side, have nothing "

Remo: "Guys, you're making me more nervous now"

Dee: "Let's talk about this one and Leo, what's up?"

I sighed and rolled my eyes.

Me: "I don't know what's up with him. I'm actually no longer interested because we're just going back and forth, it's not healthy"

Dee: " I agree. I mean if Wandile was acting up, I would have left "

Me: "I still think he's too young for you, considering your experience "

She laughed.

Dee: "What experience wena? "

Remo: "Enough ka Di experience guys"

Anyway, we parted ways after.

We all had class.

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REMOFILWE

I took a shower immediately after all my classes.

I knew that he would be here anytime from now. After showering, I lotioned then searched for clothes. I didn't even know what to wear.

I think I was freaking out.

Me: "Argh, you don't have to impress him"

Someone laughed. I turned and it was Diana. I covered my face and she laughed even harder.

Dee: "Why are you so stressed? "

Me: "Actually, I shouldn't be. Why are you here vele? Shouldn't you be at work? "

Dee: "I'm on sick leave kana"

I laughed.

Me: "Yeah

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right"

Dee: "Plus I also want to see your man's "

Me: "He's not my mans"

Dee: "Yet "

I rolled my eyes. I ended up wearing a wool dress with knee length fur boots and a slim coat on top.

I held my hair into a neat bun, took my bag and we both went downstairs.

As usual, he just got in like he owns the place.

Literally, he does but I'm paying to stay there.

Dee: "Lu was right, he's hot"

She didn't even whisper.

Marcus: "Ladies"

Me: "Marcus, this is my best friend Diana"

They shook hands.

Dee: "I'm glad I finally meet you "

Marcus: "Like wise, though you do look familiar "

Dee: "I do? "

Me: "She's your new tenant "

Marcus: "It's not that but we'll talk "

He let go of her hand.

Marcus: "Are you ready? "

I nodded.

Dee: "Lunga will drive me to the club. I'll see you tomorrow "

We hugged then I left with Marcus. He opened the door for me and I got in.

I was really nervous.

Marcus: "I really don't bite"

Me: "What? "

Marcus: "Relax. That's what I mean"

Me: "When are arriving? "

I had to Change the subject. I was nervous about this.

I couldn't imagine being alone with him for hours.

We arrived. He opened the door for me. His yard was huge and beautiful.

Though it was dark but his yard was lit.

He opened the door and allowed me to go in first. My jaw, dropped. It was like walking into a top billing mansion.

Me: "You have a beautiful house "

Marcus: "You love it? We're about to have our little house warming "

Me: "It's new? "

Marcus: "Yeah. It's big enough for us, what do you think? "

Me: "I.. Uhm it's huge"

Marcus: "Glad you approve. What would you like to drink? Wine? "

Me: "I'll have juice "

Marcus: "I'll check if I have "

I followed him into the kitchen and sat on one of the bar chairs.

He poured apple juice for me.

Me: "Thanks"

He took out a can of beer for himself.

Me: "So, how do you know Diana?"

I was just curious.

Marcus: "Nothing you should worry about "

Me: "That's telling me it's none of my business? "

Marcus: "There's not much to it really. I don't think you should be worried "

I nodded. It was clear he wasn't going to say anything and further persistence would have definitely given him the wrong impression.

Marcus: "Can I ask you a question and do promise to answer ?"

Me: "Uhm, OK "

Marcus: "Will I have to marry you first before I can make love to you? "

I swear I choked on my drink.

Me: "What? "

Marcus: "Never mind. Are you hungry? "

Me: "I'm sorry, you... You caught me off guard "

Marcus: "So, you don't want food? It's a lamb roast with grilled potatoes and steamed bread. Perfect for this weather, don't you think? "

Me: "Sounds delicious "

Marcus: "Please, make yourself comfortable in the dining hall. "

I did as instructed. The table was set already. It was a long dining table.

He came with the food which smelled great.

The food was amazing. He had really outdone himself and I couldn't even keep in the compliments.

I cleared the table after and put the dishes in the dishwasher.

Me: "Thank you for the food"

Marcus: "I had to feed your skinny ass so you're very welcome "

I laughed, pushing him a little.

He pulled me to him and rested his hands on my waist. I looked at him then looked down.

He lifted my chin with his thumb and kissed me.

I don't know why but I replied.

.

DIANA

I was here but not to work. I was here to have fun.

Wandiile was the one who fetched me from Remo's place. He called me on my way to Lunga's room.

Anyway, we were in the VIP section and it was popping. LUNGA was here and the Two kept biting each other's heads but we got along regardless.

Lu: "Is that Aphiwe? "

I looked at where he was pointing and she was looking at us.

Me: "Craig can't be doing this to the kid. She has to study"

She came to us and we hugged.

Me: "Meet my boyfriend Wandile and baby, this is my little sister Aphiwe "

She looked at Lunga.

Aphiwe: "Is she serious?"

They laughed.

Lu: "Yeap. This young man tamed her "

I kissed his cheek.

Me: "He sure did"

Aphiwe: "Can we talk? "

Me: "I thought we can get down together "

Aphiwe: "It's important "

I followed her to Craig's office.

He wasn't there. But he was somewhere around the club.

Me: "What's up? "

Aphiwe: " I didn't want to tell you over the phone and I'm really sorry "

Me: "Tell me what? "

Aphiwe: "Please know that I didn't plan this"

Me: "I don't think I like where this conversation is heading"

Aphiwe: "I'm pregnant "

She blurted out.

I just stared at her.

Aphiwe: "Please.. Please say something "

Me: "What do you want me to say? "

Aphiwe: "Anything. "

Me: "Congratulations I guess "

Aphiwe: "That's it? "

She looked shocked. If only she knew the shit that was going through my mind.

Me: "I.. I need to go. I need a drink "

Aphiwe: "Diana"

Me: "No Aphiwe. No! You don't get to throw such a bomb on me and expect an instant reaction. Trust me it's best I leave now because God knows what might happen if I don't "

She cried. I cried. I couldn't believe this.

I couldn't believe she allowed this to happen.

Craig: "What's going on? "

He was with Bandile. I didn't even notice that we left the door open.

Me: "Excuse me"

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DIANA

I didn't get too drunk but I did find myself pretty wasted. I watched the couple leave.

At that point, I didn't know who to blame. I mean I wasn't really surprised. Dating a guy who's older than you comes with its own things. I mean Craig is definitely at a stage in life where he probably wants to settle down and my little sister is just a kid. What does she know about babies?

Anyway, we bid farewell to LUNGA then we left. His hand was on my waist, probably so I don't fall. I couldn't really balance.

I love my discipline when I'm drunk.

Anyway. He opened his door for me and buckled me up.

Me: "Really? "

Wandile: "Yes, really. "

I rolled my eyes as he went to his side.

Wandile: "I never thought I'd see you this fucked up"

I laughed. He was smiling.

Me: "You look proud "

Wandile: "Oh fuck you "

I think I fell asleep immediately when the car started moving. I didn't even care to look out where we going.

I woke up feeling like shit. I think I should have drank water yesterday, it would have helped.

We were at his place. I went to the bathroom where I brushed my teeth and washed my face. I even ended up taking a shower. He was still sleeping and snoring loud.

I wrapped a towel around my body when I was done and went to him. I got on top of him and kissed him all over the face. When I went to his lips, the bastard replied. He didn't even allow me to break it. He opened his eyes, his hands were on my waist. God, his eyes. If I were to have a child with him, I'd want him to have his, eyes struu.

Me: "You're making me shy"

He chuckled and unwrapped my towel then bit his lip.

Me: "Wandile "

He pulled me to fall on top of him then kissed me, his hands on my bare butt. I knew where this was going and I didn't care.

I wanted him as much as he wanted me.

He switched us over and got on top. His lips never got off mine.

I don't know how long I had waited for this moment and I sort of didn't see it coming this way.

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APHIWE

Craig: "You told her, that's all that matters"

I nodded. We were having breakfast in his house. I think when I did, I felt a load fall off from my shoulders.

Me: "She might be mad now but I'm glad I did it"

Craig: "Good. I don't want you beating yourself up about this"

Me: "But I need to see her before I leave. Surely she'd be, calmed down then"

Craig: "I think so. I'm fetching Mpilo. I think it'd be good for us to spend time together"

I nodded.

Me: "Plus I would really love to meet him "

He kissed my lips until a knock on the door disturbed us.

He went to open, it was Bandile.

Craig: "Dude, what's up? "

Bandi: "Wait a bit with the greetings, I'm hungry"

Craig: "Babe, please dish up for him"

I did as I was told. He thanked me and we all sat down.

Craig: "Why are you still single? "

Bandi: "I have my eyes on someone and let's just say, I'm a patient man"

Me: "That's interesting "

Bandi: "Aphiwe, how are things with your sister now? "

I shrugged.

Me: "I'm yet to find out. I haven't talked to her since yesterday "

Craig: "Do you have her address? "

I shook my head.

Me: "I'll ask Lunga. It's not much of a big deal"

Bandi: "I hope she comes around. Thanks for the meal, see ya "

Well, he was just here for the food.

We went to Dee's place around lunch time. I hoped I'd find her there.

I was glad Lunga was understanding of my situation.

A person who I assumed was her roommate opened up.

Me: "Hi"

Her: "Can I help you? "

Craig just pushed her aside so we can get in.

Craig: "Where's Diana?"

Trust my boyfriend to be intimidating. Well, to anyone else but me.

Her: "In her room. She just got here"

He took my hand and we went to find her room. She was searching for clothes in just her bra and bikini.

I cleared my throat. She looked at us with her arms folded.

Dee: "Parents to be, how may I help? "

Craig: "I'll be downstairs. I need to sort that bitch out"

Me: "Baby, no. We're guests "

Craig: "I don't care "

Diana laughed.

Dee: "Craig

don't bore me. It's bad enough that we're practically family because of that baby but that don't mean you can barge In here and act like you're in charge. This is not your club"

Craig: "Diana, stop being bitter "

Dee: "Bitter? Nigger please. Just get your white and out of here so I can have a conversation with my sister "

Craig: "You -"

I had to stop it.

Me: "OK baby, please just go out but don't grill the roommate "

I kissed him to calm him down then broke it when he was calm.

Craig: "Only because I love you"

Then he walked out.

Dee: "Y'all just kiss in front of me. Must be nice "

Me: "Diana please"

Dee: "What do you want Aphiwe? I have a date "

Me: "With Wandiiile? "

Dee: "It's none of your business and for your information, no. I was just with him"

I nodded.

Me: "Are we... Are we OK? "

Dee: "Why would you get pregnant Aphiwe? "

I looked down.

Me: "I didn't plan it"

Dee: "Wabona when you decide to date an accomplished guy who's ready to settle down, contraception should be top of the list. These old bastards don't like using protection, you can ask Remo "

Me: "Haibo"

We both laughed. She came to me and gave me a tight hug.

Dee: "I love you, that's why I'm so mad"

Me: "I know and I'm sorry "

Dee: "Fuck, I hate babies "

She said when we broke the hug. I chuckled.

Me: "I know. I feel sorry for whoever is going to make you pregnant"

Dee: "Unlike you, I've never had unprotected sex. Wandile and I use protection "

Me: "I can't believe you dating a guy my age "

She laughed.

Dee: "Oh but the things he does with his dick are far older than him"

We both high fived.

Unfortunately, I had to leave but I was glad we're OK.

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REMOFILWE

I had been reminiscing about the time I spent at Marcus's house.

It was Sunday and I had only arrived back at my flat on Saturday.

I had avoided Lunga until in the afternoon.

Lunga: "So you thought you can hide forever? "

Me: "I wasn't hiding "

Of course he could tell that I'm lying.

Lunga: "You're a bad liar. You know that "

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "We didn't do anything "

Lunga: "You're still lying "

I huffed.

Me: "Fine, we kissed "

Lunga: "And? "

Me: "I... I let him touch me but I stopped him before things could get any further "

He laughed and clapped his hands.

Lunga: "Wow"

Me: "I don't know what's happening with me. This is so unlike me"

Lunga: "True. You have to put your foot down. You can give in to him that easily "

I nodded. He was right.

Me: "But how? "

Lunga: "It's clear he's into you but you can't allow him to have the cookie just like that. Let's remember that you're mamfundisi so he has to work for it"

Me: "You're right but I can't make the same mistake twice and I... I don't want to have sex with him"

Lunga: "Understandable. Stop allowing positions then tempt you Ke, simple. They would be nothing wrong with pushing him if he attempts "

Me: "I wasn't expecting you to be so mature about it"

He laughed.

Lunga: "I know. Diana and I often just talk but we care. Even she doesn't give a guy easily. Well, I can't comment on myself unfortunately "

I laughed.

Me: "Thank you. Thank you so much "

Lunga: "Where's Luke? "

Me: "He's coming tonight for dinner with his girlfriend. Are you going to help me cook? "

Lunga: "I'll marinate the meat"

I chuckled.

Me: "That's something "

He had his beer while I had my juice. I was cooking and he was playing music.

I didn't want to go over the top.

There was a knock on the door and I let them in.

The girl looked beautiful to say the least.

Luke: "This Gina, my girlfriend and babe, this is Remo "

I hugged Her.

Me: "I'm glad to finally meet you"

Gina: "Oh, me too"

Lunga: "I'm Lunga, her roommate "

Gina: "Yes, Diana's friend "

Me: "You know her?"

Gina: "Yes, we work together "

Me: "You guys can make yourself comfortable in the dining table "

I showed them and Lunga helped me set the table.

Lunga: "I want him"

He whispered.

Me: "No Lunga "

Lunga: "I'm getting him"

Me: "He's straight "

Lunga: "And that's the cherry on top"

I just shook my head. I knew he wasn't bluffing.

.

DIANA

I had been sitting on the same position, rewinding the same part and unable to believe it.

I felt like these spy cameras came, as my pain.

OK fine, they helped opened my eyes but this truth fucken hurt.

I had to go to the fridge, take out wine and drink to drown my sorrows.

I didn't know whether to be angry, sad, hurt or pissed. I had a turmoil of emotions.

I hated it.

There was a knock on my door, I went to open.

It was Marcus.

Me: "Now is a bad time "

Marcus: " I think it's a good time. We need to talk "

Me: "Please Marcus"

Marcus: "I also have cameras in all my flats. I don't want anyone messing up with me"

I nodded and let him in.

This better be good.

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ABOUT THREE MONTHS LATER

LUNGA

I had spent a week at home, two weeks back and well, I had been alone in the flat since Wednesday.

I'd be lying if I knew where Remo was. She was probably with her baby daddy. The two had gotten close. It was a Friday. On the third week of October.

I had completely gotten over Leo and I was still on mission seduce Luke. It was coming in just great.. I think I had managed to make him a little uncomfortable which meant I could easily step in.

Anyway, I wasn't rushing it.

I was drinking beer while waiting for my pizza order. I had been surviving on takeaways since Remo went mia. I wasn't really worried though. I knew if I had to be, my conscience would have alerted me.

There was a knock on my door. I hoped that it'd be the pizza.

Me: "Finally"

I said when I opened, only to find Luke and he had the box of pizza.

I let him in.

Me: "I hope you paid for that"

Luke: "I did. Where's Remo? "

I shrugged.

Me: "I'd be lying "

Luke: "I've been trying to reach her to no avail "

Me: "You're not the only one"

Luke: "You don't sound worried"

Me: "Should I? Remo is older than me and fairly capable of taking care of herself "

Luke: "How old are you? "

Me: "I'm 18"

He nodded.

Me: "Shouldn't you be leaving? "

Luke: "Oh, uhm... Yeah"

Me: "Unless you were hoping for something else "

Luke: "That's ridiculous "

Me: "Is it? I believe you're a fairly smart man Luke "

I went to him. I could see he couldn't breathe.

Me: "Developing interest for another man doesn't make you gay. It's natural"

Luke: "Tell Remo I was here"

He left and never looked back.. I just laughed.

Dee: "And that? "

She was at the door. I didn't even hear her until she spoke. I guess my mind had drifted off.

Me: "He was looking for Remo"

Dee: "You didn't do anything to him? He seemed shaken"

I chuckled.

Me: "Me? "

Dee: "Do you only have beer? "

Me: "Are you not going to work? "

Dee: "I am. "

I went to the fridge and took out a can for her.

Dee: "Thank you. I just came to check up on you guys. I hardly ever see you"

Me: "I know hey. Especially since we came back. It's like everyone is preoccupied with something "

Dee: "Where's Remo? "

Me: "I'd be lying "

We ended up eating the pizza together while just talking.

Me: "Where's your gorilla? "

Dee: "Heh, that one. I think he's playing games "

Me: "Whatchu mean? "

Dee: "Nigger doesn't even want to be seen with me in public.
Suddenly we meeting up in hotels"

I laughed.

Me: "Maybe he's trying to spice things up"

She shrugged.

Dee: "Maybe but I'm going to give him whatever he wants. If he
wanna play then game on"

I laughed.

Me: "Yes moghel "

Dee: "And leave Gina's boyfriend alone"

I just laughed.

I don't even like the bitch.

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REMOFILWE

Lunga must be worried wherever he is.

I had left on Wednesday. I was going to my classes yes but Marcus would pick me right after.

The relationship started while I was home during the little recess.

I had developed feelings for him over the months and it was overwhelming.

He hadn't touched me since I took Lunga's advice and put him in his place.

Me: "I have to go"

Marcus: "But it's Friday. You don't have classes tomorrow "

Me: "Lunga must be worried. My phone has been off since I got here. They might think I've been abducted "

He laughed.

Marcus: "You'll leave tomorrow. He's a party animal. You might not find him at the flat if you go. I don't want you all lonely. Besides, I love sleeping next to you"

I couldn't help but blush. I looked down.

Me: "But you haven't kissed me since we... You know "

Marcus: "I didn't know you wanted me to"

Me: "I... I don't "

Marcus: "Look at me"

I did.

Marcus: "Are you sure? "

Me: "I.. I'm just trying to understand. I mean I thought that you would want us to... Never mind "

Marcus: "You can talk to me Remo. I'm your man"

Me: "Is this some courtship? "

Marcus: "It's a, relationship. Remo

there's nothing more that I want than to make love to you but I understand we're different. I don't want you doing something that you going to regret. That would hurt me because I love you"

Me: "You do? "

Marcus: "Why the hell would I be with you if I don't? "

Me: "But I really have to go"

He didn't have it.

We went out to watch movies which was my idea.

He thought he was too old for that. The guy didn't even look old.

Marcus: "I'm never doing this again "

Me: "Stop complaining "

We were watching a romcom and we weren't even halfway through the movie when he slept on my shoulder.

I just let him be.

I knew I was going to scold him for it after.

We went to KFC after. I wanted a chicken wrap, zinger wings and an Oreo krusher.

Marcus: "We're done now, right? "

Me: "You sound irritated "

Marcus: "I feel like I'm a teenager again "

Me: "Maybe it's because you're dating one"

Marcus: "I guess I'll have to get used to it"

I ate on our way home. I was hungry.

It was around 9pm when we arrived.

His phone rang.

Me: "Why is yours on? "

Marcus: "I'm a businessman"

After the phone call, he suddenly had to leave.

Me: "You're leaving me alone? "

Marcus: "I'll be back before you know it"

Me: "But I -"

He just kissed my forehead and left.

Great.

.

DIANA

When I decided to come to work, I didn't think things were going to pin out like this.

Craig wasn't even here. Everyone was down except for Gina and I.

Man: "Where is the money? "

Gina: "We... We don't know "

She was panicking more than me. He had the gun pointed at us.

The other guys were searching all over. The music was even off.

Man: "You don't want to make me angry! "

I was praying that Marcus will arrive in time.

He was my only hope. I had managed to dial his number. I couldn't say anything though but he was going to hear.

This man came to me. He had his, face covered with a balaclava.

He had a sexy voice but of course the situation wasn't allowing any compliments from me to him.

Man: "You're brave NEH "

I was shit scared but I tried to keep my shit together.

I just looked at him. He slapped me. I screamed. It stung.

Man: "Not so brave now, are we? "

Me: "Fuck you! "

He hit me with the gun and that's when I fell to the floor.

I'd be lying if I said I knew what happened after.

I could feel someone staring at me. I think that's what woke me up.

I heard beeping sounds and I assumed I was in hospital.

I was just grateful I didn't die.

I was disappointed in myself. Disappointed because I couldn't defend myself. I couldn't do anything.

I opened my eyes. It was too bright in the room. So bright that I concluded it was morning.

I had to blink a couple of times so I could adjust to the light.

Marcus: "You're awake "

Me: "You brought me here? "

My head was painful. I assumed it was where that bastard had hit me with the gun.

Marcus: "I didn't. Your... I don't know what to call him brought you here"

Me: "You're not making sense"

Marcus: "The guy who did that to you. I think he felt sorry for you or he likes you"

I chuckled.

Me: "Yeah right. "

Marcus: "You should have just given them the money "

Me: "I don't even know where it's kept "

Marcus: "They found it. You know after they left, the party just went on"

I laughed.

Me: "Wow and yet I still don't get any visit from a police officer "

Marcus: "I'm glad you're OK but I have to leave now. Remo is going to kill me"

Me: "She's with you? "

He nodded.

Marcus: "Call me if you need anything "

I nodded.

I was given breakfast and painkillers which helped with the headache.

I got a visit from Craig and Bandile later during the day.

Craig: "Are you OK? "

Me: "What do you think? "

Bandile: "Did he harm you in any way? Except for your head of course? "

Me: "No. What do you guys want? "

Craig: "I'm sorry about what happened. I should have been there"

Me: "Well, it happened and you weren't there. Besides, I don't think you would have done anything "

Bandile: "I agree with her. Let's be grateful no one incurred any grievous harm"

Me: "I probably have a swollen cheek and my head is stitched somewhere. That's grievous. How will I find a man? "

He laughed.

Bandile: "You're with Wandile Moss and he loves you"

Me: "I'm single at home affairs "

Craig: "I'm glad to see you still have your sense of humour "

Me: "I guess the damage isn't that deep"

Craig: "I have bad news though "

Me: "Is it Aphiwe? Did something happen to her? To the baby? "

Craig: "Uhm no. I'll have to close down the club for a while. I lost a lot of cash and the culprits did major damage. "

Me: "Oh"

Craig: "I'll probably open around December. Hopefully I would have been able to renovate it and hopefully revamp it. "

Me: "Basically you're saying I'm unemployed? "

Craig: "It's not permanent "

I didn't reply.

I couldn't believe I was back there. I had to deal with unemployment, on top of everything.

I didn't even know how I was going to afford rent.

I just sighed and looked aside. I had no plans this time.

DIANA

I had time to reflect at night. I was to be kept over for observation. My friends had come to check up on me during the day and I was grateful.

I thought of everything that had happened. I mean through out the months. The footage, Marcus and oh, Wandile.

If only the bastard knew that whatever I had for him ended the day I watched that footage.

I had always been good with pretence. I've heard dad say I inherited it from my mother.

If he was here, I knew I wouldn't be struggling. I wouldn't have any worries.

I took my mind away from such thoughts before I end up crying. I had made a promise to myself that the only day I'm going to cry is during my graduation.

When I went through that footage, I didn't think I was going to find anything that would make me sort of reconsider a lot of things.

I saw Wandile talk to someone on the phone. I really thought this bet things ended at high school. Yep, turns out he had made such a bet with his friends. I know I should have broken

up with him but I wouldn't. I was just glad I hadn't fallen for him. He got what he wanted, which wasn't a big deal for me but he was going to pay for it.

I also saw Kaona talk to someone. Can you believe she knew that Wandile had a girlfriend and still hadn't mentioned it to me? I wondered what she was playing at. From what Marcus told me, they had been together for a year and, a half. Real high school sweethearts.

Anyway, i wasn't any fazed. I guess I should have expected that from dating a kid.

Turns out the robbers didn't take my clothes, Kaona did. Yes, I only found out about a month ago.

She was still living with me but Gina needed a room so I had been thinking of having her move in. I was going to get rid of the cameras though.

I could feel someone's presence in the room. I turned to look at the door and it was a figure I couldn't recognise standing just in front of it.

I got scared, no doubt. I wouldn't want a repeat of what happened.

Me: "Ca.. Can I help you? "

He switched on the lights.

He was wearing all black and looked like a gangster. He was a typical yellowbone with short hair. His lips were dark, like he smoked a lot.

Man: "See where your bravery got you? "

Oh, I remembered that voice very well. This son of a bitch had a very sexy voice.

Me: "Came to finish me off? "

He chuckled and came closer. The door was even closed.

Him: "I wouldn't dare unless of course you provoke me"

He made sure to emphasise the threat in that sentence.

Him: "I'm Hugh, Hugh Dladla"

Me: "What do you want? "

Hugh: "I came to check on my pretty victim. I'm only sorry I ruined your face but no one curses at me"

I chuckled mockingly.

Me: "And what are you? God? "

Hugh: "Oh no, you don't get to talk about the almighty like that. You should watch your tongue little girl"

Me: "Little girl? "

Hugh: "You're a kid"

I laughed.

Me: "Who are you trying to convince? You or me? "

Hugh: "I should have cut off your tongue "

I swear all the words I had in my mind vanished.

He sounded so serious. He had deep voice that oozed authority and command.

I could imagine him telling me to get on cat position. OK no Diana, he got you here.

Hugh: "Let's go. I'm taking you back home "

Me: "What? "

Hugh: "Don't act like you didn't hear me. You have five minutes "

I had to wear my uniform since I didn't have any other clothes. He carried my heels, for me. I was wearing sleepers.

Me: "How romantic "

Hugh: "I'll wipe that smirk off you with a clap"

I don't know why he liked threatening me. Anyway, I just rolled my eyes.

He was driving a gusheshe. I laughed when I got in. It was pimped up and so nice.

Hugh: "What were you expecting? "

Me: "More from someone who robbed a club. You cost me my job"

Hugh: "That'll give you time to focus on school, not working at night clubs "

He even knew where I stayed, more like raced there.

My phone was off and I just wanted to get back so I can charge it.

I didn't want to stress about anything else. Like my bank balance and how I'm going to make a living from here.

Hugh: "Behave. "

I got out

not even replying. I just hoped I never see him.

He scared the shit out of me.

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REMOFILWE

Me: "What's going on between you and Diana? "

Marcus: "Not this, again "

Me: "I need to know. You spent a night with her at hospital. Are you sleeping with her? "

I had to ask. I was able to fake being OK when I was at the hospital but I wasn't going to let this man take me for a ride.

It was late and maybe I should have been sleeping but I wasn't.

He had just got into my room. Like he usually did.

Marcus: "We're just acquaintances, nothing more"

I don't even know where I got the liver to question him like this but I had it.

Me: "She sure seems important to you. So important that you would leave me, your girlfriend so you can go rescue her and even spend the night with her"

I didn't even know what was happening with me.

It was unlike me to burst out like this. Was it because I love him so much that the, thought of someone else meaning more to him infuriated me?

Marcus: "I thought you guys were friends. Should I have just ignored her call for help? "

Me: "No but.. It still doesn't answer my question "

Marcus: "But baby, why are we fighting? We just got together. We're suppose to be enjoying the honeymoon phase"

Me: "I can't have you being friends with my best friend. I can't "

Marcus: "I don't get why you're jealous. I'm with you "

I was feeling insecure. I suddenly didn't know if I could trust Diana around him. She was capable of anything. What if she seduces him then he ends up leaving me for her?

I knew that would break me.

Me: "I'm not jealous "

I said, folding my arms and pouting. He gave me a baby kiss.

Marcus: "I love you OK. Stop stressing "

I was only Letting it go for now.

The issue had stressed me enough.

I woke up on Monday and prepared myself for class.

I wore a blue skinny jeans with a black T-shirt and sandals.

My hair was a mess. I just wore a hat. I had to do it sooner.

I woke up in a, rather sour mood. Maybe it was because it's Monday.

I was really feeling that it's blue Monday.

Lunga: " Good Morning "

Me: "Morning"

I mumbled. I took out a bowl and poured cereal.

Lunga: "What's going on with you? "

Me: "Nothing"

Lunga: "Really? You're never this sour in the morning. You usually wake up cheerful "

Me: "I think Marcus is cheating on me with Diana "

He laughed.

Lunga: "You're funny "

Me: "Of course you going to laugh. She's a saint in your eyes, isn't she? "

Lunga: "You're being paranoid. "

Me: "Am I? "

Lunga: "You guys just got together. Are you really going to make some, assumptions? Diana is our Friend. She wouldn't "

Me: " I just lost my appetite "

I took my phone and just left.

I can't believe he spoke for her. Just like Marcus.

I wondered why I even started dating. I should have just stuck to God, school and my son.

Dating Just came with too much stress for me.

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LUNGA

I was dumb struck. The Remo that I had just witnessed wasn't one that I know.

I was the one capable of fucking around, not Diana.

I was not protecting her but I do know Diana.

Anyway, I had to leave too.

Diana was here during lunch, at our usual spot.

She gave me a hug and Remo, who gave her a cold on.

Dee looked at me with questioning eyes.

I just shrugged.

Me: "How's your head? "

Dee: "Not that bad. I just want this bandage off me"

Me: "You getting there"

Dee: "Remo, what's up? "

Remo: "Mxm"

Diana looked at me. I sighed.

Me: "She's been like this since morning "

Dee: "Did I do something? "

Remo: "Akere you're sleeping with my man. So much for being my best friend "

Diana was shocked. She looked at her then me.

Dee: "What? "

Remo: "You're not even denying it! "

If we weren't so isolated from everyone, she would have caused a scene.

Me: "You sound crazy right now "

The Wandile boy came.

Him: "Diana, can we talk? "

Remo: "While at it, work on satisfying her so she can leave my man alone! "

Diana slapped her. Remo looked at her, shocked.

Dee: "I'm done here"

She took Wandile's hand and they left.

Me: "Really Remo? You just had to act so bitchy. This is so unlike you"

I stood up and left. I couldn't stay there.

I bumped into someone. It was Leo. I rolled my eyes.

Leo: "Hi... Uhm, can we talk? "

I think the gods were testing me. I looked at his hold on my arm and he let go.

This one just thought he could come In and go out in my life as he pleases.

Me: "I'm over you cupcake, move on"

I clicked my tongue and walked passed him.

22

DIANA

It was now a week after the whole scenario with Remo. My feelings towards her had not changed.

I still considered her my friend and I was going to avoid her for a while.

The weird was having Wandile suddenly change. He was even taking pictures.

I wasn't any moved by this. I still wasn't going to change because of him. I wasn't going to allow him to do as he pleases with me.

I found Kaona having tea. It was morning on a Saturday. Not working meant I got to sleep and wake up late.

I greeted her. she looked at me.

Me: "What? "

She shook her head. I knew how I was going to deal with her.

Me: "If you have a problem with me, why not say it? "

Kaona: "I'm just trying to understand the vulture I live with "

I laughed.

Me: "Good luck with that "

Kaona: "I really thought you were a good person Diana"

Me: "If you think I'm such a horrible vulture, why are you still here? "

Kaona: "Because I don't have a choice "

Hai, I guess I was having a bad month. Kore it was clear it wasn't my month.

Did I care? No. If this bitch wanted to be cheeky with me then she was definitely going to get what's coming.

OK maybe not. Revenge is never really a good idea but that didn't mean I had to have her play over my head.

I was going to give her an ultimatum.

Kaona: "Boyfie is here"

She said, walking out. I guess I had been so consumed by my own thoughts that I didn't even realise what was happening in my reality.

He came towards me with a smile. I returned it.

He gave me a squeeze and kissed my forehead.

Me: "Why are you here so early? "

Wandile: "Good morning baby, how are you? "

Me: "I'm fine but answer my question "

Wandile: "I'm taking you out for breakfast "

Me: "Oh? "

He nodded.

Me: "It's like you trying to make up for something, not that I'm complaining "

Wandile: "Maybe I haven't been much of a good boyfriend to you. "

I nodded.

Me: "Let's go. I'm hungry"

Wandile: "You're leaving like that? "

Me: "Is there something wrong? "

Wandile: "I can't have niggers lusting after you. No"

I was wearing shorts and a longer length T-shirt which covered the shorts.

Me: "Stop being crazy and let's go"

Wandile: "Fine. I knew I'd never win with you "

I laughed. He took my hand and we left.

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REMOFILWE

Lunga had not spoken to me in a week because of Diana.

I still didn't see what wrong I did by confronting her.

She had never disguised her capabilities and she's beautiful and outgoing, surely you don't blame me for thinking that.

Anyway, I was making Marcus breakfast. I hoped that he will like it.

He came when I was pouring the juice. He was topless and looked good. I think he had showered.

Marcus: "Morning"

Me: "Good morning. I hope you're hungry "

Marcus: "I just woke up"

OK.

I wasn't expecting that.

Me: "Did I do something? "

Marcus: "Oh no

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you're such an angel"

Me: "You sound sarcastic "

He chuckled.

Marcus: "I mean it. I miss my sons though. I really wish they stayed with us"

Me: "But we don't stay together "

Marcus: "But we will. Of course after you finish your degree"

Me: "Cohabit?"

Marcus: "We love each other. I don't see anything wrong with that "

Me: "But that's not something I believe in"

Marcus: "We're in a relationship Remo. You might have to compromise your beliefs somewhere. I can't be the only one making sacrifices "

Me: "I didn't think you had a problem with what I believe in"

Marcus: "We're different, yes and, I get that. All I wish is for you to try and be a little open minded. Especially when it comes to us"

Me: "Are you hungry? "

Marcus: "I'm on a diet"

I laughed.

Me: "What? "

Marcus: "Is there a problem? "

Me: "I made all this breakfast for us. You can't be on a diet"

Marcus: "Well, I'm sorry you went to all the trouble. "

He took out an apple and pear from the fridge.

I felt like crying.

All my efforts were just wasted.

Me: "Why won't you eat my food? "

Marcus: "Remo, please. It's still too early for us to fight. Please"

Then he left. I couldn't even call any of my friends.

I was really doomed.

I sat down and ate whatever I could.

He came back after a while, fully dressed. I was doing the dishes with tears falling down my cheeks.

Marcus: "Baby? "

He sounded concerned. It was probably because he heard me sniffing.

I didn't turn to look at him. I felt his hands on my waist.

His chin was resting on my shoulder.

Marcus: "What's wrong? "

Me: "You hurt... I went into all the trouble "

Marcus: "That's why you're crying? "

He was now relaxed. I didn't answer.

Marcus: "I'm really on a diet. I'm sorry "

Me: "It's fine"

He turned me around.

Marcus: "Stop crying "

He then leaned down to kiss me.

I kissed him back. He didn't go on for long.

Marcus: "Go shower so we can go out "

Me: "I'm dirty? "

Marcus: "Go change "

He spanked my butt as I was leaving. I was too shocked to react and heard him laugh.

I just ran away.

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APHIWE

pregnancy. I had accepted it and made peace with it.

I think I had even fallen in love with my little unborn. I was now four months pregnant.

I didn't have any weird cravings but the problem was the morning sickness. I wasn't throwing up. I just felt nauseous all the time and ate mostly fruits, veggies, crackers and anything that is uncooked.

I didn't eat meat. I hadn't seen Craig in a week and I missed him.

Anyway, I was going shopping with my friend Leonor.

She had actually forced me since all I did was sleep if I didn't have school.

Leonor: "I'm here! "

She shouted before she even opened the door.

I just laughed and took my bag.

She had red hair now and was light skinned like me but thinner. She's coloured. Has a white father.

Leonor: "Are you good babe? "

Me: "I'm cool. You? "

Leonor: "I'm great "

We went to her car. A part of me was looking forward to being out of my flat.

The weather was good too.

23

LUNGA

Me: "She's not here"

I said, rolling my eyes.

Luke: "I'm not here for Remo"

I made space so he can get in then closed the door.

I don't know why but I was a little nervous.

I was also trying to convince my mind not to fall for him.

Remo was with the boyfriend as usual. We weren't really on talking terms.

Me: "How may I help? "

Luke: "Are you not going to offer me something to drink? "

Me: "Uhm, what would you like? "

Luke: "What do you have? "

Me: "There's water, juice, beer"

It was late in the afternoon and I had been procrastinating about taking a shower then going out.

Luke: "I'll have juice. I'm hungry, don't you have food? "

Me: "I don't. I can't cook moss"

Luke: "You should learn"

I laughed. He must be crazy.

Luke: "I'm Willing to pay for your lessons"

Me: "Heh wena, I'm not going to learn how to cook. Let's not step on each others toes"

Luke: "Why not? "

Me: "I'm not a woman kalok and I'm more interested in consuming food than making it"

Luke: "Cooking is not for women only"

Me: "My father can't cook. Why the hell would I? "

Luke: "I see, so what should I eat? "

Me: "order something "

I gave him his juice. I wanted to know why he was here.

Luke: "What are you playing at? "

Me: "Mina? "

Luke: "It's only us here"

Me: "I'm not playing at anything "

Luke: "Stop lying! "

Me: "Don't you fucken shout at me. I'm not your son"

He did the unthinkable. He came to me and kissed me.

I was really too shocked at that.

"Haibo! "

He pulled out.

It was Diana. Luke just rushed out. I was still shocked.

She clapped once.

Me: "Don't judge "

My heart was beating fast, I was excited. I never thought he'd be the one to make the first move.

She laughed.

Dee: "You dirty little hoe! "

I laughed.

Me: "I didn't do anything. He's the one who kissed me"

Dee: "Friend, I know you. You seduced him"

Me: "Come on some slack. You saw how shocked I was"

Dee: "You replied"

Me: "He's a good kisser. I almost had a boner "

Dee: "Are you falling for him? "

I kept quiet. Was I?

Dee: "He's dating my friend "

Me: "I'm your best friend, your loyalty lies with me"

Dee: "Only because I love you and you know too much "

I chuckled.

Me: "Yeah but I'll be there when the truth finally catches with you "

We hugged. I think our minds had drifted down memory lane.

If I were to speak of a run and die, that would be her.

I was 100% sure that the feeling is mutual.

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REMOFILWE

The ride back to my flat was silent. I hadn't imagined our day like this.

I couldn't handle it. I knew I had to break it.

Me: "Are you mad at me? "

Marcus: "I'm not"

Me: "Then what's wrong? "

Marcus: "I just don't like how you react to situations sometimes "

Me: "Diana? "

He nodded. I sighed.

Me: "What is it with you guys? "

Marcus: "She's like a little sister to me. I actually can't believe you'd ruin a friendship because of your insecurities. "

Me: "What? So I'm the one at fault? "

Marcus: "She told me what you did and now wants me to keep my distance. Basically, she wants nothing to do with me"

I laughed. I was actually in disbelief.

Me: "And that bothers you? "

Marcus: "I'll tell you when the time is right and maybe then, you'll understand. Diana might be anything but she's not a bitch. Anyway, I just want you to think first before you act "

Me: "You know

I'm just glad she asked you to keep your distance. The thought of you guys having any interaction behind my back was unsettling "

Marcus: "I see"

We got out together. The door was open and I could hear voices from inside.

I became irritated. I was with Marcus and, Diana was here.

I don't know why I felt intimidated by her.. Maybe it was because she had more experience than me in this department.

Maybe I was scared that she might please him in ways I can't.

Was I wrong? I don't think so.

Marcus: "Evening"

There were bottles on the table. Even a blind person could see that they were drunk.

Diana: "Mikey, how are you? "

Me: "Can we go to my room? "

I was fuming. She even called him by a nickname.

Marcus: "Diana, it's been a while "

Diana: "I'm avoiding you. Akere baby thinks we're fucking so I'm Better off without the drama"

Me: "Sisi, if you have something to say, say it to my face "

Diana: "Your boyfriend gives the best head"

She licked her lips and laughed with Lunga. I just clicked my tongue and went to my room.

Marcus: "You really need to lighten up. You're 19 for fucks sake"

Me: "What did she mean by best head? "

He laughed.

Marcus: "You really want to know? "

I nodded. I actually felt like a fool.

It sounded dirty.

Marcus: "I can only show you"

I was interested but when he said that, I got more confused.

Me: "You can't tell me? "

Marcus: "That way you can decide if she's right or not"

Me: "O.. Ok"

I wasn't sure but I was curious.

He took my hand, then lifted me up and put me on my dressing table.

Me: "What are you doing? "

Marcus: "Just let me do this"

He took off my jeans. That's when I got more scared.

Me: "Marcus, what are you doing? "

Marcus: "You wanna know, don't you?"

I bit my lip and nodded. He took off my panties. I didn't understand how I could be so naked yet free around him.

He looked at me.

Marcus: "You OK? "

I nodded. The truth? I was very scared.

He then parted my legs. I put them back together.

Me: "What are you doing? "

Marcus: "Giving you head"

He picked me up then threw me on the bed.

His face was between my thighs.

Me: "We're not going to... I can't "

Marcus: "Don't worry"

He kissed my inner thigh. I shivered.

Marcus: "Relax"

He opened my legs. My heart was beating fast yet my body was speaking differently.

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DIANA

Lu: "I'm not about to listen to people having sex. Let's go"

We laughed. Her screams were too loud.

Me: "Where? "

Lu: "Angazi but we getting drunk and wasted"

Me: "Who's going to drive us back? "

Lu: "I'll call Luke"

We got in his car. We didn't even know where we were going.

We just drove around, looking for a vibe.

I was already drunk and he was just tipsy.

We ended up in some chesanyama.

It was in the township but it was booming.

The place was filled.

Lu: "K'sazoba lit! "

And it was. Of course I had to make sure I don't drink too much, especially after what happened the previous time.

I was surprised to see Craig and his crew here. They only came later on.

Bandile came to me and roughly held me and took me outside. Like outside the yard.

Lunga was nowhere to be found.

Me: "You're hurting me"

He let go.

Bandile: "I want you to listen to me and listen very carefully "

Me: "Are you trying to scare me? "

It was working. I had never see him like this.

Bandile: "I want you to leave my little brother alone "

I laughed.

Me: "You're crazy"

He gave me a slap that got me sober immediately.

Bandile: "Either you leave him or I'll tell him everything that I know about you"

Me: "Wh.. What are you talking about? "

Bandile: "Want a clue? "

I swallowed.

Me: "Fine. I'll... I'll do it"

Bandile: "Good. I wonder if your sister or even your friends know the kind of deceitful bitch you are "

He spit on the floor and left.

I stood there. Not knowing if I should scream or cry.

It seemed that my past was trying to catch up with me

I wondered how much he knew.

All I knew was, I couldn't have Wandile knowing.

"Are you not getting cold? "

I recognised that voice very well. In my mind, I wanted to get out of here.

Me: "I'm trying to catch a ride "

Hugh: "Because of that dreadlocked freak? "

Me: "How much did you hear? "

Hugh: "I'll drive you home"

From that, I just knew he probably knew more than he should about me.

Hopefully the truth was not going to catch up with me like Lunga said.

DIANA

“Where will I start?”, that was the question that lingered in my mind. I also wondered why I would let someone like Bandile tell me what to do. clearly, he didn’t know me that well and even though he gave me a slap, I wasn’t going to listen to him.

I know you might wonder why I’m still with Wandile after what I discovered but even I didn’t know. I guess I didn’t see myself being single.

The thought just put me off the wrong way. I mean I had gotten used to having someone but now this. The solution was for Bandile to tell him what he knows. That way he’ll maybe hate me and want nothing to do with me.

I wondered though why he would decide to do a background check on him. What interest did he have in me to go to such extends?

Hugh tapping me was what brought me back to reality. I looked at him and realised that the car had stopped.

Me: “Why?”

Hugh: “What do you mean?”

Me: “Why did you offer to take me home? You didn’t have to”

Hugh: "Because I like you."

I laughed. It didn't make sense because this was the man who landed me in hospital.

Me: "I still have the scar of what you did to me"

Hugh: "Would have been avoided if you just cooperated"

I chuckled.

Me: "Wow"

Hugh: "But I admire your fire and I don't care about your past. I have done worst things which could give me a life imprisonment"

Me: "I am not surprised you know. The world might as well be made aware"

He laughed.

Hugh: "Let's see, you didn't murder anyone. I understand you did what you wanted to protect your mom but the other, haiyi"

I laughed.

Me: "I get that but I have a boyfriend"

Hugh: "More like you're baby sitting that boy but I am not giving up. Wena just know that I want you"

Temptations really come in different shapes, sizes and situations. Triple 'S' baba.

He got out after me.

Hugh: "I just want to make sure you're safe"

I laughed and just let him be.

On Monday, I knew I had to take charge of my life. Exams were to approach soon and I didn't want anything standing in my way.

I found Kaona making breakfast in the kitchen. I didn't bother greeting.

Me: "We need to talk"

Kaona: "Well, morning Diana"

Me: "Cut the crap. I want you out by the end of business today"

She looked at me, shocked.

Kaona: "What?"

Me: "I believe I was loud enough. I have someone who'll be moving in tomorrow. Someone who won't have any problem with me. Seeing you have made it very clear how displeased you are with me and even said it to my face, I don't think it will be a problem for you"

Kaona: "Diana, please. Where will I go?"

Me: "You're a big girl, I am very sure you can make a plan"

Kaona: "Don't do this, please hle. I am sorry for how bad I have been towards you but ke a go kopa, don't do this to me"

Me: "Like you thought twice before stealing my clothes"

Kaona: "I didn't-"

Me: "Do not deny it. I have proof. In fact, you owe. Unless you want to see yourself in jail, you'll pay me for all the clothes you stole"

She looked defeated. Even her tears had dried.

Me: "I better find you all packed up when I come back"

I went out, not even looking back. I wasn't worried about surviving. I was going to search for another job. I had to.

Hugh being the one who cost me my job was going to find one for me.

I was with Wandile during lunch. He looked excited to see me.

Me: "How are you?"

Wandile: "Good, now that I am seeing you"

Me: "Your brother asked me to leave you alone"

Wandile: "What?"

Me: "Weitse he even gave me a slap that sobered me up in a minute"

Wandile: "No"

Me: "Ask him if you don't believe me"

Wandile: "I don't get why Bandile has to interfere in my relationship"

Me: "He cares about you and well, he doesn't want you with someone like me"

Wandile: "But I don't care. I want you. I love you"

Me: "You won't want me after you speak to me"

Wandile: "I'm confused"

Me: "You will know. Let's enjoy lunch for now"

Wandile: "Diana"

Me: "Please"

He sighed and nodded.

Thank God.

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REMOFILWE

Events of Saturday had been haunting me so much that I couldn't even concentrate in class on Monday.

I didn't know how to feel. It felt like I had committed a big sin.

I tried consoling myself because we didn't have intercourse, but did that make a difference? I was naked, exposed and I had been avoiding Marcus since then.

My phone had been switched off and I had spent the whole Sunday at church.

On top of that, I had to deal with looks from Lunga.

Even when I arrived at the flat, he gave me such a look. It was like he knew what happened.

Was I loud?

Lunga: "Au girl, no need to feel ashamed. There's nothing wrong with getting laid"

Then he laughed.

Me: "We didn't do anything"

Lunga: "We heard your screams"

Me: "Yes, but I ... he"

Lunga: "You don't have to explain anything to me. You're like my sister"

Me: “Lunga, it’s not what you think”

Lunga: “Sweetie, you don’t know what I am thinking and well it’s none of my business”

It was clear that he wasn’t going to listen to me, so I let him be.

I was even more embarrassed. So, he and Diana heard that.

I really couldn’t help it and it felt so good. I guess I know what Diana meant, which made me wonder if she was being honest or not.

Did she really do something with Marcus or was she just drunk talking. I sighed when I got into my room.

I didn’t want to end up freaking out. I undressed and went to take a bath. I switched my phone on before going.

I dried and lotioned in the bathroom then went out.

I got dressed in leggings and a tank top.

My phone rang. I was nervous thinking it’s Marcus, but it was my mom.

Me: “Ma”

Mom: “I’ve been calling you since yesterday, why did you switch off your phone?”

Me: “I... I was busy, and it was only going to distract me”

Mom: "I see. Well, I was just checking up on you. I miss my baby"

Me: "I miss you too mummy. I can't wait for this semester to end so I can see you and Lefa. I hate being away"

Mom: "Just remember why you are there baby. I worry about you sometimes"

Me: "I won't mom. You don't have to worry. I am not all alone"

Mom: "How are your friends? I hope you guys are focusing on your studies"

Me: "Uhm, we are. Mom, I have to go"

I knew I could never lie to her. My friendships were ruined and the thought of making new friends scared me.

I knew I didn't have a choice. I was very lonely and I couldn't really rely on Marcus to always be there. I knew he also had stuff he had to do. being a property owner didn't come easy.

I sighed. I wasn't even good in that department.

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APHIWE

Me: "I wasn't expecting you"

Craig: "I know. Can you change into something more formal?"

Me: "Craig, you just got here. You didn't even greet me"

He kissed my forehead.

Craig: "I am sorry baby. How are my two-favourite people?"

Me: "Good but what's going on?"

He was all dressed up in a three-piece beige suit. I had to ask.

Craig: "Bandile and I are going to some business conference."

Me: "You look dashing"

He chuckled.

Craig: "Thank you baby but time is not on our side"

Me: "I don't even know what I'm going to buy"

Craig: "You went shopping with Leonor. I'm sure you guys bought something formal"

Me: "How do you know her?"

Craig: "She's Bandile's person. Baby, please"

I took a quick shower first. I ended up wearing a black lace dress which had an open back. It had long sleeves and revealed some skin in the front.

It had a slit and was sort of a mermaid dress. I did my makeup and curled my weave. I had to be fast because of Craig.

I wore red heels, took a purse then went to him.

Craig: "Fuck, baby"

I giggled.

Me: "Let's go"

I looked beautiful with my little bump.

Craig: "I don't know how I am going to focus with you being such a distraction"

Me: "Ohh baby, relax. I am all yours"

I winked at him. He kissed my cheek and opened the door for me.

He had a driver. The man wasn't even impatient, but I knew we took ages.

Leonor was there, and my friend came to me and we hugged.

This seemed too serious for me. I wondered how I was going to survive in whatever talks were to be had here.

Me: "You never said"

I said, looking at Bandile.

Leonor: "It just happened. I was visiting my cousin in Cape town and that's where we met"

Craig had joined Bandile and they were talking to some man.

Me: "So, you're dating?"

Leonor: "I wouldn't call it that. We just have an agreement"

Me: "I am not even going to ask"

She chuckled. We went to sit down because I was tired.

The evening wasn't that bad and I saw a side to Craig that I never thought I'd see. I was even introduced to some people and doing Bcom accounting, it was going to come in handy for me in the future.

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LUNGA

I didn't expect to get a call from Luke at 22h30. I had stolen his number from Remo's phone (Don't look at me like that) and never used it.

I had saved it, so I knew it was him.

Me: "Hello?"

Luke: "Come outside"

Me: "Do you know what time is it? I have classes in the morning"

Luke: "Lunga, just come to the parking lot. You know you want to. Stop being difficult"

This son of a bitch was right. I was curious.

I wore my gown and sleepers.

Good thing Remo and I weren't in good terms or I would have felt the need to do some explaining in the morning. I guess that was a blessing in disguise.

He was in his car. I got in the backseat.

Me: "What is so important that it couldn't wait for morning?"

Luke: "I just wanted to see you"

I groaned.

Me: "What the hell?! I was sleeping, about to have a very sweet dream"

Luke: "What was I supposed to do? I couldn't sleep"

Me: "We both know it's none of my business"

Luke: "It is because I had been thinking about our stolen kiss"

What was this guy playing at?

I felt weak in his presence. I hated it. I hated it because it meant I had surrendered all control to him which was unlike me.

It was like he had turned the tables.

I was the one supposed to be in control, not him.

The look he gave me. His eyes were blazing.

Me: "Oh?"

Luke: "Yes"

He turned and started the car.

I didn't even ask where we were going.

It turned out that he was driving to what I think was his house.

I was a little nervous, but I had to suppress it. He lived in a mansion, which I thought was a little too expensive for a guy his age.

He had dogs. Three of them which were locked of course but barking loudly.

Luke: "This is my home"

It was beautiful inside, no doubt.

Me: "Why did you bring me here?"

He completely ignored that.

Luke: "Do you want anything to drink?"

Me: "No. I want answers"

Luke: "I think cranberry juice is fine"

He went to pour it for me. I took a sip. He took my hand and went to sit us by the couch.

I had to act like his touch was not having any effect on me.

Luke: "I don't bite"

Me: "Where is Gina?"

Luke: "I stay alone. Unless you want to move in"

Me: "So you can make me a wife? No, thanks"

He chuckled.

Luke: "You have a dick just like me. Why would I want to make you a wife?"

I didn't say anything.

He kissed me again. I replied this time. His hands were just on my face and I knew it was just that, a kiss. Nothing more.

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LUNGA

I looked at him sleeping next to him. He was snoring, his eyes partly opened.

I wondered what it meant. It had been a few weeks with us being together if I could call it that.

We were on the last week of November and he had convinced me not to go home. We hadn't had sex yet and it scared me.

I wondered how it would happen. My biggest fear was him wanting to fuck me. I couldn't imagine it because I had never done it.

Luke: "Staring is rude"

He kissed my lips. I smiled.

Me: "Morning "

Luke: "Morning. Why are you up so early? "

Me: "I guess I'm used to it"

He kissed my cheek countless times. His lips are so soft.

Me: "Are we like.. In a relationship? "

Luke: "Is that what you want? "

I nodded.

Luke: "Then we are. Go shower. I'll make us breakfast "

We both got off bed. I made the bed as he went to the kitchen then I went to shower.

I was happy. I mean, we were officially. He actually easily agreed.

I wondered about his girlfriend though and what this meant for her.

I wondered if they were still together. I didn't wonder much about his sexuality.

Things had pretty much changed from me wanting to seduce a straight guy to this.

Was he even straight? Had he been with a man before?

I guess I was yet to find out.

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DIANA

FLASHBACK

Hugh looked at me. We had been watching a movie in my room. Gina had went out with her man.

It was month end. The end of October and beginning of November.

Hugh: "Please allow me"

Me: "I told you that I... I have... In fact, you know"

Hugh: "His brother hates you and it's only a matter of time before he does"

Someone barged in just as he was about to kiss me.

It was Wandile. I wasn't expecting him. His eyes were red. Bloodshot red like he had been crying.

Wandile: "So it's true? You're cheating on me? "

Me: "What? "

Truth is, I had been spending more time with Hugh since Bandile threatened me.

I knew he was probably the one who did this. Maybe he had me followed. I don't know.

Wandile: "My mistake was loving you. I should have just stuck to the bet and not let my emotions and feelings get the best of me. To think I left my girlfriend for you. All for what? Some Devious girl who had her mom locked up in a psychiatric hospital and her husband in jail? Oh, how about sleeping with your sister's boyfriend? Does she know? "

I looked at him, not saying anything. A part of me wanted to jump at him and wipe his mouth off with a clap.

Wandile: "I actually wonder what I saw in you. You're evil. You don't care about anyone else than yourself. You're a selfish bitch! "

I don't know when he stood up but I heard one loud slap. Hugh had slapped him.

Hugh: "You better watch your mouth young man. "

Wandiile chuckled. I prayed he doesn't try to fight back.

Well, he did. He was an ant next to Hugh.

I watched Hugh beat him to a pulp and did not even attempt to stop him.

I knew he would have listened if I had but no.

Hugh: "I'll drop him off at a hospital "

Me: "What if you get arrested? "

Hugh: "I won't and if I do, it won't be for long "

I nodded. He took him and left.

I went to the fridge and poured myself a glass of wine.

Wandiile was actually unconscious and call me heartless or whatever but I didn't have any remorse towards him.

I cleaned the blood. His blood. I didn't want to think about what he knew. My problem was, what would I do if the truth was to come out.

END OF FLASHBACK

Gina: "I'm so throwing house parties. I'm single so I got none to lose"

I laughed. She was helping me pack over some champagne. I wasn't going home.

I was visiting Aphiwe for a week then coming back. I missed her so much.

She was also in Bloem. Thank God she wasn't in Craig's house. That would be awkward.

Me: "You really over Luke? You cried for days "

He broke up with her two weeks back. I knew why but she didn't.

Lunga was my friend and I wasn't going to betray him. We hadn't spoken about it so Lunga probably didn't know.

Again, I didn't want to get involved.

Gina: "I can't mourn him forever. Plus, I want some guy"

Me: "Who? "

Gina: "He's a lawyer"

I laughed.

Me: "Woah"

Gina: "It's not what you think. This has nothing to do with Luke. I feel I have to upgrade, you see"

Me: "Definitely babe. I feel you"

We finished packing. I just had one suitcase.

Kaona did move out that day and, gave me about R2000. I never heard from her.

I was going under training to become an underground racer. All because of Hugh. He told me how much it paid the risks it involved and I was keen.

I still owed Marcus rent and Aphiwe would give me money for food.

I was desperate so I accepted it. I just couldn't wait until I could race and pay my debt.

At least it won't interfere much with my academics. I was coming good. I even had a license and passport.

Gina: "I think that's it "

Me: "Thank you for helping me. It means a lot "

We hugged. I was driving Hugh's car. Yes, the gusheshe.

He had to travel to Mexico for God knows what. He was going to be away for two weeks. It had been a week.

We hugged again then I got in. The drive was long but I enjoyed it.

I couldn't wait for the time when I have my own car and I'm independent. That's what I wanted. To be independent.

She welcomed me with a hug. It was a long drive and I was exhausted.

I kissed her stomach. She was wearing a crop top.

Me: "He's growing "

It was a boy.

Aphiwe: "He is. I didn't think I'd fall in love with him like this"

Me: "And you're happy, even though you look like a frog"

Craig: "That's my wife "

Me: "Oh fuck you"

I got in with my suitcase.

Me: "Are we going to have our time? "

Aphiwe: "Of course but we are going to a pool party. You can tag along "

She seemed excited. I giggled.

Me: "OK but I need to sleep now"

Aphiwe: "Of course. I will wake you up when we have to get ready "

It was around 8pm when I took a shower. She was ready, only needed to do her makeup.

I lotioned and wore a two piece swimsuit. I had a tattoo on my shoulder that I wanted to show off.

The swimsuit was olive. She did my makeup, nothing too hectic.

She forced us to take pictures.

We went downstairs and Craig was there with Bandile and some girl. I never really thought I could hate someone like this. I hated him more than I hated my mom's stupid husband.

Aphiwe: "Babe, this is my friend Leonor and that's Diana, my sister "

Leonor: "Hey"

Me: "Hi"

She was very light skinned. I was the only girl who had her melanin and the thick body.

I didn't mind.

Me: "I'm the only one without a man? Great"

Aphiwe: "Too early to say. You don't know what might happen at the destination "

I chuckled.

Me: "True"

This son of a bitch was looking at me. I could feel it.

I didn't stare back. I didn't want to lose my composure.

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REMOFILWE

Linda: "Another round of shots please"

I looked at her in disbelief. She had been drinking and not getting drunk or at least she didn't look like it.

I was still on my glass of wine. I was actually just drinking it so I could fit in.

We were at a club and I had allowed her to drag me along.

She was in my class and our friendship developed after we did an assignment together.. She was with her friends.

One was Dee's previous roommate.

Kaona: "Hai girl, you've been on that glass for an hour "

She was drunk. I think I was the only one who was sober.

I didn't think someone would notice. I gulped it down and poured another one

Kaona: "That's more like it"

I chuckled.

I missed Dee so much. Lunga and I had sorted out our, differences.

Apparently it was because of Diana. I was just glad that we were good. He hardly spent time at the flat though.

The shots came. We all drank them. They were very strong. I felt my head spin.

It was my second time going out with them.

Linda: "Guys, that's my favourite song"

She stood up and pulled me with. I couldn't even dance.

I tried not to be uptight and just moved my hips.

She was wearing a very short skirt with a cropped bra and heels.

She turned and started twerking for me.

Gosh, it was overwhelming. I left her there.

Kaona: "Party pooper"

She stood up and went to her. I just watched them dancing.

"Your friends? "

A guy said. I turned to look at him. He looked familiar.

Him: "Joel. I've seen you around campus "

Me: "You also look familiar "

He sat down. He had braces and black hair which was bout two cm long.

Joel: "Explains it. I think you're beautiful "

Me: "You do? "

He nodded, biting his lip. I smiled. He was coffee colour like in complexion and dressed good.

Me: "Thanks. "

Joel: "Can I have your number? We can meet ."

Me: "I have a boyfriend "

Joel: "As friends "

I gave him my number and he left.

Linda: "I hope he didn't hit on you "

Me: "He didn't "

Kaona: "He's a panty chaser. Don't be a victim "

I just nodded. The guy just wanted to make friends.

We continued drinking. I could feel myself get drunk.

Linda was with some guy and giving him a lap dance.

"Let's go! "

I knew that voice very well. It was Marcus who didn't look pleased.

I was wasted.

He didn't wait for me to reply but made me stand up and dragged me to his car.

Marcus: "You're barely dressed"

I really thought he wasn't around.

Me: "My friends"

Marcus: "Those bitches? You're so naive, it's sad"

I rolled my eyes as we got in his car.

Me: "You can't control me"

He chuckled.

Marcus: "I'm not your fucken mother "

He drove so fast that I threw up immediately when the car stopped. It smelled bad. Very bad.

Marcus: "Get out "

I did. I felt a bit dizzy. He gave me water after I got in his house. I drank all of it and took another bottle.

He ripped my dress off.

Marcus: "You have changed. I was gone for what? Three weeks and I find you a rebel"

Me: "Where were you? "

Marcus: "Making us money "

He picked me up and put me on his shoulder. I felt like hell.

He threw me on the bed.

Marcus: "I hope no one touched what's mine "

He took off my thong. I had gotten used to wearing it.

I was now completely naked. He put his one finger in and I moaned. I was already, wet

This wasn't like me. Maybe it was the wine.

Marcus: "Sleep. We'll talk in the morning "

He covered my body. It didn't even take me an hour to sleep.

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DIANA

We all watched Leonor as she danced. It was clear she liked being the centre of attention.

I got bored though and went inside the pool instead. I was tipsy and taking it slow.

When I was content with the swimming. I went inside the house and took a towel.

I was about to get out the room when I was dragged inside.

Bandile: "You must be happy with yourself"

Me: "Honestly, don't you get tired of terrorising me? I'm not with your brother now. You should be happy "

Bandile: "He almost died because of you "

Me: "Well, he didn't. You should be happy. Just leave me alone "

Bandile: "You don't care?"

Me: "I was just a bet to him. Actually, I don't know why you care so much. "

Bandile: "He's my brother "

Me: "And I'm your future wife. Better treat me good"

He chuckled.

Bandile: "I'd rather die"

Me: "I hate you Bandile, with every inch in my being. You took your little obsession with me so far that you dug up my past. A past I didn't want to face so I hope you're happy with yourself "

Bandile: "I am. Aphiwe doesn't deserve to have you as a sister"

I chuckled.

Me: "Deep down, you know you like me. You can act like you hate me but you know you don't. Breaking Wandile and I didn't break me. Go back to your baby doll and leave me alone "

He kissed me. I wasn't expecting that but I kissed him back. It went on for a while until I regained my consciousness and pushed him.

Me: "Leave me alone "

I walked away. I just wanted to leave. I had allowed my enemy to indulge in my lips and the hoe in me had enjoyed it.

However, I wasn't going to allow it to happen again.

I stocked to the drinking. He came back after a while and we both handled it like adults.

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REMOFILWE

I woke up with a heavy head. My mouth tastes bitter and I smelled like shit. The first thing I did was brush my teeth then I took a hot bath. I needed it.

I wrapped a towel around my body then went to find Marcus.

I found him in the gym, doing push ups. His gym was in the basement. I don't know how I knew he'd be there. I just followed my gut.

Marcus: "I'm very mad at you "

I think he felt my presence because he was still doing his push ups.

Me: "Good morning "

Marcus: "There's nothing good about it"

He got up then came to me. He was topless and wearing shorts with black gloves on his hands.

Marcus: "Why are you so naive? "

Me: "I am not "

Marcus: "You're too old to be trying to please friends. Why the hell would you go to a club? Do I need to remind you what happened the last time you decided to get wasted? "

Me: "It was a mistake but I love my son. I'm no longer that girl"

Marcus: "Alcohol makes you vulnerable. Anything could have happened if I didn't come get you. Who knows where you could have woke up? "

He was hurting me. His, words were piercing through my heart.

Me: "I'm no longer that girl "

Marcus: "You're worse. You hanging out with the wrong crew. Those girls are going to damage you"

I felt like crying. The tears ended up falling.

Marcus: "You can't cry everytime I'm honest with you. You have changed Remo. Do you still even go to church? "

I shook my head.

Marcus: "I don't think I like the person you're becoming. Have you forgotten that you're a mother? You're done writing yet you're still here"

Me: "Are you calling me a
bad mother? "

Marcus: "Are you? "

I stormed out but he followed me.

Marcus: "Remo, I love you"

He gave me a hug. A tight hug. I needed it.

Me: "I'm sorry. I know you care about me"

Marcus: "More than you can ever imagine "

He broke it then kissed me. His hands were on my butt. I replied. I missed him showing me affection. I loved it. He took off my towel. I was too caught up in the moment to notice until I felt his hands on my bare butt.

I stopped him.

Marcus: "What's wrong? "

Me: "I can't do this Marcus "

He nodded then picked up my towel.

Marcus: "Please make breakfast while I shower "

Me: "You going to eat it? "

He chuckled.

Marcus: "Of course "

I went to get dressed first then went down to make his breakfast.

I missed my son and it was really time I went home.

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LUNGA

Luke: "Are you done? "

I nodded. He was taking me out for breakfast.

Me: "I'm yet to get used to this"

He chuckled.

Luke: "To not being in control?"

Me: "Next thing you going to have your dick in my ass"

He laughed loudly.

Luke: "There's never a, dull moment with you, is there? "

Me: "Of course I have to talk about this"

Luke: "Sometimes you should go with the flow"

Me: "Not when I don't know where it might lead me"

Luke: "I broke up with Gina"

I think that was his way of changing the subject.

Me: "What? When? "

Luke: "Few weeks back. "

Me: "I really thought you were still together "

Luke: "Why would I agree to a relationship with you while I'm with her? "

I shrugged.

Me: "I thought maybe you want the best of both worlds "

He chuckled.

Luke: "Not this time"

Me: "You've been with a guy before? "

Luke: "Not really. I've never been in a relationship with a man"

Me: "I'm not sure I follow "

Luke: "I've always known that I like guys more than I like girls but meeting you made me sort of pursue it"

I just smiled.

Me: "You're not scared of judgements?"

Luke: "Oh never. I don't live my life to please people nor do I follow the status quo. I just do me"

Me: "I guess we share the same sentiments. I was raised by parents who want me to be happy and they never had a problem with my sexuality. That was the bonus "

Luke: "I can see how you light up when you talk about them"

We were at Mugg and bean.

Me: "Yeah and I'm the only child. I love the attention "

He laughed.

Luke: "I know you're not the sharing type. "

Me: "Are you? "

Luke: "No, so you must not even think of cheating "

I laughed.

Me: "I'll try"

Luke: "I mean it Lunga. Don't even think of it "

Me: "I'm 18 Luke. I can't promise anything "

He sighed.

Luke: "Fuck, I know but I'll love you to a point where you can't even look at another guy"

Someone clapped their hands before I could even reply.

It was Gina.

Gina: "Wow, he's never said that to me"

Luke: "Gina"

He didn't seem pleased.

Gina: "This must be the best love story. I'm baffled really. I wonder how I didn't see this"

She had an audience now. Luke didn't seem moved.

Gina: "You left me for a teenage boy? Really Luke?"

I laughed. This bitch had just called me a boy.

I wasn't about to entertain her though.

Luke: "Look into your life and see where you went wrong. I mean, why would I leave a beautiful girl like you for a man? He's a man by the way. Not a boy "

Gina: "So, you never loved me? After four years Luke"

She seemed sad. I didn't think they had been together for that long.

Luke: "I'm sorry. He makes me happy "

Gina: "I definitely failed as a woman "

She walked away. I looked at him with a smile.

He returned it. Our little audience clapped hands which made us laugh.

I was deep in here.

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APHIWE

Dee: "Are these two always here? "

She was speaking of Bandile and Craig who were playing FIFA.

I chuckled.

Me: "Unfortunately. They're inseparable "

Dee: "But they've been playing for long. I want us to play karaoke "

Me: "I miss those times. But you're a better singer than me"

Dee: "I could never be. You know dad always bragged that you have mom's voice "

I laughed.

Me: "You give me too much credit "

I went to the guys.

Me: "Time up"

Craig: "But baby I -"

Me: "No"

He sighed.

Bandi: "Hell no"

Craig: "You heard her"

Bandi: "You're whipped "

I laughed. Diana came and we played our karaoke.

I had mics for us and everything.

It was actually fun. We were dancing and everything, even forgot we aren't alone.

Craig: "You've never sang for me"

He frowned. I chuckled.

Me: "You've never asked"

Craig: "I didn't know I had to"

Me: "I'm going to sing for our son. "

Craig: "That's not fair "

I chuckled.

Me: "Life isn't "

REMOFILWE

I started packing most of my clothes. I was going home. Which was something I should have done immediately after writing.

I knew I had to get my priorities in order. Sometimes, I didn't even recognise myself or the choices I made.

I was going to be front with my mom about this. It was a Monday and Marcus had offered to drive me home.

I think he was the one who helped to sort of open my eyes.

There was a knock on my door and I knew it wasn't him because he would never knock. I was pouring myself water when it happened.

I went to open.

Me: "Hey"

We hugged. It was Luke, someone I hadn't seen in a while.

Me: "You've been quite a stranger"

He chuckled.

Luke: "I know. I came because of Marcus. He won't be able to come"

I was disappointed, no doubt.

Me: "Why? "

Luke: "Something came up. He had to attend to it and forced me to come to your rescue "

I laughed. That sounded like Marcus.

Me: "You did you want to? "

Luke: "No. I don't want to be away from my baby "

I laughed.

Me: "Let's go get my bags then"

We went to take my bags, I locked and left. I had accepted that Lunga always went MIA. He had assured me he's fine and knowing that I also disappeared because of Marcus, I knew he had found himself a man.

I hated the drift in our relationship. I know I'm the one who messed everything up and I had to make things right.

I didn't know how because it was worse with Diana. I didn't even have a glimpse of what is happening in her life.

Luke: "Are you OK? "

We had been driving silently when he asked.

Me: "I am. I just have a lot on my mind "

Luke: "I'm your Friend. You can talk to me"

I sighed.

Me: "I miss my friends. I destroyed our relationship and went as far as having other friends who were nothing but bad influences "

Luke: "What happened?"

Me: " Marcus spent the whole night in hospital with Dee, after leaving me alone in his house and that made me mad. I thought maybe they were doing something behind my back and I didn't go the right way with it. I mean, Dee is beautiful with a nice body and she has more experience than me. "

Luke: "So why punish Dee only? "

Me: "Huh?"

Luke: "I mean it takes two to tango. Why would you sacrifice your friendship of years for a man you had just met? I'm sorry but that was stupid of you "

Me: "I Know"

I sighed. Did he really have to remind me?

Luke: "Make things right. You're still with Marcus, why should your friends suffer? "

Me: "Hau Luke, I get it"

Luke: "Good"

The first thing I did when I got home was run to my son's room. I missed him and he had really grown.

Me: "Mommy missed you so much"

I kissed him all over the face, even though he didn't like it.

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DIANA

it was great spending time with my sister and getting to breathe a different air. I enjoyed it but the week ended faster than I anticipated.

The good news was, Hugh was coming to fetch me. I was happy because I had missed him.

I had gotten used to spending so much time with him, that being away from him felt like hell. Good thing was, at least I spent time with my sister.

Bandile and I hadn't bothered each other since I last put him in his place. I actually wanted nothing to do with the Dlamini's.

Anyway

I was over that.

Aphiwe: "You're really leaving? "

Me: "It was bound to happen sooner or later. Don't be mad"

She frowned.

Me: "Hai Aphiwe "

Aphiwe: "I just got used to having you around. It won't be easy"

Me: "I know but you should come home"

She laughed.

Aphiwe: "As if you'll be there"

Me: "I'll be spending Christmas at home "

Aphiwe: "You'll cook? Can I bring Craig and Leonor? "

I laughed.

Me: "Yeah, we can make this a family thing. "

Aphiwe: "I can't wait. He's going to come with his son, is that OK? "

Me: "Of course "

We hugged.

Me: "Take care of yourself and the little one"

Aphiwe: "I will"

We went outside where Hugh was. I went to him and we hugged for dear life.

Me: "I hate to admit it but I fucken missed you "

He chuckled.

Hugh: "I missed you too. More than you can imagine "

I officially introduced him to my sister then we left.

Me: "What did you get for me? "

Hugh: "I brought my dick. What more do you want?"

I rolled my eyes laughing.

Me: "Your dick is attached to you so obviously, you bring it wherever you go"

Hugh: "Ao baby. "

Me: "So you didn't bring me anything? "

Hugh: "Let's not fight"

I laughed. That was his, way of keeping me quiet.

He had taken a flight to bloem but we were driving back.

I personally thought it wasn't fair but I was going to drill him about this when we arrive.

I even slept through out. Christmas was in a week and I wasn't really ready. I mean we weren't big on Christmas and the good thing was spending it with people this time.

He woke me up when we had finally arrived.

We were at his house.

Me: "I didn't know we were coming here "

Hugh: "I'm tired Diana "

Me: "Who isn't? "

Hugh: "Can you cook? You'll wake me up when you're done"

Me: "No. We need to talk "

Hugh: "Baby, please. Kana I drove all the way here and I hadn't even rested since Mexico. Please sthandwasam"

Me: "Go rest. I'll wake you up when I'm done "

He kissed my cheek then left. Shame, he looked exhausted. I woke him up after about three hours because I felt he needed the rest.

He forced me to take a, shower with him. An innocent one because we still hadn't had sex. I don't know why the wait but I wasn't complaining.

Hugh: "Thank you for this"

He looked much better.

Me: "It's my pleasure. Why didn't you book a flight for me? "

He laughed.

Hugh: "Don't worry. We'll take a plane to your home town"

Me: "You going with me? "

Hugh: "Of course. I want to see where you grew up"

Me: "OK "

I did the dishes after we were done. I was now the one who wanted to sleep.

Me: "You really didn't get me anything?"

He chuckled.

Hugh: "You'll get it nge Christmas. "

I frowned. He just kissed my lips.

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LUNGA

For the first time In forever, I wasn't ready to go home.

I missed my parents, I did but I loved being with Luke.

Luke: "Baby"

Me: "Why are you forcing me to go?"

He chuckled.

Luke: "Am I? "

Me: "Argh. I guess I have to"

He chuckled again.

Luke: "I know you like being with me but you can't desert your family. You're an only child and they miss you "

Me: "I miss them too"

Luke: "I don't want you to miss your flight "

He took my bags to his car. I don't know how it was going to work with him being away from me.

I had gotten used to being around him and with him that I really couldn't imagine being away from him.

We shared a long hug at the airport. I didn't cry. I'm not a sissy, lol.

My mom welcomed me with a warm hug when I got home.

She was crying like I had just woken up from a coma. Don't tell her that though.

Mom: "I thought you were never going to come"

Me: "I missed you too mom"

Mom: "But you can't disappear like that. Your father and I were very worried "

Dad: "She's right. We have to talk. I know it's a guy"

I chuckled.

Me: "Dad! "

Mom giggled, wiping her tears.

Mom: "That would be quite obvious. You're in love "

They took me by the hand and went to sit me down. I felt like a little kid.

Dad: "So, khuluma ndoda"

Me: "But guys, I just got here. I'm tired "

Mom: "You came in a plane. "

Mom said, rolling her eyes.

I had no choice but to spill the beans.

They were listening rather attentively as I told them of my plans and how everything changed for the good.

Mom: "Are you sure you're my son? "

Dad and I laughed.

Dad: "Yazi your mom talks like she didn't do anything devious to get my attention. She seduced me naye "

I laughed.

Me: "So this apple didn't fall too far from the tree? "

Dad: "Yeah but if he makes you happy then we're happy "

Mom: "Just don't disappear from us like that. Don't forget they took our land"

I laughed so loud.

Me: "He's not white "

Mom: "He has a white name"

I really missed this.

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DIANA

Days passed and it was soon Christmas Eve and I was home. I couldn't help but wonder how it was going to be.

Hugh had come home with me last week but only stayed for two nights. He had business to attend to but promised to be here tonight.

I was making breakfast when Aphiwe came, still in her pyjamas.

Aphiwe: "Good morning "

She yawned and I laughed.

Me: "Morning"

Aphiwe: "Craig will be here in about an hour. Leonor and Bandile are coming I think around lunch "

Me: "Did she have to bring Bandile? "

Aphiwe: "Apparently they're dating or whatever the arrangement is"

Me: "I hate him"

She knew what he had done. There was not much that I kept from my sister, especially with everything that happened.

Aphiwe: "And I love you but I'm not getting involved "

Me: "I'm just glad that Hugh will be here. At least I won't have to handle him alone"

Aphiwe: "Your man is scary, yoh "

I laughed.

Me: "I know. And I think that makes him more attractive. He has that fire"

We both chuckled.

Aphiwe: "I prefer him over Wandile to be honest"

Me: "I wonder what I was thinking, dating a boy"

Aphiwe: "The dick babe"

I chuckled.

Me: "Uh-huh, but I'm moving on to better and bigger things"

I said as I winked to her.

Aphiwe: "You're so nasty"

She pushed me with her stomach.

Me: "Don't use my nephew wena "

Aphiwe: "Or niece "

Me: "Or both"

We ate breakfast over a light chat. Her boyfriend did come after an hour and we had tidied around the house. Since it was big enough, we were all going to sleep here.

Me: "You're so punctual"

Craig: "Time is money Dee, you should know that "

I rolled my eyes. Lunga was picking me up so we can go shopping. I wanted more decor around the house.

I had managed to save and Aphiwe also contributed.

He gave me a hug then opened my door.

Me: "Heh, you're glowing"

He chuckled.

Lu: "I'm in love "

Me: "I can see

I'm happy for you "

Lu: "I'm just a little nervous. This is all new for me and he still treats me so good. It's amazing "

Me: "Babe, you're 18. I hope you're not thinking marriage and kids"

We both laughed.

Lu: "Not yet and you know that is a long process "

We bought everything that I felt I had to and he drove me back.

He was going to Durban with his family but I really hoped we'd get to have him here.

I understood though because I knew that family would always come first.

We hugged tightly and I went in with the plastics. Lunga and I had already eaten.

I could hear the laughs from the kitchen which meant more people had arrived.

The devil was the first to look at me and his girl smiled at me. She was sweet shame.

I mumbled greetings and went to my room. I was tired. Lunga and I were all over the malls.

I was woken up by kisses all over my face. I sniffed the scent and I knew who that was.

I really thought he was going to come at night. I giggled as I opened my eyes. That's when he invaded my mouth with his tongue. We were both breathless after the kiss.

Me: "Baby"

Hugh: "I missed you, yoh. I had to come early babe. I'm so tired "

Me: "You work hard. It's the festive season, you should be resting "

Hugh: "Trust me I want to but I have to. I'm a man"

I rolled my eyes and he kissed my cheek.

Hugh: "Did you miss daddy? "

I nodded like a five year old, biting my lip.

Hugh: "Daddy missed you too"

He said then kissed. It was so arousing that I moaned in his mouth.

Hugh: "Diana! "

I giggled and covered my face.

Hugh: "Stop it I like it"

He tickled me. I was so happy he's here.

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REMOFILWE

Mom: "Your baby daddy is here"

I was playing with Lefa in his room, who I think should have been sleeping by then but he wasn't.

Me: "Please tell him to come in here "

She nodded. I hadn't seen him since I came home and I had missed him.

Soon his cologne filled the nursery and even Lefa was excited to see his father.

He went to pick him up then kissed my cheek.

Marcus: "How are you? "

Me: "I'm good. You should have told me you're coming "

Marcus: "I came to pick you up. Trey misses you two"

Me: "It's Christmas tomorrow Marcus "

Marcus: "So? "

Me: "I have to be here"

Marcus: "I'll bring you back in the morning then come pick you up in the evening "

Me: "And mom? "

Marcus: "Your mom knows that we're together Remo "

He sounded irritated.

Me: "I'll park a bag"

Marcus: "That Won't be necessary. Let's just go"

I sighed and followed him out.

Me: "Mama "

Mom: "I trust him. Just don't make another Lefa. Keep it safe "

I was so embarrassed because we weren't even having sex.

I hugged Her and we left.

Lefa had already fallen asleep when we arrived at his house. He took him out of his car seat and we, went inside.

It was a bit dark now.

Marcus: "Why are you not sleeping? "

He said to Trey who ignored him and came to me. I picked him up.

Me: "How are you baby? "

Trey: "I'm fine. I missed you and I missed my brother "

Me: "We missed you too"

Trey: "Are you spending Christmas with us? "

Marcus looked at me. He had just come from putting Lefa to sleep.

Me: "I'll come in the evening just in time for us to open presents "

Marcus cleared his throat.

Marcus: "Trey, go sleep "

Trey: "But dad-"

Marcus: "Now"

The little boy stood up, came to kiss me then left.

It was now just the two of us.

Marcus: "Come here"

We had been seating in separate couches so I went to him. He pulled me closer to him, resting my head on his chest.

Marcus: "I love you "

He said and kissed the top of my head.

I didn't reply but I could feel that there was more to it than he was letting out.

LUNGA

The first thing I did when we arrived was drive to the beach.

It was late but I needed to feel the waves. I always felt that they were therapeutic.

It wasn't because I was under any stress and Luke had also agreed to meet me there.

I didn't think he was going to come all the way.

We hadn't seen each other in weeks. I parked my car then got out.

They were a few people who were drinking and having fun.

Someone held me on my waist. I had even closed my eyes and just allowing the energy from the waves to illuminate through me.

I could smell his cologne and I had tingles. He kissed my cheek then came to stand in front of me, his blue eyes sparkling.

Luke: "Hey"

I nodded. He looked a bit offish. His voice sold him out.

Luke: "What's wrong? "

Me: "I should be asking you"

He sighed.

Luke: "Let's get out of here "

I followed him with my car. A lot was going through my mind. I actually wondered what it was that's bothering him because it seemed serious and I don't know... Deep.

He was going to a hotel and I parked next to his car.

I followed him inside. We got in his room.

Luke: "Anything to drink "

Me: "No"

Luke: "You sure? "

Me: "Yes. "

Luke: "What's going on? "

Me: "You tell me what's up"

Luke: "Let's sit down "

We sat down opposite each other. Me on the bed and he on a chair, in front of me.

Luke: "You know I love you, right? "

Me: "Just get to the point. I don't need you sugarcoating shit for me. I'm not a kid Luke"

I was actually now mad because I knew that line very well.

Luke: "Will you fucken let me finish?! "

Me: "You don't get to fucken shout at me! "

He looked at me but I stared back. When I'm mad, there's no stopping me.

I was so fucken pissed at him that even his look didn't intimidate me.

Luke: "Please Call down"

His voice was soft. I took a deep breath then looked at him.

Me: "OK "

He held my hands.

Luke: "I'm not breaking up with you"

Me: "You're not? "

Luke: "No but I... I have bad news and I think it's going to affect us"

My heart started beating very fast.

Me: "What? "

Luke: "Gina's pregnant with my baby"

It took a while for that to register.

Me: "I... I don't understand "

He sighed.

Luke: "She didn't know either until a month ago and she only told me today, which is why I came"

My mind was going crazy.

Me: "I.. I have to go"

Luke: "Lunga "

Me: "I need space Luke. I need to think! "

In my mind I thought of how long had they been together and what they've shared and now this.

I wondered what it meant for me. They were going to spend time together and with the baby meant she was going to be part of his life forever.

What about me?

Those thoughts ran through my mind as I searched for a pub. I needed a drink.

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LUKE

I only let him leave because I know he needed the space.

I knew nothing was going to happen to him since he was protected but he didn't know.

This whole thing with Gina was one I was still trying to digest.

I saw her stomach. I saw the results and knowing her, I knew she had been loyal.

This was frustrating. She looked like a mess and I had to choose between being with her and coming to Lunga.

Lunga. I just hope we'd get through this and that it makes us stronger instead of breaking us up.

My phone rang. It was late now, around 11pm and I had been sitting in my room and deep in thought.

Me: "Gina"

She sobbed.

Me: "Gina? "

Gina: "I'm sorry for ruining your life "

Me: "You should not stress. It's not good for the baby"

Gina: "I didn't tell you because I want to trap you. I just... I felt bad keeping it from you and I was freaking out. I'm only four months "

Me: "Relax uhm, we'll do this together but you have to keep in mind that we're just co-parents and Lunga will be part of my baby's life"

She sniffed.

Gina: "I know. I just... I wanted you to know that I wasn't trying to cause trouble "

Me: "I know. I'll see you tomorrow "

Gina: "OK"

She hung up and I poured myself a glass of whisky. I tried calling Lunga and his phone went to voicemail.

Me: "Shit"

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DIANA

Christmas. Man, I was looking forward to it. Hugh was snoring besides me when I woke up.

I decided to go down on him.

I had never done it before on him and I hoped that he's not any weird and that he won't repel against it. That would be embarrassing for me.

He was sleeping in just his boxers, which made things easier for me.

I slowly took his boxers down and started. The minute my tongue met with his head

Advertisement

the son of a bitch woke up.

I laughed.

Me: "Really? "

I said, removing the blanket that was covering me up.

Hugh: "Baby, what are you doing? "

The amusement in his voice gave me the go ahead.. I went from being in control to him literally fucking my mouth.

We were both breathless after I swallowed his seeds.

I went to kiss him after catching my breath.

Hugh: "How come I didn't know you could do things like that with your mouth? "

I chuckled.

Me: "You never asked. Let's go shower. Merry Christmas baby "

Hugh: "Not yet. I need to return the favour "

And oh I had a good morning. We went to take a, shower together.

We were both in a very good mood.

Me: "You going to help me cook? "

Hugh: "Does it have to be such a big deal?"

I chuckled.

Me: "Yeah"

We were dressing up. I wore a black miniskirt with a white cropped bra. I wasn't going anywhere. I also put on yellow fur push-ins.

He looked at me and whistled. I giggled.

Hugh: "ndiyathemba andizokubalala mntu namhlanje"

I looked at him with a raised eyebrow.

Hugh: "Uliqobokazana ubuhlebakho bundityhafisa amadolo"

I looked at him, stunned. He sounded sexy but I was lost.

Me: "Dating a Xhosa guy seems to come with a lot of confusion for me"

He chuckled.

Hugh: "Let's go. I want breakfast"

He was just in a pair in track pants and vest with his gentleman sleepers.

We found Aphiwe and her friend making breakfast. We greeted and sat down.

Leonor: "Nice tattoo "

Hugh: "I know "

Trust my man to be rude.

He even rolled his eyes.

Aphiwe: "Haibo, Hugh "

Hugh: "How are you baby? "

She giggled.

Aphiwe: "I'm fine. I hope you guys are hungry "

Hugh: "Very. I'm starving "

Leonor: "Why is he rude to me? "

Bandile: "Who? "

He was coming in with Craig.

Me: "Le wena wa tefa "

She looked at me and I just laughed. Actually, we all did except for Craig.

There was no drama during breakfast and immediately after, we started with preparing for lunch.

REMOFILWE

I could say that I woke up in a jubilant mood. The fact that it was Christmas meant having all my brothers around.

It was always good having them.

I couldn't even hide my happiness when Marcus drove me home.

It was around 10am and I hoped I hadn't missed out.

Marcus: "You don't have to make it that obvious that you're happy you're not spending Christmas with us"

Me: "What? "

Marcus: "You can't even sit still"

I could feel the annoyance in his voice.

Me: "Come on"

Marcus: "Lefa is going back with us. I want to spend Christmas with my boys"

Me: "What? "

He looked very serious. I couldn't imagine that. What was I going to say to my family?

Me: "You can't do that "

Marcus: "You spent Christmas with him last year, didn't you? "

Me: "He was barely grown. He was still tiny and unresponsive. Come on"

Marcus: "It's not up for discussion. My say is final "

Me: "You're not being fair "

Marcus: "I guess life isn't fair sweetheart "

I got off his car with a heavy heart. He didn't even get off to at least come greet my family.

Mom: "And then? Where's Lefa? "

Me: "With his father"

Ore: "What the hell? "

Mom: "Language! "

He rolled his eyes.

Oteng: "Baby girl"

I went to him and we hugged tightly. I was very happy to see him.

Me: "Big bro"

Oteng: "Where's my nephew? "

Me: "With his father. He wants to spend Christmas with his sons"

Mom: "But I also want to spend Christmas with my grandson"

Me: "He'll... He'll bring him later"

Ore: "He's really coming with trouble now. Things weren't like this when he wasn't there"

Mom: "Don't say that. It's good that Lefa is, with his father"

Oteng: "OK guys, let's not argue now. It's Christmas "

He was the one who was able to lighten up the mood.

From there, I knew we were going to have fun as a family.

His girlfriend was going to join us for dinner and I couldn't wait for that.

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ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS LATER

REMOFILWE

I was doing my second year and it was in the second semester.

It was August, my son was turning two next month and I was thinking of throwing him a party.

It had been nice being with him and I really wished that he lived with me.

I was staying alone now because Lunga had moved in with Luke.

It was lonely being alone and yes, I wished that I was also living with Marcus but I had to do things right.

I was alone. It was a Friday and I did not have any classes.

Diana and I had fixed things but with everyone being in a relationship, we only met at campus.

There was a knock on the door, which I wasn't expecting because it was just after lunch.

He smiled.

Me: "What are you doing here? "

Xolani: "I came to see you "

He pushed me a bit then allowed himself in.

Me: "You shouldn't be here"

Xolani: "Too late because I'm here. Offer me a drink "

Me: "My boyfriend can't... He can't find you here"

Xolani: "Is there anything wrong with having friends? I don't think so"

He was 25 and a junior lecturer at our campus. He had taught me the previous semester, which is how we got acquainted.

He was dark, not too dark but fine dark with a very deep voice. It made him sound like he's roaring if he talks a little loud.

Me: "What would you like to drink? "

Xolani: "I know you don't have any alcoholic beverages so I'll have coffee "

Me: "I have cookies"

Xolani: "And that "

I made us coffee then dished the cookies. We went to sit in the lounge.

Me: "Don't you have classes? "

He shook his head.

Xolani: "I wouldn't be here if I did. I knew I'd find you all bored"

I laughed.

Me: "You're actually lucky you found me here"

Xolani: "How so? "

Me: "Marcus is suppose to fetch me. I'm spending the weekend at his house "

Xolani: "How old are you kana? "

Me: "I'm 20. "

Xolani: "And he? "

I shrugged.

Me: "I Actually don't remember. "

He laughed.

Xolani: "You live like a married woman. You don't go out. You should really live like a 20 year old"

Me: "People are different "

Xolani: "I'm saying it won't hurt"

I didn't reply. We kept on talking, even about other topics until someone cleared their throat.

It was Marcus.

Me: "Hey"

Marcus: "Let's go"

He sounded pissed.

Xolani: "I'll call you. Think about what I said"

He got up and left.

Me: "I'll go get my bag"

He shook his head.

Marcus: "We leaving without you. You have clothes at my house, right? "

Me: "Oh"

I followed him to his car.

Me: "I'm sorry. He just showed up"

Marcus: "You didn't throw him out, did you? "

I kept quiet. He clicked his tongue and started his car.

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APHIWE

I looked at her snoring softly. I was staying with her. Craig had gotten a nanny who left on Friday's and came back on Monday.

I was... I was very happy. She was perfect. My very own daughter. I couldn't imagine I had gave birth to her. She was

five months old now. My boyfriend named him Summer. I don't get why my daughter had to have a season as a name but Ke I let him be.

I hadn't seen him in a week

I missed him so much. I went out so I can make myself a snack I was hungry.

My door rang. I went to open and it was Leonor.

We hugged.

Me: "What's up? "

Leonor: "I came to check on you and baby Summer"

Me: "Really? "

I said, eyeing her. She sighed.

Leonor: "I think I'm falling for him"

Me: "Woah, what? "

Leonor: "I love him. I really do and I.. I have tried ignoring it but I can't "

Me: "Then tell him"

She was talking about Bandile. They still had a thing going and I really didn't know why they weren't official.

Leonor: "I'm scared of rejection. I don't think he feels the same. To him its just sex. I mean, I haven't went with him home. I don't even know where he stays. Like where he grew up"

I laughed.

Me: "What else do you want? Marriage"

Leonor: "I'm just a slay Queen to him. We fuck and he spends on me. I need him to See Me as more than that"

Me: "Uhm"

My daughter Cried. She noddod sO I went to her nursery and picked her up.

I had to move somewhere more child friendly.

I was doing my second year and it's really by God's grace that I passed last semester.

I was working hard. I needed to have my degree and make my sister proud.

Leonor: "I have to go. He's at my apartment "

I noddod. She kissed my daughter and left.

To be honest, I wished that Craig was here. I really missed him.

I took out my phone and called him. I was on the couch with my daughter.

Craig: "Baby"

Me: "We miss you "

Craig: "One more week baby then I'll be there "

He was in Durban.

Me: "And what should we do in the meantime? "

Craig: "Come on baby"

Me: "What do I do when I'm horny? "

Craig: "Aphiwe "

Me: "Hai Craig, we're your family. We need you and I can't starve while you're there. It's been month since we did something. Are you cheating on me? "

Craig: "What? I'll never do that "

Me: "Then what's going on? "

Craig: "Let's not fight baby. Not over the phone. Where's my daughter? "

Me: "Right here"

She was just looking at me with her beautiful eyes. She was a quiet baby really. She only cried when she was hungry, missed me or needed a nappy change.

Craig: "I have to go. I love you"

I hang up on me. The thought of two weeks, without him was going to torment me.

We were already in a long distance relationship and I hated that.

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LEONOR

Bandile: "I missed you"

He said, pulling me to him. His touch sent shivers down my spine.

I wondered if he knew the effect he had on me.

Me: "I missed you too"

He brushed his lips with mine. Our bodies were pressed together. My heartbeat had accelerated.

Bandile: "How much? "

He asked, lifting the dress that I was wearing to my stomach.

I didn't say anything but kissed him instead.

I wanted him to make love to me. I needed him to

The love I had for him was overwhelming.

I would literally do anything for him.

He broke the kiss and then took off my dress. I was left in just my thong.

He then stared at me.

Me: "What? "

Bandile: "Am I wrong to stare? "

I giggled and shook my head. He was making me shy.

Bandile: "Anyway, I want to invite you to something "

He said this as he removed my underwear and I was left naked and only had my shoes on.

Me: "To what? "

Bandile: "There's a party happening. Very exclusive but in October. I want to tell you in time so you may prepare yourself "

I was used to going to these events with him.

The media thought we were a couple but he never discussed our relationship.

I didn't even know if I could call it that.

Me: "Where? "

Bandile: "Joburg. They'll be paparazzi there. I'm making a big announcement"

He smiled.

Me: "What? "

Bandile: "Patience sweet heart "

He said as he picked me up. We always had sex anywhere and everywhere but he took me to the bed this time.

Me: "I need to tell you something "

I said, with a shaky voice. I was following Aphiwe's advice.

He was taking off his clothes while looking at me.

Bandile: "What? "

He remained in Just his briefs.

He got on bed with me and we faced each other.

Me: "I've... I've caught feelings "

I was so scared. He looked at me with an expressionless face.

I prayed that I hadn't ruined things between us.

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LEONOR

Me: "Please say something"

Bandile: "What do you want me to say?"

Me: "Bandile, I love you"

He looked at me. He didn't reply but instead kissed. I was reluctant about replying but eventually I did. His kiss was slow, and his hands were on my waist which told me that he wasn't trying to fuck. I got rid of every worry and allowed myself to enjoy this kiss.

He stopped and kissed my nose.

Bandile: "Tell me what you want"

I bit my lip. My heart was rejoicing because he hadn't rejected me.

Me: "I want to be your girlfriend. I don't want us to be just about sex and I want to see where you grew up"

Bandile: "It's not about sex. If it was, I wouldn't take you with me anywhere. We have been together for a while now and I realise that your worry was us not having a label"

I nodded.

Me: "I just want us to be a real couple"

Bandile: "I thought we were"

Me: "Really?"

Bandile: "Do you think I have money to spend just for pussy?
Come on baby, you're more than that"

I blushed as in my whole face turned red.

He chuckled, squeezing my breast.

Me: "I just... I was scared you don't feel the same"

Bandile: "I would have long replaced you but we're still here. I
love you and I want to show you"

Me: "You love me?"

Bandile: "Yes, I do."

Me: "But you've never told me"

Bandile: "I just did"

I laughed. He shut me up with a kiss.

I was so happy that I even cried as he kissed me.

Since we were already naked, he just took off his briefs and put
on a condom.

I was waiting for him. I was waiting for him to make love to me.

I was so glad that he felt the same and felt like screaming to the world that he loves me. Bandile Dlamini loves me.

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LUNGA

What can I say? My life has been a roller coaster ride. I really don't know how Lunga and I are still in a relationship after everything with Gina.

The worst now is having her in my house. Luke has shown me that he has no interest in her and I understand that he wants his son closer, but I still don't like this arrangement. I once got mad and wanted to break things off, but we didn't even go a day in that state.

The truth is, I love him, and I really can't imagine my life without him.

Travis, his son was now three months old. He looked like him but had his mother's hair.

I have never really been a fan of kids, but I liked that lad. I wondered how Gina could just be fine with me holding her son and playing with him.

I don't even hide the fact that I don't want her here, but I understand that her and Travis are a package.

Luke: "Hey babe"

He said coming into the lounge and kissed my cheek. He was holding Travis and Gina was making his bottle in the kitchen.

Me: "I'm going out tonight"

I announced. I couldn't even remember the last time I had gone out and just enjoyed myself. I really felt that I had to go let go.

Luke: "You're leaving me? Alone"

Me: "I'm tired of being locked in this house. I feel like a househusband. It's suffocating"

I love Travis, but he can cry, he can really keep a person up. I don't understand why our room is not soundproofed. He only does in the late evening. Like when I'm about to sleep then boom, he starts, and nothing can keep him quiet.

He probably keeps quiet when he's tired from all the crying.

Luke: "But I need you here with me"

Me: "We stay together. I'm not even asking, I'm telling you"

Luke: "I wonder who's the head of this relationship"

Gina came. Sometimes I would think she is here so that she can look for an opportunity to lure Luke back to her.

As much as she was nice, I still didn't trust her.

Gina: "Let me go feed him"

She took Travis from him and they left.

Me: “You should try not talking to me like that in her presence. I miss my friends. We hardly ever spend time together”

Luke: “Do whatever you want to doo Lunga, it’s not like you ever listen to me”

I rolled my eyes. He was being difficult for no reason.

I had already made plans with Diana and we were going to persuade Remo to go with us.

Me: “Can we not fight?”

Luke: “Can I come with?”

Having him there was really going to help me not to fall into temptation.

Me: “Of course you can. Gina will be able to manage alone just for one night”

Gina: “And how did you reach that conclusion?”

She was coming from her room.

Me: “Won’t you?”

Gina: “I guess I will”

Me: “Good, then it’s settled”

I did inform Dee that Luke was joining us and she didn't have any problem with it. We did hang around with her but that was before the baby.

Unlike Remo, she didn't have a problem with our relationship. The only problem Remo had was with Luke having left Gina for me.

The truth is, we happened after that and I never asked him to leave her. It wasn't my fault. It's a decision he made by himself and I was happy he had.

I was the first one who showered. He followed suite after me and that was when I got dressed. I wore black Jeans with a black shirt and my denim jacket on top. I didn't even know where we were going but I knew we were going to figure it out on the way.

I waited for him in the kitchen while having beer. I was just browsing through my Instagram.

Aphiwe had a beautiful mixed-race baby and their pictures were amazing.

I wondered about my friend and who would ever get her pregnant. She would probably murder the dude with her own hands.

Luke: "Your car or mine?"

Me: "Mine. I'm driving"

Luke: "We can go then"

We went to pick Diana first.

She opened up wearing a very tight onesie. She looked beautiful with her assets all out

Me: "If I was straight"

She chuckled as she hugged me.

Dee: "You always say that. Hey Luke"

Luke: "Hi. You look beautiful"

Dee: "Thank you. I'll quickly go put on my shoes"

She didn't take that long. She came with a small bag. I figured she was coming back to the flat.

Me: "So Remo?"

Dee: "She's with Marcus. Luke knows his place"

Luke: "And you don't?"

She laughed.

Dee: "You're in the front seat. Just give him the coordinates"

He was the one who opened for us.

Marcus: "This is a surprise"

Dee: "Let us in hau"

He opened the door wide and made space for us to get in.

Luke: "Where's Remo?"

Marcus: "She's taking a shower. Why are you guys all dressed up?"

Me: "We're going out"

Marcus: "With Remo?"

Dee: "You can come to, seeing you want to be her guard"

Marcus: "That is actually not a bad idea"

Well, with Marcus on board, convincing Remo didn't take much effort.

We went to a club that he had suggested. It smelled expensive and screamed it. He spoke something about owning a portion of it.

Dee: "So somehow, you decided to make it a couple's retreat"

She said

rolling her eyes. We had been in the club for an hour and the vibe was chilled. We were in the VIP section and from what I saw, a lot happened in this club.

Me: "Where's your man?"

Dee: "I am just waiting to get drunk then call him. O tlhoka plug fela"

I laughed. Everything was going great until Luke's phone rang.

Luke: "We have to go. Travis is apparently restless"

I sighed. I didn't want to leave because the party was just getting started.

Me: "Can't I stay behind?"

Luke: "We came together and that's how we are leaving"

I bid farewell to my friends with a heavy heart. There was no way I am ever going to go out with him again.

Luke: "You're mad?"

He said after parking the car outside our house.

Me: "What do you think?"

I said as I got inside. I missed my parents. I missed their advice.

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DIANA

I called Hugh when I was sure fucked up.

We hadn't talked in a week because I was mad at him. I caught him in a compromising position with some girl who he claimed was his hommie.

If I were to speak of our relationship during the past few months, I'd say it had been a rollercoaster ride.

I don't know how but he managed to keep me in a leash. I had never been one to succumb to a man, but Hugh just knew how to get me to do what he wants without putting in much effort.

I don't know if it was because of his voice or how my heart felt about him, but I hardly disobeyed his commands.

I loved that he let me live my life a little and that he was honest about his lifestyle to me. He had taught me a lot of things; how to drive, how to shoot a gun and self-defence skills. I had taught him how to at least make scrambled eggs. He had someone who did the cooking for him.

A week without him had been miserable for him. I missed him, but my pride just wouldn't let me accept his reaching out.

His phone rang unanswered. I eventually gave up and went back to the couple.

Remo: "I thought you decided to leave too"

I laughed.

Me: "This man is not picking up my calls"

Marcus: "Why should he when he has been looking at you throughout the night?"

Me: “What?”

Marcus: “He’s in his office. This is his club”

Me: “No”

He chuckled.

Marcus: “We are partners”

Me: “He has an office here”

Marcus: “Yeah and the view of the whole club. The view from there is amazing or maybe it’s the cameras”

I couldn’t believe that I didn’t know about this.

Remo: “Baby, I’m tired now”

Me: “You’re drunk. I don’t know why you listened to us when we told you to just take a few shots”

She laughed. They had been making out and shit. Stuff Remo wouldn’t do in public in a sober state.

Marcus gave me the office number as they left.

I think it was around 2pm. I knew if I were to drink more, I was going to blackout then end up not remembering anything.

I didn’t want that to happen.

Hugh: “It was about time”

He said, immediately when I stood at the entrance of his office.

I folded my arms.

Me: “You told yourself you’re going to stop begging me neh”

He chuckled and made his way to me. At least I could still manage to keep balance.

He closed the door after pulling me inside then held me by the hips.

Hugh: “You look sexy”

He said, kissing me on my neck. Yes, I was feeling aroused, but I am not the kind of person to have sex under the influence of alcohol.

I pushed him.

Me: “I’m still mad”

I said, folding my arms.

Hugh: “KODwa baby I told you she’s just a home girl. I would never cheat on you”

Me: “You’ve done it before!”

Hugh: “It was a mistake. I would never hurt you like that again”

A few months back, Hugh went out alone and got drunk. What I know about my man is that he gets very weak after drinking and well, he ended up having sex with some old woman.

That broke my heart very much, but I forgave him.

Me: "Why should I believe you?"

Hugh: "Did I not confess to you the day after that happened? Did I not plead for your forgiveness and assure you that I will never do that again?"

Me: "You did but... you cannot be hugging girls like that. If I were to be the one to-"

Hugh: "I would kill you"

Me: "Exactly so you can imagine how that made me feel"

Hugh: "I'm sorry baby. I really miss you. This whole week was hell for me"

Me: "I want you to take me home"

Hugh: "It's been a week baby wam"

I laughed.

Me: "I'm drunk and we need to talk"

Hugh: "Ok, now you're scaring me"

Me: "Suits you. You're always intimidating other kids"

He drove us to his house instead.

Hugh didn't own anything fancy, which is why I was surprised that he owned the club.

I slept immediately after taking off my garment. I was left in just my panty.

I made sure to drink a lot of water, so I don't wake up with a hangover.

I'm woken up by his tongue on my nookie. He's doing unimaginable things with it that I can't help but moan.

I press his head, pushing him into me as I enjoy him eating me out. He came up to me after I came and kissed me deeply.

I got wet all over again. He wanted to hit it raw, but I was not going to allow that.

Me: "Condom"

He groaned. He knew there was no winning in that.

We took a shower after our morning glory.

I felt jubilant. My day had had a great start.

Me: "we have to talk"

I said after I had dished up breakfast for us. We came to cook after our shower. I was very hungry.

Hugh: "What about?"

Me: "The club. How come I don't know?"

Hugh: "It must have slipped my mind. Remember that heist I did, where I first met you?"

I chuckled, remembering the day he landed me in hospital.

Me: "I would never forget"

He laughed.

Hugh: "At least you know what I'm capable of"

Me: "Oh please"

I laughed. He continued.

Hugh: "I used the money to purchase that club. It wasn't enough though, which is how Marcus helped."

Me: "you really don't look rich"

He laughed.

Hugh: "You want me to buy a mansion and six cars?"

I laughed.

Me: "Argh, you know what I mean"

We did the dishes together after breakfast, with him trying to play with me.

It was nice really, just being that playful.

I was watching a movie when I received a call from a number I didn't recognise.

Hugh had went out to run some errands but promised to come back soon.

Me: "Hello?"

It was silent for a while but I could feel someone breathing.

Me: "Hello? Is anybody there?"

"He's out. Your father is out and he... he knows everything"

My phone fell out of my hand. I was shocked, very shocked.

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DIANA

The words kept ringing in my mind.

"Your father is out and he knows "

Hugh: "Baby? "

I could hear his voice but I couldn't reply.

He had been held at Pretoria which meant he was very close to me.

That man was definitely going to kill me. I had kept tabs on him and knew that he was the general at the prison and was feared by everyone.

I was literally a dead corpse walking.

Hugh: "Diana! "

I got startled and looked at him.

He had my phone on his hands.

Hugh: "What's going on? "

I looked at him but didn't reply. My mind was going crazy.

Hugh: "Talk to me"

He said, shaking me. I must have looked scary.

Me: "It's my step father. He's out"

Hugh: "What? "

Me: "I'm dead. I'm so dead"

I said, now on my feet and pacing around the lounge.

Hugh: "Sit the fuck down, you're making me dizzy"

I didn't listen but kept pacing up and Down, trying to think of something but nothing came to mind.

Hugh roughly pulled me and threw my ass on the couch.

I looked at him with a frown. He was standing up, looking at me.

Hugh: "We have to think of something "

Me: "He's untouchable now. What can we possibly do? "

He groaned and then started pacing like I was previously doing

As much as I wanted to laugh, it wasn't the time or situation.

Me: "Really? "

Hugh: "How do you know he's untouchable? "

Me: "I visited an old friend and he let me know "

He looked at me like he didn't believe me.

Hugh: "Why do I feel like there's a lot that I don't know? "

Me: "You ran a background check on me. What could you have missed? "

He shrugged.

Hugh: "You tell me"

I didn't reply to that. I had better things that required my attention.

That mad had spent five years in jail because of me, because of my lies.

I hated him. I hated that he came into our lives and tried to replace my dad. The man who contributed to me being conceived in my mom's womb.

Hugh: "So you're just going to ignore me? "

Me: "Argh, give me a break Hugh"

I was getting irritated because I couldn't even think and he was busy disturbing me.

Hugh: "How will I protect you if I don't know anything? "

Me: "You can't protect me from him. No one can "

I admitted. I sat down and laid on my back on the couch.

Hugh: "I can try"

I didn't say anything.

I really thought that my life was going smoothly and now this.

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REMOFILWE

Yesterday I really had fun with my friends. Our going out was amazing and definitely not like that time where I ended up giving my virginity away, just like that.

It was amazing and I really enjoyed it.

I can't believe that Marcus and I were doing all that making out in public and I was a little embarrassed about that but he's my boyfriend, so it wasn't a big deal.

Alcohol can really melt away a person's shyness and manners.

He came and wrapped his arms around me, hugging me from behind.

I smiled, sniffing his amazing scent.

Marcus: "Morning"

He said then kissed my neck a couple of times, making me giggle.

Me: "Morning"

He turned me around then kissed me on the lips. I replied and as we continued kissing, he picked me up and put me on the counter.

My body was reacting to the kiss in a very unusual way. I was aroused that I even ended up moaning. It was involuntary.

Marcus: "Shit "

I giggled. He took off my top.

I didn't say anything.

Marcus: "I love your boobs"

He said, touching them.

Me: "They're a little saggy"

Marcus: "I don't care "

He kissed me again from my neck, biting me and it was tingling.

I threw my head back

giving him more access as he went to my chest.

I felt like bringing my legs together but he was between them.

I usually push him away when he starts this but I was really wanting him to show me affection like this.

I had been wearing just that top with my panties so I was exposed.

He made me feel good about my body, regardless of the stretch marks which were on my stomach and my butt.

Marcus: "I want you now Remo. It's been ages"

He said, looking deep into my eyes.

I bit my lip and nodded.

Marcus: "Say it"

He said as he picked me up and I wrapped my legs around his waist.

Me: "I.. I want you too"

He smiled and went up the stairs with me still in his arms.

He laid me gently on the bed and got on top of me.

He kissed me yet again. I knew I wasn't going to regret this.

He Was after all the only guy I've slept with and it felt right.

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LEONOR

The beginning of September, we were on an uber driving us to the airport.

I was excited but a bit nervous at the same time.

I was with Bandi and he was taking me home with him.

The love that he had showed me the past few weeks had me falling deeply for him.

We'd go out together to places and not have sex.

He said he didn't want our relationship to just be about it and he was happy that we're together.

Bandi: "Are you ready? "

I nodded. We had just gotten off the plane and had arrived at Joburg. We were at the airport where his little brother was coming to fetch us

Bandi: "He's going to drop us off at my house. It really needs a woman's touch"

I chuckled. In my mind I thought of how I can't do anything with my hands.

I can't cook but at least I am good with interior designing and making things beautiful.

Bandi: "This is Wandile, my little brother and man, this is Leonor "

Wandile: "Good to officially meet you "

He said as we hugged. He and Bandile took our bags to his car.

He dropped us at this beautiful mansion. I could see it from outside that it was beautiful.

It had a beautiful swimming pool, there was a pink and red rose garden and big oak trees.

My mouth hung open.

Me: "You live here? "

He chuckled and nodded.

Bandi: "But I'm hardly here. I'll officially move back this side next year "

Me: "This is beautiful "

Bandi: "Graduate then come stay with me"

I was on my second year and I definitely couldn't wait.

Me: "Hell yeah"

He chuckled. We went inside and my mouth dropped.

Me: "Wow"

It was like walking into heaven. It was beautiful.

The interior was blue, green and brown. The stairs were made of glass and so were all the doors.

It was beautiful.

Me: "I love it"

Bandi: "This is our home baby"

He kissed my cheek.

Bandi: "Let's go to the master bedroom "

I giggled as he picked me up bridal style.

I knew he was loaded but this was beyond what I thought.

My parents would definitely love him.

They always wanted me to be with someone who is well off and who will be able to take care of me.

He threw me On the bed and I bounced a little.

Bandi: "Let's test it"

I laughed as he kissed me all over the face like a little kid.

Me: "Stop teasing"

Bandi: "Ooh"

I rolled my eyes which made him spank me.

Me: "Sorry Mr Grey"

He chuckled and kissed my lips.

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LUNGA

Me: "We never got to talk"

I said to Gina on Sunday after making myself a cup of coffee.

Hangover was killing me.

Gina: "About what? "

Me: "The little stunt you pulled on Friday. Why do you have to be such a bitch? "

Gina: "What? "

Me: "Don't act all surprised la wena. I was having fun with my man until your skinny ass called "

Gina: "I needed help with Travis "

Me: "He's your son, you're a fucken mother. You should be able to do this without Luke holding your hand! "

I was so fucken pissed at her that I felt like slapping the shit out of her.

Gina: "Look Lunga, I'm sorry for ruining your night like that. Luke told me to call him if I can't manage. It's his son too"

Me: "And if he was out of the country? What would you have done?! "

"Enough! "

That was Luke entering the kitchen. I was so fucken mad at him.

He was mad that I went out last night but I would never apologise for going out to have fun.

I rolled my eyes.

Luke: "Lunga, what happened happened. We came back. Gina felt-"

Me: "Save it. Yazi the mistake I made was Letting this bitch come stay here. Vele she wants you and used Travis to come close to you but you're too blind to see it"

Gina: "I'm tired of your insults Lunga. I've really tried being nice to you. If I'm not welcome here, then I'll gladly take my son and move out"

Me: "Good, do that"

She clicked her tongue and left. I didn't even care about the headache that I had.

Luke: "What the fuck is going on with you? "

Me: "My problem is that baby mama of yours who's trying to cause a drift between us but you can't even see it"

Luke: "You're really sounding childish now. You're 19 Lunga, grow the fuck up "

Me: "Wow"

I didn't say anything more but instead grabbed my car keys.

Luke: "Where are you going? "

Me: "I'm going to play with other kids "

I got on my car and drove off.

I knew of one person who was going to lighten up my mood and that was Diana.

I knocked at her flat.

She opened up while having a bottle of Hennessy on her hand.

Me: "Bitch"

Dee: "Hoe"

She said and I got in.

I took the bottle from her and took a gulp.

Me: "What's up? "

Dee: "Stress babe. Alcohol helps you know"

Me: "That's, exactly what I need"

Then we drank, she really helped lift up my mood as we talked about stuff that didn't make sense.

She even ended up coming with weed and we got wasted, just the two of us.

DIANA

I woke up with a banging headache and a very painful body. If I had the means, I would really go for a massage. Lunga and I had snuggled up on the couch in a very uncomfortable position.

We had both blacked out, which explained how I was feeling. My neck was painful and so was the rest of my body.

I immediately when to take a shower because I hated how I was feeling. It's always nice to drink until the following day when you have to deal with a hangover.

That's what sucks. Anyway, after my shower I dried, lotioned and wore Hugh's T-shirt with my sleepers. It was big enough to cover my body anyway.

Lunga: "Satan"

I laughed.

Me: "You look like shit wena "

Lunga: "Make breakfast, I'm hungry"

Me: "When are you going home? "

Lunga: "I don't know and I miss my parents "

Me: "I'm talking about your home with Luke"

He rolled his eyes.

Lunga: "All he cares about is his baby and big mama. I feel like such a third wheel. That bitch is holding him by the balls and if I say it, I'm being childish. Argh, maybe I'm not meant to be in a relationship "

I laughed.

Me: "Just say you miss being a hoe"

Lunga: "Don't you? "

Me: "A little bit, yeah but I love my man"

Lunga: "I'm thinking of moving out"

Me: "You'll be handing him to her on a silver platter "

Lunga: "I'm just tired. I'm only 19, I can't be stuck in a relationship. I love Travis but sometimes I just feel that he ruined things"

I sighed and gave me a hug. He was really distressed. I made breakfast while he went to shower and we ate. He left right after and I was left all alone.

I had switched off my phone but I knew that wouldn't stop Hugh from coming to my place.

Someone knocked on the door and because I was too lazy to open, I told them to come in.

I was sitting on the couch with my back against the door so I couldn't see who it was.

"Diana"

I swear my heart stopped. I turned to look at him and he smiled at me.

Damon: "Are you not going to come give daddy a hug? I missed you"

Me: "You're not my father! "

I said, standing up. He laughed.

Damon: "Oh, you poor thing. You're still holding on to that dead thing? He's dead"

Me: "And you killed him. You killed my father! "

He laughed. His laughter echoing through out the room.

He was wearing a suit that clung to his body. He had cut off his hair, and had just a brush.

Damon: "You put me in jail cupcake. Don't you think I have paid for my sins? Look, I should be angry at you but you're my wife's daughter. Prison taught me of forgiveness, something you should consider"

Me: "Don't come here and act like a saint "

Damon: "Don't you see we have a lot in common? I lost my business because of your lies. I ended up in jail for fraud but your lies helped me"

Me: "I am not like you"

Damon: "Oh you are, more than you think. We both care deeply about our loved ones, which is why I'm here"

I looked at him, wiping the tears that had embraced my cheeks.

Damon: "I want my wife"

His eyes were filled with so much darkness. He looked scary yet his voice had come out as calm.

I swallowed hard.

Damon: "Where is she? "

Me: "I'm not telling you"

Damon: "Do you want me to go to that boy who helped you with this? Surely you don't want that"

I thought of it. Was I ready? My mom coming back would mean something else.

Again, if I valued my life then I had no choice.

Damon: "Like you, I'm not a patient person "

Me: "Stop comparing yourself to me! "

He chuckled.

Damon: " Just tell me what I'm here for. I have a reunion that I need to prepare"

I didn't say anything. He walked towards me and slapped me, making me fall onto the couch.

Damon: "Speak! "

He was roaring, I could see the rage in his eyes.

This wasn't the man my mom married, this was a monster!

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LUNGA

I immediately went to the guestroom where I slept since I was tired.

Waking up, I was hungry and very dehydrated. I was actually sick just being here.

I felt overwhelmed, like a whole lot of weight laid on my shoulder.

I went downstairs to find something to eat.

Gina was there, making Travis's bottle.

I didn't say anything but just opened the fridge.

Gina: "Lunga

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I'm sorry"

I didn't reply. I wasn't planning to talk to anyone really.

Gina: "I didn't come here to cause any problems. I was fine living with my mom but Luke wanted to be closer to his son"

I warmed up some food then took it and left, bumping into Luke.

She probably apologised to please him.

Luke: "This should stop"

I was sitting in the lounge, eating while watching TV when he decided to disturb my peace.

I didn't say anything, which made him switch it off.

Luke: "Gina apologised. You can at least try and meet her halfway "

I clicked my tongue

Me: "mxm"

Luke: "We already have a baby in here. I don't want to be dealing with another one who's grown up"

Me: "I'm sick of you. If you had a problem with my age and how I conduct myself then you should have left me alone "

Luke: "Where were you yesterday? Where did you sleep? I was worried "

Me: "I was with someone who cares about me, who loves me and values my presence in their lives. I was where I felt welcome, where I had a sense of belonging"

Luke: "Are you cheating on me? "

I laughed.

Me: "How I wish. I'm moving out. Seeing that my presence here is clearly not needed or appreciated "

Luke: "I'm not going to beg you Lunga. I'm tired of your childish behaviour. Do whatever you want to do"

He then left, leaving me with a dropped jaw.

Since I had lost my appetite, I went to our room and just parked my clothes.

I wasn't going to stay here. I didn't care whether it meant Gina having him but I was done.

Luke had been too comfortable in our relationship that he didn't even see the need to fight.

I was the one seen as wrong while Gina was the saint.

I had two suitcases and a bag which I went to put in my car.

I went back for the bag that had my books and she was with Travis.

Me: "You must be happy. I'm the one moving out. It's funny how when I left yesterday, you were the one talking of moving out but here am I. "

She just looked at me but I could see that bitch was happy.

I had no fight in me.

I drove to Dee's place. I knocked and knocked but no one opened, I ended up opening myself to find her laying on the couch.

She was bloody and didn't even look alive. Me: "Diana! "

I said, running to her. She opened her eyes a bit to look at me.

Dee: "I.. I'm fine"

Me: "I'm taking you to the hospital "

Dee: "No. No. Just... First aid kit"

I forgot about my troubles and went to find it.

Most of the damage was in her face. Her whole face was swollen.

I just helped clean her up where I could and picked her up after feeding her painkillers so she can go lie down.

I wondered who she had messed with and where was Hugh in all this.

I always thought of him as her knight in shining armour.

REMOFILWE

Marcus: "I've been thinking "

I turned to look at him. We were laying naked in bed and it felt good.

Having him again started as painful but I'm glad we used protection.

It was good no lie and there was no regret left in me.

Me: "Oh? "

Marcus: "I want my son's here. Lefa is old now so I don't see why he can't come live here"

Me: "I've never thought about it. Mom likes looking after him"

Marcus: "He's my son Remo and I want him with me, just like Trey is coming tomorrow " Me: "I'll call my mom and let her know "

Marcus: "Thank you. I'd also like to have you move in"

Me: "What? "

Marcus: "I know it's not something you believe in but you're here most of the time. Don't you think it makes sense? Plus, Lefa will have both his parents under one roof".

Me: "I don't think my mom will agree to that"

Marcus: "Just think about it. It won't hurt" He was right.

Arriving at my flat, It was all I thought of.

It was a big step and yes, at 20, I had never imagined myself living with a man.

I love Mike, with all of my heart and I didn't think it was going to hurt.

The only problem was going to be with my mom and how she would react to everything.

I hoped she'd be fine with it and if not then I would be disappointed.

A part of me wondered how living with him would be but of course there was only one way to find out.

APHIWE

It was now in the last week of August and I was going out with my daughter.

I had bathed her, dressed her up and was busy with my makeup.

I was looking forward to it, seeing that I hardly got out of the house.

I was wearing a black short dress with gold sandals.

When I was done, I went with her downstairs so I can make her bottle and everything.

I was surprised to find Craig, sitting on the couch.

He looked up at us then got up.

He came to me, took Summer and kissed my cheek.

Craig: "Hi" Me: "We're actually going out"

Craig: "Going out where? "

Me: "I'm just going to have fun with my daughter Craig"

Craig: "Our daughter. Why are you giving me attitude? "

Me: "I'm not "

I said, going to the kitchen to avoid arguing with him.

I didn't know how to feel about his sudden appearance, considering how we hadn't seen him in a while.

He followed me, with my daughter who was just quiet.

Craig: "Are you mad at me? "

I shook my head. I wasn't in a fighting mood.

I made Summer's bottle with him watching me. I also took her purity jars and put them in the bag.

Craig: "Baby, talk to me please "

Me: "I have nothing to say to you"

Someone knocked on the door before he could reply.

I went to open to find someone I wasn't expecting - my step father.

Damon: "Are you going to let me in? "

I made space for him to enter.

I was so scared now and wondered if Diana knew about this.

Craig looked at him and his eyes shot out.

I looked at Damon who just smirked.

Now, I really needed to understand how these two could know each other.

Damon: "Get me some beer baby. This is going to be interesting

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APHIWE

Me: "Is anyone going to take me out of my misery?"

Damon: "Please don't tell me you have a baby with this jack ass"

Ok my assumption was confirmed, the two really know each other.

Me: "What's going on? How do you know my boyfriend?"

He laughed while shaking his can of beer. We were all now seated in the lounge with Craig silent and looking very scared. It looked like he was trying to keep his cool.

Damon: "So this is what happens when you kids are left alone? you make babies while your sister dates gangsters. This is interesting. Your father is probably turning in his grave"

I hated that he was busy going around the bush. I needed answers and I needed them at that instant. I didn't even care about how he could have found where I live but I needed to know.

Craig: "Babe, I am leaving"

Me: "You are not going anywhere. I need to know how you know my stepfather because the last time I checked, he was in jail"

Damon: "This bastard conspired with Diana to put me behind bars"

I swear I felt dizzy. I was trying to understand how this could be possible. Diana is 21, Damon has been in jail for about five years so how is it possible that Craig worked with Diana? She was 16 when he went to jail, so this was just not adding up for me.

Me: "I... I don't think I understand"

Damon chuckled. My baby was sleeping in her father's arms.

Craig: "Babe, it's not what you think"

Me: "Are you psychic now? How could you possibly know what I'm thinking?"

I shouted, waking Summer up in the process. He took this as an escape and stood up, probably to keep her quiet and lay her down.

Damon: "He's not good for you"

He said, and I clicked my tongue.

Me: "Why did you come here?"

I was now boiling. My mind was going crazy.

Damon: "To come check up on you. You have grown"

Me: "I am not your daughter. I am nothing to you. You are just my mother's boyfriend"

Damon: "Diana really did good in turning you against me. You sound just like her right now. We used to be so close, what happened?"

I laughed. Not because of humour but because he was too chilled and legit pissing me off.

Me: "She told me about how you killed our father."

He laughed.

Damon: "Nice tale but I have always been the good guy. The problem with you kids is that you believe your father was a saint, but he was far from it. Anyway, I am not one to speak ill of the dead. Call your boyfriend to come join us"

It sounded more of a command and he looked scary. This wasn't the Damon I knew. My stepfather was more of a walkover and he hardly did anything when Diana disrespected him.

I went to my bedroom to call Craig who was on his phone but immediately hung up when I surfaced.

Me: "Damon is calling you"

I wasn't even interested in whatever call he was in. he followed me shortly thereafter.

Damon: "Good so I'll tell the tale. This guy was somehow seeing your sister. I don't know about the relationship, but she somehow had him wrapped around her little figure. Your sister can be persuasive if she wants to be. To cut the long story short, he's the one who helped her with the fake evidence that landed me in jail. I must however thank you, being in jail helped me re-establish myself and we can say that I have been born a new man. I'll come see you again in a week and hopefully then, I'll officially meet my granddaughter"

He stood up and left. I was still trying to register everything that he had said into my brain.

I didn't want it to be true.

Me: "You... You and Diana?"

I said, with tears falling. He didn't even try to interject when Damon spoke which meant it was true.

My heart was broken. I felt so betrayed. I didn't want to believe this.

Craig: "Baby, look-"

Me: "Don't! you slept with my sister. You help her land my stepfather in jail. How could you hide this away from me?"

Craig: "I never loved her. Baby, please don't let this destroy us"

Me: "You lied to me Craig. It's my sister"

He tried touching me but I yanked him off.

Craig: "It happened years ago, way before you"

Me: "I only knew of your fiancée who died. How could you?"

I was crying, even choking on my own tears.

Craig: "Will you give me a chance to explain?"

Me: "Get out"

My voice came out as merely a whisper.

Craig: "What?"

Me: "I said get out Craig. Leave! I don't want to see you right now!"

He stood up looking defeated. I immediately wept when he left.

I couldn't stop the tears. I just allowed them to fall as I screamed.

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DIANA

I gulped down the glass of vodka and the bitter taste burned my throat.

I was out of ideas and my face still had bruises. I hadn't seen Hugh since I left his house a week ago and I really missed him.

It was great having Lunga with me, we'd drown our sorrows together, but I was alone.

"Look at you all miserable without me"

I didn't want to laugh but I did.

I turned

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and his jaw dropped.

Hugh: "What the hell happened to you?!"

He said, running towards me.

Me: "My step dad happened"

I said and shrugged. He looked worried.

Hugh: "I was waiting for you to call me. I thought you would finally come back to your senses"

Me: "I don't want you getting involved in this Hugh"

Hugh: "You are my fucken girlfriend, how can I not be involved?"

I smiled at him.

Me: “Ncoaw. I am a big girl Hugh”

Hugh: “Clearly not big enough. Look at your face”

Me: “It is actually much better now. I missed you”

Hugh: “Quite playing with me Diana. What the fuck is going on with you?”

I wanted to take his shouting into cognisance, but he looked so hot.

Instead of replying, I kissed his lips and he bit me.

Me: “Ouch”

Hugh: “We’re going to talk”

Then he kissed me. I don’t know if it was the little shot of vodka I took or the fact that I hadn’t seen him in such a long time, but I was already feeling arousal creep in.

I allowed him to take control of my body. We were just kissing, and he tasted so good.

Hugh: “I don’t have condoms”

Me: “We can talk”

He groaned.

Hugh: "I don't understand why you don't trust me. We have been together for a long time now. Why do you insist on using protection? We went to get tested together"

He actually sounded frustrated.

Me: "Do I look like someone who wants to fall pregnant? Hell no. I'd rather be safe"

Hugh: "You can be on contraceptives"

Me: "They have their own side effects. I don't want to have to deal with an irregular menstrual cycle"

Hugh: "We can buy morning afters"

Me: "There is nothing you can say to convince me. No condom, no sex. It ends there. I don't want to argue about this"

He sighed.

Hugh: "Fine, what are you going to do with your stepfather?"

Me: "Nothing. I know he won't leave me alone until I tell him where my mom is"

Hugh: "So, why don't you?"

Me: "Mom never said it but I know he was abusing her in a way. I knew she didn't love her, she was so obsessed with her first love that she couldn't love another. Damon had more money which dad didn't, so he seemed like a better bet. She

left him for Damon, but her heart remained with dad. I hated Damon the minute he stepped into our home, right after our father died. I made a promise to my dead father that I will get rid of him and lived to make that possible. Unfortunately, my plans weren't long-term since he's back now"

Hugh: "Your story is missing something"

Me: "What?"

Hugh: "Surely you had an accomplice"

I sighed. I was really tired of lying so I went with the truth.

Me: "It was Craig"

Hugh: "Your sister's Craig?"

I nodded.

Hugh: "I don't understand"

Me: "I was once his mistress. I was just a teen and he exposed me to a lot of things. I was his thing on the side since he had a serious girlfriend and he listened when I told him my problems and plans. At that time, he did anything for me while I became his toy."

He stood up. I knew this was a lot for him to digest.

Hugh: "I don't think I know you. I thought I did but this..."

He shook his head. I started getting nervous.

Hugh: "I need to think"

He didn't even wait for me to reply.

I watched him leave and I didn't even know whether I should scream or just sob.

It felt like it was the end of us.

Craig was able to keep our relationship and the terms thereof very private.

He let me a little too much into his life which is why I knew a lot about him.

I think Hugh knew as much as Bandile did.

My phone rang, and the enemy's name flashed.

Me: "What do you want?"

Craig: "I need you to do some damage control. I can't lose my girlfriend, I just can't"

Me: "What are you talking about Craig?"

Craig: "She knows that we once hooked up and even knows about me helping you with Damon. I had never seen her that broken. She hates me"

Me: "She'll come around. Don't worry"

Craig: "This is serious Diana. I am talking about the mother of my child, your sister"

I sighed.

I felt like my head was about to burst.

Everything was just spiralling out of control and it felt like everything was against me.

Me: "Fine. I'll see what I can do"

I didn't even wait for him to reply. I hang up and just threw my back on the counter.

I was really screwed.

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REMOFILWE

I was with my son at the mall. Yes, my son.

Mom had surprisingly agreed for me to take him and he had come on Wednesday. I was honestly so happy to have him with me.

I never really thought it would feel this good to have him close to me.

He was close with Trey and well, moving in with Marcus was still in the honeymoon phase.

“Hey stranger”

I turned to meet up with Luke’s face.

We shared a hug.

Me: “I can’t imagine the last time I saw you”

Luke: “Because you don’t check up on me. Hey Lefa”

My son smiled at him. He was alone.

Me: “Where’s Lunga? You guys are always glued up together”

He laughed.

Luke: “Not anymore. He moved out and I honestly don’t know where we stand”

Me: “There’s something you’re not telling me”

Luke: “Let’s go pay for these. We’ll talk over lunch”

We went to the till with him pushing the trolley that had Lefa and the little stuff we had bought”

He paid, and we went to wimpy and got a table for three.

Me: “Talk to me”

Luke: “It’s because of Gina. He didn’t like the thought of her staying with us and he was busy acting all crazy and talking of how she wants me back. It was just... argh, I think he was being dramatic and childish”

Me: "oh but have you tried reaching out?"

Luke: "Is he not staying with you?"

Me: "He's probably with Dee. We haven't talked in a while"

Luke: "And I miss him so much. The house just isn't the same without him"

Me: "Just reach out to him"

Luke: "He's so stubborn but I'll try. Where is your bodyguard?"

I laughed. I knew he was talking about Marcus.

Me: "He went out with Trey"

We had lunch after which he offered us a ride home.

Lefa was already sleeping when we arrived so he held him while I went in with the shopping bags, Trey ran to me so he can help me.

I just smiled and let him be.

Me: "Hi"

I said to Marcus who nodded with a smile.

Marcus: "Glad to see this one is still around"

Luke: "Oh fuck you"

They both chuckled.

Marcus: "Where is your boyfriend? Please tell me he finally left your ungrateful ass"

Luke: "I am so hurt"

Marcus: "You are ungrateful. How dare you let your ex and boyfriend stay under the same roof? You can't have your bread buttered on both sides"

I left them to talk so I can go rest.

I was tired, probably because of my heels.

I called Lunga first before sleeping but his number took me straight to voicemail.

I just left a message and made a mental note to visit them soon.

I really missed them.

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LUNGA

My life has been rather calm now. I guess I didn't expect it to be like this.

I had accepted what was meant for me and I believed that if Luke and I were meant to be, he would have been here begging me to come back to him.

I missed Travis though and yes, I did want to go see him.

But again, I thought of Gina and how seeing her face again will be for me and decided against it.

It was the second week of September, about three weeks after my moving out.

I was past the phase of Drowning my sorrows in alcohol.

I was picking myself up and moving on. Luke came with a baggage but having to have the baby mama in the same roof was a lot.

He saw her as a saint whilst I was the culprit.

Anyway, I woke up and took a shower. I was going home for recess because I missed my parents.

It was Friday but my flight was in the evening. I wanted Dee and I to go out, seeing how she was also going through something.

I got dressed in beige Chino shorts with a black Polo T-shirt and black suede shoes.

I combed my fade, which had touched of blonde.

I poured some cologne then went downstairs.

I was surprised to see Remo who came to give me a hug.

Me: "This is a surprise "

She giggled.

Remo: "I know. I've been trying to contact you guys"

Me: "Eish babe, I can't remember the last time I held my phone. My parents are probably freaking out and so worried about me"

Dee: "Let me go shower too. "

She stood up and left.

Remo already had a glass of juice so I also poured one for myself.

Me: "Why have you been so scarce? "

Remo: "I seriously have no excuse but I moved in with Marcus and Lefa is staying with us"

Me: "Woah"

She giggled.

Remo: "I know. A lot has happened "

Me: "Why do I have a feeling more has happened? "

She blushed.

Remo: "Well.. "

Me: "Khuluma girl"

She giggled.

Me: "Kore you're glowing so it shows you've been busy"

Remo: "Fine, we... Uhm, we've been making love "

I almost screamed. I was shocked because Remo had always been Miss perfect so I couldn't imagine her getting it on.

Me: "You're lying "

She blushed again.

Me: "This explains the glow. I hope you've been safe"

Remo: "Yes. I'm even on the injection now"

Me: "Girly, how was it? Actually, how is it? "

Remo: "It's good. I'm actually... I'm actually enjoying it"

She said, hiding her face with her hands and I laughed.. This really didn't sound like her.

Dee: "What's with the noise? "

She came wearing a short black dress that had long sleeves with white sneakers.

Me: "Hee Mamfundisi finally got the D and she's enjoying it"

Dee laughed, clapping her hands.

Dee: "You lie"

Me: "It's true, straight from the horse's mouth "

Dee: "Is he good? "

Dee asked, looking at Remo who nodded.

Dee: "Baby, you're even glowing. I'm sure you have an ass now. Stand up so we can see"

Remo: "Ha, Diana"

We laughed. I took my car keys and we left.

I really missed us hanging out.

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REMOFILWE

It was crazy being with this two. We all ended up going to the salon to do our hair, my treat since I was paying with Marcus's card.

I never saw the need to use unless I was buying something for Lefa.

He was complaining though so I figured, why not?

Dee: "You said price doesn't matter right? "

I chuckled and nodded.

Dee: "Wooh cause I want like inches bra. I need to look hot. Hugh needs to know what he's missing on"

We all laughed.

I went for a 10inch Bob weave in blonde and she went for 28 inches in navy blue. She looked so hot.

Lunga just trimmed his hair and did some green in the inches. He looked hot.

Dee: "Look at us. Just look at all this"

She took out her phone and we took pictures.

They looked hot.

Lunga: "Maybe I should find myself a little ass around here. I can't be hung up on Luke forever "

Dee: "That's the spirit. I wish I could but I'm already on Hugh's bad books"

Lunga: "Remo babe, let's go have some tequila shots. My treat"

Me: "Why me? "

They laughed.

Dee: "Because we know you're not an alcohol fan. Woza. I haven't tasted it in a week "

I laughed.

Lunga: "Yerr

we've been good"

We went to my car and drove to some club around town.

When we got there, we went for the shots.

I couldn't go hard since I was driving but these two... Yerr

Dee: "Damn"

Me: "My head is spinning "

The club was chilled since it was in the afternoon.

We chilled there until around 5 and Lunga drove me home after.

Arriving there, Marcus was in the lounge with his sons.

Me: "Baby! "

I screamed. I guess I was drunk.

Marcus looked at me with a raised eyebrow, the kids laughed.

Me: "I missed you"

I said and got on top of him.

Marcus: "You had fun? "

I nodded with a giggle.

Marcus: "You look beautiful with the blonde"

Me: "Hot? "

He chuckled and nodded.

Me: "Thank you "

I kissed his lips.

Marcus: "You're making me horny "

He whispered in my ear and I giggled.

Me: "It's not a sin"

He laughed.

He went to cook for us all and the kids went to sleep immediately after.

Marcus: "So, the kids are sleeping "

We had just washed the dishes and he stood behind me, his breath hitting the back of my ear.

Me: "So? "

He didn't say anything but instead, his hands went to my dress. It wasn't tight so he easily pulled it up then lowered my underwear.

Me: "Marcus"

He kissed my neck softly as he brushed me down there.

That was making me feel all kinds of ways. I felt a certain hormonal rush.

He unzipped my dress and it fell.

Marcus: "You were not wearing a bra? "

He said after turning me around.

I nodded, biting my lip. I was getting addicted to his touches and it felt so good.

There was a knock on the door.

Marcus: "Ignore it"

He whispered.

"Marcus! "

A lady screamed.

Marcus: "Shit. It's my sister"

He pulled up my dress and I pulled up my panty.

I had never seen his sister but he had told me about her.

Her name was Anne.

Anne: "Getting dirty in the kitchen? "

She looked at me. I looked down and she chuckled.

Anne: "Marcus, introduce me"

Marcus: "You're annoying. When did you get back? "

Anne: "Now. I'm back for the rest of the year. "

Marcus: "Baby, this my sister Anne and bitch, this is Remo, my baby"

Anne rolled her eyes and came to me.

She gave me a hug.

Anne: "No more coloureds? "

Marcus: "Done. We have a son"

Anne: "I have a three year old daughter "

Marcus: "Who's the father? "

Anne: "I'll find the guestroom"

She left, pulling her suitcase.

I just laughed at the expression on Marcus's face.

Marcus: "She's so crazy "

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DIANA

Me: "I'm going to miss you "

Lunga: "Don't make me cry. Look after my car "

I laughed.

Me: "Of course I will. "

We hugged one more time and he kissed my forehead.

Lunga: "Take care of yourself "

Me: "I will. Don't worry "

Lunga: "I'll call you when I arrive"

Me: "OK babe"

I waved at him as he left. I was really going to miss him.

I was going to Bloem tomorrow so I can see my sister.

I wanted to talk things through face to face.

Hugh still had not gotten back to me that I even stopped Calling him.

I went back to the flat where I took a shower.

I was going out, because the alcohol I had earlier gave me the vibe.

I was going to his club but not for him.

I did however, want to see and know if he still cares.

Anyway, after showering I lotioned then looked for something to wear.

I ended up wearing a black fringe miniskirt with a white lace top and a black oversized blazer.

I wore red 6 inch heels and let my hair loose. I was so in love with this weave.

I did my makeup, topping it off with a nude matte lipstick.

I had called an cab because I didn't want to go drinking with Lunga's car.

Anything can happen and I promised to keep it safe.

I took my phone and purse then went out of my room.

As I opened the door, I met up with Luke who was about to knock.

Luke: "Oh"

Me: "He went home"

Luke: "But I saw him at the club this afternoon "

Me: "He left about an hour ago"

He nodded then turned on his way.

I locked and went to my cab.

Getting there, the vibe was amazing and just what I needed.

I didn't go to the VIP section. I knew he was going to See Me at a closer range there.

I ordered myself a cocktail then drank while looking at people.

I saw Craig enter with his crew. He came to me and I rolled my eyes.

Craig: "She's still mad "

Me: "Hello Craig"

Craig: "Diana please"

Me: "I'm going to her tomorrow. Just relax. Go enjoy yourself "

He sighed.

Craig: "OK. You look good"

I rolled my eyes. I found Bandile looking at me and I pulled a middle finger.

He just left, clicking his tongue and I laughed.

I went to dance after my second cocktail glass

The DJ was playing some heavy music. I couldn't help it.

"Let's go"

I knew that voice very well.

I turned and he was looking at my legs.

Me: "No"

Hugh: "I'm not going to stand here watching these niggas looking at you with thirsty eyes. Let's just go"

Me: "No"

Hugh: "Want me to take out my gun and start shooting? "

I laughed.

Me: "Fine"

He took my hand and we left, going to his car.

He looked pissed. I hadn't even pulled someone for a dance and yes, I did think of it.

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DIANA

The first thing I did when I woke up was free myself from his grip.

I was just in my underwear but nothing happened. He tried initiating something but I was not going to give in easily to that after he had disappeared like that.

I went to take a shower.

When I was done, I wore black denim shorts with just my sports bra. I had clothes in his place.

He was still snoring. I guess he was too tired.

Anyway, I went to the kitchen so I can make myself some food.

He arrived when I was dishing up.

Hugh: "Morning"

I nodded.

Hugh: "What's going on? "

Me: "Nix"

I wasn't going to forget that he disappeared on me for two weeks.

Definitely not.

Hugh: "Why are you like this? "

Me: "I'd like to have my breakfast in peace please"

Hugh: "Diana! "

He warned. I didn't care.

I just rolled my eyes and continued eating.

Hugh: "Where's my food? "

Me: "You have hands. I'm sure you can prepare something for yourself "

He looked at me sternly.

Hugh: "Don't piss me off"

Me: "You have no right to be pissed off. Definitely not when you disappeared on me for two weeks "

He sighed.

Hugh: "It's about that? "

Me: "What else do you think it's about? "

He ran his hand through his hair.

Hugh: "I-"

Someone knocked on the door, disturbing him from saying whatever excuse he was about to come with.

"Good, you're here"

It was lady and this was going to be interesting for me.

She was holding a child, who looked about two years.

Hugh: "What do you want Grace? "

She was caramel in complexion and bitch was thick. She had bushy eyebrows and dreads.

She looked a bit gangster.

Grace: "You have guts NEH. I came to drop off your son. Seeing you have a new bitch, she can help you take care of him. I'm tired "

She put the boy down who was light skinned just like Hugh.

He was handsome with big brown eyes and bushy eyebrows like his mom. He looked like the both of them.

She went outside and came back with a bag.

Grace: "His clothes. I'm outta here"

She left, banging the door.

I looked at him. He scratched his head.

Me: "I'm leaving "

Hugh: "Baby, look -"

Me: "No Hugh. I don't want to hear it. I'm out of here"

I went to his room where I wore a top, took some notes from his wallet and my purse.

He was holding his son

Hugh: "Diana sthandwasam, don't leave "

I was actually so mad I didn't even reply.

He made me feel so bad kante he was hiding this.

Getting in my flat, I went to take the little bag that had my clothes. I wasn't planning on staying long in Bloem.

I got into Lunga's car.

I was going to drive there.

I didn't even stop.

I knocked once when I arrived and she opened up.

Aphiwe: "Oh, it's you "

Me: "And then? "

Aphiwe: "What do you want Diana? "

Me: "Let me in and stop being crazy "

She rolled her eyes and made space for me to enter.

Me: "Where's Summer? "

Aphiwe: "Sleeping. What do you want? "

Me: "Craig told me about Damon coming"

She laughed.

Aphiwe: "So he ran straight to you? Great. I'm not even surprised "

Me: "Don't be ridiculous. You can't listen to an ex convict who's out for revenge"

Aphiwe: "So you came to speak for your ex? "

Me: "Why are you so mad? "

Aphiwe: "Why am I so mad? You both lied to me! "

Me: "But this happened yes ago. I was 16 for your damn sake and we weren't even in love. Yes

we should have told you and I'm sorry. My point is, you can't let go of something so genuine because he really loves you over that"

She sighed.

Aphiwe: "I feel so stupid now"

Me: "Well, Hugh didn't talk to me for two weeks over this. I don't get you guys "

Aphiwe: "I didn't know. I thought you were In love and that made me mad. I mean you're my sister and he's my boyfriend. I was over thinking "

Me: "And I get it but it's not worth it. What Craig and I had is long over. We were both young then. I don't even see him that way"

She chuckled.

Aphiwe: "You hate him"

I laughed.

Me: "That's a big word but I don't exactly like him"

Aphiwe: "I should call him. And I love the hair "

I smiled.

Me: "Thanks babe. I'm just going to rest. I'm tired"

Aphiwe: "OK and I'm glad you're here. I missed you besides my being mad"

Me: "I know "

I laughed, going to the bedroom.

I was happy we're good.

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APHIWE

I didn't think I'd be so nervous when his phone rang but I was.

He picked up after a while.

Craig: "My love "

Me: "Craig"

I had blocked him and when he came to me, I'd just let him see Summer and refuse to talk to him.

Craig: "Aphiwe"

Me: "I miss you"

I admitted. I didn't know how to go with this.

Craig: "I miss you too baby, so much. "

Me: "Can you come to me? I just want us to talk"

Craig: "Give me ten minutes "

Me: "You're here? "

He chuckled.

Craig: "Yes. I'm coming now now"

Me: "OK"

I quickly ran to my room and changed into a purple off the shoulder tight dress with my fluffy sleepers.

I fixed my hair, put on some lipstick and went to the lounge.

He didn't even knock.

Again, I was nervous.

Craig: "Hi"

He looked nervous too. I smiled and stood up.

Craig: "You look beautiful baby"

I giggled and went to give him a hug.

It lasted for a while and I broke it.

Me: "I'm sorry for acting out. It was stupid of me"

Craig: "And I'm sorry for keeping this from you. I didn't think it was important "

Me: "It's fine. I understand baby and I just want us to move from that"

Craig: "I'd like that. Kiss? "

I giggled and we kissed. I really missed that and more.

Me: "My sister is here"

Craig: "It's been a long time baby. I need it"

I giggled.

Me: "I know. Let me get Summer then we leave "

He nodded and kissed me again then I went to get her.

Dee: "Leave the baby. I know y'all are going to fuck "

Me: "I thought you're sleeping "

Dee: "Hugh has been blowing up my phone. I had to switch it off. I was talking to Lunga "

Me: "You'll look after her? I know you hate kids"

Dee: "Just for today "

Me: "Thank you"

I gave her a hug and left.

Me: "Dee offered to look after her"

Craig: "Then let's get the fuck outta here. I wanna reap that dress off of you"

Me: "Yes sir"

He took my hand and we left.

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LUNGA

I was surprised to learn that Luke had come to look for me.

I actually wondered what he was playing at and why he had to wait until I have left.

Anyway, I was happy to be home.

My parents had spoiled me rotten. Mom with her food and dad with his great sense of humour.

I was happy to be here.

My phone rang again and it was Luke.

I just let it ring.

He didn't give up so I answered on the fourth ring.

Me: "Ufunani? "

Luke: "Lunga, hi"

Me: "Fucken get straight to the point Luke"

Luke: "I want to see you please"

Me: "You know where I live "

Luke: "When are you coming back? "

Me: "Stop wasting my time man"

He sighed.

Luke: "I'll come tomorrow. With Travis, he misses you"

Me: "He's an infant. He's probably forgotten about me and what do you even know about babies?"

Luke: "He's my son. I know about him"

Me: "Stupid me I guess. "

Luke: "Baby please, I hate us being apart"

Me: "And you know why it happened. You don't respect me
Luke and you definitely don't respect my feelings. I hate how
you treat me"

Luke: "I want to make things right "

Me: "Why now? "

Luke: "I'm miserable without you. I've let my pride dictate for
me for too long "

Me: "I have to go"

Luke: "I'll see you tomorrow. I love you"

Me: "Mm"

My mom came with a tray. It had juice and cookies.

Me: "I see you're trying to get me fat"

She laughed.

Mom: "You'll go to the gym. I want to meet that Luke guy "

I had told them everything.

Me: "He says he's coming tomorrow "

Mom: "Good. I'm going to put him in his place "

Me: "Hai ma, I'm too old. I can't have you fighting my battles "

Mom: "No baby. No one treats my baby like that and gets away with it. I'll tell daddy he's coming "

Me: "But you know how dad is"

Mom: "I do. Make sure he's here by 7pm. "

Me: "Kodwa mama"

Mom: "No Lunga. It's Final"

I just sighed.

I knew her mind was already made up.

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LUNGA

On Sunday my parents and I went to church like we usually.

It is when I was there, had been for about an hour when Luke called.

I excused myself and went outside so I can answer his call.

Me: "Luke, I'm in church "

Luke: "Oh, I'm sorry. I've just landed and I was hoping to see you "

Me: "You'll see me at 7pm. We're having dinner with my parents "

Luke: "What? That's far. I'd like us to talk before that please "

Me: "No. 7pm Luke and your ass better not be late"

I hang up on him and went inside the church.

After church, I drove to the mall while my parents drove home.

We hadn't come in one car.

I needed to get my mind off things but I wasn't going to drink.

I just went to buy myself some food and sat in a restaurant while thinking.

I didn't know how to feel about Luke's resurface.

I was getting myself used to a life without him.

I wasn't back to hoeing but I was on my journey to forgetting about him.

I didn't know why he had to come now.

"Lunga "

I looked up and it was him.

Me: "How did you know that I'm here? "

He didn't answer but instead pulled a chair for himself and sat in front of me.

Luke: "I missed you"

He was looking at me.

I on the other hand, wasn't ready for his shit.

Me: "I thought we agreed on dinner "

Luke: "That was you, not me"

Me: "Yaz I came here for some peace, not to be bothered by you"

Luke: "I just want to talk "

Me: "And I don't. You can't just come here after three weeks and expect a warm welcome. I'm not your toy and I'm not going to allow you to come in and out of my life as you please "

I stood up and left, not even bothering to settle my bill.

I knew he was going to do it.

I was mad at him for acting like everything is all good between us.

Getting at home, I went straight to my room and threw myself on the bed.

I took a shower when I woke up.

I was hungry since I had barely touched my lunch.

I dressed up in jeans and a vest. I wanted to wear pyjamas but my mom would never allow that at the dining table.

I wore my sleepers and getting in the dining room, I was surprised to find Luke already seated

I wasn't in the mood for him.

He looked at me for a second then looked down.

He looked humble actually.

Mom: "Good, you're here. Sit down so I can say grace "

I sat next to my mother while dad was sitting next to Luke.

My dad can be scary if he wants to.

Mom said grace and we could finally eat.

I dished up for myself and started eating, before everyone else.

You can't blame me because I was hungry.

Mom: "Now Luke, why do you insist on taking my son for granted? "

She was calm when she said this.

I saw Luke shift in his seat. I had seen that he was scared.

Luke: "I.. I'm sorry Mrs Khoza. That was never my intention "

Mom: "You're not answering my question "

Luke: "I had been too blinded to realise that I wasn't treating him right "

Dad: "That's interesting. Now what I'd like to know is why you asked him to move in with you while you knew your baby mama was going to follow suit"

Luke: "I.. Uhm.. I just wanted to be close to my son"

My mom laughed. I was not even planning to intervene.

I was listening while filling my stomach.

Mom: "Abelungu are something else yoh. "

Dad: "Do you love my son Luke? "

Luke: "I do. With all of my heart "

He said that looking at me and I just rolled my eyes.

Dad: "He's not happy. I can't have my only child, the heir of the Khoza empire, being treated like trash. He's my son and he deserves to be happy. "

Luke: "I agree, which is why I want to make things right. I've realised my faults"

Dad: "I might be soft when it comes to my son and wife but I'm not a nice man Luke. I don't want you to end up having to man handle you "

I wanted to laugh. I knew I couldn't because this was a serious moment.

Luke: "Of course Sir"

Mom: "He better find that bitch out of your house after this. For now, you're excused "

Poor Luke stood up and as he did, I made my way to my room.

The show was over anyway.

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DIANA

We hugged again.

I was going home now.

Aphiwe: "It was great having you around "

I laughed.

Me: "I didn't even stay that long "

Aphiwe: "Yes but still. I love being with you"

Me: "I'm not Craig wena "

She chuckled.

Aphiwe: "You're my only sister "

Me: "Talking about Craig, I hope you've been keeping it safe"

Aphiwe: "I'm not having another child until he puts a ring on it so relax"

Me: "You better not. I'd murder you with my bare hands "

She laughed.

Aphiwe: "I know. I won't disappoint you like that again. "

Me: "Good. Take care of my niece "

We hugged again and I got into Lunga's car.

It was Monday morning.

I drove without making any stops like I usually do.

I was exhausted when I arrived at the flat.

All I wanted was my bed.

Getting into my room

Advertisement

Hugh was sprawled up on my bed and it reeked of alcohol.

I opened the window, inviting fresh air in.

There was nothing I hated than an untidy room.

I was pissed at him for this.

I started picking up the bottles which were on the floor and went to throw them outside.

When I came back, he was sitting on his ass with his eyes bloodshot red.

Hugh: "Where were you?"

Me: "I'd rather we talk about you breaking into my flat. "

Hugh: "Don't piss me off Diana. Where were you because I couldn't track you? "

Me: "I don't answer to you. Go take a shower because you stink"

He stood up, clicking his tongue and went out.

I think to the bathroom. I tidied my room and even sprayed some air freshener.

I ended up changing the sheets with him still not back.

Because I was tired, I just threw myself on top of the bed.

He was in the lounge when I woke up and watching TV.

I didn't think he'd still be here.

Hugh: "We need to talk "

He said, switching off the TV.

I sat on the one sitter couch and looked at him.

Me: "I'm listening "

Hugh: "It's about our relationship "

Me: "Oh"

Hugh: "I... I've lied a lot. I'm not a person you can associate yourself with Diana. I love you, a lot but I... I can't be with you"

I looked at him with hopes that he'll tell me he's joking but that never happened.

I couldn't believe it.

He wasn't even giving me a reason.

Me: "Why can't you? "

I managed to ask.

I didn't want to cry.

Hugh: "I didn't tell you about my son. I've cheated on you and i.. I'm just not the one for you"

He stood up and kissed my cheek.

Hugh: "I love you"

And he left, just like that.

After everything, he still left.

I don't know how it happened but the tears fell.

I could feel that it was over. I knew he meant it.

As I wiped those tears, I became angry.

I was angry at him for doing this to me, he didn't even give me an explanation.

I took my phone and tried calling him, his fucken phone rang on my couch.

I ended up throwing mine against the wall.

I allowed myself to feel this pain.

I didn't know why it hurt but it did.

I didn't think of alcohol, I didn't think of a blunt.

I just sat on my couch and allowed the tears to fall in silence.

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REMOFILWE

Being with Anne was crazy.

She was a fun person to be around.

She was in our room trying to find me something to wear.

Marcus was somewhere with the kids and Anne and I were going shopping.

Anne: "This is exactly why we have to go shopping. Your clothes lack class"

Me: "Ouch"

Anne: "Sorry sweetie but my brother's money has to be spent. Look at that beautiful weave you have on, it has to go with sizzling next-to-nothings"

I laughed.

Me: "I doubt your brother would allow that "

Anne: "It's not up to him. "

She threw a jumpsuit at me.

Anne: "That will have to do"

I wore it and after she forced to do my makeup.

I specifically asked that she doesn't do anything too much.

I'm not much of a makeup fan.

Anne: "Let's go"

I felt different.

She was wearing a white short with a black sleeveless top and black heels.

She looked really beautiful.

I only wore heels to church.

Anyway, we got into her car and drove out.

Arriving at the mall, we immediately started with lingerie.

I was a little shy with that.

Anne: "Ha.a ,you have to flaunt it for your man girl"

I giggled.

She had to force me to take something and we went to pay.

From there, I spent the day shopping with Anne like crazy.

I was actually trying outfits as per her demands and even heels which were too high that I thought I'd fall.

The truth is, I enjoyed it.

Anne: "I hope my brother cooked"

I laughed. She looked more tired than me and time wasn't even on our side

The bags were too many.

Marcus: "Someone is going to get punished for spending my money like crazy. Have you forgotten that we have kids? "

I looked at Anne who chuckled.

Anne: "He's crazy. We both know we did nothing to your bank balance "

She was too relaxed and I... I was panicking.

Marcus: "I'll help you with the bags "

He took some and I went with him to our room.

Me: "I'm hungry "

I said, throwing my ass on the bed.

Marcus: "I'll bring you food. You'll need the energy "

ABOUT A YEAR AND FEW MONTHS LATER

APHIWE

I never imagined that I would have a relationship that would go past a year.

It still wouldn't click in that Craig and I had been together for this long.

It was April and our daughter was now 2 years.

She had grown and I was a happy mother.

She got on well with Mpilo, who was 4 now.

I loved that and they had similarities.

Like we had spoken, I moved in with him after I graduated. I had graduated in the first week of December and moved in with him a week later.

I'd be lying if I said he didn't make me happy.

I was content and glowing, though I say that myself.

I was currently doing my honours part time while working as an intern.

I didn't need the money, like Craig would say but I wasn't about to allow myself to be dependent on him.

I wanted our kids to be proud of both parents.

It was a Monday when I woke up and he was snoring next to me.

I looked at him and just smiled. He'd always argue that he doesn't snore so I was tempted to take a video.

I kissed his lips then got up from bed. I had moved to Joburg, which meant I was now closer to Diana.

I loved that because we got to spend time together.

I took a bath and when I was done with everything, got dressed.

I had to go bath the kids too. They were both staying with us and going to daycare.

Craig: "Come give me a proper kiss"

I chuckled, rolling my eyes. I thought I would escape him.

Me: "No morning nyana? "

Craig: "You wanna moan? "

I chuckled and shook my head.

Me: "That's not what I meant "

Craig: "You don't have to be all shy with me baby. You know I always deliver"

I just giggled and went to give him his kiss.

He groaned when I broke it.

Me: "I have to go bath the kids"

Craig: "I won't take long "

Me: "That's a lie and you know it. Let me go"

I perked his lips and left. I didn't wait for him to reply.

I found the two up.

They both smiled when they saw me.

Me: "Morning"

Them: "Morning mom"

Me: "Let's go bath"

They got off their beds and I took their little hands and we went to the bathroom.

I had to listen to them tell me what they want to wear then we could finally go down for breakfast.

Craig joined us shortly after and we had breakfast as a family.

He went to drop the kids first then drove me to work.

Craig: "We still have about 15 minutes"

Me: "Craig"

Craig: "Aphiwe, I love you. You know that, right? "

I nodded.

Me: "I love you too"

Craig: "Then marry me"

Me: "What? "

Craig: "I'm not getting any younger. I'm 29 now"

I didn't reply but just looked at him. That's when he took out a little box and opened it.

It had a beautiful pink diamond ring.

Craig: "Please say yes"

Me: "Don't you get on one knee or something? "

He chuckled.

Craig: "Later. For now, I need you to say yes"

I rolled my eyes and he laughed.

Me: "Yes, of course I'll marry you"

He slipped it in and it fitted like it was made for my finger.

We shared a passionate kiss after that.

Me: "You still owe me a speech"

Craig: "You said yes moss"

Me: "Ha.a baby. You still have to get on your knee"

Craig: "Fine"

We kissed again.

I didn't even have a little doubt in me.

I might have been just 22 but I wanted this.

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LUNGA

Me: "I think I have everything "

Luke: "Are you sure? "

I rolled my eyes.

Me: "Yes"

Luke: "Did you just roll your eyes at me? "

I laughed.

Me: "Don't start with me wena "

He chuckled and perked my lips.

Me: "This must be so weird for Travis"

He laughed.

Luke: "You said it, not me"

He picked him up and we went to his car.

We were taking him to daycare.

I was working at my father's company now so we had gotten a house around town in my hometown.

I must say that things changed after my parents had grilled him.

Of course I didn't just forgive and forget.

He begged me for a month before I finally decided to give him a chance.

He confessed that Gina did try to make advances towards him, which unfortunately failed.

I was just happy to have my man with me.

At first, things were a bit rocky but we managed to fix our relationship and we were here now.

Travis was staying with us and Luke was working as an accountant at my father's company.

He earned that position and through out our relationship, I got to learn that he's really smart.

Travis: "I love you dad and you too daddy "

He hugged us and ran to his class.

I just laughed. I was daddy and Luke was dad.

He was 2 years old now.

Me: "We've never had office sex"

He laughed.

We were driving to work now.

Luke: "I don't mind making you scream till you lose your voice "

Well, that department was rather complicated.

I had to get rid of my dominance and allow him to fuck me.

At first, it was uncomfortable for me but I got used to it just like he did.

Yes, it started with me being my usual dominant self until he wanted the roles to change.

It's something Diana had warned me off, considering that Luke had previously dated women.

It made sense.

Diana, she's really going to be my best woman at our wedding.

Me: "Or I can make you not sit for three days "

He laughed.

Luke: "I love you"

He said as we walked to our different offices.

Me: "I love you too"

I also loved being groomed by my father.

The staff knew about Luke and I yet they were good.

My dad? I knew he'd come through for me if they were to misbehave.

My parents loved Travis

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especially mom.

When Luke and I want to go out, we knew we can rely on her for baby sitting.

And that was my story.

Thank you for joining me on this journey.

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REMOFILWE

Marcus: "Mrs Smith"

Me: "Don't Mrs Smith me and bring me my food Marcus, I'm hungry "

He chuckled.

Marcus: "Don't blame me when you turn into a hippo"

I gave him a death stare but he just laughed.

I wanted to cry.

He loved teasing me.

Me: "I think I should call a lawyer to draft the divorce papers "

Marcus: "I'm sorry baby. I'll bring your food OK "

I nodded and he kissed my lips.

We had gotten married when I was doing my final year during September and now, I was five months pregnant.

We were having a girl and I was excited. The boys were grown now and this man cave was too much at times.

Trey was turning 7 and doing his Grade 1 while Lefa was to turn 4.

He was in daycare.

Marcus: "Your breakfast ma'am, just the way you like it"

He kissed my lips.

Me: "Thank you "

Marcus: "Pleasure "

He looked at me while I was eating.

Me: "What? "

Marcus: "I can't believe we've been married for seven months "

I chuckled.

Me: "Unfortunately for you Mr, we're going to grow old together "

Marcus: "I know baby and I'm so glad you agreed to be mine. "

Me: "You talk like you gave me a choice "

He laughed.

Marcus: "You're the one who wanted me. Now, you're stuck with your virgin breaker "

I laughed.

Me: "Well, I'm glad. Now we can have sex without me feeling like I'm sinning"

Marcus: "But you were. Sex before marriage is a sin. It's in the Bible"

I laughed.

Me: "You don't even read the Bible Marcus"

Marcus: "But I know. Just like I know the verse that says ask and it shall be given to you"

I laughed.

Me: "You're really something Mr Smith"

Marcus: "And you love me. How does it feel being married to an old man? "

I laughed.

Me: "Mature"

Thank you for sharing my story with me.

I am Remofilwe Smith.

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DIANA

LIFE is really Something else.

It is so unpredictable.

I never imagined my luck changing, considering how I had struggled through my first two years.

I got a bursary from a private surgery on my third year and they paid for everything, even gave me R5000 pocket money.

I was doing my fourth year now and unfortunately, the only one still in varsity from my friends

Lunga and I kept in contact and I'd always see him when I'm home.

Damon and I had sort of fixed things and I got to learn that he's not much of a bad guy

I had accepted him as my mother's husband and they were working on their marriage.

Yes, I finally told him about her whereabouts and it was during my third year when he brought her home.

Our family was slowly but surely getting back together again.

I think I'm the only one who's relationship hadn't worked.

Remo was married, Lunga was living with Luke and my sister was beyond happy.

I was happy for everyone and I had decided on rather establishing myself than relationships.

I was staying with Gina again, who was doing her final year too.

She had fixed things with Lunga and was dating Xolani, a guy who had previously shown interest in Remo.

I was happy for her too.

My phone rang as I was fixing my hair.

It was Aphiwe so I answered with a smile.

Aphiwe: "Guess what? "

She actually screamed.

Me: "You won the lottery? "

She chuckled.

Aphiwe: "No silly. Craig proposed "

Me: "No way "

Aphiwe: "Yes way. The ring is so beautiful. I just love him sis "

Me: "And I'm so happy for you baby. You deserve this"

I genuinely was happy. I know I used to not like Craig but we were good now.

I think I had grown from all the negative feelings I used to have.

We talked for a while until she had to go back to work.

The truth is, I couldn't wait to finish and just graduate

Gina: "I got you lunch"

She said, making her way in.

Me: "Thanks babe"

Immediately when I opened the takeout, vomit filled my throat.

Gina: "Are you OK? "

I shook my head and ran to the toilet.

Getting there, I threw up the little breakfast my stomach had been able to store.

Me: "Fuck"

I rinsed my mouth and went back to my room.

Gina: "Are you OK? "

I nodded.

Me: "I'm sorry but it doesn't smell too good for me"

Gina: "Oh"

She was smiling.

Me: "What? "

Gina: "When last did you have your period? "

Me: "Two weeks back. I'm not pregnant Gina "

Gina: "Really? " She gave me a look.

Me: "I can't be" She laughed.

Gina: "For an aspiring doctor, you can be blind "

Me: "But.. But how? "

Gina: "I'm more on the who part"

That day, she forced me to go to the pharmacy where she bought two pregnancy tests for me.

I went to pee on the both of them and waited. Gina: "It's time"

I rolled my eyes and went back to the bathroom. Gina: "And? "

I couldn't believe it. The two lines were there.

Me: "That son of a bitch! "

I said, throwing the tests at her.

She just laughed and me? I was boiling. I was mad.

.....**THE END**.....

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