

UYAXOKA UMBULELE

Introduction

It was a warm summer afternoon when Nobuntu arrived home from Mthatha, she had a little boy in her arms and when she arrived her mother Nosakhele was sitting outside under a peach tree. She saw her daughter coming and she stood up and met her halfway.

Nosakhele: Nobuntu who's child is that? Please child don't tell me you left home for work and came back with a baby!

Nobuntu: Am sorry mother, I really am, all this was not my intention. Please let's go inside so that I can tell you everything. (they went inside the house and Nosakhele put the bags in the room while Nobuntu put the baby down)

Nobuntu and her mother lived in a small town called

Eguie (Endyoki) for those who know it. She left home in hopes of finding work in Mthatha, she left home 3 years ago and has been sending money home since she left and she was an only child and her father passed away right after she wrote her metric.

Nosakhele: What happened child?

Nobuntu: Mother when I left here things didn't go as well as I had hoped, I struggled since the day I got there until a man found me and took me in. He provided for me and the money I sent home every month was from him, I got pregnant a year before last and gave birth Mbuzeni. Things were fine and we were happy and I had even found a job at a restaurant there, but then his wife came and...

Nosakhele: Oh Yehova (oh Jesus) you got involved with a married man!

Nobuntu: No! I mean Yes!

Nosakhele: No, Yes ? Which one is it?

Nobuntu: Well Yes But I didn't know mother I swear I didn't, Yes he would go for maybe a week saying his going on business but he always came back but all along he was going to his wife and two daughters and I only found out when Mbuzeni was six months.

Nosakhele: What kind of a name is Mbuzeni?
Couldn't you give a child a better name.

Nobuntu: His name was Bukhosi he gave him that name but after I found out about his secret family I changed his name when I went and did his birth certificate.

Nosakhele: But Why child?

Nobuntu: Because his the one that will have no father and no identity. People who wish to know his identity will have to find his father.

Nosakhele: Who is his father Nobuntu?

Nobuntu: Am afraid I can't tell you that mother but I can tell you that I am getting married.

Nosakhele: Are you now going to be the second wife to this man? You father would be so disappointed,

you know he always told you to never settle but here you are settling.

Nobuntu: No mother am not marrying him am marrying a man who loves me, one that is not married but I can't go there with a child and that is why am here.

Nosakhele: Andikuva kengoku(am not hearing you)

Nobuntu: Mama abantu bakulo Sakhumzi (mother Sakhumzi's family) is coming here tomorrow to ask for my hand in marriage and pay lobola. I would really like for you to take care of Mbuzeni for me, Yes Sakhumzi knows about him and we will support him but we can't take him with because of his family. Please mother I beg of you, khulisa umntanam kodwa ungaze umxelele ngam ngoba andifuni azibone ngathi ulahliwe (please raise my child but never tell him about me because I don't want him to feel like he was abandoned)

Nosakhele: Kulungile zange ndabanaye umntana oyinkwenkwe so ndizakumkhulisa njengoba ndakukhulisa nawe(Alright! I never had a boy so I

will raise him the same way I raised you)

Nobuntu got married that weekend and left the following day to her new home. Later had a daughter by the name of Asithandile who is now 19 years old and they never had another child.

Now let's walk together on the journey of discovering Asithandile's life and why she was accused of murdering her parents.

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Insert 1

Asithandile POV

Qula kwedini! Qula kwedini kabawo!

Khawuzenazo kwedini hayi yhoo kwedini kabawo!

Khawuzenazo!

Qula kwedini! Qula kwedini kabawo

Nazo kwedini hayi yhoo kwedini kabawo!

This was the song that was sang and heard throughout the village as the celebrations of the boys coming from intitiatuon school was underway. It was a joyous day and the mood of everyone in the village was one of proud parents and happy siblings. The young men together with the boys of the village gathered around in the field stick fighting moving all the to where the celebrations were being held.

Women hullululating and men whistling, with girls and young women singing and dancing. This is one celebration I never miss because it is the one time you see the people of this village uniting and doing something together for the greater good.

I also like it because there is always a lot of food and alcohol, song and dance just everything. And of course it is the only time I get to stay out late

without getting into trouble with mother. Father left early this morning saying they are going to fetch the boys from the mountain (bayolanda amakhwenkwe), well this happens every time that when boys come back from the intuition school men go early to go fetch them. Now am outside our house making fire but more like holding the sticks while standing on a mud brick watching the stick fighting happening down below at the field.

Now our house If is a bit higher up the hill and if you stand in the right possession you will be able to see everything that goes on in the fields.

Nobuntu: Asithandile! Did I not ask you to make fire?

Asithandile: Uxolo mama ndiye ndaphazamiseka (sorry mother I got distracted)

Nobuntu: I can see that! Now young lady make that fire now so that I can start with the cooking.

Asithandile: Just a minute mother

Nobuntu: You make that fire now or you not going to

the celebrations. You choose.

I didn't answer, I got of the brick and ran to where we keep the stack of firewood and picked just enough to get the fire started and to maintain it. Went back and made the fire then took a tripod first then took a size 10 three legged pot and put on top and poured water in then put some sticks in the pot and arranged them properly so that they can be able to hold the weight of the Dow when mother puts it in. Well you might be wondering what am doing, well mother woke up the same time as father to make Dow for the bread and now it's ready to be cooked and I had to make the fire before I could go to the celebrations.

Now that is boring and it's making me late because everyone has gone already and am still here making fires. Missing out on all the fun in the process but now am done so let me tell this woman and leave. I went back to the house and mother was sitting on

the dining table drinking tea, That right there I don't understand, I mean why would this woman be drinking tea in this heat? Anyway she's not the only one because most women in this village have the same tendency, maybe it's what mothers do, who knows.

Asithandile: Mother I am done, can I go now?

Nobuntu: Did you put the sticks in the pot..

Asithandile: The water and sticks and put the pot on the fire and am sure by now the water is warm enough for you to put the Dow in.

Nobuntu: Okay Then you can go (I didn't wait for her to say more as I went out running)

Nobuntu: Take care of yourself there and don't do something stupid!!! (she yelled behind me and I was already at the gate)

Asithandile: Okay Mother I will!!! (I yelled back)

I ran all the way to the house where the celebrations was taking place. I got there and scanned the crowd

looking for my friend Lisakhanya but I call her Lisa. I saw her standing with some of the village girls and I went and joined them.

Lisa: You late Asithandile!

Asithandile: Am sorry friend but my mother wanted me to make fire before coming here and she told me that just when I was about to leave. Imagine!

Lisa: You don't have to tell me, my mother is exactly like that.

Asithandile: I know, so what did I miss?

Lisa: Well you missed....(she told me everything that happened before I arrived)

Asithandile: WOW at least I didn't miss much

Lisa: Yeah! Why didn't you bring a jersey or you going home early today?

Asithandile: No! But I was in a hurry that I forgot to take one but I will go get it when it starts getting cold.

Lisa: Okay then.

The celebration went on and I kept seeing my father here and there. At one time he came and told me he will be leaving soon and that I should be careful and make sure that am home at the crack of dawn to go get water from the river. Well my father doesn't drink tea made with water that was fetched the previous day, he wants one to use fresh water to make his tea every morning. But am used to it by now and it's not just me, a lot of girls go to fetch water in the morning so I guess it's a thing around here. Well now it's getting cold so I might as well go home and get a jersey, I told Lisa I was going.

Lisa: Want me to go with you?

Asithandile: No because my mother will find something for us to do if we go together.

Lisa: You right! I will save you a spot around the fire.

Asithandile: Okay I won't be long.

I ran back to the house, running all the way down the hill passing the field and up again to my house. The road to my house is just exhausting I tell you, this up

and down thing is not working especially when you in a hurry. When I got up the hill, I was already tired so I bent down holding on to my knees trying to catch my breath. When I rested enough I made my way to the house, the bottom part of the door was open but it was still dark in the house. Which I don't understand because mother lights up the house very early and this is so unlike her. I walked in and went to the kitchen cupboard and opened the drawer and took out the matches and light up the glass lamp.

I went to the room to get my jersey but I could feel that my feet were sticky as I walked, maybe I stepped on some water (I thought to myself) I took my jersey and went out to look for mother in their room but she wasn't there, so I decided to leave before she comes back and give me something to do. I went out but when I passed the dining table I saw blood on the floor, I went closer and bent down to see where it was coming from then I saw her. My mother under the table with the chairs pushed in, she was full of blood and had a knife sticking out of

her chest. The air in my body left me as I went down falling on the floor on top of the blood and it was lights out for me.

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Have a good slumber.

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Insert 2

Asithandile was still out for the count, laying on a pool of her mother's blood and while she was sleeping there her mother appeared to her.

'Asithandile vuka mntanam (Asithandile wake up my baby)' she said ' mother! Oh it was a dream, thank god' she said letting out a sigh of relief. 'No baby it was not a dream, I came here to ask you to forgive

me and forgive him as well' she said looking sad 'mother who do you want me to forgive? Is it father? Did he do this to you? She asked very anxious to get answers. ' No baby your father did nothing but please forgive him and am sorry ' she said and disappeared. Asithandile woke up sweating and disoriented. When she came to she saw that it was not a dream, her mother was really dead. She closed her eyes and let out an excruciating cry.

Her father who was not far from the house came running to the house, he got in and saw Asithandile looking at her bloody hands. The alcohol he drank left his body immediately and he became sober in an instant. He went closer to Asithandile and squatted in front of her, in his mind he thought that someone had stabbed his daughter.

Sakhumzi: Asithandile my baby what is going on (Asithandile couldn't even speak, she was just looking at her hands crying silently)

Sakhumzi: Baby girl talk to daddy, what happened

my child talk to me. (Asithandile couldn't say a word she just pointed under the table. Her father looked under the table and saw his wife, he lost his energy as he sat on the floor next to Asithandile)

Sakhumzi: What have you done child? (he said in a sad and low voice)

Asithandile wasn't speaking, she was just sitting there looking at the dry blood on the floor and on her hands and crying. Her eyes were swollen and she had a headache from all the crying. Snot and tears just flowing unattended, she was a mess and her brain had just shut down and all she was seeing was blood and her mother nothing else. Her father finally gathered some strength and went to their neighbor. He knocked and Lisa's mother opened.

Lisa'smother: Haibo Blangwe ebusuku kangaka yintoni? (Blangwe what are you doing here at this time of the night)

Sakhumzi: Ukhona ubafo? (is my brother here)

Lisa'smother: Ewe yithi ndimbize (yes let me call

him)

She went inside leaving Sakhumzi at the door to call her husband. Now Sakhumzi and his neighbor call each other Bafo meaning brother, they call each other this way because they shared the same clan names. Lisa's father came to the door and when he saw his brother he knew that something was wrong. He invited him inside and they sat.

Mthunzi: Bafo kwenzeka ntoni (brother what is going on)

Sakhumzi: Bafo uNobuntu uswelekile (brother Nobuntu is dead)

Mthunzi: I don't follow brother, what do you mean she's dead.

Sakhumzi: Exactly That brother (he said in a very low and sad voice)

Mthunzi: Where is she now brother?

Sakhumzi: At home

Mthunzi: Okay lets go.

They stood up and made their way to Sakhumzi's house and when they got there Asithandile was sitting in the same position Sakhumzi left her in.

Mthunzi: Brother What am I seeing? Why is the child sitting here with blood?

Sakhumzi: Mbuze nawe ngoba nam ndimfune enje (ask her yourself because I also found her like this)

Mthunzi: Ngoku uphi uNobuntu? (so where is Nobuntu?)

Sakhumzi couldn't speak he just pointed under the table and Mthunzi went to look and saw the horrible picture of Nobuntu under the table. He was so shocked that he couldn't even utter a word, he went out to his house and asked his wife to go take Asithandile with her.

She followed her husband back to Nobuntu's house, upon arrival she saw a distraught Asithandile sitting on the floor with blood on her hands and clothing.

She looked so lost, she went to her and helped her up and took her to her house. She got there and made her sit on the chair while she prepared water for her to bath. When the water was ready she poured it in the basin and added cold water and took it to Lisa's room then took out some of her pjs and put them on the bed. She went back and took Asithandile and they went to the bedroom where she helped her undress and helped her get into the bath.

She gave her a towel and soap and a scrub, she took them and held them in her hands. Lisa's mother saw that she was not using them, she sat next to her and helped her bath. She took the scrub and scrubbed the blood off her hands, her knees and legs. She dried her and helped her put on the pjs and gave her pain medication and tuck her in bed. She took the water and disposed of it. She then wore her dress and shoes and went to where the celebrations were to look for her daughter.

At Sakhumzi's house Mthunzi had gathered more men and the police were called. Sakhumzi was sitting there looking lost and shuttered.

Mthunzi: Bafo kwenzeka ntoni apha kanyekanye (brother what really happened here?)

Sakhumzi: Bafo xa ndisithi andazi andixoki (brother when I say I don't know am not laying)

Mthunzi: Tell us Then what you know.

Sakhumzi: Mna bendizibuyela emgidini ndithe xandilapha kanye eqhineni ndeva ngesikhalo. Ndakhawuleza ukuza nganeno xa ndifika uAsithandile elila egcwele ligazi (I was coming home from the celebration just when I was at the hill I heard a cry and I rushed home to check. That's when I found Asithandile sitting here crying with her hands full of blood)

At first I thought something happened to her because of all the blood on her hands but when I asked her what has happened she pointed under the table and that's when I saw her.

Mthunzi: This is painful, the poor child must be

traumatized by all this. No child should see a parent like this.

Sakhumzi: Traumatized by what? This child was here all alone and nobody knows what happened here besides her but no! She's quiet and not telling us what happened to my wife! (he said clearly angry)

Mthunzi: I understand that you angry and sad about what happened but you can't blame the child for it. She is just shocked about what happened and am sure she will tell us what happened once she's calm down. For now let's just wait for the police so that the body can be taken away.

Sakhumzi: I don't care how traumatized she is! The least she can do is tell me what happened so that we can get to the bottom of this.

Mthunzi didn't answer because he can see how angry his brother was. Sakhumzi on the other hand was wondering when Asithandile left the celebration and what was she doing in the house, because he knew very well that every celebration she would stay

out all night and come back in the morning with her friend. Now he doesn't understand why she came back but he was more than determined to get to the bottom of what had happened.

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Insert 3

At times people turn their backs on you when all the odds seem to be against you. Asithandile's mistake was being the first to arrive at home and finding her mother and her second mistake was being too traumatized to speak that even the people she grew up in front of started doubting her. Her own father doubted her innocence so how could she think that other people would believe her. The police only arrived in the morning to get the body and the investigating officer wanted to speak to Asithandile to ask her some questions. Lisa's mother woke her up and she went to her house where the police were, the crowd of people had already gathered there to

see what was going on.

Upon arrival she was taken into the house by the police men, her father just gave her a look she couldn't understand and left her there with the police.

Police: Miss Phoswa this will only take 10 minutes and please answer the questions as honestly and truthfully as possible. Do you understand?

Asithandile: Yes

Police: Okay now tell me what time you arrived home last night?

Asithandile: I think it was just after 1 Am because I remember asking Lisa what time it was and she told me that it was 5 minutes to 1.

Police: Okay, so why did you come back home? I mean I was told that during such event you only come home in the early hours of the morning.

Asithandile: Yes That is true but this time I forgot to take a jersey because I was already late.

Police: Okay what made you late if I may ask?

Asithandile: My mother asked me to make fire just when I was about to leave.

Police: Okay so tell me what happened when you got here?

Asithandile: I got here and the house was dark which was usual because my mother lights up the house very early. So I got in and looked for the matches and lighted up the glass lamp then went and took my jersey. But before I left I went and looked for mother in her room but I couldn't find her but when I was going to my room I could feel that my feet were wet but I just thought that I stepped on water or something. So I was about to leave when I notice the blood on the floor and (she couldn't go on anymore as she cried thinking about the state her mother was in)

Police: Just one more question before I let you go, what state was she in when you found her?

Asithandile: She was... she had a knife sticking out her chest (she cried some more as she thought of her mother)

Police: Okay we done here and thank you for your time.

The body was taken and Asithandile had to clean the dry blood on the floor and clean the house. Her father never said a word to her. The week went by and her mother was buried. Throughout all that week her father never said a word to her and he didn't even eat the food she cooked. This hurt Asithandile because she needed her father to be there for her during her time of need, she really wanted them to be there for each other but that was impossible with how his father has been acting. She also noticed that Lisa turned her back on her, she last saw her the day of the celebration. Yes she sees her now but she always avoids her, which also hurt her even more.

Back in Eugie Nosakhele was now old but still able to do things for herself. Mbuzeni was now working in Mthatha for a well known businessman. His mother kept her promise and sent them money every month

which is how Mbuzeni was able to go to school and study marketing. His now a marketing manager of the company he works for, he takes care of his mother and goes to see her every weekend. He has never seen her so cold sister but has seen her pictures and people were talking when he was growing up. Saying that his mother was not his mother but her grandmother and that his sister was really her mother. As a child he never paid attention to all this but now when he hears his mother talk about when she lost his father to him doesn't make sense but he decided not to question the woman who has been there for him all his life.

This weekend he went him to check on his mother. He was driving a Toyota fortune, he passed Eguie town and bought groceries for his mother then drove home. When he got there his mother was sitting outside under the peach tree that she likes. He got out of the car and went to her.

Mbuzeni: Molweni ekhaya (Greetings Mother)

Nosakhele: Molo mntanam unjani? (greetings my child how are you?)

Mbuzeni: Am well mother how are you?

Nosakhele: Am Okay son just these old bones giving problems.

Mbuzeni: Do you need to see a doctor?

Nosakhele: No son am fine just getting old.

Mbuzeni: Mother I have something to ask you.

Nosakhele: Yes my child

Mbuzeni: I have been having dreams about my sister and she keeps asking me to forgive her, what should I forgive her for?

Nosakhele: Oh child your sister well I don't know how to put this but let me call her to find out if she is okay because I have also been thinking a lot about her this past week.

Mbuzeni: Do That then while I put the groceries in the house.

Nosakhele: Okay son.

Mbuzeni went into the house and packed the groceries. He thought to himself why doesn't his grandmother tell him the truth about his mother because now that his older he can put a few pieces together and when he saw her in Mthatha there was a connection he felt between them even though he couldn't explain it. Yes he saw her from afar but still the connection could not be denied. Nosakhele made a call to Sakhumzi as he was the one with the phone. He answered after a few rings.

Convo:

Sakhumzi: Mama uyaphila kodwa (mother are you well?)

Nosakhele: Am well son how are you?

Sakhumzi: Am fine mother just that we had a very sad and long week.

Nosakhele: What happened son?

Sakhumzi: Nobuntu passed away mother.

Nosakhele: Oh yhini bawo umntanam kwenzeke ntoni? Kutheni ungandixelelanga kwangoko ngendizile? (oh lord my child! What happened and why didn't you inform me sooner I would have come?)

Sakhumzi: I didn't think mother I was just hurt by what happened. Nobuntu died in a horrible way mother, she was stabbed and apparently Asithandle found her like that.

Nosakhele: Oh my grandchild! Is she okay? When is the funeral?

Sakhumzi: We buried her last weekend mother.

Nosakhele: Uthi kutheni? Njani ungcwabe umntanam ndingekho Sakhumzi? Ucinga mna noMbuzeni besingafuni kumbhabhayisa simbone okokugqibela? (what did you say? How can you bury my child without me Sakhumzi? Didn't you think that me and Mbuzeni didn't want to see her and say our goodbyes?)

Sakhumzi: Mama Nobuntu was my wife, I paid lobola

for her and I am allowed to do as I please with her body and I don't appreciate how you talking to me.

Nosakhele: Sakhumzi you know that Nobuntu has a child here which she last saw when he was just a year old. She also has a mother here who loved her and would have liked to say her goodbyes after so many years of not seeing her. I also have a granddaughter that I never met and would have loved to see and comfort her in her time of need and you took all that away from me.

Sakhumzi: I won't listen to this anymore and that Mbuzeni you talking about was your daughter's child alone not mine and I didn't owe him anything and as for Asithandile she is my daughter and she doesn't need you because she has my family (he dropped the call)

Nosakhele: She maybe yours but she is my daughter's child as well and am her grandmother and what you did was cruel. Taking my daughter away from me all these years was not enough for you that you had to deprive me of her funeral?
(there was silence and Nosakhele looked at the

phone and saw that it was dropped a long time ago. She couldn't stop crying thinking about what and how to tell Mbuzeni all this.)

Yes according to the Xhosa culture he was considered as (untana we ntombi) meaning a child that was born out of wedlock and according to culture he belonged to Nobuntu's home and not her marital home which is another reason why she left him in the first place.

Mbuzeni went back to his mother and saw that she was crying. He didn't like this at all.

Mbuzeni: Mother whatever is going on know that everything will be alright.

Nosakhele: Oh child nothing will be alright! Everything will go downhill from here on. Am afraid we still have a long way to go from here and it will not be easy.

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Insert 4

A Month later

Asithandile POV

Life for me hasn't been good this past month, I have no friends anymore and I have no father, Yes my father is alive and well but it's like his not here.

Mom's death must have affected him more than i had initially imagined, he goes to work but comes back home drunk every day. He doesn't eat the food I cook but at least he comes home every night because am still scared after what happened, it's like the person who killed my mother will come back while father is not home and do to me what he did to my mother. So I stay up and wait for father to come back every night and I make sure that the doors are locked.

Well this year I was supposed to start my second year at varsity but it seems like am not going this year since my father hasn't mentioned school. Lisa and everyone else are preparing to go back to school while I will remain in this village doing God knows what. I wish I knew my mothers family maybe they would help me with the funds to go back to school. I also wish I had siblings that I can talk to in times like these but all I have now is a diary my mother bought for me last month after I got my results that I passed my first year. She would always say that she never got the chance to study and fulfill her dreams but she wanted me to study for the both of us and each dream I achieve I will be achieving it for the both of us.

When I got my results she took me to town in Mthatha and she bought me a new dress and a pair of jeans and tops. She asked me to buy us some KFC while she goes and look for something, she came back looking different somehow, I don't know like she has seen something or someone she was

not expecting and when I asked her she said it was nothing and took out the diary and gave it to me. She said it will be my friend when the ones I have turn their backs on me, it's like she knew that one day she won't be here, that one day my friend will think that I murdered her and turn their backs on me and that my father will one day stop looking at me with loving and proud eyes.

Now I don't even know the look he gives me, some would say he hates me but I refuse to believe that because my father loves me, Am his only child after all, just that right now his grieving the love of his life and it will pass and he will send me to school and be that loving father I always knew him to be. Who am kidding! His grief can take months and if I don't go back to school in time then there will be no hope for me. Oh here he comes now singing his usual song.

Sakhumzi: Asithandile vula lendlu! Kukwam apha usithathaphi isibindi sotixa ndingekho? (Asithandile open this house! This is my house where did get the guts to lock my house without me?)

Asithandile: Come in father the door is open.

He came in walking like a drunk pig if pigs get drunk but what matters is that he wasn't walking straight.

Sakhumzi: Ndiphakele ndilambile (dish up for me am hungry)

Okay this is new, my father hasn't eaten my food for the whole month. Maybe I spoke too soon, maybe his starting to accept that mother is not coming back.

Asithandile: Ndizofudumeza ukutya (I will warm up the food)

Sakhumzi: What did you cook?

Asithandile: Its the meat from yesterday and rice.

Sakhumzi: So wena ubulala umfazi wam obendiphekela ukutya oku fresh yonke imihla wogqiba wena undiphakele umbeko? (so you kill my wife who cooked for me fresh food every day and after that you want to give me left overs?)

This really hurt me, how could my father say that to

me? Drunk or not that was uncalled for.

Asithandile: I will make something for you

Sakhumzi: At this time? And when am I supposed to eat that food?

Asithandile: I will be quick father I promise.

I went to look for something to cook when I felt a sting on my back and I turned only to be met by another and the fists followed. My father was beating me up, something his never done before, what's worse is that he using (intonga) a stick but not just a any stick but a thick one, that plus his fists. I covered my face, hayike wandihamba ngentonga umqolo lo, ndizamile ubaleka kodwa ndakhubeka ndawa wandifika ngentonga endibhuqa wakudinwa wandikhaba imbambo ezi nesisu. Ndizamile kaphinde uphakama ndade ndakwazi ndaphuma ndabaleka (then he beat me up mercilessly with the stick on my back, I tried to run but I tripped and fell and he came and continued to beat me, when he got tired he started kicking me on my stomach and rib

cage. I tried to get up and I finally managed to and got out and ran)

Mind you it's dark out and I have nowhere to run, no friends to run to or relatives. So I ran to the forest and I found a spot in the middle of tall big trees and a sat down to catch my breath and examine my wounds. I sat and listened just to be sure that there are no wild animals here, but heard that I was not far from the river so I tried to sit but it proved to be difficult since my whole body was sore. I finally managed to find a comfortable side to sit on and I rested. I don't know how and when but I fell asleep.

While Asithandile was sleeping her mother visited her again ' Asithandile!' She called out to her ' mother!' She answered already crying 'Yes baby am here' Asithandile cried and her mother embraced her ' it's okay baby! Everything will be okay' she said trying to comfort her ' he beat me up Mother' she said and continued to cry ' I know baby please

forgive him and forgive me' she said moving away from her ' Mama sundishiya! Ndiyakudinga mama, utata utshintshile uhamba kwakho kumenze omnye umntu nje. Ndiyakucela sundishiya Magaba ndiyakucela' she begged her but she left. (mother don't leave me! I need you mother, father has changed your passing has made him another person I don't know. Am begging you Magaba don't leave me.)

She woke up and looked around but she was still in the forest, she thought of going home but was afraid her father might beat her up again so she decided to sleep there and go back home in the morning.

Stay tuned...

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Insert 5

Mbuzeni POV:

After that day mother has not been herself, it seems like her health is deteriorating fast and by the looks of things I will lose her sooner than I had anticipate. Now am preparing to go home as she called me saying she has something important to discuss with me and I hope that she is finally going to tell me the truth. I don't hate or resent my mother for not telling me the truth, I know that she must have had her reasons but the person I will never forgive is Nobuntu. Dead or not I will never forgive her, her absence put mother through hell over the years and as a child it wasn't easy seeing mother like that. She missed her so much that she would call me by her name sometimes, then right after she would apologize and the whole day she would be sad.

I tried to ask her the reason why she doesn't come home to see her but she never told me and I just thought that they had a mother daughter

disagreement of some sort. But what I never understood was why didn't she reach out to her and why was Nobuntu so angry at her mother that she would stay away for so long. I mean because as far as I remember, i never saw Nobuntu home not even once but I knew her through my mother.

Am too much in my head these days that I forget everything else and now I almost missed the off ramp am supposed to take going home. This needs to stop because I will put other people in danger.

I arrive home and drove into our yard and she is sitting under her favorite peach tree. I wonder how old that thing is because for as long as I can remember this woman liked sitting here, I asked her one day why she likes sitting here so much and her answer was it makes her feel connected to her daughter. This Nobuntu person has been a part of my life so much but in directly.

Mbuzeni: Greetings Mother

Nosakhele: Greetings son, how are you?

Mbuzeni: Am well mother just worry about you.

Nosakhele: Kanti ungazikhathazi ngam mntanam, mna ndibuphilile ubom ndazenza nezinto endandifuna ukuzenza ngoku ndilungele nantonina. (don't worry about me my child, I have lived life and I have done all that I wanted to do and now am ready for anything)

Mbuzeni: Suthetha kanjalo kaloku ntomb'enkulu yhini ngathi sowufuna ukundishiya nje. (don't talk like that old lady, like you want to leave me)

Nosakhele: Hayi sendisitsho nje mntanam (no am just saying my child)

Mbuzeni: Okay mother. You called me, what seems to be the problem?

Nosakhele: There is no problem child I just wanted to tell you the truth now that Nobuntu is no longer here.

Mbuzeni: What truth is that mother.

Nosakhele: The truth about your mother, I don't want to die here as well without telling you the truth.

Mbuzeni: Then Tell me mother.

Nosakhele: Well child 27 years ago Nobuntu left home after her father died, I didn't have money to send her to school so she went to Mthatha to find a job so that she can take care of the both of us. She was gone for two years but sent money to me every month just like she's been doing. She came back one day with a one year old child, you.

Mbuzeni: So it's true that you are not my mother but my grandmother.

Nosakhele: Yes child it's true. (Mbuzeni nodded) so when she came back I sat with her down to find out who's child that was because I had made her promise before she left that she will take care of herself so I needed to know what went wrong.

Mbuzeni: And What did she tell you?

Nosakhele: She told me that life was not easy for her when she got to Mthatha and that she lived on the streets until a man found her, your father and took care of her. She said they were happy together and that she had even found a job.

Mbuzeni: I don't understand, if they were so happy why is it that I never saw him and why is it that they never raised me?

Nosakhele: Let me finish child maybe after you will have the answers to your questions whatever they maybe. She said things changed after she found out that your father was married with two daughters.

Mbuzeni: How did she find out? And you mean to tell me she didn't know that he was married after being together for that long?

Nosakhele: Well the wife went to Mthatha to visit the husband with her daughters and didn't tell the husband that is how she found out. She said while they were together he would go for about a week on business trips but when the wife appeared she put two and two together and realized that he was going to his wife. She left him and took you with her, according to her you were 6 months old then, she continued working and met her husband Sakhumzi months later and he wanted to marry her but she couldn't bring you with because of his family so she came and gave you to me to raise. She told me

never to tell you that she was your mother because she didn't want you to feel abandoned and so I did as told. Sakhumzi's people came that weekend and brideprice was paid and your mother left and never came back home. But she she promised that she and Sakhumzi will send money for you every month which they did until she passed away.

Mbuzeni: So Who is my father?

Nosakhele: That I don't know child

Mbuzeni: How?

Nosakhele: She refused to tell me, the only thing she told me was that he gave you the name Bukhosi until she changed it.

Mbuzeni: Why did she change it and why did she give me the name Mbuzeni like am some lost child.

Nosakhele: I asked her the same question and her answer was that if anyone wanted to know who you are and where your origin is they should find your father and ask him. She also said she changed your name after she left your father so that he doesn't find you.

Mbuzeni: Am sorry to say this mother but your daughter was selfish, how could she hide me from my father by changing my name then abandoning me here with you? Not even once did she visit, not as a mother or even a sister just like I knew her to be. Why? Did my father hurt her that much that she decided to take it out on me?

Nosakhele: Son I don't know what really happened between your parents, all I know is what I was told and now telling you.

Mbuzeni: How am I supposed to find my father in Mthatha when I don't even have a name for him?

Nosakhele: I don't know child I really don't.

Mbuzeni: Mama intombi yakho indenze ndangathi ndingumchwa nje ongaziwayo noba ngowaphi.

Ibuhlungu into andenze yona andisoze ndimxolele. (mother your daughter made look like I was abandoned, someone or something that no one knew where it belonged to. What she did to me is painful and I will never forgive her for that)

Nosakhele: Go and get some air then come back and we can finish this talk.

I stood up and walked out the gate to clear my head. I went to the one place I knew I wouldn't be disturbed. The river.

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Insert 6

Mbuzeni POV

I sat by the river just processing everything that I have been told and yes I blame Nobuntu for everything but my father as well. He knew that I existed but he never did anything to find me. God what kind of parents did you give me? I also didn't have it easy when I got to Mthatha, I left this place with only a bag of clothes and my qualification. I also only had R500 in my pocket that mama gave

me, nothing more. When I got there I found a small room to rent which cost me that exact R500 a month and I had to make sure I found a job before the month ended. I would wake up everyday in the morning and come back late in the evening going around submitting CVs.

This went on for exactly 28 days with no food to eat because I had no money for food, I survived on garbage that I would take while no one was looking. I would pretend that I was throwing something in the bin while checking if there is anything i can take to eat. I didn't want to come back home because I didn't even have the transport money to travel back but I told myself that I will not turn into something am not just to survive because I wasn't raised like that. On day 28! I didn't go anywhere because I had gone to every company I could find in Mthatha. This day I didn't go anywhere because I was tired and hand no energy to be walking around town since I hadn't eaten in 2 days.

I got a call from the landline of the house I was staying in since I didn't have a phone and I asked them if I could put their number on my CV. A little girl came and called me saying someone is asking for me on the phone and I went and answered. That is when I was told that they have a job for me but the only job they had was one of a company driver at the moment and if I wanted it I can have it. I agreed because I had no choice, I did know how to drive but I didn't have a license. So that night I stayed up praying that I get the job when I get there the following day. I slept in the early hours of the morning and woke up got cleaned and went.

Upon arrival I was asked for my license so that a copy of it can be made but before I could answer a lady that was dressed so nice and formal asked if the driver had arrived because she was running late. The lady who asked for a license pointed at me and she asked me to follow her and I did, that's how I started working for the company. I was never in the office long enough for the HR lady to ask me for a

divers license and I thanked God for that. I got paid at the end of the month but that money didn't matter really because wherever we went rich people would see me standing next to the car and ask me to help them with bag and pets and I never said no.

They would always give money like R50, R100 and the most i got was R200. This went on everyday, I bought myself food, toiletries and clothes with that money. By the end of the month I was looking presentable and I had booked a date for my driving test. The day came and I passed. After that I went myself to the HR lady and told her that I came to give a copy of my driving certificate and I was waiting for the card which I will bring to her to make a copy when I get it. Which I did, 2 years later a position opened and the HR lady asked me to apply since she has seen that I have the qualifications for the job and I did and got it.

I have been working for the company since then.

Even though I have never seen my boss because they say that he is in Europe opening a new branch there and the lady I was driving around Nondumiso is his daughter and I had thought she was the boss herself the way people run around when they see her. Now I find out that am a product of two people who were never meant to be parents. I wonder who I wronged in my past life to deserve this. Let me go back to mother to hear the rest of this fairytale life of mine. I walked back to the house and she is still sitting there drinking tea, shame my poor mother seems worried.

Mbuzeni: Mama ndibuyile (mother am back)

Nosakhele: How are you feeling now?

Mbuzeni: Much calmer than I when I left.

Nosakhele: Ready to hear the rest of the story?

Mbuzeni: Yes Mother I am.

Nosakhele: Well you have 3 sisters out there.

Mbuzeni: Yes I know that my father has other children.

Nosakhele: Yes but your mother has a daughter as well, your sister Asithandile, now I have never met any of them not even Asithandile. As you know that your mother never set foot here after she left.

Mbuzeni: So What am I supposed to do about this?

Nosakhele: Find Asithandile and build a relationship with her at least I know that Sakhumzi is from Encoko village so if you go there and ask you might find her.

Mbuzeni: I don't think I can do that mother and am sure that she doesn't know about us and I don't want to disrupt her life like that.

Nosakhele: You have to child.

Mbuzeni: No if this Sakhumzi guy want her to have a relationship with us he will bring her here.

Nosakhele: I know you just saying that because you angry but when you calm down please think about it.

Mother thinks this is easy for me, well it's not and am not about to go looking for someone who

doesn't want to know us. She was happy getting the love of our mother alone and now that she's dead am supposed to go find her? I don't think so because her mother never thought of finding me, in fact she left and never looked back and am doing the same! Looking forward and moving in from this.

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Insert 7

Encoko village

Asithandile POV

It's been a week and ever since that faithful day, my father hasn't let my old wounds heal as he continues to beat me, every day after work when he comes

home drunk as usual am his punching bag. If this is grief then I have never seen anything like it, I have heard people before saying grief can destroy you but none of them mentioned that it can also be in a form of abuse and torture. Ndimhlophe ngebala so ngowuzicingela inoba ndinjani umzimba lo yimivumba yentonga. Umzimba udumbile kodwa andibonakali kuba ndihleli ndizityebele. (am light skinned so you can imagine how my body looks with all the bruises. My body is swollen but you won't notice because am a full figured kind of person)

At this time of the day when that man is at work I get a chance to wash my body in warm water with a little bit of salt and mothers oils, this always makes me feel better. Am in done bathing and now am resting in bed, my eyes got heavy and I fell asleep. While Asithandile was sleeping her mother came to her and sang her the lullaby she used to sing her while she was little(ndilubonile usana oluhle olondlwe ngunina ngebele! Ncancisa umntwana mdlezane, azothintela ekliniki! Mama ubonile umntwana omhle

intombi kamama uAsi! Ncancisa umntwana mdlezane azothintela ekliniki!) she sang for her as she brushed her back. As she was doing that the pain and bruises on her back disappeared and the pain vanished. She then left her again.

I woke up feeling much better and now it was time to cook for the man of the house and try not to make any mistakes this time with anything because really my body can't take it anymore. I stood up and went to look for something to cook.

Lisa: Hey Asi

Well this is the one person I didn't expect but I will act cool.

Asithandile: Hey Lisa

Well she's not getting more than that from me besides she came here after ignoring me all this time so she will say what she wants.

Lisa: I wanted to ask if you are going to school this year?

Asithandile: What do you think Lisa?

Can one person be so stupid people hayi.

Lisa: Well we are leaving next week so..

Asithandile: So What?

Lisa: I was wondering if we can go together

Asithandile: What exactly do you want Lisa?

Lisa: Nothing really

Asithandile: Okay then you can leave.

Lisa: You don't have to be rude Asithandile am just trying to be nice to you and you making it difficult.

Asithandile: Who asked you to be nice to me Lisa and why now?

Lisa: My mother forced me to come here which I didn't want to do because you are making it difficult for people to believe that you didn't murder your mother! (she shouted)

Asithandile: Is that so? Tell me what makes you

think that I would murder my own mother Lisa?

Lisa: Because first you always complained about her, then when I wanted to accompany you to come here and get your jersey you refused and the next thing your mother is dead and you conveniently find her? Come on!

Asithandile: Then if I were you I wouldn't be hanging around a murderer because I don't know what she might do.

Lisa: Is that a threat?

Asithandile: Get out Lisa, leave and never look back!

Lisa: With pleasure! And I wish your father beats you to death one day. (she said as she walked out)

Now it's final! Am all alone in the world, what I always feared is happening. I always new that Lisa thought that I did it but I convinced myself that she knew me better than anyone to even think that. But oh boy was I wrong, she even had the guts to say it to my face and even wish death upon me. But I

forgive her and everyone just like my mother suggested.

Mbuzeni:

Since I left home and heard the truth about my parents I have not been myself. I go around drinking every day after work, which is new for me Because to me drinking was only an occasional thing but now it seems to be the only thing that makes me forget how pathetic I really am. And tonight am visiting the hottest club in town, no bar for me tonight and I need to get myself a woman, I have been single for quite some time trying to find my feet and I believe that I am right where I wanted to be in life.

Mother has been calling me ever since I left home and I am avoiding her calls because she is going to tell me about my so called sister while am out here trying to forget everything to do with Nobuntu. But after the alcohol has left my body everything comes

back which is why I became a regular drinker now. I want to know my sister believe me I do but am afraid of rejection, when you have been rejected as much as I have in life you would also be skeptical about meeting new people. I wish that one day I can get over my fears and go find her and yes I know her, not know her like that but I saw her the day she was with Nobuntu when I followed her after I saw her here.

Time for me to go and unwind. Try and forget all that for now. Finished up and went out to my car and drove to the place, it seems like the place rich people hangout in but today am joining them. Let the night begin. Went in and went straight to the bar and ordered 6 shooters and downed them in matter of minutes. Damn these shooters are doing nothing, instead they brought back all the things that I came here to forget.

Voice: You look like you are carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. (I look up and am met by a beautiful woman but she looks older than me and I don't do older women but I need the distraction

right now)

Mbuzeni: You have no idea and I thought the shooters will make me forget.

Voice: I know exactly what you mean hey, the name is Zodwa by the way Ntobizodwa

Mbuzeni: Nice to meet you Zodwa am Mbuzeni.

Zodwa: I understand the meaning of the name but I would like to meet your mother and ask her why she named you that.

Mbuzeni: You And me both

Zodwa: What do you mean?

Mbuzeni: She's dead and the funny part is that I never met her.

Zodwa: That would have been better for me than an absent father who is never smiling and forever working.

Mbuzeni: I think we need to drink to our messed up lives.

Zodwa: You right! Nico! (the bartender)

Nice: Yes man

Zodwa: Bring is a bottle of whiskey, two glasses and a bowl with ice.

Nico: Right away mam (he left)

Mbuzeni: Why does he call you mam with so much respect.

Zodwa: That's Because he works for me

Mbuzeni: You own the bar?

Zodwa: No my father owns it and I just manage it.

Mbuzeni: That's nice.

Zodwa: Yeah I guess, but I would have preferred having my father around than a bar. But we can't have everything we want now can we?

Mbuzeni: Nope!

They continued drinking and talking about their depressing lives.

Like, comment and share.

Merry Christmas everyone.

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Insert 8

Asithandile POV:

3 months later

I must say that my life has been hell these past 3 months, my situation is still the same and I didn't go to school. Now am a villagers most gossiped about girl who killed her mother, everywhere I go people are talking about me. I could be at the river doing washing and people would come and start a

conversation on how you can never know a person they say 'umntu yinkosi uzazi' meaning you can never really know a person as much as they know themselves. They would say they watched me grow into a woman right in front of them but they don't know at which point did I turn into a murder. This used to hurt back when the wounds were still fresh but let's face it when something happens every day it becomes a norm for a person and you get used to it.

You can't believe that I even got used to my father's beatings as well by now, not saying that it doesn't hurt anymore when he beats me no. Believe me it hurts like nobody's business but as I said everything that happens to you every day becomes a norm. It becomes something you expect to happen every day and it does. I even made that place I found in the forest that day my spot and I always run there when I get beaten up so I can have time to lick my wounds. Am sure even the birds, insects and every animal that lives there know me by name right now. At first I

would cry for days but now I turned my pain into something that can help others. By that I mean I write, I use my diary to write everything that happens to me and how it makes me feel.

I must say writing helps to a certain extent but it only heals my internal wounds not my external ones for those need remedies and air to heal. I just take care of the ones that take the longest of time to heal as I don't want them to define me and make me a Broken and resentful person. I still want to be whole when I meet my husband one day and I want to be the mother my kids deserve, not one that is going to take all the anger and pain unto them. I know am dreaming right now but hey hope is the last thing to go and am not willing to lose it yet because I believe I have a lot to live for. But don't ask me what because I also don't know but I will find out if a live long enough.

I went to my fathers family to report the kind of life

am living and asked for their assistance in sending me back to school and guess what they said. My aunt said and I quote ' my brother is doing very well dealing with a murderer' yep that's what I got, so I didn't wait to hear anymore I just left and accepted that this is my faith. Something that I alone is supposed to get through no one else. The Bible says and I quote 'intlungu zakaloku nje azinakufaniswa nobuqaqawuli obusezakutyhilwa' meaning the struggles of today cannot be compared to the greatness that is yet to be revealed.

Sakhumzi: Ndanditheni kuwe ngalencwadi? (what did I say to you about that book) I really didn't expect my father to return this early.

Asithandile: You said that you never want to see it again (I said looking down waiting for the mother of all claps)

Sakhumzi: So why am I seeing it now?

Asithandile: Am sorry father it will not happen again and I will go put it away now. (I stood up to go put the diary away but I didn't make it to the room as I

felt the hardest and most painful fist hit the back of my neck and I went down and lights out)

Mthunzi was coming to Sakhumzi for a visit when he saw him hit Asithandile with his fist at the back of the neck. He watched her fall and just sat down looking at her not moving from the floor.

Mthunzi: Bafo wenzeni? (brother what have you done?)

Sakhumzi: Disciplining my child

Mthunzi: I don't want to tell you how to discipline your child but I don't think this is it. Look at her brother she's not moving.

Sakhumzi: If she dies that would be the best thing that ever happened to me in months.

Mthunzi: How can you say that about a child you raised! (shouted going to Asithandile to feel her pulse and it was there but weak)

Sakhumzi: She is mine! I brought her to this world and I can take her out!

Mthunzi: You know I thought this thing of you beating this child was because of the alcohol you drink but now I see that the alcohol has nothing to do with it. You resent this child!

Sakhumzi: As I said if she dies it will be a blessing for me.

Mthunzi: One day you will need this child and she won't be there to help you.

Sakhumzi: I will never need this thing in my life.

Mthunzi: Oh you will mark my words.

Mthunzi took Asithandile and left with her to his house. Zodwa was on the phone with her father, she is the one daughter that doesn't get to travel up and down to visit her father and the only traveling she does is going to visit her mother in Matatiele. Her sister is the one that is always traveling.

Convo:

Zodwa: Unjani Tyhopho?(how are you Tyhopho)

Nkosibuthe: Ndiyaphila ntombi katata, unjani wena.
(am okay daddy's girl and how are you?)

Zodwa: Am well just miss you.

Nkosibuthe: I miss you too baby girl

Zodwa: Dad am not a girl anymore am a grown woman.

Nkosibuthe: Okay grown woman! How is the business?

Zodwa: Business is doing well, I actually met someone who looks exactly like you a few months back. (Nkosibuthe's heart started beating fast as the thought of meeting his son again crossed his mind)

Nkosibuthe: Where did you see him and what is his name?

Zodwa: Oh he was here at the club and from a distance I thought it was you because of the structure and posture but when I got closer I saw a younger version of you so I had to talk to him.

Nkosibuthe: Okay That is something! So what did he

say his name was?

Zodwa: Mbuzeni, why do you have a son we don't know about?

Nkosibuthe: hahah no! Look since you miss me, how about I come home for a few days.

Zodwa: I would appreciate that father.

Nkosibuthe: Okay then see you in 2 days and take care of yourself.

Zodwa: Can't wait.

They dropped the call and nkosibuthe couldn't stop thinking about the fact that whoever his daughter met might be his long lost son Bukhosi but the name threw him off. But he was more than determined to find out himself who this person was.

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Insert 9

ENCOKO Village

Asithandile was still out for the count with Mthunzi's wife taking care of her. She wasn't happy about it but as the submissive wife that she is, she is doing it because her husband told her to. She has mixed feelings about Asithandile's situation, she feels sorry for her for how she lost her mother and how her father is treating her. But also doesn't like the fact that her husband cares for her, makes her jealous as a mother on her daughter's behalf.

Mthunzi: Ukhathazwa yintoni na nkosikazi yakuthi?
(what is bothering you my dear wife?)

Lisa'smother: I just don't get why you care so much about this child.

Mthunzi: But you know this child's situation and her mother was your friend. What changed?

Lisa'smother: I don't know but how you care about her is like she is your own biological daughter.

Mthunzi: Don't be silly now woman am just helping

the child that you also should be helping. What happened to 'umntwana ukhuliswa yilali' that a child is raised by a village.

Lisa'smother: It takes a village to raise a child not the other way around.

Mthunzi: if you know it then why don't you practice that.

Lisa'smother: Am helping her am I not? But it's been two days and still hasn't woken up and her father doesn't even come to check on her.

Mthunzi: You can't believe what he said.

Lisa'smother: What did he say?

Mthunzi: That if she were to die it would be the best day of his life.

Lisa'smother: Yhoo ikhohlakele landoda (yhoo that man is cruel)

Mthunzi: I know.

While they were talking Sakhumzi was in his house

not fazed at all by what was happening to his daughter. He went to the kitchen and on the floor lays the diary he asked Asithandile to to put away. He took it and read it and felt the pain his daughter felt when writing that but he didn't feel bad enough to want to stop the way he was treating her. He still hates her for the fact that she killed his wife and will never forgive her for that. To him she took a friend and a companion. Now he was alone because of her and he can't just forget about that.

Nkosibuthe was at the airport, he just landed home after 5 years of being gone and her princess the older daughter Ncebakazi was picking him up. He couldn't wait to get started on the search for who ever it was that his daughter saw. He wanted to be certain that he was not his son and if not he will go back overseas and never set foot in South Africa. He resented his wife for not giving boys and more so for costing him his one and only son. He loves his daughters but also wanted to be a father to his son as well.

Ncebakazi: Tatam! (daddy)

Nkosibuthe: Kodwa Ncebakazi uyathanda uzenza ngathi nguwe omncinci kodwa nguwe omdala. (but Ncebakazi you like acting like you the youngest when you are actually the oldest)

Ncebakazi: Ndithini xa u Zodwa ezenza mdala Hayi tata ndiyeke ndonwabe (what am I supposed to do when Zodwa acts like the oldest? Let me be happy)

Nkosibuthe: Okay now lets go tomorrow I want to visit the club to check on things then the company.

Ncebakazi: What don't you trust me with the company?

Nkosibuthe: If I didn't trust you then you wouldn't be occupying the managing directors seat so stop being dramatic.

Ncebakazi: Fine lets go.

Nkosibuthe: How would you feel about having a brother?

Ncebakazi: Please don't tell me that you have a child with some white woman. I can't have a baby brother

at this age.

Nkosibuthe: Drama kodwa yeyantoni? (what is the drama for?) I don't have a white child am just asking.

Ncebakazi: Oh okay

The following day at the company Mbuzeni was busy in a meeting and after he was done he was preparing for another when his personal assistant came in.

Assistant: Mr Philiso all heads of departments are required in the boardroom immediately.

Mbuzeni: What is going on?

Assistant: Apparently the owner of the company is here and wants a report on how each department is performing.

Mbuzeni: Oh alright is Miss Ncebakazi the one we are meeting?

Assistant: No sir her father is who you are meeting with.

Mbuzeni: Alright then I will be right there.

The assistant left and Mbuzeni prepared all his files and got ready to meet with the boss. When he was done he went to the boardroom and met up with other department heads there and tensions were high. Everyone worried about making a good impression on the boss which most of them don't know Mbuzeni included.

Financehead: Hey man it was nice meeting and working with you.

Mbuzeni: Why are you talking like you leaving the company.

Financehead: What can I say when the big boss is coming? You never know what might happen.

Mbuzeni: I know but don't jump into conclusions man.

Financehead: Yeah you right.

The doors to the boardroom opened And Nkosibuthe walked in walking ever so gracefully accompanied

by his daughter Ncebakazi. Everyone was looking at him with each one feeling intimidated by his grace and power. He took his seat at the head of the table and so did everyone else.

Nkosibuthe: Am not going to take much of your time, I just want a 30 minute report on how your department is doing. We will start with HR, then Finance, Marketing, Operations and finally training department. So I want you to get up in that order and give your report. (he said all this while looking at his computer screen updating things)

The HR head stood up and briefed the boss on what has been happening what strategies they have in place to improve the department and so forth (he still wasn't looking at her but in his screen updating things as she spoke. He thanked her and she sat down)

Finance head also stood up and gave his report. He had questions for him here and there busy updating his master report on the laptop. When the marketing head stood up and greeted, the voice only made him look up for the first time since he got there.

He saw a replica of himself standing right before him with his shoulders back, chest out and chin up. The confidence he has reminded him of when he was young and starting out in business. He got hot and started sweating, he couldn't breath properly but no one noticed until he fell off his chair. His daughter Ncebakazi ran to his aid and held his head as she instructed for the people to call an ambulance.

#loveadmin

Insert 10

The Hospital

The two daughters Ncebakazi and Zodwa were seating outside in the waiting room, waiting to hear news about their father. Zodwa was sitting trying to figure out what had happened to her father while Ncebakazi was busy on her phone. Until Zodwa

broke the ice.

Zodwa: Ncebakazi uthi kwenzeke ntoni kutata?

(Ncebakazi what happened to father?)

Ncebakazi: Andazi nam ntasekhaya (I don't know sister) one minute he was listening to presentations and the next he was on the ground.

Zodwa: Was there something that was not right that caused this?

Ncebakazi: What are you trying to say?

Zodwa: For once Ncebakazi stop being defensive, all am asking is that was he alright in the morning when you picked him up and was everything okay in the company.

Ncebakazi: Am sorry am just nervously about what happened. Father is not one to get sick or faint like that and no there was nothing he was okay.

Zodwa: Alright then I guess we will have to wait for the doctor to tell us.

Ncebakazi: What is taking so long?

Zodwa: I don't know. Did you call mother?

Ncebakazi: I don't want to worry her just yet, I wanted to hear what is happening first before calling her.

Zodwa: Yeah You right that woman can sure overreact.

The doctor came to them while they were busy talking and they both stood up.

Zodwa: What is wrong with my father doctor?

Doctor: Well Mr Ndamane suffered a panic attack, it can be more like a heart attack but slightly less than that.

Ncebakazi: Is he alright?

Doctor: Yes his fine now and you can go in and see him.

Zodwa: What caused it doctor?

Doctor: Well it could have been caused by many things that includes shock.

Zodwa: Will It happen often?

Doctor: No only when he is shocked by something.

Ncebakazi: Okay doctor thank you. May we see him now?

Doctor: Of course this way.

The doctor led the way to Nkosibuthe's ward and the daughters went in. They looked at their father who seemed very far in thoughts and that worried Zodwa very much. She blamed herself for asking her father to come back and thinks that if he stayed where he was none of this would have happened. They went closer to him and Zodwa sat on the visitor chair while Ncebakazi sat on the bed beside him. They both took his hand and he turned and looked at them. He looked really sad.

Ncebakazi: How are you feeling daddy?

Zodwa: Am sorry I asked you to come back, this is all my fault please forgive me.

Nkosibuthe: There is nothing to forgive my daughter, this was going to happen sooner or later.

Ncebakazi: you haven't answered me yet, how are you feeling?

Nkosibuthe: Oh kanene wena uyabaxa! (oh you like to exaggerate) am fine as you can see.

Zodwa: Mind telling us what caused this?

Nkosibuthe: Nibadala ngoku And lixsha loba niyazi inyani (you have grown now and it's time you know the truth)

Ncebakazi: Utheni tata uyafa? (what is going on father are you going to die?)

Zodwa: Khawume ngongxama Ncebakazi, yinyani yantoni leyo tata? (stop being forward Ncebakazi, what truth is that father)

Nosakhele: Well remember when you came to Mthatha when you were young? Ncebakazi was 8 and you Zodwa were 5.

Ncebakazi: Yes I remember and there was another lady here with a child and mom told us she was your housekeeper.

Zodwa: I don't remember much about that.

Nkosibuthe: Well That woman was not my housekeeper but my mistress...

Ncebakazi: What? You cheated on mom?

Zodwa: I would like to hear the whole story before I say anything.

Ncebakazi: How can you be so cool about this? He cheated on our mother Zodwa!

Zodwa: I know and am angry believe me but I want to hear what really happened.

Ncebakazi: WOW just wow!

Nkosibuthe: Ndiyayazi iyothusa lento kodwa (I know this is shocking) I will not apologize for it because I already apologized to the person I hurt and wronged which is your mother not you.

Ncebakazi: So that means you it even sorry for what you did.

Zodwa: Ncebakazi would you please keep quiet and

let father finish. (she didn't say anything)

Nkosibuthe: As I was saying, that woman was my mistress and we were together for two years before you guys came here, and that child was my son Bukhosi.

Zodwa: What? You have a child we don't know about?

Ncebakazi: Where is he?

Nkosibuthe: Yes I have a child that you don't know about, I didn't know where he is for years.

Zodwa: What do you mean?

Nkosibuthe: Well after that day she left and took my son with, she did that because she was angry that I didn't tell her that I was married.

Ncebakazi: Good she did well by staying out of our lives and another woman's husband.

Zodwa: Tata uMthatha mncinci kakhulu kutheni ungamkhangela? (father Mthatha is too small why didn't you look for her)

Nkosibuthe: I did and I found her working at some restaurant. I tried apologizing to her but she wouldn't

have it and she told me to go back to my wife and kids because they needed me. I told her that I can take her as my second wife and also be able to raise my son but she refused saying she saw the pain in your mother's eyes and that she didn't want bad luck following her for causing another woman to cry.

Zodwa: She sounds like a good woman, she sacrificed herself and her child for us to have our father.

Ncebakazi: Good woman my foot she shouldn't have gotten involved with our father in the first place.

Zodwa: Did you hear the part where father said he didn't tell her about us or having a wife?

Ncebakazi: It doesn't matter!

Nkosibuthe: Well let me finish. So after a few months she disappeared and I don't know where she went. I looked for her with no luck, I guess she went home and changed my sons name so that I wouldn't find her or him.

Zodwa: Okay I understand but what I want to know it what happened today? Were you thinking of him or something?

Ncebakazi: Or you saw her and you want her back?

Nkosibuthe: None of that. Today I saw my son for the first time in years.

Zodwa: Where did you see him and how do you know it's him?

Nkosibuthe: He has the same birth mark that I have on my wrist and I saw him at the company.

Ncebakazi: What? Who is he?

Nkosibuthe: I don't know the name but he is head of marketing.

Ncebakazi: What? That guy was my driver for more than two years and you telling me his my brother?

Zodwa: Wow So he found his way back home.

Ncebakazi: Are you listening to yourself? The son of a home wrecker is working for us! What if he came here with a hidden agenda then what?

Zodwa: Do you always have to be negative about everything.

Nkosibuthe: Even if he took everything I wouldn't fight him, he deserves it, I didn't raise him but what I know is that his mother never told him about me.

Ncebakazi: How can you be sure?

Nkosibuthe: If she changed his name and kept him away from me all these years what makes you think she will tell him about me now?

Zodwa: I don't think he knows. What is the name of the guy anyway?

Ncebakazi: You mean my driver?

Zodwa: Yes your driver and brother

Ncebakazi: mxm his name is Mbuzeni

Zodwa: No it can't be the Mbuzeni I met at the club.

Ncebakazi: What are you dating him?

Zodwa: Ncebakazi! (she reprimanded) am not dating him I just saw him at the club and we talked.

Nkosibuthe: What did you talk about?

Zodwa: I don't remember everything but I do remember him telling me about the fact that his mother left him with his grandmother when he was young.

Nkosibuthe: Did he mention his mothers name?

Zodwa: Yes Nobuntu or something like that.

Nkosibuthe: Oh my God! His my son...

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Insert 11

At the club

Zodwa And Ncebakazi were having drinks at the club after coming from seeing their father at the hospital.

The club was full of students who were in holiday, they always come here when they arrived in Mthatha after the schools closed, most of them were studying in Fort hare university in Alice dale. Both Zodwa and Ncebakazi were lost in their thoughts thinking about this whole thing and trying to process it. Zodwa was excited to have a brother and if it the Mbuzeni she met she was more than pleased, because she and Mbuzeni go along just fine when they met. She was however worried about how Mbuzeni will react to the news since he did say that he resented both the people who brought him into this world only to dump him with his grandmother.

Ncebakazi: What do you think mother will say to this?

Zodwa: I don't know but what I do know is that she always knew this day will come and now it has.

Ncebakazi: But What Father Did was not Right, I cannot even begin to imagine how our mother felt when she found out. Am really hurt and angry on her behalf.

Zodwa: Don't forget that she is the one who chose to

stay with him after she found out no one forced her.

Ncebakazi: So she did wrong by staying and fighting for her marriage?

Zodwa: All am saying is that she chose to do that and no one else.

Ncebakazi: you are unbelievable sometimes! So you wanted to grow up without a father?

Zodwa: What about our brother who grew up without both parents?

Ncebakazi: He wouldn't have if his mother knew how to close her legs.

Zodwa: Now That is just being plain rude.

Ncebakazi: Whatever man this whole thing makes me sick. Let me call mother.

Ncebakazi went outside and dialed her mothers number and she picked up after two rings.

Nosiyamcela: Nana

Ncebakazi: Hellow mama unjani? (hello mother how

are you?)

Nosiyamcela: Ndiyaphila mantanam ndibulela ukungcinwa unjani wena? (am good child I thank the lord for keeping me, how are you?)

Ncebakazi: Am not well mother and I would like you to come to Mthatha tomorrow.

Nosiyamcela: What happened child?

Ncebakazi: Dad suffered a panic attack and his in hospital as we speak.

Nosiyamcela: I will be there this evening.

Ncebakazi: Thank you mother.

Nosiyamcela: His my husband after all and I will be there before dinner.

Ncebakazi: Alright bye.

Nosiyamcela: Bye baby.

Ncebakazi went back inside and joined Zodwa and they continued drinking.

Zodwa: What did mother say?

Ncebakazi: I didn't tell her, I only told her about father being in hospital.

Zodwa: And?

Ncebakazi: She said she will be here before dinner.

Zodwa: Here comes drama.

Ncebakazi: Yazi wena ingathi asizalwa kunye kodwa nyani (you know it's like we are not sisters really)

Zodwa: I can't argue with that.

While they were talking Mbuzeni walked in and Zodwa saw him while he was being searched by the bouncers.

Zodwa: Our brother is here and I ask that we not say anything or cause drama. Let's wait for the parent to deal with this.

Ncebakazi: Fine! Now that I look at him, he does look like the younger version of father.

Zodwa: I told you he does.

Mbuzeni got in and went to the bar and ordered a beer then turned around to face the crowd. He spotted Zodwa at the far end corner and waved at her and she waved back with a smile on her face. He scanned the crowd and he was met by a dark beautiful slim woman, she was across the room with two others that looked like her friends. He spotted what she is drinking and ordered more then walked to her. She saw him and was taken by his confidence and handsomeness, she smiled when she saw him making his way to her.

Mbuzeni: Afternoon beautiful lady.

Lady: Afternoon to you too.

Mbuzeni: I saw that your drink was about to finish and brought you another one.

Lady: Oh I thank you Mr.

Mbuzeni: My name is Mbuzeni and you lovely lady?

Lady: Am Lisakhanya But my friends call me Lisa.

Mbuzeni: Beautiful name my dear Lisa.

Lisa: Oh I thank you dear Mbuzeni.

Mbuzeni: Mind if we get ourselves a table? That is if your friends won't mind.

Lisa: Sure and they won't mind cause they are here with their boyfriends.

Mbuzeni: Are you?

Lisa: Am I What?

Mbuzeni: Here with your boyfriend? I don't want to step on peoples toes.

Lisa: No I don't have one.

Mbuzeni: Okay then, let the single people hang together. (the single part made Lisa blush)

They went and found themselves a table and sat and ordered more drinks.

Mbuzeni: So Miss Lisa where are you from?

Lisa: Well am from Encoko village here in Mthatha but I study at fort hare university in Alice-dale.

Mbuzeni: Okay then do you live with your parent when you here?

Lisa: Yes when am at the village I live with my parent but here I crush with a friend for a week until I go home.

Mbuzeni: Alright then.

Lisa: What about you?

Mbuzeni: Well am from a small town called Eugie, I don't have parents and I was raised by my grandmother.

Lisa: She raised a good man. And here?

Mbuzeni: Indeed she did. Here am working and I live alone.

Lisa: No girlfriend?

Mbuzeni: You did hear the part where I said I was single right?

Lisa: Yes

Mbuzeni: There is your answer (Lisa smiled thinking about how good looking Mbuzeni is)

Zodwa and Ncebakazi were looking at them this

whole time. Ncebakazi kept on shaking her head in disapproval, while Zodwa was smiling.

Zodwa: Your brother is smooth with the ladies.

Ncebakazi: The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Zodwa: What does that suppose to mean?

Ncebakazi: That he takes after his cheating father.

Zodwa: So now it's his father not yours?

Ncebakazi: Hayi ndiyeke Zodwa! Futhi kufuneka sihambe siyopheka umama uyeza. (No leave me alone Zodwa! And let's go and cook Mother is coming)

Zodwa: I can't say am looking forward to that but let's go.

Zodwa and Ncebakazi went out and drove home. They got there took a shower and started cooking while singing along to the music that was playing. After two hours they finished with all the dishes they were making and set the table for the three of them since their father was still in hospital. It was already

evening when they finished, they went to their rooms and changed. The doorbell rang and Zodwa went to open. When she opened there stood her mother.

Zodwa: Mother! Come on in.

Nosiyamcela: Evening baby, yhoo am so tired.

Zodwa: But Mother the drive from Matatiele to Mthatha is not that long, only two hours.

Nosiyamcela: Two hours too long, now take the bag at going to shower before dinner. (they followed each other to her room and Zodwa left her while she showered and went to the kitchen and put all the food on the table)

Ncebakazi came downstairs and took her seat and Zodwa did the same. Their mother joined them after a few minutes and they dished out for themselves.

Nosiyamcela: How is your father doing?

Zodwa: The doctor says he will be fine.

Nosiyamcela: What caused all this?

Ncebakazi: Shock from meeting his son.

Zodwa: Ncebakazi! (she reprimanded)

Nosiyamcela: He What?

Ncebakazi: He met the son he made with Nobuntu after cheating on you.

Nosiyamcela: I will not take such disrespect from you Ncebakazi! You might be grown but I am still your mother! (she stood up and went upstairs to her room)

Nosiyamcela: Oh Bawo yintoni lena ngoku?

Bendinga lomfazi waphuma empilweni zethu ngoku ubuya sele ezonika u Nkosibuthe into mna endingazange ndakwazi ukumnika yona. (oh Lord What is this now? I thought this woman was out of your lives and now she comes back to give Nkosibuthe what I couldn't give him) I will lose Nkosibuthe forever this time. He was never happy with me after that woman left with his only son, he even left me and went overseas. Never called me not even once since he left. I would only hear from my daughter how his doing and even now when he

came back my daughter told me because he doesn't talk to me. Now his woman and son are back, only God knows what he will do. But whatever it is I will protect my daughters interests like I did before.

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Insert 12

3 Days Later

You see a snake can be very manipulative and attractive at times but only to those who happen to like the animals. Now a snake can take many forms, it can come in its normal form or it can come in a form of a person, man or woman, you just can't trust anyone. A snake is conniving as well and can present the most harmless front while it plans on how to swallow you whole. That is how Mrs Ndamane is. We will elaborate on that more as we go on. Nosiyamcela and her daughters went to the

hospital the day after she arrived but when they got there they were told that Mr Nkosibuthe Ndamane could not be allowed visitors since the doctors will be spending the whole day monitoring him before they discharge him the following day.

Now Nosiyamcela knew that her husband is the one who asked the doctors to say that since he knew she will be there but asked them to put it in a way that will not offend the his daughters. This hurt her deeply because she thought he will be pleased to see her after being gone for so many years but it was clear that he still resented her. So today Ncebakazi was asked to call Mbuzeni to the house and tell him that she has a marketing strategy that she wants to discuss with him. They did this because they were afraid if they told him the truth he might not want to listen and Nkosibuthe was told to take it easy for a few days. So this was the only option they had since Nkosibuthe didn't want to wait a minute longer.

Mbuzeni left the office around lunch time as it is the time that was set by the boss to come. This was not unusual as Ncebakazi would sometimes work from home and Skype or call whoever she wants to discuss something with to come to the house. He drove there and when he got to the gate the security guards let him in. He drove in and parked his car then went out and walked to the door and knocked.

The family was sitting in the lounge all together waiting for Mbuzeni to arrive so that lunch can be served. A knock came through the door and Ncebakazi went to open.

Ncebakazi: Oh you here

Mbuzeni: Yes mam.

Ncebakazi: Please come through (Mbuzeni went and greeted everyone. He was a bit shocked to see Zodwa there but held himself)

Zodwa: Am sure you must be wondering what am doing here huh?

Mbuzeni: Yes I actually am.

Zodwa: Well this is my home and your boss lady is my elder sister, this is my mother and my father.

Mbuzeni: A pleasure to meet you all.

Nosiyamcela looked at her husband to say something but he didn't, he had his eyes glued on Mbuzeni and it made him uncomfortable.

Nosiyamcela decided to break the ice.

Nosiyamcela: Why don't we all move to the dining area lunch is ready.

Mbuzeni: No thank mam, I have to go back to work.

Zodwa: No your bosses are here and they are inviting you to have lunch.

Mbuzeni: Thank you and I would love to join you.

They all moved to the table and Nkosibuthe sat opposite Mbuzeni and not at his seat at the head of the table. This also got Nosiyamcela pissed but held herself since she was still trying to win her husband over and she didn't want to make any mistakes.

Zodwa: Mbuzeni there is a reason you were called

here today.

Mbuzeni: Yes to discuss a marketing strategy with Miss Ndamane.

Zodwa: No that is not it and I will let father explain.
(Mbuzeni got nervous thinking that the big boss maybe didn't like his presentation or he blames him for his collapse and his going to fire him)
Nkosibuthe cleared his throat.

Nkosibuthe: First before I explain myself I would like you to tell me about yourself. By that I mean your mother, father, siblings and all that. (Mbuzeni was confused a bit by this as it was unexpected but he answered anyway)

Mbuzeni: Well sir..

Nkosibuthe: Please call me father, I mean you can call me anything but sir.

Mbuzeni: Sir will be fine with me as I do not want to offend anyone by calling you father. You are my boss after all (this made Nkosibuthe proud instead

of being disappointed)

Nkosibuthe: That fine by me.

Mbuzeni: Well as I was saying, I don't know my parents in fact I never met any of them. I only found out about my biological mother a few weeks ago, at first I knew her as my sister only to find out she is my mother.

Nkosibuthe: How can you have not met her then if you knew her as your sister?

Mbuzeni: Well she left me when I was just a year old with my grandmother and never returned and I only saw photos of her and my grandmother would tell me that she is my sister Nobuntu.

Nkosibuthe: Why did she keep it from you?

Mbuzeni: She was following my mother's orders and only told me now because she died and she wasn't even told about it. So she didn't attend the funeral.

Nkosibuthe: What about your father?

Mbuzeni: Well I never knew him either, I was told that

my mother wouldn't reveal his identity even to my grandmother and said she changed my name for a reason.

Nkosibuthe: And What was her reason.

Mbuzeni: That if anyone wanted to know who my father is they will have to find him first and ask him why I was not with him.

Nkosibuthe: Am so so sorry son (he was now a teary)

Mbuzeni: No need to be sorry sir, I believe all that has happened made me a better and stronger man.

Nkosibuthe: I am your father son and I named you Bukhosi and...

Mbuzeni: Wait what? Please repeat yourself.

Ncebakazi: What is it that you didn't hear really?

Mbuzeni: With all due respect mam I am not talking to you but to your father or whoever this man is and I would appreciate it if you kept quiet.

Ncebakazi: I am still your boss!

Mbuzeni: I understand that perfectly but this is not the office and you have no right to speak to me like that.

Ncebakazi: I can..(her father cut her short)

Nkosibuthe: Enough!! Ncebakazi just shut up or leave us! (Ncebakazi was shocked that her father yelled at her because he has never done that before)

Nkosibuthe: You are my son Bukhosi, look at this mark (he showed him the mark on his wrist and Mbuzeni looked at it) I have the same. Nobuntu was my woman and we loved each other but I never told her I was married and after you were born my wife found out and she left.

Mbuzeni: Enough! I don't want to hear anymore and you are not my father. A father is not someone who donates a sperm and leave. You are wealthy and if you wanted to you would have found me but you didn't. So don't come here claiming me to be your son, you have daughters and a wife, focus on that and leave me alone. All of you.

He stormed out and left. He was so angry at the man who called himself his father.

Stay tuned...

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Insert 13

Ndamane resident

Nosiyamcela went outside after Mbuzeni left and Nkosibuthe went to his room while the daughters cleared the table. No one said a word after he left, Nkosibuthe was more than heartbroken by this whole thing and he blamed his wife for it. Ncebakazi was happy that he decided to distance himself because she wasn't interested in building a relationship with him anyway. She thought of ways

she can use to fire him from work because there was no way she was going to work with him again. Zodwa felt sorry for Mbuzeni, she heard first hand how Mbuzeni felt because her father has been distant every since can remember. He got too occupied with work that he didn't have time for his wife and children.

She knew what it was like to feel like your father was absent even though he was there, she wondered how much more when you don't even know him. She liked Mbuzeni and they connected very well the other day, he is the only person she feels connected with in the family. Nosiyamcela was outside and made a call to an old friend of hers. It rang and he picked up on the third ring.

Convo:

Nosiyamcela: Kutheni ungandixelelanga ukuba lenja ifelwe ngunina kwaye ikhangela uyise (why didn't

you tell me that this dogs mother died and that his looking for his father?)

Friend: Molo nawe ndiyaphila akhonto ndiyathemba nawe uyaphila. (hello to you too, am fine thanks and I hope you are well too)

Nosiyamcela: Sakhumzi I don't have time to play games here.

Sakhumzi: That dog as you call him is grown now and can do whatever he wants to. As for the death of my wife it's none of your business.

Nosiyamcela: If things go south am taking you down with me.

Sakhumzi: What are you going to say I did really? Because I took an opportunity presented to me and I got the woman I always wanted and you decided to send me money every month to send to him so that he stays away so what more did I do huh?

Nosiyamcela: You will regret this Sakhumzi because if my husband finds out I did this I will lose him and you will lose your meal ticket.

Sakhumzi: I don't care really because I lost the person I cared about so take care Mrs Ndamane.
(he dropped the call leaving Nosiyamcela angry)

She went back inside and up the stairs to their room. She got in and Nkosibuthe was sitting on the bed looking sad.

Nosiyamcela: He will come around dear, his just angry and shocked right now. Give him time.

Nkosibuthe: This is all your fault woman.

Nosiyamcela: How is it my fault Nkosibuthe? How long are you going to blame me for something I didn't do?

Nkosibuthe: Mfazi ndini ikhona into owayithetheyo kuNobuntu eyabangela ahambe nomntwana wam. Khona wawuzofuna ntoni eMthatha kodwa ndandisandobuya ekhaya? (Woman there is something you said to Nobuntu that day that made her up and leave with my son. And what were you doing in Mthatha because I had just came back from seeing you?)

Nosiyamcela: The children missed you and I missed you. Do we need an appointment to see you now, Nkosibuthe you cheated on me and had a child with another woman but you don't care about that all you care about is her and your son.

Nkosibuthe: You the one who came here without being invited what did you think you were going to find? You came looking and you found what you were looking for and cost me my son in the process. One you couldn't give me because you decided wena on your own to tie your cubes without my knowledge and now when I seek for that which you denied me you want to cry wolf?

Nosiyamcela: Am sorry Nkosibuthe but I wasn't going to have more children with someone who was never there.

Nkosibuthe: I was working for you and your children woman since your selfishness cost me my fathers chieftaincy.

Nosiyamcela: So you wanted me to give you a son

so that ndizoba mgumfazi we Kumkani ohlala ezilalini? Wena bekufanele uba uyandibonga ngoba unento yonke namhlanje ngenxa yesasigqibo ndasenzayo. (I can be a wife of a chief that stays in the rural areas? You are supposed to thank me because you have everything because of the decision I made)

Nkosibuthe: Nosiyamcela my father died a broken man because I couldn't take over from him, his chieftaincy went to his cousin because of you, the same cousin who destroyed everything my father worked for. Yes I have everything because my father taught me to work hard but you still live in the rural areas and you don't have a husband.

Nosiyamcela: How can you say that to me Nkosibuthe?

Nkosibuthe: Phuma apha mfazi ndini uyangxola (get out of here woman you making noise)

Encoko village:

Asithandile was okay again and for the past 3 days her father didn't beat her and she thought that he had changed after nearly killing her. She was relieved by this because at least for the past 3 days she slept well and with no pain. Sakhumzi came home drunk late that evening and that scared Asithandile a bit.

Sakhumzi: Asithandile please tell me something.

Asithandile: What is it father?

Sakhumzi: Wakwenzani unyoko for uba umbulale olwahlobo? (what did your mother do to you for you to kill her that way?)

Asithandile: Father I promise you I didn't kill mother, I found her that way, please believe me.

Sakhumzi: So usazimisele uxoka nangoku (so you want to continue to lie even now)

Asithandile: Andixoki tata ndiyakuthembisa ndicela undikholwe tatam (am not telling lies father I promise you please believe me father)

Sakhumzi: Okay (he stood up as if he was going

outside and Asithandile let out a sigh of relief. But it wasn't long till her nose met up with Sakhumzi's fist and she bled immediately with the blood messing her dress)

Sakhumzi: You think you will continue to leave peacefully while my wife is rotting away in the grave?

Asithandile: Father am sorry please forgive me am sorry (she was crying and her cries were fueling Sakhumzi)

He was beating her up more than what he has ever done before, his fists were doing a number on her face and his whip was drawing art on her body. She couldn't even see properly because of all the blood of her face and one eye was closed because it was swollen.

This went on for a long time and Asithandile was losing strength. Mthunzi came in running as he saw this while passing going to his house. Sakhumzi had dragged Asithandile outside and was beating her to a pulp, Mthunzi got to him and took the whip from

him.

Mthunzi: Bafo uyambulala lomntwana yintoni kangaka! (bother you will kill this child! What is it with you? He shouted and he was very angry)

Sakhumzi: Wena ukhathazwa yintoni ngoba owakho umntwana akangombulali? (what is bothering you here because your child is not a murderer?)

Mthunzi: Ngowam nalo And andizukubukela umhlukumeza oluhlobo! (this one is mine too and I will not watch you abuse her like this)

Sakhumzi: Ungamthathi nje ngoba uba usahlala apha nam ndizombulala ngezandla (why don't you take her? Because she stays here with me I will kill her with my bare hands)

While these two were going back and forth with each other Asithandile got strength to stand up and slowly made her way to her spot in the forest. As she walked she kept on wiping the blood on her face with her dress and hands. One eye was open for her to see the way while the other was completely

swollen and closed. She got to her spot and kneeled down and prayed.

Asithandile: Father lord Jesus, father I thank you for yet another day, today I could have died in the hands of my father but you said no and I thank you for that. Father I come before you with nothing in hand but my heart, father you promised never to leave me and you promised never to forsake me but to be honest with you now I am giving up hope. Yes I know you will never give one a burden they can't carry but my burden seems heavier than anyone else's. Father I am suffering at the hands of the one who brought me to this world and I have no one on my side.

Please do not forsake me as well, I beg of you. I ask that you take away the hatred in my fathers heart and make him see that what his doing is destroying me and him. I ask that you reveal the truth so that my name can be cleared. I ask this in the name of the father, the son and Holy Spirit amen.

She sat down after that and cried. She was deeply hurt but kept saying these words over and over again.

Intlungu zakaloku nje azinakufaniswa nobuqaqwuli obuseza kutyhilwa. (today's pain and hardships cannot be compared to the greatness that is yet to be revealed)

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Insert 14

Encoko village

Grief is a very dangerous thing especially to those who refuse to accept what happened and move on. Moving on doesn't mean forgetting the one you lost but it means to continue living and keeping them in your heart. Sakhumzi let his grief consume him to a point that he saw his own daughter as an enemy. He was so clouded by grief that he lost sight of the fact that Asithandile was hurting too, he forgot that she

also lost someone she loved. While his daughter was out there in the woods he was in the warm comfort of his home enjoying a warm meal cooked by the very same person he beat up. It was cold this evening and Asithandile was in more pain than she had ever felt before and the cold wasn't doing her any justice. She couldn't sleep so she walked around looking for a tree with big enough leaves to use as blankets.

She found it but it was difficult to get to others as they were a bit higher up in the tree and she had to climb the tree to get to them. But she couldn't because of all the pain she was in, she took those she couldn't get her hands on and went back to her spot and laid them nicely and laid down careful not to hurt herself. It was too cold and she couldn't sleep, so she decided to hum to herself. She was humming the tunes her mother used to hum when cooking or cleaning, that brought a smile to her face as she thought about her mother and all the times they spent together. She didn't know when she fell

asleep but she was woken up by a noise coming her direction and she sat up and listened.

Dogs were barking getting closer and closer and sounds of people talking. She thought that someone might have lost a cow or goat or something and they were looking for it. A voice spoke sounding closer to where she was. ' khangelani nangaphaya makwedi akanawuba ukude!' Look on the other side boys he can't be far. The man stood over Asithandile and looked at her while he was examining her with his flashlight in hand, he saw the blood on her dress and called out to the boy.

Man: Yizani ngapha makwedini nanku lombulali!
(come this side boys here is the murderer! He yelled to the boys)

Asithandile: Uxolo tata uthetha nam? (am sorry father are you talking to me?)

Man: Uphambene xa undijongile ndizala ababuli kakade? (you crazy when you look at me do I look like I Father murderers?)

Asithandile: Uxolo tata kodwa andiyazi uthetha ngantoni. (sorry father but I don't know what you are talking about)

Man: Futsek man sundibiza ngoyihlo emveni kokubulala owakho! (piss off! Don't call me father after you killed your own!)

She was crying at this point because she doesn't know what this old man is talking about and her father can't be dead after she left him at home.

Asithandile: Mntomdala ndiyakuthembisa andiyazi uthetha ngantoni ndicela undikholwe. (my elder I promise you I don't know what you are talking about please believe me) the boys were already there by now carrying sticks surrounding her and she was kneeling.

Man: Xa ungambulalanga ufuna ntoni apha? (if you didn't kill him then what are you doing here?)

Asithandile: Tata ndize apha kuba ndizimela utata wam ebendibetha ndabalekela kulendawo. (father I came here because I was hiding from my father, he

was beating me and I came to hide here)

Man: Ukuba awumbulalanga ligazi lantoni elisempahleni yakho? (if you didn't kill him then who's blood is on your clothes)

Asithandile: Ndiyakuthembisa tata andibulalanga mntu mna ligazi lam eli (I promise you father I didn't kill anyone and this is my blood)

Man: Uyaxoka lo! Makwedini thathani elintshintsho legqwirha Nilise komkhulu liyoziphendulela! (she is telling lies! Boys take this little witch to the chiefs place to answer for her sins)

The boys dragged her, kicking and screaming. They were beating her up with the sticks they were carrying.

Asithandile: Oh bawo ndenzeni kangaka? Kuqala bendibethwa ngutata endityhola ngokubulala umama ngoku ndityholwa ngokubulala yena. Ndenzeni bawo ngoba andiyazi kwenzeka ntoni, utata ebengandiphathanga kakuhle kodwa bendimthanda. Ebengumzali wam umntu

wokugqibela endisele naye emhlabeni. Oh bawo umoya wam wonakele, umphefumlo wam utyumkile, into yam ngamagcwaba. (Oh lord what have I done so bad? First I was beaten by my father accusing me of killing my own mother, now am being accused of killing him. What have I done lord because I don't know what is happening, my father didn't treat me well but I loved him, he was my father and the only person I have left. Oh lord my heart is broken and my spirit is bothered, my place in the grave.) she let out an excruciating cry and the boys dragged her to the chiefs place.

A lot of people were following behind busy making remarks about how cruel she and how they understood that she was abused but that was not a good enough reason for her to kill her father. She heard it all but now she was quiet and has accepted whatever faith she has to face. Her body was sore from first the beating she got from her father and now from the mob of people beating her up accompanying her to the chiefs place. She looked up

in the sky and said a little prayer, ' Nkosi ukuba yindlela yakho yakundindulula kulomhlaba le ndiyayamkela ndinoxolo entliziyweni ngoba ndibuphilile ubom ebekufanele ndibuphilile. Mama uzundikhawulele Magaba kwaye ndibaxolela bonke abandivise kabuhlungu. (lord if this is your way of taking me from this world then I accept it with peace in my heart because I have lived the life I was supposed to live. Mother please come for me Magaba. I also forgive all those who wronged me and hurt me)

After she said amen she fainted.

This is short I know but it was the most difficult insert for me to write because I had to put myself in her shoes and I must say that they are quite heavy and not easy to walking in.

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Insert 15

Encoko village

3 days later

Asithandile has been out of it for the past 3 days, the people that brought her left her there when she didn't wake up. The chief asked the people who worked there to take care of her. The following day Lisa's father went to the chiefs place to explain what happened earlier and assured the chief that Asithandile couldn't have been the one who killed her father judging by the state she was in when her father beat her. He even told them that they had an argument with Sakhumzi and when he realized after a while when he wanted to take her with she was gone. He also asked that he be given Asithandile and

his wife will take care of her but the chief refused.

Asithandile woke up in bed and scanned her surroundings only to find out she didn't know the place. A boy came in the room and saw that she was awake and went out to call the elders. A woman came in and it was the chiefs wife Nokonwaba.

Nokonwaba: Hey! How are you feeling?

Asithandile: Am Okay mah thank you.

Nokonwaba: Am sure you must have a lot of questions.

Asithandile: Yes But can I ask them?

Nokonwaba: Of course you can.

Asithandile: How long have I been here?

Nokonwaba: You mean how long have you been out? 3 days and your wounds are healing well.

Asithandile: I promise I didn't kill him mah please believe I didn't, all I did was ran away after he beat me up and I always did that when he beat me and I

would sleep in the forest and go home the following day when I know his left for work.

Nokonwaba: We know all that baby don't worry.

Asithandile: Please mah don't let them beat me again I really didn't do it I swear on my mother's grave I didn't do it.

Nokonwaba: Asithandile calm down baby and listen to me. Look I know you didn't do it, Mthunzi was here and he told us what happened and from what he said and what you have said it's clear that you did do it and we believe you.

Asithandile: Really mah? (she was crying because this is the first time someone believed her when she said something)

Nokonwaba: Yes baby I believe you, now you must be hungry but before that I will ask someone to bring you water to bath and a change of clothes then you can eat.

Asithandile: Thank you mah. Can I ask you

something else?

Nokonwaba: Yes

Asithandile: How did my father die?

Nokonwaba: Oh child you don't need to know that.

Asithandile: I do mah please tell me.

Nokonwaba: He died the same way your mother did.

Asithandile: So that means the same person who killed my mother killed him.

Nokonwaba: it seems that way Yes.

Asithandile: Did my aunts come?

Nokonwaba: Yes they came and the funeral will be this weekend but they asked that you not attend the funeral.

Asithandile: It is Well mah, I will do as they wish.

Nokonwaba: Now get up and I will go ask someone to bring you bathing water.

Asithandile: Mah thank you for everything and I

guess now I will have to go to the farms to look for work so that I can be able to support myself.

Nokonwaba: Don't worry I will look for something for you to do here and you don't have to go to the farms.

Asithandile: Thank you so much mah and I appreciate everything you are doing for me.

Nokonwaba: It's a pleasure.

Nokonwaba left and went to ask one of the workers to take bathing water to Asithandile and a change of clothes. Asithandile was left thanking God that she was not punished as much as she had already been punished. She also thank god that they believed her but was sad that she couldn't attend her fathers funeral.

Mthatha:

Mbuzeni and Lisa were out on a date, they have been seeing each other since that day and things were

going well for them. He hasn't spoken to any of the Ndamane people since the day he left them and he didn't want anything to do with them. They got to the restaurant and Mbuzeni opened the door for her, she got out and he locked the car and they went inside. They asked for a table for two and the waiter took them and took their order for drinks.

Mbuzeni: When are you going home babe?

Lisa: Am still enjoying my time with you.

Mbuzeni: I know that but you have to go home this weekend your parents will think something happened to you if you don't go home for holidays.

Lisa: Okay fine I will go

Mbuzeni: Good and I will also go see my mother.

Lisa: You going to Eugie this weekend?

Mbuzeni: Yes it's been a while since I last saw my mother and I have a lot to tell her.

Lisa: Okay then.

Their drinks and starters came and they enjoyed them over light conversation when Nkosibuthe got in and went straight to their table.

Nkosibuthe: Afternoon.

Lisa: Afternoon.

Nkosibuthe: I want to talk to you and am not leaving here till I do.

Mbuzeni: Am busy at the moment can you do this some other time?

Nkosibuthe: No we do it now, young lady will you excuse us please.

Mbuzeni: She can't go she came with me and I have to take her home.

Nkosibuthe: My driver is outside and will take her home but you are not leaving until we talk.

Mbuzeni: Babe I will see you later Okay, you can take your food as take away.

Lisa: Alright then.

Lisa went to get her take away while Nkosibuthe made a call to his driver to take Lisa home.

Mbuzeni: I don't appreciate what you just did.

Nkosibuthe: it's not ideal I know but I cannot lose you twice Bukhosi, we have to fix this.

Mbuzeni: Did you pay damages for me?

Nkosibuthe: No

Mbuzeni: Then you had no right to name me so don't ever call me Bukhosi again.

Nkosibuthe: If you want me to pay damages for you I can do that even now but am not losing you.

Mbuzeni: Do you know that Ndoluka ndingu Gaba ngoba owam utata bendingazi noba ngumni? (do you know that I was initiated as a Gaba because I didn't know what my fathers clan name was?)

Nkosibuthe: It was supposed to be that way because ubungumntana wentombi (you were born out of wedlock)

Mbuzeni: You are Right I was, Do you know how much I suffered when I got here looking for a job? I

went on for 28 days eating from rubbish bins because I had no money for food. I only had R500 in my pocket which I used to get a room to rent while I look for a job.

Nkosibuthe: I didn't know all that and am sorry I wasn't there for you during your time of need but am here now.

Mbuzeni: Yes you are But of what use are you to me when I can take care of myself?

Nkosibuthe: Mbuzeni I hate this name..

Mbuzeni: Deal with it.

Nkosibuthe: Tell me what to do to have you in my life.

Mbuzeni: Nothing at all.

Nkosibuthe: Please give us a chance to get to know each other, I know I was not there and I know I was careless for not going with your mother to her home to pay damages, maybe if I had done that I would have found you when she left but i didn't. She changed your name which made it more difficult for

me to find you. I know all this might sound like excuses for you but it's the truth, my truth and would like to have you by my side please.

Mbuzeni: What about your family because your wife and elder daughter don't like me already.

Nkosibuthe: Ncebakazi has always been spoilt and...

Mbuzeni: How I wish I was her

Nkosibuthe: But don't worry about her she will come around and as for my wife she has no choice but to accept you.

Mbuzeni: You can't force people to accept me.

Nkosibuthe: Oh yes I can, you are my son and you have every right to be in the company, my life and everything that has to do with me.

Mbuzeni: You will first have to go home to my mother and pay damages for me and you will repay her for all the years she raised me without help.

Nkosibuthe: I said I will do anything to have you in my life and if that is what you want I will do it.

Mbuzeni: I am going home this weekend and I want

you there with your people to do the right thing and I want inkomo kamama ize ihamba ngamanqina (and I want a living cow for my mother)

Nkosibuthe: Consider it done. When do you leave?

Mbuzeni: Tomorrow Afternoon.

Nkosibuthe: Here is my card sent me the directions and I will see you there.

Mbuzeni took the card and put it in his pocket and left the restaurant.

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Insert 16

3 Months later

Nkosibuthe went to Mbuzeni's home and did all that he had to do to get his son back. That day Mbuzeni found out that his father is royalty and that he had to be introduced to his ancestors property. A week later he was introduced to his ancestors as the prince of the land and his grandmother was there by his side this whole time. But not everyone was happy about this whole thing, Ncebakazi and her mother Nosiyamcela were bitter during the whole ceremony. But Nkosibuthe told them straight that if they dare cause any drama, he will deal with them accordingly and that he will cut them both off and give everything to Mbuzeni and Zodwa. So they behaved because we know that Ncebakazi would never survive without traveling and wearing designer clothes and Nosiyamcela, well she stayed this long in a loveless marriage what make you think she would want to lose that now.

Everything has been going well between Lisa and Mbuzeni now called Bukhosi as he was officially

introduced to the ancestors and damages paid to his home properly. Their relationship is getting serious and Lisa makes it a point that she spends a week with him before going home for the holidays. When she gets home she makes it a point not to stay. But Mbuzeni hasn't been sleeping the past 3 months, he's been dreaming about Nobuntu telling him to go help his sister because she's suffering. He went to a therapist for two months but none of his methods worked. The dreams have now become worse that he even has them during the day.

If he dares close his eyes she comes, when watching tv and tries to rest his eyes she comes she is everywhere and now he has decided to wait for the week to end so that he can take Lisa to her village, the same village he was told his sister lives in. He's not sure what to expect from his journey but he's doing it so that he can get a peace of mind and maybe some sleep.

Lisa: Babe are you still taking me home tomorrow?

Mbuzeni: I was actually thinking that we should go today.

Lisa: Why? I mean I still want to stay here with you babe?

Mbuzeni: I know babe but I have to go searching for my sister and you did say that your village is quite big so I will need a day or two.

Lisa: Okay then at least am packed so we can leave whenever you want.

Mbuzeni: I don't need much just a jean and T-shirt.

Lisa: Well I will put my bags in the car so long.

Mbuzeni: Okay babe I will go get my keys.

Mbuzeni and Lisa made their way to Encoko village. Lisa kept the conversation going as she could see that Mbuzeni was nervous about this trip so she tried to distract him a bit. An hour later they arrived and Lisa directed Mbuzeni to her home and he drove there and stopped outside her yard and helped her with her bags. They said their goodbyes and

Mbuzeni drove off but on the way he thought why did he ask Lisa where Nobuntu's house was and maybe she knew. He turned the car around but before he got far he saw two boys along the road and stopped.

Mbuzeni: Molweni bafana (hello boys)

Them: Molo bhuti (hello brother)

Mbuzeni: Ndiyabuzisa maan andazi noba ningandinceda na (I am looking for some place and I was wondering if you can help me)

Boy: Ukhangela ndawoni bhuti (what place are you looking for?)

Mbuzeni: Andiyazi indawo kodwa ndazi abantu bakhona, ndikhangela apho kwakuhlala khona umama uNobuntu (well I don't know the place but am looking for the house where Nobuntu used to stay)

Boy: Apha kukho oomama uNobuntu abathathu and andiyazi ukhangela omphi (well here we have 3 Nobuntu's and I don't know which one you looking for)

Mbuzeni: Londkhangelayo ngulo waswelekayo ezinyangeni ezimbalwa ezidlulileyo. (well the one am looking for is the one who died a few months back)

Boy: Lowabulawa yintombi yakhe? (the one who was killed by her daughter?)

Mbuzeni: Andiyazi uba wavulawa ngubani kodwa ndikhangela kwakhe (I don't know who killed her but am looking for her house)

Boy: Sikhwelise kaloku sikuse (give us a ride then so that we can take you. Mbuzeni laughed a little)

Mbuzeni: Khwelani kaloku sambeni (get in then and let's go. The boys got into the car and they directed him, he noticed that the road was leading to where he dropped Lisa. The boys shows him the house not so far from Lisa's house it was closed)

Mbuzeni: Ingathi akhobantu nje apha? (looks like there is no one here)

Anotherboy: Ndiyakhumbula ndimbona esebenza komkhulu usisi walapha inoba upha nangoku. (I remember seeing her working at the chiefs house maybe she's there)

Mbuzeni: Masambeni madoda noyondikhombisa komkhulu ndizakuni buyisa (let go man so that you can show me the chiefs house and I will bring you back. The boys were more than happy to be riding in the car so they agreed.)

Mbuzeni drove to the chiefs house directed by the boys. On the way they were busy asking him a lot of questions about the city and how much they will have to save to buy a car like his.

They got to the chiefs house and Nokonwaba was outside in the garden when she saw the car and went to hear what the person wanted.

Nokonwaba: Molweni bhuti unjani (hollow how are you?)

Mbuzeni: Ndiyaphila mama akhonto kunjani kuwe? (am well mam how are you?)

Nokonwaba: Ndiyaphila nam (am well) how can I help you?

Mbuzeni: I am looking for a girl named Asithandile I was told she works here.

Nokonwaba: Who are you to her?

Mbuzeni: Am her brother mam.

Nokonwaba: Well I didn't know she has a brother but if you harm her I will know it was you and I will get you arrested.

Mbuzeni: I promise I won't do anything to her in fact I will talk to her right here and if she's not feeling comfortable she can go back to the house.

Nokonwaba: Okay (she left and went to call Asithandile and she went to the gate. She saw the car and got scared because she didn't know what to expect. She went and stood by the window of the driver.

Mbuzeni: Hey my name is Mbuzeni and am the son of Nobuntu and Nkosibuthe I grew up with my

grandmother I mean our grandmother in Eugie. I was told I have a sister here and I came to see her.

Asithandile: Please don't play with me, I have been through a lot and I don't need people mocking me anymore so please leave.

Mbuzeni: Asithandile Mother doesn't let me rest at night telling me that I should come and get you because you are suffering. Now I don't know what you have been through or why a woman who decided to leave me with my grandmother to get married to another man and to make things worse not visit me not even once to see how I was doing. I had to find out that she was my mother a month after she died m. So if you don't want to accept that am your brother fine by me but go to your mothers grave and tell her to give me some rest because I tried.

Asithandile was crying because she didn't know what to believe because the mother she knew was loving and would have never left a child behind. Or

would she?

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Insert 17

Encoko village

Asithandile invited Mbuzeni to her home so that they can talk properly and he agreed. Asithandile then went back to the chiefs house to tell Nokonwaba that she is going home to entertain her visitor and Nokonwaba was kind enough to give her the afternoon off to take care of her things. She got into the car and Mbuzeni drove off, it was awkward in the car because they started off on the wrong foot and now none of them new how to come back from that. They got to her home and Mbuzeni got the car in and they went inside the house. Asithandile offered him something to drink and he asked for water. She gave

him then sat on the chair opposite him, a few minutes passed with no one talking, Mbuzeni could see that Asithandile has a strong resemblance to her mother.

Mbuzeni: I think we should start over. Am Mbuzeni but recently changed the name back to my original name Bukhosi.

Asithandile: Am Asithandile and it is a pleasure to meet you.

Mbuzeni: Now you want me to go first or you want to go first.

Asithandile: You start.

Mbuzeni: Okay! As I said before am your older brother which is a fact I found out not so long ago. Nobuntu got disappointed by my father and left with me, she took me to my grandmother and that very same week she went to leave me in Eugie is the same week she married your father then left with him leaving me behind with my grandmother to raise me. She never returned home not even once, so I

only knew her from pictures as my sister not my mother.

Asithandile: What do you mean as your sister?

Mbuzeni: She made mother promise never to tell me that she was my mother because she didn't want me to feel abandoned, like that helped. So after she died mother told me who she really was.

Asithandile: I can't believe that a woman who was so loving and caring would be able to live so many years without checking up on her child. Mother was a good woman and she took good care of me.

Mbuzeni: Well I would say that you were the lucky one among us to have known her and gotten her love.

Asithandile: Clearly I never knew mother like I thought I did, but am grateful that I got to know her and am also disappointed that she did that to you. Am sorry that you never got to know her.

Mbuzeni: Well now it's your turn, tell why people here

say you the one that killed her.

Asithandile: Well dear brother my mistake was being in such a hurry to go to the celebrations that I left my jersey. My second mistake was not allowing my friend to accompany me when I came back to fetch it. My third mistake was being the one to find her brutally murdered like that and lastly I made a mistake thinking that my father will be there for me and support me but instead he abused me and accused me of killing her.

Mbuzeni: So you mean he physically abused you?

Asithandile: He did more than. He...(she told him everything her father did to her and that got Mbuzeni very angry)

Mbuzeni: Where is he!

Asithandile: His not around anymore

Mbuzeni: Well am going to find him and he will get the same beating he gave you.

Asithandile: Am sorry but you will never get the

chance to do that because he died 3 months ago.

Mbuzeni: What happened to him?

Asithandile: He was killed the same way mother was.

Mbuzeni: Good

Asithandile: That's not a nice thing to say.

Mbuzeni: And am not going to apologize for it because he deserved it.

They continued talking and getting to know each other. Mbuzeni asked her about school and she told him why she didn't go back. They talked until very late and they went to bed. They woke up very early in the morning and went to visit their mothers grave because Asithandile believed that Mbuzeni needed closure. It was around 5 AM when they went to the grave yard. They got there and Asithandile gave him time to say his peace.

Mbuzeni: I don't even know what to call you woman, you left me, did you think that I wouldn't need you because I was a boy and we are expected to be

strong even in the most ridiculous situations. Did you even think of me all these years or you were just happy in your marriage and you erased me from your life like I never existed. I am not ready to forgive you yet until we meet in the afterlife and you tell me why you did what you did and I hope now you will let me rest because I have found my sister and am taking her with me.

He got up and they left going back to the house. Lisa saw Mbuzeni's car outside Asithandile's home and she went in the yard and they were laughing and talking. She got so angry as she stood there watching them, she went inside and they both turned and looked at her and they could see that she was angry.

Lisa: Asithandile What are you doing with my boyfriend? Do you want to kill him the same way you killed your mother and father? Baby this thing that you are laughing with is a murderer who killed her parents and everyone here knows that. I don't even know why you here when you supposed to be

looking for your sister! Or was she the reason you wanted to come here earlier than we had planned? Was it because of her? This murderer!

Mbuzeni: How Do you know her? (he said that in a law voice as he was very angry)

Lisa: This thing was my friend until she turned into a cold blooded killer who is now a man stealer! Well you won't win girly because Bukhosi is mine and am sure you didn't tell him that you kill people now did you? (she was pacing up and down shouting)

Will this relationship survive?

Will post again later on

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Insert 18

Encoko village

Bukhosi was looking at the woman he loved going on and on about his sister right in front of him. He looked at Asithandile and her eyes were glittering with tears and they were going to fall anytime. He didn't like that she had to endure so much at such a tender age and on her own, he thought if he doesn't protect her now when he found her then who will. He thought of how she must have felt when everyone was calling her a murderer with no one on her side or a shoulder to cry on. He looked back at Lisa who was still going on and on pacing up and down in the house, he thought of how disrespectful she was being and how disappointed he is on her.

Bukhosi: Are you going to let me talk or you going to continue shouting?

Lisa: I have every right to shout Bukhosi! How could you stoop so low?

Bukhosi: Do me a favor and stop shouting at me

when am right in front of you.

Lisa: I am angry and you want me to calm down when you are still sitting here with this murderer?

Bukhosi: Sit down Lisa.

Lisa: I can't sit on the same table at this thing and so should you! I don't want to lose you because this thing will kill you!

Bukhosi: I SAID SIT YOUR ASS DOWN!! (he shouted and Lisa jumped in fear as he has never raised his voice at her before)

Lisa: You even raise your voice at me because of her? Wow you good girl I will give you that.

Bukhosi: Lisa I am not going to repeat myself (he said in a low but very stern and commanding voice and Lisa sat down and give Asithandile a evil look)

Bukhosi: Asithandile is she the friend you were telling me about?

Lisa: You even discussed me with him? What were you trying to achieve?

Bukhosi: Are you now Asithandile?

Lisa: No

Bukhosi: So shut up and let her speak.

Lisa: Bukhosi you can't talk to me like that, especially not in front of her.

Bukhosi: I said shut up or you can leave us alone the door is open (Lisa kept quiet)

Bukhosi: Asithandile, is she the friend you told me about?

Asithandile: Yes She is.

Bukhosi: Mmm, Lisa do you know who my sister is?

Lisa: Please don't tell me she promised to help you find your sister! I mean she doesn't know people around here because she is always at home never goes out there. So she fooled you.

Bukhosi: Lisa that's not what I asked.

Lisa: No I don't know who your sister is and you never told me her name.

Bukhosi: Okay then let me. My sisters name is Asithandile and Lisa meet my sister.

Lisa: She can't be your sister Bukhosi! This girl is just manipulating you looking for a way out of this village.

Bukhosi: Remember when I told you that my biological mother died a few months back?

Lisa: Yes and am sorry baby that you didn't get to meet her.

Bukhosi: Well That woman was Nobuntu Asithandile's mother, my mother. (Lisa was shocked)

Lisa: Oh I didn't know, sorry babe for suspecting that you were cheating on me.

Bukhosi: Lisa you budged in here and started shouting and accusing me of cheating and my sister of killing her parents. Is that how you have been treating her?

Lisa: I mean I have just been doing the same thing everyone around here has been doing. Am not the only one.

Bukhosi: So If everyone around here throws themselves in the fire you will also do the same?

Lisa: No

Bukhosi: Then Why didn't you trust your friend and support her?

Lisa: Because it's hard to believe her, everything is against her and the evidence points to her.

Bukhosi: So you are the police now? Talking about evidence.

Lisa: I was just saying.

Bukhosi: Look Lisa I don't think I can be with someone who will turn their back on me when the going gets tough. Today you showed me the real you and I didn't like her one bit.

Lisa: Baby please don't say that.

Bukhosi: Yazi I really loved you Lisa! But accusing my sister of something you don't even have facts to is really disappointing. I mean you go to school, you should know better than to accuse someone of

something without facts but I guess school doesn't teach you humanity now does it?

Lisa: Bukhosi baby don't talk like that please, I love you and I will do anything to prove to you how sorry I am about my behavior please just give me a chance to redeem myself.

Bukhosi: You still don't get it do you?

Lisa: Tell me baby, tell me what you want me to do please.

Bukhosi: Lisa am not the one you wronged but you don't even see that because you don't think you have done Asithandile wrong. You here begging me to forgive you yet the person you should be apologizing to is my sister.

Lisa: I will apologize to her right now if it will make you happy baby.

Bukhosi: You still don't get it. This is not about making me happy Lisa it's about you seeing the wrong you have done to Asithandile but

unfortunately you don't and you never will.

Lisa went down on her knees in front of Bukhosi, she was crying now and Asithandile felt sorry for her but she didn't want to get involved because she wasn't there when these two met and she was not about to get involved now.

Lisa: Baby am sorry for everything that I have done, I see now how wrong I was both about you cheating and about accusing Asithandile without having all the facts. Am really sorry and I love you, please give us a chance, give me a chance please.

Bukhosi: You know what? You will never see the wrong you have done and you will never be the kind of woman I want in my life. You are cruel Lisa and inconsiderate of other people's feelings.

Lisa: Baby please give me a chance please, Asithandile am sorry for everything I said to you. Am really sorry please forgive me my friend please.

Bukhosi: Would you have asked for forgiveness had she not been my sister?

Lisa: No why would I do that?

Bukhosi: So you only apologizing because she's my sister?

Lisa: Yes baby and as I have said that I will do anything to make you happy baby, I can even be friends with her again please give me a chance and I will show you that I mean it.

Bukhosi: Wow you good! Please stand up babe (Lisa stood up with a smile on her face and Bukhosi held her hands and looked at her in the yes and she smiled)

Bukhosi: I cannot believe that I fell in love with the most beautiful but stupid woman in the world. You think that I will keep seeing you after all this? After that face apology you gave Asithandile? Lisa what do you take me for?

Lisa: Babe I wasn't faking it please...(he cut her

short)

Bukhosi: No babe it's over, now get out!

Lisa: Baby please don't do this, Asithandile please talk to him please.

Bukhosi: So you involving the murderer in this?

Lisa: Yes

Bukhosi: Wow you stupid (he took her hand and led her outside and pushed her out the door) never set foot here again. Oh wait you don't have to because am leaving with her today and please don't call me.

Lisa left heartbroken, all she wanted was to be with Bukhosi and Asithandile has to appear and ruin it for her.

Lisa: I always knew that Asithandile was no good but to make me lose my love like that is low even for her. But what did I expect from someone who has blood on her hand and not just any blood but that of her parents. Am going to make Bukhosi see her for who she really is and I will have him back. Asithandile

won't take him away from me.

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Insert 19

Mthatha

At the Ndamane residence Nosiyamcela was sitting by the pool side thinking of ways to get Mbuzeni out of their lives because she can already see that Nkosibuthe is giving all his attention to him.

Ncebakazi came to her holding two glasses of red wine, she gave her one and sat next to her with hers.

They were both quiet just enjoying their wine, until Nosiyamcela spoke.

Nosiyamcela: What do you think of your bother?

Ncebakazi: Simple! I don't think of him.

Nosiyamcela: Come Ncebakazi! How do you see him as a person?

Ncebakazi: He seems like a good person but I don't trust him.

Nosiyamcela: I don't trust him either but have you seen how your father is with him?

Ncebakazi: His making up for lost time that's it but in no time he will get tired like he usually does and go back overseas.

Nosiyamcela: Don't be stupid Ncebakazi! Your father is not going anywhere, he got what he always wanted and that is a son.

Ncebakazi: What are you saying mom

Nosiyamcela: What am saying is that the reason your father is like this towards me is because I couldn't give him a son and now that he has what he wants he won't see you girls.

Ncebakazi: He will never do that we are his daughters.

Nosiyamcela: Did he have a problem when he made

that son of his while he left me with you two to raise alone at home?

Ncebakazi: No but I don't think it will come to that.

Nosiyamcela: Keep being stupid and soon you will be replaced from the managing director of the company and that boy will take over everything.

Ncebakazi: Mom don't exaggerate father wouldn't do that.

Nosiyamcela: He will and when he does don't come running to me.

Nkosibuthe was looking at them through the window of his study and he could see that whatever they were discussing was serious. He called his lawyer and asked him to meet with him in his office in 30 minutes. He then put his things in his briefcase and went out to the poolside.

Nkosibuthe: One day obubugqwirha nibuplanayo buzonjikela (one day this witchcraft you are planning will turn on you)

Ncebakazi: Haibo tata uthetha ngantoni? (father what are you talking about?)

Nkosibuthe: Into endiyithethayo inye yeyokuba uba wena Ncebakazi uyaqhubeka nomamela unyoko uzozibona usezintweni mntanam ndiyakulumkisa. Wena Nosiyamcela hlukana nofaka umntwana umoya wamasele. (what am saying is that if you Ncebakazi continue to listen to your mother you will find yourself involved in shady things, am warning you. And you Nosiyamcela stop influencing the child. He said and left)

Ncebakazi: Mother why does father mean?

Nosiyamcela: Why didn't you ask him when he was here?

Ncebakazi: Am just asking because I don't understand.

Nosiyamcela: Don't you see that his changing?

Ncebakazi: I see that but now his more home than away.

Nosiyamcela: And That is Because of that boy and not you or your sister.

Ncebakazi: ingathi izondidika into kaMbizeni (this Mbuzeni thing is starting to annoy me)

Zodwa came to where they are sitting and sat next to Ncebakazi.

Zodwa: What happened to father?

Ncebakazi: Why?

Zodwa: Because he left here looking very angry.

Nosiyamcela: Ubutheni ungambuzi wena mntu umbonileyo? (why didn't you ask him you the one who saw him?)

Zodwa: yho I was just asking.

Nkosibuthe got to the office and went to his office and set up his stuff and waited for the lawyer to come. Few minutes later the lawyer came.

Lawyer: Mr Ndamane

Nkosibuthe: Jacob, how are you man?

Jacob: Am fine man, I didn't even know you back in the country.

Nkosibuthe: I have been busy sorting out family business so I haven't been in the office.

Jacob: I understand man, so why am here today.

Ncebakazi: I want to amend my will.

Jacob: Okay What changes do you want made? (he said taking out his note pad)

Nkosibuthe: I want to leave the company here in Mthatha to Ncebakazi, the club and farm to Zodwa, then the company overseas to my son Bukhosi as...(he cut him short)

Jacob: Wait! You have a son?

Nkosibuthe: Yes I do and we just reunited.

Jacob: Why haven't the media gotten hold of this yet?

Nkosibuthe: Well they can't know all of my family business.

Jacob: Yeah You right so you are leaving him the

company overseas and what?

Nkosibuthe: The company overseas, the house in Cape Town and the sum of 5 million and make that for each of my children.

Jacob: you are doing well by dividing the money equally because in my line of work I have seen a lot of families destroying each other because of money.

Nkosibuthe: Yes I know.

Jacob: Okay and your wife?

Nkosibuthe: She gets the two houses, the one here and the one in Matatiele as well as all the cars.

Jacob: no money or shares.

Nkosibuthe: all the money goes to my children and the shares also decided among them equally.

Jacob: Oh she won't like that my friend

Nkosibuthe: She can sell the cars and one of the houses if she wants money.

Jacob: Okay then fine.

Nkosibuthe: I want you to put a clause there that

says none of my children can give away the money to either one of my family members and to never sell the companies and if they try to give everything to the one that is willing to fight for my empire.

Jacob: Man are going to die soon?

Nkosibuthe: I might Man you never know what tomorrow brings.

Jacob: You right about that.

Nkosibuthe: Please do everything here and print it for me to sign and keep a copy.

Jacob: That will cost you, I can just do everything in my own time and send to you to sign.

Nkosibuthe: No I want everything done now and I don't want to take any chances.

Jacob: As you wish.

They two stayed at the office until around 9 in the evening. The lawyer had updated the will and made

all the changes. Nkosibuthe signed it and he took the copy. Jacob left and Nkosibuthe remained and made two more copies, he sent one to his lawyer overseas and another to another lawyer from a different firm then took the copy he had and locked it in his safe. He packed everything and left.

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Insert 20

Mthatha

3 months later

Asithandile went back to Mthatha with Bukhosi, they now live together in his 3 bedrooms house. It was too late for Asithandile to go to school by then so

Bukhosi asked her to do a short course until the year ends and go back to school. She did a course in Real estate that is 9 months which is enough time until the year end and she goes back to school. Bukhosi also got her a business management internship at the company which she started two weeks after she arrived in Mthatha. She was enjoying herself busy studying and doing the internship. She got a stipend of R5000 a month on the internship and she studies the real estate course part time.

Life was promising for her and she was more than determined to change her situation and make something of herself. She and her brother got along very well, they go to work together in the morning and come back home together in the evening. On weekends they either stay in or go out together for movies and all sorts of fun stuff they enjoy doing. This is the end of the second semester and Lisa was coming home for the holidays, she hasn't been herself at all since she broke up with Bukhosi and her marks this semester dropped. But she didn't

care about that as the only thing she cared about was getting Bukhosi back.

Asithandile was home alone this Friday evening and Bukhosi went to buy groceries. Asithandile said she will remain and cook rice so long and when he comes back she will finish the cooking. Lisa passed by the shops and got groceries then made her way to Bukhosi's house. She got there and knocked and Asithandile opened for her.

Asithandile: Lisa

Lisa: Sister in law (she said and pushed her aside and went in) Asithandile closed the door and followed her to the kitchen where she went after leaving her bags in the lounge. When she got there Lisa was unpacking the groceries she bought.

Lisa: I see you cooked rice, don't worry I will make the rest. I know what my man likes.

Asithandile: Lisa what are you doing here?

Lisa: Am here to visit my man (she said chopping

the vegetables) Asithandile left her there and went to sit in the lounge.

Lisa went to her after putting the vegetables and meat in the oven.

Lisa: You know we can be good friends again.

Asithandile: And why would I agree to that?

Lisa: Because that will make my man see that I love him and that am willing to accept you into our lives.

Asithandile: Lisa from all the years that I have known you, you were never a stupid person, what happened?

Lisa: You know the saying that goes “love makes you do the most stupidest of things”

Asithandile: And you are doing exactly that.

Lisa: Look Asithandile we can get along just fine if you will help me get Bukhosi back.

Asithandile: Why would I want to do that?

Lisa: Because you are the cause of your break up so you will fix this, all you have to do is talk to your

brother and tell him you forgive me and that you want us to get back together.

Asithandile: Am sorry Lisa but I will not do that.

Lisa: Let me check on the food and you think about what I said.

Bukhosi returned from the shops, he parked his car then got out and carried the groceries bags. He opened the door and got in.

Bukhosi: What did you end up making? It smells nice in her.

Asithandile: I only made rice.

Bukhosi: Don't play with me here little sis I can smell meat and I'd say roasted if I were to take a guess.

Asithandile: Well I didn't make it (Lisa came from the kitchen still had an apron on)

Lisa: Oh babe you home (she went to him and kissed his cheek) dinner will be ready on 5 minutes. (she went back to the kitchen)

Bukhosi: ASI What is that?

Asithandile: What?

Bukhosi: That thing in my kitchen.

Asithandile: Well That thing as you call her said she's here for you so...

Bukhosi: Why would she be here for me? We broke up.

Asithandile: Well I didn't know you no longer together because she spoke as if you two were still an item.

Bukhosi: Heyi hayi uyandiqhela lomntana ngoku Lisa!! (no this girl is too forward. He called for her)

Lisa: Am done dishing up babe I will bring the food now! (she yelled back from the kitchen and Asithandile laughed)

Bukhosi: Iyagula le tshomi yakho? (is your friend sick?)

Asithandile: You mean ex friend and I don't know

this Lisa. The one I knew was kind and considerate.

Bukhosi: Then what happened?

Asithandile: That you will have to ask her because I also don't know. (Lisa emerged from the kitchen holding a tray with a plate of food)

Lisa: Babe here is your food.

Bukhosi: Ugalele ntoni kokukutya? (what did you put in this food?)

Lisa: Haibo baby nothing.

Bukhosi: Then you eat it and when you done take your bags and leave.

Lisa: I was hoping we could talk after dinner.

Bukhosi: I have said all I wanted to say to you now please eat and leave.

Asithandile: I will make us something to eat (she stood up going to the kitchen)

Bukhosi: Thank you sis.

Lisa: I love the relationship you two have built.

Bukhosi: Thank you now please take your bags and leave.

Lisa: But babe it's late, I will go home tomorrow.

Bukhosi: Lisa I don't care how late it is because I didn't invite you here now please get out before I throw you out.

Lisa: Babe please come on! I have seen my mistake and am willing to learn from it and fix it please just give us another chance. Give me another chance please Bukhosibam.

Bukhosi took out his phone and called a taxi then went to the kitchen and sat on a high chair watching Asithandile cook.

Asithandile: Did your girlfriend leave?

Bukhosi: She's not my girlfriend and no am waiting for the taxi I called for her.

Asithandile: She won't like that.

Bukhosi: I don't care.

Lisa went to join them in the kitchen and sat next to Bukhosi.

Lisa: Baby I really didn't put anything in the food I bought those thing to cook specially for you.

Bukhosi: I didn't ask you.

Lisa: I know you didn't but I did it because I love you babe.

Bukhosi: Lisa am not your love, your babe or Bukhosibakho. Please get that through your head the sooner you do that the better (Lisa ignored him and spoke to Asithandile)

Lisa: Asithandile am really sorry friend for everything I put you through. Really the people of Encoko can make you turn against the most honest of people with their gossip.

Asithandile: Really?

Lisa: Yes friend they painted you out to be the most horrible person but I always knew that you didn't do it.

Asithandile: When did you realize that Lisa?

Lisa: A long time ago really but mother didn't want me near you so I had to keep my distance.

Asithandile: Are you sure my brother had nothing to do with it?

Lisa: No he just gave me the guts to stand up for what I believe in and I want us to be friends again.

Asithandile: No Lisa you came to my house and accused me. You Lisa the person I grew up with, a person I did everything with but when the people turned against me you were the first to believe I did it. Now you came here pretending like you want us to be friends just because my brother dumped you? You even accused me in front of him and called me a thing, a murderer Lisa and am sorry but I can never be friend with you again.

Lisa: Am sorry Asithandile I was just angry.

Asithandile: And I forgive you but will never be your friend or trust you again.

Bukhosi: Your taxi is here.

Lisa: Baby please let me spend the night and I will go in the morning.

Bukhosi: Not happening (he went to the lounge and took her bags to the taxi then returned to the kitchen and Lisa was still sitting there. He grabbed her arm and lead her outside then close the door and locked it.

Nosiyamcela was on the phone with someone.

Convo:

Nosiyamcela: Look Sakhumzi raise your child for you with my money and I paid the doctor not to say anything so you owe me.

Voice: So what do you want me to do?

Nosiyamcela: I only asked you to kill the wife the husband was all you.

Voice: I know that so what now because she's gone

and no one knows where she's gone to.

Nosiyamcela: Then continue looking for her.

Voice: I don't know where to look that is why I called you.

Nosiyamcela: Hey don't mix things up do you hear me! My daughters are here with me and am not going to spend my money looking for yours.

Voice: Don't forget you the one who paid me to drug that woman and sleep with her.

Nosiyamcela: Don't act like you didn't enjoy it.

Voice: Am not acting here, Sakhumzi stayed away from you because he suddenly became a father when that sick bastard couldn't have kids. I had to watch him raise my child then abuse her.

Nosiyamcela: Don't make your problems mine (she dropped the call)

Nosiyamcela: if this fool turn against me then who will do my work for me. I don't know anyone else, but am sure there are a lot of people who will be willing to jump at a chance to make couple of thousands.

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.Insert 21

Mthatha

It's Saturday Asithandile is off work but her brother had to go in because they have a marketing strategy that he and his team have to present to the bosses of the company on Monday. Today they finalizing everything and printing out what needs to be printed so that everything is ready for Monday morning. Asithandile woke up and cleaned the house, after she took a shower and wore a summer dress then went and watched TV. She watched until 12 but got bored and decided to go to the park and catch up on some school work. She was enjoying her course and she wanted to put it to good use when the time comes. She saves up her stipend because her brother gives her the same about of money for allowance and every month she would only use a

R1000 for toiletries and whatever it is that she needs and all the other goes to her savings.

She took her bag and the module she was busy with and lock the house and went to the park. She got there and sent a message to her brother telling him where she was. She then took out her book and notepad and started studying, after an hour of study there was a shadow in front of her and she lifted her head up and there stand a guy. She looked at him and her mouth went dry, the guy saw that she wasn't going to say anything so he decided to say something first.

Guy: Hey (she clears her throat)

Asithandile: Hey

Guy: Mind if I join you?

Asithandile: Why? Because there are plenty of benches here that you can sit on.

Guy: I know but I can here because I was bored out of my mind at home and I would like it if I could at

least have some company while am here.

Asithandile: Okay then you can sit

Guy: Thank you (he sat down)

He looked at the module Asithandile was busy with and spoke.

Guy: You know I can help with that

Asithandile: Why would you do that?

Guy: Because I would like to thank you for letting share your bench. Am Bathandwa by the way.

Asithandile: Nice to meet you Bathandwa my name is Asithandile

Bathandwa: Beautiful name

Asithandile: So is yours.

Bathandwa: Oh thank you dear. Now about that help.

Asithandile: What do you know about real estate?

Bathandwa: Oh I know nothing about it am an electrical engineering student doing my third year.

Asithandile: So how are you going to help me?

Bathandwa: Well I happen to know very loud, strict and very independent woman who can assist. (he said that with a smile on his face and Asithandile got disappointed by this.)

Asithandile: Oh okay (she said in a low voice)

What was I thinking really, his too handsome to be single and judging by the smile he had when he spoke about the woman he really loves her.

Bathandwa: Earth to Asithandile

He snapped fingers in front of my face and I looked at him. Oh his perfect, get a grip Asithandile he has a girlfriend (I reprimanded myself)

Bathandwa: Hello!

Asithandile: Oh sorry you were saying

Bathandwa: Do you zone out a lot? (oh god am embarrassed by this. This is not me, I have never looked at boys before what changed now hayi)

Asithandile: Sometimes yes, so what were you saying.

Bathandwa: I was saying that I can arrange a meeting with her so that she can assist you and I promise you she's good and she's a professional.

Asithandile: No it's okay I wouldn't want to impose.

Bathandwa: Am not taking no for an answer. There is a ice-cream truck let's go get some.

Asithandile: Oh no I didn't bring money with me.

Bathandwa: I didn't ask you to pay I asked for you to go with me.

Asithandile: You are a bully but I will go since you asked nicely.

Bathandwa: I have never seen a bully that asks nicely but okay as long as we are going.

God his perfect, I know I have been saying that but let me describe Bathandwa to you maybe you will understand where am coming from. His tall, dark, muscular, has big round black eyes, has a nose that

can be mistaken for an English nose and pure white teeth. He looks like a god.

Bathandwa: You zones out again, am I boring you?

Asithandile: No am just thinking but am fine now, let's get our ice-cream.

Bathandwa: Okay then

They walked to the ice-cream truck and Asithandile got vanilla while Bathandwa got chocolate.

Asithandile: A man who loves chocolate that's a first.

Bathandwa: Woman who likes vanilla is also a first for me.

Asithandile: Touché

Bathandwa: Now tell me why real estate?

Asithandile: Well I needed to do a short course while I wait for next year to go back to school and finish off my degree.

Bathandwa: Degree in what?

Asithandile: General management

Bathandwa: So what happened that you didn't go this year?

Asithandile: Well life happened so when things got better it was too late for me to go so my brother suggested a short course and I wanted something to keep me busy till I go back next year.

Bathandwa: Clever brother, so what year were you going to be doing?

Asithandile: Second year. Now tell me about yourself.

Bathandwa: Well as you know my name is Bathandwa, am an only child, I live with my mother well only when am back on holidays and my father passed away when I was 14 so yeah that's me.

Asithandile: Okay What does your mother do?

Bathandwa: She owns a real estate company

Asithandile: oh she's the one you were going to organize a meeting with.

Bathandwa: Yes

Oh god am so happy right now, Okay Asithandile get a grip the man didn't ask you out and he could still have a girlfriend.

Asithandile: It's getting late I should get going.

Bathandwa: Can I Take you

Asithandile: My house is not far from here so I will walk.

Bathandwa: Okay then but can I at least have your number so that when I get bored I can call my park buddy.

Asithandile: Of course (she gave him her number and they went their separate ways)

Asithandile went home a happy person, she got there and started with the cooking and when she was about to finish her brother came in.

Bukhosi: Nana How was your day? Am sorry I had to work today.

Asithandile: It was fruitful and it's okay I understand.

Bukhosi: Okay then finish up so that we can talk.

Asithandile: Okay And you can shower so long.

Bukhosi: Right

He went to the shower and showered while Asithandile finished cooking and dishes up for them. Bukhosi came out of his room and went to sit on the dining table and Asithandile brought him food and went back to the kitchen to get her plate and joined her brother.

Bukhosi: We are invites for lunch tomorrow

Asithandile: Where?

Bukhosi: Ndamane resident

Asithandile: Your family?

Bukhosi: Yes.

Asithandile: I don't think that is a good idea for me to go.

Bukhosi: Asithandile you are my family too and if you are not comfortable going then we both not going.

Am not about to leave you here all alone and have lunch with the Ndamanes.

Asithandile: Okay I don't want to be the reason you don't go so I will go with you.

Bukhosi: But the minute you feel uncomfortable you tell me and we will go.

Asithandile: Okay I will.

Bukhosi: Zodwa and my father are very friendly though.

Asithandile: What about your stepmother and Ncebakazi?

Bukhosi: I haven't quite figured those two out yet.

Asithandile: Okay then.

They finished eating and she cleared the table and washed the dishes. She took a shower and went to say goodnight to her brother then went to bed. A message came through from an unknown number and she opened it.

Messages:

Unknown: Hey beautiful, it's Bathandwa. I just wanted to say I had a good time today thank you.

Asithandile: Thank you for the ice-scream chocolate man.

Bathandwa: Don't call me that in front of people though they will think am a sissy.

Asithandile: haha I promise I won't.

Bathandwa: Thank you beautiful

Asithandile: A pleasure

Bathandwa: Goodnight park buddy.

Asithandile: Goodnight Mr chocolate

She put the phone on the bedside table and and went to bed with a smile on her face.

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Insert 22

Mthatha.

It's Sunday the day of the lunch at the Ndamane residence. Zodwa and Ncebakazi are cooking the lunch, Nosiyamcela has gone to church while Nkosibuthe is watching cricket on super sport. Zodwa was excited about meeting the sister of her brother, while Ncebakazi would rather be at the spar getting full body massage than cooking lunch for visitors that are not even hers.

Zodwa: I hope this lunch will go better than the last one we had.

Ncebakazi: I couldn't care less how it goes.

Zodwa: Ncebakazi please try and be nice please.

Ncebakazi: I will, I have not reason to be upset this time. Everything is out in the open so.

Zodwa: Yeah, I wonder what kind of a person Bukhosi's sister is.

Ncebakazi: I really don't care how she is really, she is not my sister in fact we not related.

Zodwa: We may not be related to her by blood but she is our brothers sister so technically we are related through him.

Ncebakazi: Yhoo that sounds so complicated.

Nkosibuthe came into the kitchen to get water.

Nkosibuthe: Ncebakazi wam (My Ncebakazi)

Ncebakazi: Tatam (Father)

Nkosibuthe: Come with me (he took her hand and they went to the lounge where he was sitting)

Ncebakazi: Yintoni tata? (what is it father?)

Nkosibuthe: Uyayazi ndiyakuthanda? (do you know I love you?)

Ncebakazi: Yes father I do.

Nkosibuthe: I don't think you do child, do you know when your mother told me she was pregnant with you I was the happiest man alive. I would brag to my friends that am going to be a father, when I go on duties with father when we come back I would come back with an item of baby clothing. Father would laugh at me and say ' I have never seen a man this excited about having more responsibilities' and my answer would always be ' it's not a responsibility but a blessing.

Ncebakazi: WOW father I never knew that.

Nkosibuthe: I know. When you were born all people would hear coming out of my mouth was my princess this and my princess that. My life was all about you my baby.

Ncebakazi: Oh father I didn't know that. (she was now crying, tears of joy of course because she has never heard her father speak with way and her mother never told her)

Nkosibuthe: Why do you think you were always spoilt

and gotten everything you ever want?

Ncebakazi: Because you love me.

Nkosibuthe: Not only that my child, ngoba wena ungumafungwashe wam, ndazibona ngawe ukuba ndiyakwazi uzala kwaye uyakuhlala unendawo yakho enkulu entliziyweni yam. Noba kungafika abangaphi abantwana apha ekhaya kodwa akukho namnye onakuthatha indawo yakho. (because you are my first born, I saw from you that I can father a child and you will always have a big special place in my heart. It doesn't matter how many children come along in this house but none of them will ever take your place)

Ncebakazi hugged her father and she was really happy to have heard her father spoke to her that way. She was content and her heart was at peace. She then went and continue to help Zodwa with the lunch and she would smile on her own. Zodwa liked seeing her sister like that. Asithandile woke up to a good morning message from Bathandwa and it made her day. She and her brother were now preparing to go

for the lunch at the Ndamane residence. She wore a black body hugging dress with a red block hill and a small cardigan on top. She tired her hair nicely and took her bag and went to the lounge. Bukhosi come wearing black skinny jeans and muscle top with sneakers.

Bukhosi: My Beautiful sister

Asithandile: My handsome brother

Bukhosi: Should I start taking karate lessons?

Asithandile: Haha why?

Bukhosi: Because you young lady have grown into a beautiful young woman and those fools out there will start taking chances.

Asithandile: Well when they do I will put your number on speed dial.

Bukhosi: Now you talking (Asithandile laughed)

They went out the house locked and got into the car and drove the Ndamane residence. Asithandile was not comfortable because people haven't been nice

to her lately that is why she didn't even bother making friends when she got to Mthatha. She didn't trust anyone anymore because she was betrayed by the people she loved and trusted. 20 minutes later they drove into the Ndamane yard and parked.

Bukhosi: Remember if you don't feel comfortable tell me and we will go at once.

Asithandile: Okay (he took her hand and walked to the door, he knocked and Zodwa opened the door)

Zodwa: Brother (she smiled and hugged him) and you must be my new sister (she said hugging Asithandile as well and she relaxed a bit)

They went inside and Nkosibuthe stood up and hugged them both.

Nkosibuthe: You are both welcomed.

Bukhosi: Thank you, this is my sister Asithandile.

Nkosibuthe: You didn't have to introduce her because she is a replica of Nobuntu.

Asithandile: Thank you.

Nkosibuthe: oh child even your voice is that of your

mother.

Asithandile: Thank you again (Ncebakazi appeared from the kitchen)

Ncebakazi: Hello bhuti oncinci (Hello little brother, she said and opened her arms and Bukhosi hugged her which was weird for him because she is never friendly)

Ncebakazi: And you must be my little sister (she hugged her too) am your older sister Ncebakazi and I owe you shopping.

Asithandile: Am Asithandile.

Ncebakazi: Nice to meet baby, now come and help me and your sister Zodwa in the kitchen (Asithandile stood up and followed her)

Bukhosi: What is happening here?

Nkosibuthe: We had a little talk not so long ago.

Bukhosi: Whatever you said worked because I have never seen my sister friendly with anyone.

Nkosibuthe: Am still shocked myself son but I guess she needed to hear it.

Bukhosi: I guess so.

Nkosibuthe: Whiskey?

Bukhosi: I will pour it.

He poured whiskey for both of them and they sat down talking about business and other stuff.

Ncebakazi, Zodwa and Asithandile were laughing and talking while setting the table and the laughter coming from there put Nkosibuthe and Bukhosi at ease. Ncebakazi came to call them for lunch while Zodwa went upstairs to call her mother. They all gathered at the table and waited for Nosiyamcela, she entered and took her seat.

Nosiyamcela: Sorry for keeping you waiting.

Zodwa: It's okay mother.

Nkosibuthe: Asithandile my child this is the mother of my children Nosiyamcela and you have met my first born Ncebakazi and the second Zodwa.

Asithandile: Yes, Nice to meet you ma.

Nosiyamcela: Nice to meet you too.

Nkosibuthe: Let eat (they started dishing up)

Nosiyamcela: So Asithandile are you Bukhosi's girlfriend?

Bukhosi: No she's my sister

Nosiyamcela: Oh...(she kept quiet a bit thinking) oh I see, really is a pleasure to meet you.

Asithandile: Thank you ma.

Ncebakazi: And we are going shopping in Durban this weekend, we are leaving on Friday.

Nkosibuthe: Kodwa wena mntanam (but you my child) you will find any excuse to go shopping.

Zodwa: Bu father I also need it, we will make it a girls trip and get to know Asithandile better.

Ncebakazi: Thank you sis

Asithandile: I will have to ask our brother here if I can

go (Zodwa and Ncebakazi looked at Bukhosi)

Bukhosi: What?

Nkosibuthe: Son if you want to get out of this just say yes and you will thank me later.

Bukhosi: Okay Yes.

Ncebakazi: Thank you bro, Asithandile baby don't pack anything we will buy all we need in Durban just be really Friday we leave after work.

Zodwa: I will meet you guys at the company.

Ncebakazi: Great.

Nosiyamcela: Excuse me (she got up and left the table)

She went outside by the poolside and made a call and the person picked up immediately.

Voice: Hello.

Nosiyamcela: I found her.

Voice: Thank God! Where is she?

Nosiyamcela: Here in Mthatha living with her brother but at the moment she is here in my house having lunch with us.

Voice: Thank you so much.

Nosiyamcela: You know what this means right?

Voice: Yes I continue working for you.

Nosiyamcela: Good! There is a deal am working on with one of the doctors in Cape Town and when we reach an agreement I will tell you.

Voice: Okay I will hear from you and please keep an eye on my daughter.

Nosiyamcela: Nothing will happen to her as long as you keep delivering.

Voice: You know I always do.

Nosiyamcela: That is why your daughter will remain safe.

She dropped the call and went back inside.

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Insert 23

Encoko village

Now we all have experienced heart break at some point in our lives, some of us were disappointed by those we love and some of us disappointed those who loved us. Truth of the matter is that we have all been hurt by people we love one way or the other but we have also hurt other people who loved us as well. You see love is both a blessing and a curse. It's a blessing when two compatible people meet and fall in love which results in producing beautiful babies that give us all their love. Love that is pure, untainted and without conditions. Now no matter how compatible these people are they will hurt each other at some point weather it was intentional or not.

Then love is curse when a person who claim to love you hurt you in the name of love. No in their way they may not mean to hurt you but how they do things end up hurting you anyway. Then it also becomes a curse when one refuses to accept that the love they have given to another was not reciprocated, their love for those people turns into an obsession and obsession leads to them doing hurtful things both physically and emotionally to those they claim to love. Now Lisa's love for Bukhosi turned into an obsession the moment he rejected her after finding out what she had done. Now she is doing all she can that in her mind will make Bukhosi see her in a different light.

Now at some point in our lives especially us women, I am talking about women because I am not a man and hold no knowledge of how men react when they lose their first loves. Now with women, when one loses their first love at first they refuse to accept it and in the first week they are in denial, they live life

like they have always done and on the second week that is when it sinks in that his not coming back, we start checking the phone every minute to see if they have called or sent a message. You do this hoping that somehow he will realize how much he misses you and call you back, you convince yourself that he misses you as much as you miss him but the problem is that he never calls.

The third week that is when the crying starts and at this point you start questioning if you did something wrong or if you said something to upset him or if you were good enough for him. And all these questions make you cry even more, your heart is chattered and you feel like you can not live without him. You call him but he never picks up, you send messages apologizing for things you didn't even do, you start to lose appetite then weight and others eat a lot and gain weight. Lisa is no different but her love for Bukhosi turned into an obsession, she spends her days thinking of ways to get him back. It's worse now that she is home, she doesn't eat, she stays in

her room trying to come up with way to show him that she is the one for him. Her mother had enough of that and went to her room this day. She knocked but there was no answer, she opened the door and Lisa was sitting on the bed with a pillow in hand, she looked lost and the smell that came out of her room said she hasn't seen water in days.

Her mother went and sat on the bed next to her. She looked at her but Lisa didn't even acknowledge her presence, she touched her hand and Lisa looked at it and smiled a little. She thought of when Bukhosi would randomly touch her hand and smile at her, she missed him.

Lisa's mother: Yhini mntanam ude ubenje, kwenzeka ntoni kuwe Lisa? Ndicela uthethe nam mntanam ndizobona ndikunceda njani. (oh my child look at you, what is happening to you Lisa? Please talk to me my child so that I can see how I can help you)

Lisa kept quiet and held her pillow tight, tears fall on her unwashed cheeks leaving with the little dirt their

weight can handle.

Lisa's mother: Lisa mntanam ndikuzele And ukubona unje kundivisa kabuhlungu, uphi uLisakhanya wam londimaziyo ukrelekrele thetha nam undixelele kwenzeka ntoni ngomntanam. (Lisa my child I gave birth to you and seeing you like this hurts me, Where is that Lisakhanya I used to know, the one who is smart. Talk to me, tell me what is going on with my child)

Lisa: Mother I love him and I want him back

Lisa's mother: Who are you talking about baby.

Lisa: Bukhosi mama

Lisa's mother: Who is Bukhosi?

Lisa: The guy that brought me home a few months back.

Lisa's mother: So what happened?

Lisa: The time when he came here he wanted to find his half sister so when he left he went to look for her. Then in the morning I saw his car at Asithandile's

house and I got angry and accused him of cheating and told him about Asithandile being a murderer.

Lisa's mother: You did well by telling him that girl could have ruined your relationship.

Lisa: That's the problem mother, I didn't do well because it turns out the sister he was looking for is Asithandile.

Lisa's mother: Oh my child and he left you.

Lisa: Yes But I want him back mama, I live for him and I love him mama but he doesn't want to see that.

Mthunzi spoke as he was listening standing by the door.

Mthunzi: Serves You right my child, I told you that you have to be there for your friend but since you are miss know it all you refused to listen and now her brother left you. I say he did well because I would have done the same had I been in his shoes. You are cruel Lisa my child and I don't even know who you take after.

Lisa's mother: How can you say that to a child when you can clearly see that she is hurting because of that good for nothing girl.

Mthunzi: You need to stop blaming other people for your daughters rotten behavior. She did this and she must get herself out of it and from today onwards she will get up from that bed and clean yourself and this room. She will eat with us as a family and she will behave like the child that she is in this house.

Lisa's mother: What has this child to you for you to pick the side of an ungrateful child over your own.

Mthunzi: I would rather take the side of an ungrateful child than one that is turning my house in a dumpster all for a boy. And please I dare you to say another word woman and you and your daughter will see exactly who I am

Lisa's mother kept quiet and Mthunzi went out. She went to the kitchen and warmed water for her then went back to her daughters room and picked up the clothes on the floor and put them in the washing

basket then asked Lisa to get off the bed. She did as told them she took off the bedding and changed it to a clean one then took out clothes for her and put them in the bed.

She then went to the kitchen and got the water for her to bath and took it to her.

Lisa's mother: Everything is going to be alright my baby I promise.

Lisa: I know mother but when?

Lisa's mother: Soon baby all you have to do is give yourself time to heal and forget about him.

Lisa: That is never going to happen because I told you that I love him and if you are not willing to accept that and help me then get out of my room.

Lisa's mother: Lisa! (she reprimanded)

Lisa: I said get out Mother

Her mother went out and closed the door behind her.

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Insert 24

Mthatha:

Asithandile POV

You know when you have been through as much as I have been through, you change and start seeing life and people in a different light. My brother has been nagging me for a while now to go and visit my grandmother but I have been postponing. So this week he told me that if I wanted to go to Durban with the sisters I will have to agree to go to Eugie to see my grandmother. I had no choice but to agree because I really want to go to Durban because I believe that I deserve a break. But that doesn't mean am not scared, hell am terrified, mostly of rejection

and the fear of the unknown. I mean if the man that fathered me can treat me that way how much more can a woman who only gave birth to my mother do. But am going and also praying for the best. He has asked for day off from Wednesday so that we can go and come back Friday morning then I leave for Durban in the afternoon. Today is Tuesday and Bathandwa asked me out on a date before I leave, he says I can't have my sisters take me out on a girls trip before he does so his taking me out tonight and I don't know how to tell my brother.

Bathandwa and I have been talking every day, oh Bathandwa, what can I say, he makes me feel special, makes me laugh and makes me see that there is still hope for happiness for me out there. Right now I just finished shopping for what to wear tonight and now am going home to talk to my brother and I hope he agrees. I took a taxi and it dropped me off not far from home and I walked home practicing what to say to my brother. I got home and he was in the kitchen.

Asithandile: Hey brother

Bukhosi: Hey baby sis, got what you needed?

Asithandile: Yes I did and am sorry it took so long and that I didn't cook.

Bukhosi: Asithandile in this house you are not a slave but my sister and I can also cook when you tired or came home late.

Asithandile: Okay then, I wanted to ask you something.

Bukhosi: Okay.

Asithandile: A friend of mine wants to take me out this evening and I would like to go if it's okay with you.

Bukhosi: Friend or boyfriend?

Asithandile: I can't say boyfriend because we have just been talking about school and studying together at the park and he hasn't made any move.

Bukhosi: Okay But he will have to come here before taking you anywhere.

Asithandile: His going to pick me up here.

Bukhosi: Good Tell him to come in I want to talk to him.

Asithandile: Okay I will thank you.

I went to my room and but the bags down, then sent a message to Bathandwa telling him what my brother said and he said he will come. But there is only one problem, what if he want to kiss me, oh God I have never kissed a guy before. What am I going to do? What if I bite him? Oh no! Let me google it because I really don't want to embarrass myself.

Bathandwa:

Let me introduce myself to you, my name is Bathandwa Koyana son of the well known Nomthandazo Koyana who owns a real estate company. My father passed away when I was 14, he got into a car accident and died on the scene. Am an

only child and I am an electrical engineering student in Fort Hare doing my second year. I broke up with my girlfriend last December because she cheated on me, I found out when I went to her home town in Maclear for a surprise visit. I spoke to her younger brother and told him to keep it a secret and meet me in town. Indeed he did and told me that his sister spoke about going to Emakrwaleni which is the celebration of welcoming the initiates home.

We went there and I saw her with another guy and I asked her brother who it was but he refused to tell me, so I went to her and boy was she shocked to see me there. She tried saying it was not what I think, like I was thinking it and not seeing it. But the guy confirmed that they have been together for two years, so I left heart broken and disappointed. But I have met the most amazing girl at the park the other day Asithandile, what can I say about her, she is beautiful with an angelic face and pouty lips. She is down to earth and very smart, but from what I have gathered she has been through a lot and that is why I

haven't made a move on her yet.

So tonight am taking her out and am going to ask her to be my girlfriend and I hope she doesn't take it the wrong way. But am shit scared of her brother because she told me he wants to have a talk with me, of course I played it cool with her, I wasn't about to tell her am scared now. So am going and hope for the best. My mother knocked on the door and I asked her to come in.

Nomthandazo: Looking handsome Mr Koyana

Bathandwa: Thank you mother

Nomthandazo: So where are you going dressed like that?

Bathandwa: I have a date

Nomthandazo: Mmm So Who is the lucky girl?

Bathandwa: No mother am the lucky one, Asithandile is everything I could ask for in a woman.

Nomthandazo: Asithandile huh?

Bathandwa: Yes Mother Asithandile

Nomthandazo: Okay take the Audi

Bathandwa: Mother I don't need it.

Nomthandazo: I only want you to impress the girl that's all.

Bathandwa: Mama Asithandile is not a materialistic person, she is down to each and appreciative of what she has. She's kind and considerate.

Nomthandazo: Now I have to meet this girl.

Bathandwa: Oh you will.

Nomthandazo: I will?

Bathandwa: Why do you sound surprised?

Nomthandazo: I don't know, maybe it's because I have never met any of your girlfriends.

Bathandwa: You will meet this one. You just have to make time to meet with her and I kind of promised her that you will help her with a real estate course.

Nomthandazo: Oh I love this girl already (she said excited) tell me when you guys want to meet and I

will clear my day.

Bathandwa: Okay ma let me go now.

Nomthandazo: Okay don't forget to ask her when she's available for the meeting

Bathandwa: Okay I won't.

I left the house and drove to the address Asithandile sent me, I got there and got out of the car and locked it then went to the door and knocked. Damn my palms are sweating now. Her brother opened the door and looked at me from head to toe. That didn't help my sweating at all.

Bukhosi: You must be the friend

Bathandwa: Yes, My name is Bathandwa.

Bukhosi: I didn't ask.

Ohkay now am scared like really scared, we sat on the couches and he continued to look at me intimidating me even more.

Bukhosi: So Bathandwa What are your intentions

with my sister.

Okay is this a trick question or what? Does this guy want me to tell him the truth or what he wants to hear. God I don't know how to answer him.

Bukhosi: The truth would be nice.

Okay this is creepy! How did he know what I was thinking. Maybe his psychic.

Bukhosi: Are you going to answer me or not?

Bathandwa: Am sorry, your sister... well I like her, I like her a lot and I would like her to be my girlfriend if you approve of course.

Bukhosi: And why should I be the one to approve?

Bathandwa: Because you are her brother and you want to protect her.

Bukhosi: Listen here, that in there is my sister and you right I want to protect her and I will do anything to protect her even if it means killing someone.

Bathandwa: I understand.

He left me there and disappeared in the passage and a few minutes later my goddess appeared. God took his time with her, she is beautiful and smart too.

Bathandwa: You look beautiful

Asithandile: Thank you. (she smiled, god her smile is contagious)

Bathandwa: Ready?

Asithandile: Yes

We left and drove to the restaurant, the drive was a silent one, comfortable silence and my heart was content. We got to the restaurant and were shown our table. The waitress took our order and left.

Bathandwa: you really look beautiful tonight

Asithandile: You already said that but I don't mind hearing it again.

Bathandwa: Well woman you are.

Asithandile: Why are you sweating

Bathandwa: To be honest you make me nervous.

Asithandile: please don't be.

Bathandwa: I will try.

Our food arrived and we ate over light conversation. She is so sweet and kept smiling and laughing at my silly jokes. God she's perfect. We finished up and drove to the park where we first met, I want to tell her how I feel right where I first met her. I stopped the car and we got out and sat on our bench, I know it's not ours per se but it is where we met.

Asithandile: I had a good time tonight.

Bathandwa: But the night is not over yet.

Asithandile: There's more?

Bathandwa: Yes And I hope you will like it.

Asithandile: What is it!

Bathandwa: Asithandile I know that we haven't known each other that long and I don't want you to think that I want to play with or anything like that.

Asithandile: What is going on Bathandwa?

Bathandwa: Nothing Beautiful just wanna Tell you how I feel.

Asithandile: How you feel?

Bathandwa: Yes, Asithandile I like you, I like you so much that I can't go a day without talking to you. I think about you every minute of every hour, I don't want to call it love yet for I don't know what real and true love is and I would like to find out with you. Please be my girlfriend.

Asithandile: I have never done this before and i don't know how it works or how to act. Yes I do like you as well and I do think of you every day.

Bathandwa: Then Lets learn together

Asithandile: I would like that

Bathandwa: You would?

Asithandile: Yes I would.

Bathandwa went closer to her and sealed it with a

kiss.

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Insert 25

Mthatha

The day of going to Eugie arrived and Asithandile is not herself at all, she is worried about being rejected by her grandmother. Her brother tried telling her that their grandmother is a good person and is looking forward to meeting her. That didn't help much because as we know that she has trust issues now and the people that hurt her the most were family so it's understandable. However she couldn't wait for Friday so that they can go to Durban with Zodwa and Ncebakazi. They have finished packing a few things and now they are in Mthatha buying groceries for their grandmother. We know that when you going to visit home one doesn't come empty handed, Bukhosi

was pushing the trolley while Asithandile was putting things in. Lisa appeared out of nowhere.

Lisa: Hey guys

Asithandile: Lisa

Lisa: Hey babe (Bukhosi didn't bother to answer)

Lisa: So why are you buying so many groceries? I mean because it's just the two of you at the house.
(silence)

Lisa: Guys am trying here the least you can do is meet me half way.

Bukhosi: Sis do we need anything else?

Asithandile: I don't think so.

Bukhosi: Then Lets go pay (he pushed the trolley and Lisa stood in front of him.

Lisa: Asithandile it's your fault that my baby and I are not together the least you can do is talk to him to take me back.

Bukhosi: Did I not tell you to leave my sister alone?

Lisa: But baby she is the reason we not together and

if she was a good friend she would at least help us get back together.

Bukhosi: You need help (he pushed her aside and walked away)

This whole thing fueled Lisa's anger towards Asithandile as we know that she will never be angry at Bukhosi, but she sees Asithandile as a threat that needs to be removed and she was more than willing to do so.

Asithandile and her brother paid and drove off heading to Eugie, the distance from Mthatha is only 45 minutes. So the drive wasn't that long. They got to Eugie and Bukhosi was showing Asithandile places and the schools he went to. They finally arrived at their grandmothers house and she was sitting at her favorite place under the peach tree. Bukhosi drove in and parked, he got out and went to his sisters side and opened for her. They walked to where their grandmother was sitting.

Bukhosi: Molo mama (hello mother)

Nosakhele: Molo mntanam unjani? (hello my child how are you?)

Bukhosi: Ndiyaphila nam mama (I am well mother)

Nosakhele: Uyaphila nawe ke ntombi? (how are you my girl?)

Asithandile: Ndiyaphila Makhulu akhonto (I am well grandmother)

Nosakhele: Ngubani ke lo Bukhosi? (Who is this Bukhosi?)

Bukhosi: lo mama ngumzukulwana wakho uAsithandile (this mother is your grand daughter Asithandile)

Nosakhele: Oh yhini umntana womntanam (oh my grandchild, she got up and hugged her sniffing on her shoulders and Asithandile knew she was crying)

Asithandile: Sukhala kaloku Makhulu ndilapha ngoku (don't cry grandmother am here now)

Nosakhele: I thought I was going to die without seeing you my child.

Asithandile: Am here now grandmother

Nosakhele: You know when your mother left I thought she was going to come home now and then to visit us but she never did. Even when she had you I begged her to bring you here for me to see you but she refused.

Asithandile: It's okay grandma we have found each other now.

Nosakhele: Yes we have and am glad that my grandchildren are both here. I will sleep like a baby tonight.

Asithandile: Me too but I have to be honest was scared to come here.

Nosakhele: I heard what you have been through from your brother and I don't blame you for being scared my child you have been through enough.

Asithandile: Yes I have.

Nosakhele: Is this one treating you well? Because if he doesn't you just tell me now so that I can sort him out.

Bukhosi: Mother!

Nosakhele: Ewe nangoku awukhomdala ubandingakubethi (Yes And you not too old to get a beating)

Asithandile: hahah hayi Makhulu undiphethe okweqanda ubhuti umkhulise kakuhle (not grandmother he is treating me like an egg, you raised him well)

Nosakhele: Hayi ndiyavuya (then am happy)

Bukhosi left Asithandile and her grandmother talking and he went and took out the groceries from the car and put them in the house then pack them away accordingly.

Bathandwa:

Bathandwa sent a message to Asithandile asking her if she arrived safe at home and she replied saying yes and that she was talking to her

grandmother but she misses him. He was smiling like a retard taking juice from the fridge and chips going to the till to pay for them but he was still standing looking at his phone. He keep reading the message and smiling on his own.

Voice: Bathandwa (he turned to look and his facial expression changed)

Bathandwa: Yintoni Lindiwe? (what is it Lindiwe)

Lindiwe: Nothing am just greeting.

Bathandwa: Okay then, hi (he turned around and started walking)

Lindiwe: Bathandwa ndiyaxolisa ngento endakwenza yona (Bathandwa am sorry for what I did to you)

Bathandwa: It's long forgotten (he kept walking and Lindiwe was walking behind him)

Lindiwe: Bendicela sithethe torho ndiyakucela (Can we talk please?)

Bathandwa: I have nothing to say to you (he paid for his thing and got out. Lindiwe followed him)

Lindiwe: Ndisakuthanda Bathandwa (I still love you

Bathandwa)

Bathandwa: Good for you.

Lindiwe: Bathandwa ndithetha inyani, ndiyakuthanda kwaye ndazibona impazamo zam ndicela siphinde sizame (Bathandwa am telling you the truth I love you and I have seen my mistakes and I want us to try again)

Bathandwa: I wouldn't dream of doing that, you know why?

Lindiwe: Why? (she asked in a low voice)

Bathandwa: Because I have found someone who doesn't tell me she loves me but shows me with her actions and I will never lose that for mere words that betrayed me before. Now if you will excuse me I have a girlfriend to get to.

He got to his car and drove off. He went to the park where he and Asithandile met, he sat then opened his chips and dialed Asithandile and she picked up.

Convo:

Bathandwa: Baby

Asithandile: Yes Babe

Bathandwa: Please make me feel better

Asithandile: What's wrong babe?

Bathandwa: Just met my ex at spar a few minutes ago asking me to take her back and that she loves me.

Asithandile: So what did you say to her?

Bathandwa: I told her that I have the most amazing girlfriend in world who treats me right and I wouldn't dream of getting back with her.

Asithandile: WOW Babe

Bathandwa: I love you Asithandile, I know it's too early for those words but I do, today after I saw that girl I realized that I wouldn't trade you for anyone and that you mean a lot to me.

Asithandile: You mean I lot to me too my chocolate

man, now cheer up and know that I love you too and am thinking of you.

Bathandwa: Thanks Babe, do you know where I am now.

Asithandile: No where?

Bathandwa: Guess

Asithandile: No tell me.

Bathandwa: No guess

Asithandile: At our spot

Bathandwa: Yes Because am thinking of you.

Asithandile: That's so sweet babe.

Bathandwa: I want to see you before you leave for Durban Okay.

Asithandile: Okay that's fine.

Bathandwa: Bye now, I love you.

Asithandile: Me too

Bathandwa: You too what?

Asithandile: I love you too

Bathandwa: Okay bye

He dropped called and looked at his phone smiling.
His heart was content.

Bathandwa: I love Asithandile and I will be damned if I let the likes of abo cheating Lindiwe to ruin this for me. My mother taught me to always be honest with a woman no matter how hard to truth is and am willing to do that for Asithandile. I will never decorate that beautiful face of hers with tears or fill her ears with lies. I love her too much to do that.

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Insert 26

Mthatha

It's Friday and Asithandile and her brother just came back from seeing their grandmother. Asithandile was getting ready to go meet up with Bathandwa before going to the office to meet up with the sisters so that they can go for their trip in Durban which she was excited about. She got a hang of this kissing thing and is now enjoying it so much. Even now she couldn't wait to get to the park and get one from her love. She wore jeans and a crop top that had long sleeves and sneakers. She wore a cap on her head because it was windy outside so she didn't want to struggle with her curly hair. She went to her brother and told him that she was going to meet up with Bathandwa and he told her not to be long so that he can go drop her off.

She left and walked to the park. She saw a car not far from their spot but no sign of Bathandwa. She decided to call him and find out where he is because she had no time to wait as she had to be at the company in 30 minutes. He picked up.

Bathandwa: Baby

Asithandile: Hey Babe, where are you?

Bathandwa: At our spot.

Asithandile: I don't see you.

Bathandwa: How are you going to see me when you standing so far.

Asithandile: Okay where are you sitting because I don't see you.

Bathandwa: In the car now come. (he dropped the call and Asithandile went closer)

Bathandwa got out of the car and met her outside and they hugged.

Bathandwa: I missed you (he whispered in her ear)

Asithandile: I missed you too (she whispered back) they let go of each other.

Bathandwa: I want you to meet someone and please don't be scare okay.

Asithandile: Who am I meeting? (he didn't answer, he just went to the back door and opened it and a woman came out)

Bathandwa: Asithandile my love meet my mother
Nomthandazo ma meet my wife Asithandile.

Asithandile: Nice to meet you ma.

Nomthandazo: Nice to meet you two my baby and am sorry to meet you like this but I heard that you are going away and I had planned on us meeting over the weekend but since you not going to be here I thought let me meet you now and we can have lunch when you come back.

Bathandwa: Hayi mama uyamoyikisa yhini watsho nge speeche endaweni yozaziza (no mother you are scaring her, why are you giving a speech instead of introducing yourself)

Nomthandazo: No man Bathandwa, am just nervous.

Bathandwa: How Do you think she feels because I didn't tell her about this.

Nomthandazo: Okay Sorry, nana Am Nomthandazo
Bathandwa's Mother And your mother in law.

Bathandwa: Hayi mama uyabaxa (no mother you are
exaggerating)

Nomthandazo: You also introduced her as your wife.

Bathandwa: Okay mama.

Asithandile: It's a pleasure to meet you mother.

Nomthandazo: Pleasure is all mine dear, please
come for lunch when you come back.

Asithandile: I will ma

Lisa was looking at this as she followed Asithandile
from the house and when Bathandwa hugged her
she put two and two together and figured it out. She
went closer to them.

Lisa: Hey Asithandile

Asithandile: Lisa.

Bathandwa: Babe Who is this?

Lisa: Oh let me introduce myself, my name is Lisakhanya but my friends call me Lisa.

Bathandwa: Nice to meet you am Bathandwa Asithandile's boyfriend and this is my mother.

Lisa: Oh Nice to meet you mah (she said going to stand by her side)

Nomthandazo: It's a pleasure to meet you too.

Lisa: Asithandile did you tell your mother in law that you murdered your parents?

Nomthandazo: She What?

Lisa: Am sorry I didn't know that she didn't tell you.

Nomthandazo: Tell me What are you talking about?

Asithandile's tears fell as she looked at Lisa going on about her being a murderer. She didn't tell Bathandwa yet about what had happened in detail but she did tell him that she has been through a lot and that when she's ready she will tell him.

Lisa: Am sorry mah but I will let your daughter in law

tell you.

Bathandwa: Please leave

Lisa: Are you talking to me?

Bathandwa: Who else came here uninvited?

Lisa: I am trying to save you from being killed and you chasing me away?

Bathandwa: Ntombazana ndithe hamba! (girl I said leave)

Lisa: Mama xa unyana wakho ebhubhile ungathi zange ndikulumkisa (mother when your son dies don't say I didn't warn you, she walked away.)

Nomthandazo: Bathandwa What is this?

Bathandwa: I don't know mother.

Nomthandazo: Asithandile?

Asithandile: Am sorry Mather to meet you like this and I am sorry for Lisa's behavior, it was disrespectful. Bathandwa am sorry. I have to leave now. Take care.

She left Bathandwa and his mother standing there and ran to the house, she couldn't even see properly as she had tears in her eyes that caused her vision to be blurry. She crossed the road without looking and heard a hooter of a car that sounded very close. She closed her eyes and waited for impact but none occurred, the driver braked right in front of her. He got out and went to her, she was still standing there frozen with her eyes closed.

Man: Hey Hey hey don't cry, you Alright now please open your eyes (she did and looked at the god standing in front of her then looked at the car which was inches away from her.

She started shaking and tears falling. The guy hugged her but she didn't hug him back she was shocked.

Man: Please tell me where you from so that I can take you home.

Asithandile: Am fine I will manage.

Man: I will not leave you like this, please let me take

you home.

Asithandile: My house is not far it's just that house in the corner.

Man: Then Please get in the car and let me take you. I want to make sure you are okay.(she nodded)

The man opened the door for her and she got in. The man got in as well and drove to the house, he got out and went to the door and knocked. Bukhosi opened.

Bukhosi: Sure

Man: sure bra

Bukhosi: How can I help you?

Man: I have a girl in the car that said she lives here. (Bukhosi pushed him aside and went running to the car, he looked on the passenger seat but there was no one, he went to the back and opened the door and saw a disturbed Asithandile sitting there.

Bukhosi: Come baby sis, your brother is here.

Asithandile looked at him and got out of the car and

hugged her brother crying. Bukhosi kept rubbing her back telling her it's okay, she finally calm down and they walked to the door where he left the man.

Bukhosi: Can you come in and tell me what happened to my sister.

Man: No problem (they went inside and Asithandle went to her room while Bukhosi sat in front with the guy)

Bukhosi: Please Tell me what happened?

Man: Okay let me first introduce myself, my name is Vusi Ntobo. I was driving going to the shops when your sister ran into the road without looking, I rang the hooter and she just froze and stood there. So I braked before hitting her and brought her here.

Bukhosi: Which direction was she coming from.

Vusi: The park.

Bukhosi: Thank you for bringing her home. My name is Bukhosi her brother.

Vusi: Pleasure to meet you, let me get going now.

Bukhosi: Okay I will walk you out(he walked him to

the door) thanks again.

Vusi: It's a pleasure, can I come check on her maybe next week just to see if she's okay.

Bukhosi: Not a problem. (he left and Bukhosi close the door and went to her sisters room)

Bukhosi: Baby sis please tell me what happened.

Asithandile: Am Okay lets go now.

Bukhosi: Asithandile you are not leaving this house without telling what happened that made you run like a mad woman not even seeing cars.

Asithandile: Brother Lisa....(she told him everything that had happened)

Bukhosi: Do you still want to go or you want to stay home?

Asithandile: Going away will do me some good so let's go.

Bukhosi: Okay come (they got out and Bukhosi drove her to the company. The sisters were already

waiting, he said his goodbyes to his sisters and drove off)

Bukhosi: Lisa you have gone too far now, I don't beat women but I know someone who will take you away from here. (made a call to a friend of his from varsity they called him sticks)

Voice: Mbuzeni

Bukhosi: It's Bukhosi now, how are you man?

Sticks: Am good man, long time.

Bukhosi: Indeed, do you still have that business of yours.

Stick: Yes it's grown now I even run joburg.

Bukhosi: I need you to take someone off my hands.

Sticks: Send a pick and my guys will find him.

Bukhosi: It's a her

Sticks: Even better now send.

Bukhosi dropped the call and sent sticks Lisa picture.

Bukhosi: I did warn you Lisa that I will do anything to protect my sister. She will not be abused while she has a brother to protect her.

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Insert 27

At the park:

Bathandwa was left with his mother, he stood there regretting not following Asithandile so that they can talk but he was still shocked by what happened that he froze. His mother was looking at him with questioning eyes.

Nomthandazo: Bathandwa what just happened here?

Bathandwa: Mama I don't know.

Nomthandazo: Do you believe that girl?

Bathandwa: No I don't am just shocked by what she said.

Nomthandazo: Didn't you see the pain written in the eyes of that poor girl?

Bathandwa: I didn't notice mama I was shocked.

Nomthandazo: Do you think she was telling the truth?

Bathandwa: Mama when you looked at Asithandile did you see evil or a murderer?

Nomthandazo: No but maybe it was self defense.

Bathandwa: Mama please just go

Nomthandazo: And wena uzoyaphi (and where will you go?)

Bathandwa: I just need to think please leave (his mother got into the car and drove off)

Bathandwa was left sitting at their spot in the park, he thought of what Lisa said and the look on Asithandile's face. He decided to call her but her

phone was off, he sent her a message that reads like this.

My love, Am sorry that we didn't get to talk about what happened. Am sorry I failed to see how hurt you were, I was blinded by my shock. Please get back to me my love so that we can talk.

I love you

He sent the message and sat there for about 30 minutes and he tried Asithandile again but still her phone was off. He was going out of his mind not knowing what will happen to their relationship now, he didn't care that Asithandile was accused of murder all that he wanted was to be with her. He needed to hear her voice just to hear that she was okay, he needed for her to tell him that they are still together. He tried her phone again but it was still off, he sent another message again.

My love, please get back to me, am going out of my mind here. Please babe forgive me if I have done you wrong. Shock took over and I couldn't react in time, please forgive me my love please. I need you Asithandile.

I love you so so much.

He sent the message then tried her phone again but it was still off. He sat on that bench and tears just flew out of his eyes, he didn't even bother to wipe them. He was hurt and he didn't know how to fix it. While he was sitting there an old woman walking with a stick came towards the bench he was sitting on, she wanted to sit next to him but was struggling like she had pains and difficulty sitting. He stood up and took her cane and put it aside then picked her up and placed her carefully on the bench.

Old woman: Ndiyabulela mzukulwana (thank you grandson)

Bathandwa: Kulungile Makhulu (it's alright grandmother)

They sat there together watching the sunset, which was another thing that reminded Bathandwa of Asithandile. He couldn't hold the tears as they came out freely. The grandmother looked at him and felt sorry for him.

Old woman: You do know that when love is pure it is not of this world.

Bathandwa: What are you talking about grandmother?

Old woman: Am saying that the one who gave pure love that heals a broken soul is blessed by the Gods. There is no mistake made here all is well, however one with the heart of perseverance, courage and wisdom will win the battle. So which one are you.

Bathandwa: I don't understand grandmother.

Old woman: You do not understand because your heart is filled with pain and regret. You did no one wrong son. But remember what I said.

They were both looking forward as the sunset, he turned to look in his side and there was no sign of the old woman but her cane was still there he took it and stood up to look for the woman but he couldn't see her. He thought he was seeing things as he took the stick and went to a bar and started drinking. Mind you he has never touched strong alcohol before just light things like wine and champagne but when he got to the bar he ordered whiskey and asked the bar tender to keep them coming.

Sticks people found Lisa spaying on Bukhosi's house and was injected with something and it was lights out for her. They put her in the car at the back seat and drive off. They got to the the airport and the jet was ready with Sticks himself in there, he asked them to bring her in and they did as told. He looked at her dark skin as they brought in an unconscious Lisa, he asked them to put them on the bed that was in the jet and they did. He stood up as they came out and went to the room, he looked at Lisa for a while caressing her cheeks. He then took out his phone

and made a call to Bukhosi and he picked up immediately.

Convo:

Sticks: You got me a black stone shining with beauty.

Bukhosi: A beauty indeed.

Sticks: What are her sins?

Bukhosi: She got my sister eating with pipes here not once but multiple times.

Sticks: Stubborn I like. Now tell me did you tap that?

Bukhosi: Nah it was still early for that then she started her things and I took a corner.

Sticks: Haha you never did like trouble. Let me leave you then.

Bukhosi: Thanks man.

Sticks: No thank you for the black stone like the ones from from the Zambian mines.

Bukhosi: Sure Ntwana.

He dropped the call and went to sit next to Lisa caressing her cheeks. The journey to Joburg was not long and they arrived, when he got there a car was waiting for him and the driver came out.

Driver: Boss

Sticks: Sure

Driver: This one going to Hillbrow (he asked referring to Lisa who was carried by his other guys)

Sticks: No this one is mine, take me to my house.

Driver: Sure boss.

They got into the car and the guys placed Lisa in the back seat. The driver started the car and drove to Sticks house in Randburg. They got there and the guys took Lisa in and Sticks went and poured himself a glass of single-malt whiskey the 12 year old. He then went to the bedroom Lisa was in and she was awake looking around.

Sticks: Good you are awake.

Lisa: Where am I?

Sticks: Joburg

Lisa: What? How did I get here? Who are you? Did you kidnap me? Oh my God! Oh my God!

Sticks: Will you shut up!

His tone scared Lisa and she kept quiet immediately.

Sticks: They call me Sticks and no I didn't kidnap you I brought you here to be mine.

Lisa: Why do you mean to be yours?

Sticks: I mean you will be my woman.

Lisa: I will never do that! Now take me back where you took me from.

Sticks: What makes you think you have a choice?

Lisa: I say so! Am old enough to make my own decisions.

Sticks: Good now here are your options 1 you agree to be mine and I send you to school and live like a queen 2 you work for me in my strip club or in my brothel in hillbrow and make me money.

Lisa: I would rather work than be your woman.

Sticks: Okay suit yourself (he stood up and walked to the door but he turned and looked back to Lisa)

Sticks: Oh I forgot to mention that you will be working as a prostitute bringing me money from the big dogs. You will bring me a lot of money because you still pure. (he then left and closed the door behind him)

Lisa was left sitting on the bed thinking about what Sticks said, she didn't want to be prostitute and she didn't want to be with Sticks as well. All she wanted was to be with Bukhosi, when the name crossed her mind she thought of the words of her father when he said ' I will rather have an ungrateful murderer as a child than, a disrespectful child who only thinks of boys. She cried herself to sleep thinking of how she left home when she went to Mthatha. Her father was forcing her to be a child and behave like one in his house. He wanted her to forget Bukhosi but she didn't want to hear any of it and told her father that

she will live her life how she sees fit. She then took her clothes and went to Mthatha to her friend from school. Her father told her that if she leaves home she might as well forget that she has a home or parents and she answered with ' I'd rather not have parents than lose Bukhosi' and she left.

Now she regrets all that she said to her father, she wondered who she will turn to for help in joburg because she didn't know anyone and she had to make a decision on which of the conditions she will take. She was hurt and helpless, she went to sleep crying.

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Insert 28

Asithandile POV

Durban is a beautiful place to be, Yes it has place that are not so good looking and also those that are the best like any other town. On Friday when we got here we freshened up and went to Eyadini in Mlazi location, now the vibe there is great if you are someone who drinks alcohol and enjoys being around a lot of people. For me my sisters made it memorable for me, on Saturday we went to Pietermaritzburg and I must say I enjoyed being there, it's a quiet little town not too diffident from Eugie with green grass and fresh air. Went went to the waterfall and went sailing on a boat, our last stop was the casino after coming back from the horse race course. Which we were taught how to fire horses and I enjoyed that very much.

Today is the last day of our trip and am dreading going back home because o don't know if I still have my other half there or not. So when I met up with the sisters on Friday I told them I was not okay and just told them it's boyfriend issues so we all decided on

no phones until we land back in Mthatha and I must say it worked because I would be worried and keep checking on it to see if he hasn't sent a message or called. So today we are going to do some real shopping as Ncebakazi put it and am excited about that. I enjoyed being in a lot of places here like Mhlanga rocks, kwaMashu and uMlazi But I didn't enjoy the traffic in Paine town, Durban people that please looks messy and has a lot of people and it's traffic is a night mare with all the taxis there.

Ncebakazi: Girls lets go, shopping wait a for no one.
(she yelled from outside my room)

Asithandile: Are we coming back here or should I take everything that belongs to me? (I yelled beck from inside)

Ncebakazi: Take everything we are going straight to the airport after shopping.

Asithandile: Okay coming.

I packed the clothes I was wearing the past two days, we passed by gateways from the airport to get a few

things and Ncebakazi said the big shopping is today. I was done and met them at the reception, we checked out and went to the car Ncebakazi hired and we drove off to gateway.

Zodwa: So big sis, when are you giving the mystery guy a chance.

Ncebakazi: The one we were talking about on the plane?

Asithandile: Come on sis you know that is the only guy you have been talking about. So when are you giving him a chance?

Ncebakazi: Zodwa I have never seen you with a man yet you encourage me to go out with one.

Zodwa: That's Because you didn't stay home long enough to see me with one.

Ncebakazi: I have been such a bad big sister

Zodwa: It's okay we are together now so we can make up for lost time and I do have a man I have been dating for the past 3 months.

Asithandile: Tell you what, how about we organize a

date with all our met so that we can introduce them all at once. That is if I still have a man when I get back.

Ncebakazi: Great idea and am sure you still have one.

Zodwa: Great! Am in and sure he won't mind.

We got to gateway and started at a boutique to shop for dresses for our date, then went to a lingerie shop and bought a few, then casual wear and shoes. We went to eat then checked in for our flight which was leaving at 7 in the evening so we went back shopping for make up and going on a spar and doing our nails it was fun and I got to forget about Lisa and Bathandwa for a while.

Bathandwa:

I woke up with the edge to pure and spring out of bed into the bathroom and puked my intestines out then flushed and brushed my teeth. God my head

hurts like someone is sitting on my shoulders hammering away on my head. How did I even get home last night, damn I have been drinking since Friday and am never touching alcohol again. I said on my bed with my face buried in my hands listening to the pain in my head when my mother budged in.

Nomthandazo: Ndizele inxila ngoku into esela ususela ngolwesihlanu ukuyotsho ngecawa. (Did I give birth to a drunkard that drinks from Friday to Sunday) god the shouting is making my head worse.

Bathandwa: No ma I just wanted to forget for a while.

Nomthandazo: Did the drinking help?

Bathandwa: No ma it made it worse

Nomthandazo: Serves You right! Now shower and come eat breakfast we need to talk.

Bathandwa: I was hoping I can sleep a little.

Nomthandazo: Not in my house you won't now shower and come downstairs so that mam Lidia can clean this room (mam Lidia is our helper)

Bathandwa: Yes mam (I know better than to argue

with my mom because that woman can slap you so hard you will see stars)

I went to the shower and showered then came out lotion and wore my sweatpants, vest and some push in then went to the kitchen. She was making breakfast and a sat on the high chair.

Nomthandazo: Here drink this it will help with the hangover (I drank this horribly tasting concoction but I dare not say anything)

Nomthandazo: Now Tell me where did you get the cane you came with on Friday night?

Bathandwa: A cane? (she took it out from the cupboard that we put brooms and mops in and out it on the counter and it's the one that old woman gave me)

Bathandwa: Oh that cane

Nomthandazo: Yes this cane! Now talk

Bathandwa: You won't believe me even if I tell you.

Nomthandazo: Try me!

Bathandwa: Okay, when you left me at the park on Friday an old woman came to me walking with that cane, she struggled seating on the bench and so I helped her. Then she spoke about people with the heat of perseverance wining and all that but I wasn't paying attention because I was hurting the next thing when I looked on my side she was gone and left that cane.

Nomthandazo: What did she look like? (why does my mother look like she is about to cry)

Bathandwa: She was old and shorter than you, she looked like her she was limping a bit and had on a red checked scarf and walking with that cane.

Nomthandazo: Oh yhini umama undijongele umtana engapha kwengcwaba (oh my Mother is looking after my child from beyond the grave) that was my mother you saw, your grandmother, she died a few weeks after she did a hip operation that caused her to limp and have difficulty bending or sitting on her own. That scarf is the one she was buried with, it was her favorite.

My mother was now crying and am comforting her. I don't know if seeing my dead grandmother is a good thing or not but it seems to have moved my mother. I don't remember her much because I was young when she died but I guess she wanted me to know her. My mother calmed down and fished breakfast, we ate and I took my phone and tried Asithandle but it was still off. I sent her a message again like I have been doing all weekend. I hope she gives me another chance.

It's short but I will write another later on.

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Insert 29

Cape Town

Nosiyamcela left home after her daughters left for Durban, she packed her things and left for Cape Town to finalize the business she has with the doctor. Nkosibuthe didn't even bother asking where she is going and she didn't care to explain. She has been working all weekend sorting out the contract and meeting with the lawyers. So today they are signing the contract before she goes back to Mthatha. She freshened up and drove off to a meeting with the doctor at Vida e cafe in waterfront. She got to the place and parked her car, she spotted the doctor already at the table. She went to her and took a seat in front of her in the table.

Nosiyamcela: Sorry to keep you waiting.

Doc: Not a problem I just arrived myself, I have ordered myself cup of coffee you can order yourself something as well.

Nosiyamcela signaled for the waitress with her hand and she came to their table. She ordered a cup of

coffee and a muffin and the waitress went away.

Nosiyamcela: Do you have the contract?

Doc: Yes I do, but you have to do one more thing to prove yourself after you have signed.

Nosiyamcela: What will that be?

Doc: I have a patient that needs a kidney and another one that needs a heart so I want you to get them for me.

Nosiyamcela: Not a problem.

Doc: Here is the contract then.

Nosiyamcela took the contract and looked through it checking for the clause she wanted to be included and indeed it was there. She was more than happy to sign it and the doctor signed as well. She then gave her a copy while she took the original.

Doc: Now all you have to do is deliver on this then we are in business.

Nosiyamcela: You will have the merchandise before the end of the week.

Doc: I will have the proper equipment to handle it delivered to the warehouse so that you can get it to your contract. I don't want the merchandise getting damaged.

Nosiyamcela: Don't worry it won't.

Doc: Okay I have to go now.

Nosiyamcela: Let me walk out with you.

They walked out together and Nosiyamcela got into her car while the doctor drove off. She made a call to her contact, it rang a few times and he picked up.

Convo:

Nosiyamcela: I have sealed the deal and we are in business.

Voice: How much am I getting?

Nosiyamcela: Since am getting 50% I will give you 15% of my share.

Voice: Alright That sounds good to me.

Nosiyamcela: Good, I need a heart and kidney before the end of the week.

Voice: That can be arranged.

Nosiyamcela: Good I will send you the proper equipment to handle everything when I get home.

Voice: I will wait to hear from you, so long I will be looking for the target.

Nosiyamcela: Do That.

She dropped the call and drove to the hotel she was staying at over the weekend, packed her things and made her way to the airport.

Asithandile POV:

We have just landed home and from here on it's back to reality. Now I have to deal Bathandwa, that is if he will want to see me again. We are at the airport

waiting for our bags, we got everything and went out, my brother was already waiting for us. He got up when he saw us coming and met us halfway.

Bukhosi: My sisters

Zodwa: Our brother (they hugged and he hugged all of us)

Bukhosi: I can tell that Durban was good to you guys judging by the bags.

Ncebakazi: What about the bags?

Bukhosi: Am just saying since you guys left with nothing and came back with so many bags that can only mean you had fun.

Asithandile: We did and we enjoyed ourselves.

Zodwa: And a girl can't have too many clothes.

Ncebakazi: You said it

Asithandile: Lets go.

Bukhosi: Thank you for saving me baby sis.

Asithandile: Oh no brother I wasn't saving you we are just tired and we need rest.

Them: Yes girl! (we high fived)

Bukhosi: Wow let me keep my mouth shut.

We drove off and in the car we were busy talking about our trip and organizing another one but of course this one is going to be with our boyfriends if things go well for me and Ncebakazi. We started by dropping off the sisters then we drove home. When we got there I didn't even wait for my brother to open the door for me, I took the house keys got out and went to open the door. I went straight to my room and took a well deserved shower, shopping is exhausting especially traveling right after without resting. I got out after a while, lotion and wore my tracksuit and flip flops. I found all my bags in my room and I went to my brother.

Asithandile: How was your weekend without me?

Bukhosi: Boring, How was yours with the sisters?

Asithandile: It was fun I really enjoyed myself.

Bukhosi: Wow am so happy for you but now am not

talking to you.

Asithandile: Why?

Bukhosi: Because you had fun on your weekend without me while mine was boring so no am not talking to you.

Asithandile: I will make it up to you when I wake up, I wanna take a nap.

Bukhosi: Fine But till then am not talking.

I left him there laughing going to my room, I laid on the bed thinking about my amazing weekend and then I thought of my phone. I took my sling bag and took it out, now am afraid of the disappointment of not getting anything from Bathandwa. But this is my phone so I opened it and messages, missed calls and voicemails came through and they were all from Bathandwa and my heart jumped for joy but quickly faded away when I thought that maybe his telling me to leave him alone and never contact him again. I went to my messages and read them, oh my they were all so sweet, some His apologizing but I don't

know why because he did nothing wrong and I didn't expect him to run after me And leave his mother there.

I listened to the voicemails and they said almost the same thing and I had hope that maybe this is not the end after all. I dialed his number and he picked up immediately.

Convo:

Bathandwa: Oh baby thank God you are okay and thank you for getting back to me my love, I was going crazy here the whole weekend. Baby am sorry please forgive me for...(I had to cut him short because now he was just blabbing way)

Asithandile: Bathandwa!

Bathandwa: Yes Babe

Asithandile: Breath (he took deep breaths) are you okay now?

Bathandwa: Yes I am (he said in a low voice)

Asithandile: How are you?

Bathandwa: Am really not doing well, babe am sorry for not being there for you when you needed me. Please let's meet so that we can talk please.

Asithandile: We will meet but not today am tired.

Bathandwa: Okay I will wait for you and thank you for getting back to me.

Asithandile: it's okay.

Bathandwa: Can I ask you one more thing before you hang up?

Asithandile: Okay What is it?

Bathandwa: Are you still my girlfriend? I mean do you still want to be with me?

Asithandile: I do but us being together will depend on you after we have had our talk.

Bathandwa: I understand

Asithandile: Bye then, I will call you tomorrow after work.

Bathandwa: i would like that. Love you.

Asithandile: And I You

I dropped my phone. How I wish Bathandwa can be this understanding when I tell him what happened, I guess I will have to wait for tomorrow to find out. I put my phone away and slept.

Bathandwa:

Am so happy that my babe called me, when my phone rang and her name flashed on the screen I was so happy. I know our conversation was not like the ones we always have but am happy that she at least told me she loves me. There is hope for us, God help me not say something stupid that will drive her away when we meet tomorrow. I love this girl and I don't want to lose her. I have to get her some thing to show her how sorry I am and my mother can help with that.

Bathandwa: ma!!!...mother!!!

Nomthandazo: Hayi Yintoni wandikhwaza kangaka ungazondikhangela xa undifuna? (hey why are you yelling like this and not come look for me when you want me)

Bathandwa: Sorry mother but I need your help.

Nomthandazo: What is it?

Bathandwa: What is the best apology gift for a woman.

Nomthandazo: For Asithandile Right?

Bathandwa: Yes it's for her

Nomthandazo: Get her a necklace but make it special by adding flowers and a note to it.

Bathandwa: Great! So where can I get flowers?

Nomthandazo: You never got a girl flowers before?

Bathandwa: They were not as special as this one so where do I get them?

Nomthandazo: I will get you the number of the florist I use.

Bathandwa: Thank you ma.

Nomthandazo: You welcome (she left)

How I hope she likes what I get her, I can't wait for tomorrow but am dreading it at the same time, I don't want to lose her and if tomorrow I will lose her I'd rather it not come.

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Insert 30

Asithandile has just gotten back from work and now she is busy in the kitchen cooking. She is cooking up a storm because of the stress of her meeting with Bathandwa this evening. She is dreading it because of the fear of the unknowns. Bukhosi was working late so she was all alone in the house, she has been cooking since she came back, she made rice with chicken curry, then roasted vegetables and made

pork roast with source. Now she is making trifle and baking chocolate mousse cake in the oven. There was a knock on the door and she ignored it because she thought it was her brother and he has key to open himself. The knock persisted and she went and opened up and there stood a god in a muscle top and skinny jeans showing off all his assets.

Asithandile: Hey

Vusi: Hello, can I come in?

Asithandile: No who are you?

Vusi: Your night and shining armor or would you prefer savior?

Asithandile: I don't have time for jokes, who are you?

Vusi: Fine! Am the guy who almost ran you over the other day.

Asithandile: You almost ran me over yet you calling yourself my savior.

Vusi: Okay can we not talk standing here

Asithandile: Come on in (he went in and sat on the couch)

Asithandile: Anything to drink?

Vusi: No I won't stay long, I just came to check on you since you were not Well the other day.

Asithandile: Am fine thank you for helping me and thank you for coming to check on me.

Vusi: It's a please I have to get going now.

Asithandile: Alright then let me walk you out.

As they walked out Bathandwa parked outside he saw them as they were talking outside the door and Vusi left. His heart broke because he thought that Asithandile might have another suitor and that didn't sit well with him.

He got out the car and met Asithandile at the door.

Bathandwa: Are we meeting here or we going somewhere.

Asithandile: Hello to you to Bathandwa am well and how are you?

Bathandwa: Am sorry I just got distracted by that

guy.

Asithandile: Okay come in we will talk here and don't worry my brother is not home.

Bathandwa: Okay Thank you and these are for you.
(he said handing her the flowers)

Asithandile: Thank you.

They walked in and Asithandile excused herself to go and finish up in the kitchen, after 5 minutes Bathandwa went and joined her, he sat on the high chair watching her move around the kitchen.

Bathandwa: You look beautiful.

Asithandile: Am just wearing sweat pants and an apron.

Bathandwa: That's the thing, you don't have to wear anything fancy to look beautiful and that attire you have on is the right one for the job you are doing.

Asithandile: Thank you and am sorry to keep you waiting.

Bathandwa: For you I can wait all day.

She smiled and finished up then led the way to the lounge and sat. Bathandwa sat beside her.

Bathandwa: Do you want to start or should I?

Asithandile: let me, Lisa was my friend.

Bathandwa: Who is Lisa?

Asithandile: The girl at the park, we grew up together and we always got along very well, we were as thick as thieves but I guess I was wrong because she changed and turned against me when my mother died. My mother died a horrible death and I was the unfortunate one to find her and I was accused of killing her. Even my own father accused me of murdering my own mother, so did the people in the village and my friend Lisa. Every one turned against me and after the funeral my father started physically abusing me, he would beat me up every day after work and I had no where to run to but the forest because the trees and animals don't talk and they wouldn't put salt in my wounds. This one time he beat me up so bad that I had a blue eye and my

whole body was a work of art made by the sjambok he used to beat me and created by my fathers hands. That night someone killed him and apparently they saw the person coming out of my house running and the people went out looking for him or her I don't know and with my bad luck they found me instead.

They saw the blood on my hand and dress from the bleeding nose i got from my father's fists and they concluded that I was the one who killed him. Mind you I didn't even know the man was dead I just ran away from the beating and hid so that I can lick my wounds without the insults. I was beaten up by the people some more taking me to the chief which I don't even know when or how I got there or what was said because I fainted and woke up after a few day being taken care of by the chiefs wife. I was exonerated for those crimes but to people like Lisa I remained a murderer.

Bathandwa: Babe you have been through a lot and am sorry you had to go through that on your own. Am sorry no one saved you, am sorry that no one

believed you and am sorry I didn't protect you from that girl. Am sorry for not reacting on time, please forgive me babe.

Asithandile: You have done nothing wrong Bathandwa and I didn't expect you to follow me because your mother was there so there is nothing to forgive you for.

Bathandwa: I got you something just to say am sorry for being an ass (he took out the box and have it to her) open it.

She opened it and there was a locket in a shape of a heart and abbreviations of their names on each side.

Asithandile: I love it thank you.

Bathandwa: Can I please have my girlfriend back.

Asithandile: Of course

Bathandwa went closer to her and hugged and kissed her.

Joburg:

Lisa was still in that room, people come in and out bringing her stuff. Some brought her clothes which were brought by a middle aged woman, another brought her breakfast this morning and the other one that doesn't look a year older than her brought her toiletries and food. She hasn't seen Sticks since yesterday when he left. What she didn't understand was why all the woman were walking around half naked.

Sticks came in.

Sticks: You must have made your decision by now, so tell me what will it be.

Lisa: Please explain to me what the job entails

Sticks: Don't act stupid with me, you might come from the rural areas but you went to school and you know very well what a brothel is.

Lisa: And if I take your offer what will I have to do?

Sticks: Both offers are mine so which one are you

referring to.

Lisa: Being your woman.

Sticks: It entails you going to school because I will not rule with an illiterate by my side. You will also have to undergo training every day after class and Shoes will be your trainer.

Lisa: What sort of training is that?

Sticks: Shooting, knives and fighting.

Lisa: I don't need that

Sticks: Trust me you will. So what will it be?

Lisa: I will be your woman

Sticks: Good, schools open next week and you will be starting and I want to see those grades up. Your training starts tomorrow morning at 5 in the morning, breakfast is at 7, lunch at 12 and no dinner.

Lisa: Why?

Sticks: Because you will be training the whole day and some of the things you will have to do will require you to be lite in weight.

Lisa: You said I start school yet I didn't register yet and even if I did they won't take me on the third semester. On top of that I don't have my statement of results.

Sticks: How Do you think I saw your grades? (Lisa didn't answer) training at 5 and school next week. (he walked out and left her there)

Encoko village:

More people were losing their lives in the village, two more people died in mysterious ways and the people now don't know who to blame since Asithandle is no longer in the village. Nosiyamcela's contact got the organs they needed but the first victim was not a match so they sent him equipment to test the victims so see if they are a match but the first one was not not that is why he killed the second person. He sent all their organs to Cape Town and his parents were more than pleased with his work as he delivered in record time and they had extra in case

they get a client that will be a match.

People don't sleep at night worried about being killed while they sleep. Things are no longer the same now there is not peace and no one knows who it might be. They resorted to blaming boys from neighboring villages but that didn't stop them from being scared when night time comes.

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Insert 31

Encoko village

After the recent killings people were very scared, no one stayed out till late anymore or visited other villages and came back late as they were afraid of

what might happen. The chiefs of the neighboring villages asked for a meeting from the chief of Encoko to discuss the matter because their people were also scared that the killer will move on to their villages. So the chief agreed to the meeting and today was the day of the meeting. People from the village gathered at the chiefs place together with the chiefs of the neighboring villages and their people to find a way forward to the matter. The chief stood up and addressed the people.

Chief: My people and our neighbors, we all know why we are gathered here today, so I will not take much of your time and I will give to Chief Cirha to say a few words.

Cirha: Ndiyabulela Mqwathi. Bantu bakuthi, ndiyazi ukuba lento eyikafiki kwezethu ilali kodwa ngubani othi ayizufika? Nibonile abanye benu bavile ukuba ababantu babeweyo bathathelwe amalingu omzimba. Ngoku xa umbulali engasafani kule ilali ngubani othi akazukuya kwezethu? Ngubani othi thina sokhuseleke? Yilonto silapha namhlanje, zizofuna umkhombandlela. Mandihle. (thank you

Mqwathi.people, I know that this has not come to our villages yet but who's to say that it won't come? You saw and some have heard that the people who were killed lost their organs. Now if the killer doesn't get what he wants here who's to say he won't come to ours? Who's to say we are safe? That is why we are here today, to find a way forward)

A man from the crowd stood up to speak.

Man: Greetings everyone, I have a question here or maybe a statement however you want to take it. In this village a girl was accused of the first killings which were her parents, now the girl has left yet the killings continue now who is to blame? (another man stood up)

Man: Its clear that the girl didn't kill anyone so let's move on. (another stood up)

Man: How Do we move on without fixing this first?

Cirha: I know that I am not from this village but I believe that you all have wronged this child so I suggest that you cleanse her home with a goat as per our way and cleanse her as well. (another man

stood up)

Man: That is how things should be done chief but where we will we find the girl because no one knows where she went. (a woman stood up)

Woman: I saw her in town a month ago, maybe she stays somewhere there so we can start looking that side. (the people agreed with her but the Chief got irritated)

Chief: You people are selfish, not long ago you people were accusing this child of killing her parents, now you want to go look for her and for what? For your own selfish reasons. You are all parents here but none of you took the time to think how she felt. Even the women who went through labor pains didn't stand up for her. Even when your husbands and sons beat her up to a pulp none of you came to check on her and now you want her. What are you going to say to her when you find her? (a man stood up)

Man: We will apologize for our wrong doing and cleanse her and her home to make things right.

Chief: Make things right for who? Who in their right mind will want to come here after everything you all have done? You are selfish and now you want to drag the poor child here again and for what? Women of this village, mothers and fathers. Let me ask you this, how would you have felt if this was your child? Would you have stood by her or would you have stood with the people who crucified her?.. Your hatred and doubts caused that child to live through Hell in the hands of a man she called her father and in the hands of your husbands and sons.

Cirha: Calm down Mqwathi, this is not how we resolve things, Yes your people have disappointed you and did wrong and an innocent person but now we are here to find a solution.

Chief: So their solution is to put that child through more things? And for what? If these people were not being killed none of them would have thought apologizing to that girl. Now they are being killed they think of that child but not for the right reasons but for their own selfish ones. That person call kill you all I don't care. Now leave my compound.

Chief: Please calm down chief and let us discuss what we came here for and come with a solution.

Mqwathi: Here is my solution, you take care of your people in your villages and I will let these heartless people in my village die because I don't care. Am done with caring about people who only care about themselves. Now leave. (he left everyone there and the chiefs told their people to go as there is nothing more to be discussed. Everyone was quiet and stood up and left)

Nokonwaba didn't like her husbands behavior in front of his people and guests. She knew that there was more to his behavior than what he said and she was going to find out. She went to him in the lounge and sat before him.

Nokonwaba: My husband

Mqwathi: Uthini mfazakuthi (what is it my wife?)

Nokonwaba: My husband, I have known you for many years and I think I know you by now and that in there was not you. The behavior you displayed in

front of your people and guests was not you at all. Now please tell me what is the problem.

Mqwathi: There is no problem dear, I am just sick and tired of these selfish people.

Nokonwaba: I have known Asithandile for a while but I got to know her better when she was here. We connected and I found out that she is a good person with a kind heart. But that is not reason enough for you to behave that way.

Mqwathi: There is nothing really.

Nokonwaba: You stood by me when your family told you to kick me out and take another wife because I couldn't give you children, you stood by me when they asked you to at least take a second wife and you stood by me when my family turned their backs on me because of your family. Please let me be there for you now.

Mqwathi: Am afraid after if I tell you, you will resent me.

Nokonwaba: Trust me enough to stand by you like you did for me all these times.

Mqwathi: Remember when I just took over as Chief And was struggling to get alliances with other villages?

Nokonwaba: Yes it was two years after we got married and the chiefs would not get into an alliance with you saying they will not have alliances with a chief that doesn't have an air.

Mqwathi: Yes And I found an investor but I had to do something for her before she could invest. She asked me to sleep with another mans wife and get her pregnant because the husband couldn't have children and according to her he didn't know that and I agreed. She gave me a drug to give to her, I took it and kept tabs on the husband and once I knew his schedule I went to her house while she was alone, I told her that I was just passing and asked for water. She gave me and excused herself to go look at her pot outside and I put the drug in the water and I called for her and told her that the water tasted funny. He took the mug and drank the water but didn't taste anything funny so she finished it and

gave another glass and I drank. I kept making small talk with her until the drug took effect and I sleep with her.

3 months later a huge sum was deposited in my account and I didn't ask questions I used it to fix things in the village. The money kept coming and I kept using it, 7 months down the line I saw her and she was pregnant and I knew that I had done what I was asked that is why I was getting paid.

Nokonwaba: What are you trying to say?

Mqwathi: That Asithandile is my daughter

Nokonwaba: Am so disappointed in you, not for having a child but for how you went about it. You watched your child being raised by another man while you watched, you let him introduce her to the ancestors that were not hers. No wonder that child has such bad luck, the ancestors of the man that raised her and yours are fighting over her and now she is the one paying the prince. You have to do the right thing for the child and clear her path.

Mqwathi: All that I have done was for her, to keep her safe and right now I can't do the right thing because if she's to find out then I am dead and so is she. And I can't lose my only child and I can't lose you too. You two are the only thing I have.

Nokonwaba: All I am saying is that you find a way to make things right by her, she has lived a lie long enough it's time she knows where she comes from.

Mqwathi: It's not that I don't want to but I can't now because she is close to that woman and she is keeping a close eye on her. Please give me time and I will fix this. I love you and I love her and for the both of you I would die and kill if need be.

Nokonwaba: I will stand by you on this Only because that child deserves better than what you have given her. She will never be at peace until you introduce her to her rightful ancestors. She will always be accused of things she didn't do because she is lost and both the ancestors of these families are fighting over her. Do the right thing before it's too late. (she

stood up and left him)

He sad there thinking about how his going to fix this whole mess. He knows how dangerous Nosiyamcela is and she wouldn't hesitate to her his daughter.

I tired to make it short.

#loveamin

Insert 32

Encoko village

After the day of her husbands confession Nokonwaba hasn't been herself, something just wasn't right somewhere and the thought of Asithandile finding out how she was conceived bothered her a lot. She has seen first hand how her life was after her mother died and now she wanted

to know more about this whole thing since she didn't ask everything she wanted to the other day because her anger took over. She prepared bathing water for her husband and went to his room, I say his because after that day she refused to share a bed with her husband and he didn't mind as long as she didn't leave him. She went to the room opened the door and the chief was sitting in bed looking like his deep in thoughts.

Nokonwaba: Your bathing water is ready.

Chief: Thank you.

She got out and went to prepare breakfast while the chief went and took a bath. He then went and joined his wife for breakfast. They sat on the dining table and she fished out for him.

Chief: Thank you

Nokonwaba: There is something I don't understand here.

Chief: What is it?

Nokonwaba: You day that Nobuntu didn't know that

the child was not her husbands child right?

Chief: Yes.

Nokonwaba: So if the husband didn't know that he couldn't have children why did he treat that child the way he did the moment his wife died.

Chief: I think grief took over and he acted that way.

Nokonwaba: You speak as if Sakhumzi was a fool or uneducated. If you remember correctly when he came to live here he was a deputy principal of a school. What made him leave all that to come and stay here I don't know but am trying to say is that he was not fool.

Chief: My dear wife, what you seem to forget is that a mans weakness is a woman especially the woman he loves. Sakhumzi was not stupid yes but I don't think he knew the truth about the child.

Nokonwaba: And you?

Chief: What about me?

Nokonwaba: Why is it that you lived all these years

with such a secret? How were you able to look Sakhumzi in the eyes after doing what you did to his wife and how did you look at Nobuntu after that? How did you look at me your wife and continued living as if nothing had happened.

Chief: All I did was for the good of this village and its people. For Asithandile to be safe and for you to live a comfortable life in your home without having to go begging to your family after they disowned you. I didn't want them saying they told you so. So I don't regret what I did but I do regret not having a chance to get to know my daughter.

Nokonwaba: Yho kucacike kemos uba ungambulala umntu wogqiba ulale obuhlayo bona ubuthongo ngathi awenzanganto. Bendisithi ndiyakwazi kodwa kucacike uba andikwazi. (yhoo it's clear that you can kill a person then sleep well at night as if you did nothing. I thought I knew you but it's clear that I don't.

She stood up and left him there, she hated the fact that the more she found out about this issue the

more she doesn't like the man she's been married to for years. She wondered if she ever knew him to begin with because by the look of things she didn't. She also wondered how Asithandile will feel and react when she finds out that her whole life she has been living a lie.

Mthatha:

The day of the dates for the sisters arrived and they were excited about it. They have been talking on the phone the whole day planning the last details of the evening. They decided to go to a spa together to get a massage and then go to the salon to do their hair and nails. The sisters arrived at their brothers places and you could hear Ncebakazi from a far talking loud.

Ncebakazi: Open up people we don't have all day!
(she yelled banging the door and Bukhosi went to open)

Bukhosi: Some If is don't have dates to prepare for and we would like our peace.

Ncebakazi: Hey brother, no shame you will have to live with it. No one said you should be born the only boy among girls.

Bukhosi: WOW, Zodwa please say something please big sis.

Zodwa: It's funny how am big sis when you want me in your corner. Am going to get Asithandile (she left the two going to Asithandile's room)

Zodwa: Baby girl where are you!

Asithandile: In the bathroom

Zodwa: No! Don't tell me you not ready (Asithandile came out of the bathroom)

Asithandile: Am done I was just fixing my hair.

Zodwa: Lets go then before Ncebakazi comes in here.

Asithandile: Oh no I wouldn't wasn't that (she took her purse and they went to the lounge where Ncebakazi and her younger brother were still going on)

Zodwa: Okay enough you two let's go now.

Ncebakazi stood up and they went out to the car and they drove off. They got to the spa and were shown their changing rooms. They changed into the spa gowns and went to get their full body massages. When that was done they went to the salon where they did their hair, nails and a pedicure. When they finished it was already time for them to go get ready. They drove to Bukhosi's place to drop Asithandile.

Ncebakazi: I have a surprise for you girls (she said smiling)

Zodwa: What is it?

Ncebakazi: You will find out when you get home.

Asithandile: As long as it's something that will make me feel good I don't mind and thank you.

Zodwa: You day that because you don't Ncebakazi's surprises.

Ncebakazi: Don't worry wena nana you will love it.

They got to Bukhosi's house and dropped

Asithandile then drove home to get ready. When Asithandile got home Bukhosi told him that someone was waiting for her in her room. She went there in a hurry to see who it was and a beautiful lady was sitting on her bed.

Asithandile: Hello

Lady: Hey am Linda and you must be the little sister.

Asithandile: Yes am Asithandile

Linda: Good sir down I have to do your make up.

Asithandile: I never had make up on before (she said excited)

Linda: Then sit down and let me work Linda's magic on you and when am done you won't recognize yourself.

She sat down and Linda did her thing, she didn't put too much make up in her just something simple and elegant. She then helped her dress up and she left. When Linda left Bukhosi was taken by her and wanted details from his sister.

He knocked on his sisters door and she asked him to come in.

Bukhosi: WOW I thought she was exaggerating when she said she can work magic but now I see that she can. You look beautiful baby sis.

Asithandile: Thank you brother.

Bukhosi: So how do you know Linda?

Asithandile: I don't know her sis Ncebakazi is the one who knows her. Why do you ask?

Bukhosi: Oh nothing am just asking.

Asithandile smiled at her brother shaking her head.

Asithandile: I will ask her for Linda's contacts.

Bukhosi: That would be great! Mm I mean for you when you need her again.

Asithandile: Yeah right.

There was a knock on the door and Bukhosi went to open and it Bathandwa.

Bathandwa: Evening

Bukhosi: Evening

Bathandwa: Am here for Asithandile

Bukhosi: She will be out in a minute

They went inside and waited and Asithandile came out looking beautiful in her long black evening gown. Bathandwa stood up and met her half way.

Bathandwa: You look beautiful my love.

Asithandile: You don't look bad yourself

Bukhosi: You two get out of my house, I don't have a girlfriend and you here busy talking about my love and being romantic. Hayi no go now (they laughed and left)

Bathandwa drove to the restaurant and when they got there they were shown the table that was reserved for them and Ncebakazi and his date were already seated.

Asithandile: Good evening

Ncebakazi: Evening baby come sit down (they say

next to each other)

Ncebakazi: Well Luxolo this is my you younger sister Asithandile and Asithandile this is Luxolo.

Asithandile: Pleasure to meet you. This is Bathandwa my boyfriend and Bathandwa this is my sister Ncebakazi.

Bathandwa: I see beauty runs in the family, a pleasure to meet you (he took her hand and kissed the back of it)

Ncebakazi: WOW sis you got yourself a gentleman here.

Asithandile: Thank you.

Luxolo: The gentleman must keep his hands for his girl because I worked hard for mine (they all laughed)

Asithandile: Where is Zodwa?

Ncebakazi: She should be here any moment now (just then Zodwa walked in with her boyfriend and joined the others on the table)

Zodwa: Sorry we late guys, let me introduce you, this is Vusi my boyfriend and Vusi this is my older sister

Ncebakazi and this...

Vusi: Asithandile the damsel in distress (he cut her short)

Ncebakazi: Do you know each other?

Asithandile: Yes, he almost ran me over the day we went to Durban.

Ncebakazi: Oh so his the one mmm (Zodwa didn't like the way Vusi was looking at Asithandile)

Ncebakazi: Let me finish the introductions then. This on my left is Bathandwa Asithandile's boyfriend and this one here is Luxolo my date.

They got to know each other but all this while Vusi was looking at Asithandile, even when Zodwa was speaking to him he would answer looking at Asithandile. He wouldn't take his eyes off her and Bathandwa saw this but what put him at ease was seeing that Asithandile payed no mind to Vusi she was focused on her conversation with Ncebakazi and him. Zodwa was pissed, she wanted to go home

but she also didn't want to cause drama and ruin the evening for those who were enjoying it.

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Insert 33

Mthatha (not edited)

The dinner was going well for those who were enjoy it. Asithandile was happy with Bathandwa and Ncebakazi was having the time of her life with Luxolo. Business was in another planet thinking of how he missed the chance to make Asithandile his, he looked at her eyes as they lit up every-time Bathandwa whispered in her ear. The innocent smile she wears and her smile, God her smile can make any man drop everything and run off with her. In his eyes she was perfect and he wanted her for himself.

Zodwa was hurt by what she was seeing, she didn't know what to do but she told herself that she won't ruin the evening for her sisters so she sent a message to the both of them telling them to meet her in the ladies. Both Asithandile and Ncebakazi looked at their phones then at Zodwa and asked to be excused. They left the guys there and went to the ladies.

At the table:

Luxolo: Guys I don't know how we ended up with sister but I must say I love that woman.

Bathandwa: It shows in the way you look at her like everything and everyone else doesn't exist.

Luxolo: Man That woman gave me a hard time, I have been begging her for months to go out with me but she always turned me down.

Bathandwa: Well it looks like your perseverance payed off, I might not know much about women but the way she smiles when she looks at you I would say she has feelings for you.

Luxolo: Yeah man that will be great. What's up you Vusi. Man you have been quiet all night.

Vusi: Am fine am just thinking about how beautiful my woman is, the way she smiles , the way her eyes light up, I just get lost in them. For the first time in a long time I think am in love.

Luxolo: Then Tell her man before another man beats you to is. (Bathandwa looked at Vusi thinking that he didn't say a word to Zodwa all night because he was looking at his woman and Zodwa didn't smile at all)

Bathandwa: It's funny how you describe Zodwa, if I didn't know better I'd say you describing my woman. (Vusi faked a laugh)

Vusi: No man, I might not show it but I love her, I had a lot of things planned for us since the first day we met but I didn't want to rush things you know, in case I come out too strong and scare her away.

Luxolo: I say it's better to put your cards on the table so that she knows what you are about.

Vusi: I might just do that.

Bathandwa: But make sure that 'Zodwa ' is into you that way before going strong (he emphasized the Zodwa)

Vusi: Yeah I will.

In the ladies:

They were busy powdering their nose looking in the mirror.

Zodwa: Your man is handsome big sis and the way he looks at you one can tell that his in love.

Asithandile: Yeah I noticed how our sister blushed every time she looked at him.

Ncebakazi: Oh please let me have fun, it's been a while since I last dated. So let me enjoy it with someone who actually wants me not my things.

Asithandile: That's How It should be.

Ncebakazi: Zodwa your man is good look too sister.

Zodwa: I think Asithandile is lucky look at

Bathandwa's eyes girrrl now I understand why you head over hills for him.

Asithandile: Thank you sis I really do love him.

Ncebakazi: Zodwa stop dodging the compliment about Vusi.

Zodwa: Okay look, I called the both of you here to share something that has been bothering me all night.

Asithandile: Yeah I noticed you have been off, what is going on?

Zodwa: Vusi

Ncebakazi: What the hell has he done?

Zodwa: Well even since we got here he hasn't taken his eyes off Asithandile. He didn't even look or talk to me the whole night, his focus has always been on you girl.

Asithandile: What? Zodwa am sorry but I swear to you that nothing is going on between me and that guy and I never did anything to make him think otherwise.

Zodwa: No sis don't worry about it, if you had something going on with him you would have told us in Durban because you didn't know his my boyfriend then I would blame you today but you did nothing Vusi is just a dog that I have to dump after this.

Ncebakazi: Am sorry sis but I have an idea now let's go back to the table.

They went back to the table and the guys had orders another round of drinks and they sat and started making general conversation which Vusi will always support Asithandile's statement every time which got Asithandile angry after leaning what his been doing all night.

Asithandile: What is your name again? (she asked with her eyebrow raised Vusi smile and licked his lips before answering)

Vusi: It's Vusi darling

Asithandile: Well Vusi, I don't appreciate the way you have been looking at me. One you have a girl but not just any girl but my sister next to you and here you

are looking at her younger sister like she is some meal. You are being disrespectful to my sister first and my boyfriend so please get your act together.

Ncebakazi: Jesus I have been waiting for someone to pick that up. Listen here wena Vuyani or whatever your name is, these two right here are my sisters and if you think you are going to turn them against each other with your hoering tendencies then you got another thing coming.

Bathandwa: Am glad others picked it up, I didn't want to say anything and sound like a jealous boyfriend but man what you have been doing is out of line.(Vusi laughed shaking his head)

Vusi: Look here boy, a woman like her doesn't deserve to be with boys, she needs real man to take care of her and love her just right. I mean look at her she's a goddess beautiful, smart and to top it off she's sexy and wife material. This woman is mine and I will get her one way or the other. Asithandle babe, this boy once made you cry that alone proves

that his not man enough for you, I wanted to take things slow between us, for us to get to know each other but now that these people decided to bring our business out in the open I will tell you now. I love you, I fell for you from the first day I saw you, with all the tears on your eyes caused by this boy and all the snot and red puffy eyes. That day you were not at your best but a person that truly loves you will love you when you at your worst and when you at your best. Be with me baby girl and let me show you love.

Everyone at the table were left with their jaws on the floor because they didn't expect him to confess his love like that and in front of everyone. Asithandile stood up and went around the table, Vusi was smiling all this time watching her come to him. She got closer to him.

Asithandile: Sis do you mind shifting a bit?

Zodwa: Not at all.

Zodwa got up and moved further away from Vusi and Asithandile got closer to him with her hands on

her back, she got closer and looked at him in the eyes and Vusi wa smiling like a retarded man. She threw him with the meanest of all punches right between his eyes then moved back.

Vusi: What the hell...? (Luxolo stood up and went to him, Vusi was already on his feet. Luxolo threw him a punch that landed him on the ground and earning a few stares from people in the restaurant.)

Vusi stoop up and fixed himself then looked at Asithandile.

Vusi: I did say that you are wife material and you will be wife (Luxolo three another punch and he stumbled backwards with a his nose bleeding)

Luxolo: You sit here and tell us how much you love Zodwa Kanti all this while you talking about her sister? Get the hell out of here and stay away from these ladies.

Bathandwa: Not until I do this (he threw a punch at him landing him back on the floor and the security went to them in a hurry and picked up Vusi pushing

him outside.

Vusi: Babe I will come for you my love (he said before going out)

Zodwa: Oh my god you guys are the best sisters and brothers in law a girl could ever ask for thank you (they all went to her and hugged her)

Zodwa: Hayi I didn't say squash me yhoo I still have to find my husband looking this good (they all laughed)

Luxolo: On a serious note though what that guy said shouldn't be taken lightly.

Ncebakazi: Yeah we don't know what he might do.

Asithandile: Zodwa are you Okay sis, Am sorry about all this. I can't help but think if I didn't come into your lives none of this would be happening.

Zodwa: oh no dear, I have dated a lot of Vusi's and if it wasn't you it would have been someone else.

Luxolo: Guys like him give us a bad name though.

Bathandwa: Yeah You right but what pisses me off is the fact that he sat there and talked about my

woman right in front of me.

Asithandile: But babe clearly you saw I wasn't into that guy.

Bathandwa: I did because you didn't even see the looks he gave you.

Zodwa: She and Ncebakazi didn't, I had to tell them for them to notice.

They continued with their evening discussing the Vusi issue here and there until they went home. Ncebakazi and Luxolo gave Zodwa a lift home since her ride decided to be a deuce bag.

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Insert 34

JOBURG

Lisa POV

It's been a week in Joburg and I have been training every day, that is every morning and every evening. I have even gotten used to the meal schedule and the kind of meals am allowed to eat. I haven't seen Sticks since last week when he told me about training and school. The people around here are friendly and by judging by their stories they were all saved by Sticks from one situation to another. Like this one girl Asanda she was a orphan and was living on the streets one day she wanted to rob Sticks and he caught her but instead of beating her up or punishing her he took her in and gave her a job as the care taker of the house which is really big. The following year he sent her to school and when she passed grade 12 he made her the administrator from there in university she did financial accounting and is now on her third year and she got a promotion

to assistant financial manager.

Then there is Bulelwa who is a single mother who for pregnant at 18 and her parents threw her out and when that happened the boyfriend dumped her. She used to go around town with her baby girl on her back and clean people's houses for money so that she can feed her child, until she came here looking for a cleaning job just for a day and Sticks gave her the flat at the back to live in and gave her a job then sent her to school as well.

See all of these people sincerely appreciate and are grateful to Sticks for everything his done for them. To them his a good person but to me his scary and intimidating. So next week schools opened and am supposed to get my grades up, am told that There eyes everywhere to will be watching me and if even think of running away from there all hell will break lose. Sigh there goes my plan of escaping when I go to school. So now it's clear that I will never see home

again not unless the boss decides to let me go.

Right now am getting ready to go for my evening training when the boss himself walks into my room and I quickly cover up.

Sticks: You have nothing I haven't seen yet

Lisa: You might have seen all of them but not mine.

Sticks: You need to learn some manners (I kept quiet) oh it knows how to keep its mouth shut Great! Now I just spoke to your trainer and he tells you that you learn well and you quick with the knives. That is good progress but from next week you will be training only in the evening.

Lisa: Okay

Sticks: Now am going away for a month and when I come back I want to see process on every aspect of your trains school. Asanda will go with you for shopping and your study is set up with everything you will need for school in the room right next to this one. (I guess his not such a bad person after all)

Lisa: Can we go see it now please

Sticks: Together? (he seems surprised but am trying to be nice since his move to me so am returning the favor)

Lisa: You the one who got me theses thing and I would like you to show please.

Sticks: Alright let's go (we went out of the room to the room next door, he opened the door and the room is amazing)

It has a study table with a comfortable chair with lamp on it and a laptop. It also has a shelf with all the books I use on my course even the ones I couldn't afford and depended on my friends for. He even got me book just to read and on top on the desk there are letters that make up my name Lisakhanya which I don't even know why he wrote my whole name but it looked amazing, I couldn't stop smiling. I turned around and I think I saw a side smile on him which quickly disappeared when I looked at him.

Sticks: So that's it, do you need anything else (I couldn't control myself as I threw myself on him landing on his hard chest hugging him and he hugged me back)

Lisa: I love it thank you.

Sticks: It's a pleasure, you can make use of it anytime you want to here (he gave to the key to it)

Lisa: Thank you.

Sticks: Thank me by working hard at school and on your training because am taking you to Cuba when I come back.

Lisa: What is in Cuba?

Sticks: All in good time! But for now behave while am gone.

Lisa: Okay but who will take me to school next week?

Sticks: Jacob will.

Lisa: Okay than thank you.

Sticks: Right (he walked out and left)

Am happy about going to school next week and

everything I have but I miss home. I miss my mother even though I didn't treat her well before I left and I miss my father who always had encouraging words for me. Am not allowed to contact them yet but Asanda tells me that he will let me do anything I want when he trusts and says he can even allow me to go home for a visit which is what am Look forward to. I even miss Asithandile oh what a good friend she was to me but I only have myself to blame for our failure friendship.

Mthatha:

Nosiyamcela was at one of the houses she uses for her merchandise when his associate called.

Convo:

Nosiyamcela: Uyafuna ntoni (what do you want now)

Chief: The people want to find the girl so that they can cleanse her and her home for everything they have done.

Nosiyamcela: Ucinga ndimuncu kodwa wena (you think am stupid though) for an educated man and a chief on top of that you are very stupid.

Chief: Seriously What have I done now?

Nosiyamcela: You think I will let you have this child so that you can tell her everything? And I heard about your outburst at your little meeting and I hope it ended there.

Chief: Of course it ended there.

Nosiyamcela: Good because if you go on like this people will be suspicious and I can't afford that.

Chief: I know what is at stake.

Nosiyamcela: Good now I need two kidneys and I will be sending you the equipment tomorrow.

Voice: Nosiyamcela!! Nosiyamcela!! (said a voice behind her calling her name)

Nosiyamcela: I will have to call you back. (she dropped the call)

Nosiyamcela: Yintoni wa shoutisa kangaka ngathi ndisisithulu Vusumzi! (why are you shouting like am deaf Vusumzi?)

Vusi: Aunty look at me

Nosiyamcela: Utheni nawena wabokoboko kanze (what happened to you that you look so beaten up?)

Vusi: I was beaten up by the boyfriends of your daughters.

Nosiyamcela: What did you do?

Vusi: Because I expressed my feelings for the woman I love.

Nosiyamcela: You can't fall in love with Zodwa she's my daughter and you are my son.

Vusi: Your son yes but not by blood and I don't love Zodwa no offense.

Nosiyamcela: Then who do you love and don't talk to me like that because I made you.

Vusi: Are you going to sing that song again?

Nosiyamcela: Listen here you brat! I took you in

when you were only 15 years old, sent you to school...

Vusi: Sent me to school, cleaned me up, paid my fees through university and got me a job when I graduated. Did I leave something out?

Nosiyamcela: Am glad you remember where I took you from.

Vusi: How can I forget when you always remind me of it? I was an orphan I know that and if it wasn't for you I wouldn't be here and I know that too. But am also the only one who knows about your shady business and if I want to I can tell your husband and your daughters.

Nosiyamcela: You wouldn't dare!

Vusi: Try me mother please try me.

Nosiyamcela: I can easily kill you

Vusi: And the information on your whole operation can easily land on your husbands lap.

Nosiyamcela: What do you want?

Vusi: Ndifuna u Asithandile ndiyakuthanda kwaye

ndifuna wena undifumanele yena. (I want
Asithandile, I love her and I want you to get her for
me)

Nosiyamcela: How am I suppose to do that?

Vusi: I don't know mother but make it happen (he
left Nosiyamcela there fuming)

Nosiyamcela: Kunje ke ukuthatha izinja ezilahliweyo
uzenze abantu xogqiba zikunyele (this is what
happens when you take abandoned dogs and make
them human then they repay you by giving you shit)

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Insert 35

Encoko village

The chief was busy last night night setting up traps on the routes that the young man take when the take the live stock to the fields. He knows which young man takes which route when going to the field as they don't take the same route and don't go to the same place. All he wanted was for them to get a little scratches on their legs so that he can get the samples to test and get the match that he is looking for. It took him the whole night to set up all the traps and went back home in the early hours of the morning. It also helped that he was no longer shared a room with his wife as he doesn't have to explain his whereabouts to anyone.

The morning came and the young man of the village took their fathers live stock to the fields taking their usual routes. The deeper they got they would be scratched on their legs right above their knees where the gumboots ended, they would bleed a little but it was nothing major so they didn't worry about it and just wiped the little blood that came out and moved

along. They stayed out all day like they used to and went back home the same way earning them a couple of more scratches, but those of us who grew up in the rural areas know that a minor scratches are nothing to worry about as we would wet our fingers with saliva and rub the place that got scratched and blood would stop and we would go about our day no questions asked.

Late at night after 10pm in the evening the chief tiptoed out of the house with his equipment bag under his arm as he walked to where he put his traps. He tested the bloods on them one by one and he found the match with the same blood type as the client. Now he has his victim and now all he has to do is find the perfect time to strike. He went back to his house after he got everything that he wanted, he got to the hut that they use for ritual and lit up the African incense and in no time the smoke filled up the room followed by its strong smell. He knelt down next to the side plate that had the burning incense and started reciting his clan names.

OMqwathi, Odikela, ooNoni, ooBlangwe ndibiza nina Bantu bakhuthi ndizongxengxeza ngako konke endikwenzileyo nendisezokwenza. Kubihlungu kum ukuthatha imiphefumlo kodwa yiyo kuphela into endinoyenza okwalomzuzu ukukhusela umntwana wam, umzukulwana kumi tata no mama isizukulwana kuni makhulu no tamkhulu. Ndiyazi zange nizale sigebenga kodwa andinalo elinye icebo. Ndiboniseni indlela Maqwathi Nani boGatyeni, oondonde omamani bantu bakulo mama. Ndicela kuni njengomntwan wenu. (he recited his clan names and spoke, I call upon you my people, I can to apologize for everything that I have done and those that am yet to do. It hurts me to have to take lives but that is the only thing I can do at the moment to protect my child, grandchild to you mother and father and a great grandchild to you grandmother and grandfather. I know you didn't give birth to a monster but I don't have another idea on how to protect her. Show me the way Maqwathi and You Gatyeni people my mothers mothers people. Ask you as your child.

When he finished he looked up only to be met by a terrified Nokonwaba standing by the door of the heart. He panicked a bit but did show it.

Mqwathi: My wife, I thought you were asleep.

Nokuzola: I was until I heard noises and I went to look for you and when I couldn't find you in our room I saw light here and came looking.

Mqwathi: Okay Lets go sleep now it's late.

Nokonwaba: Not until you tell me what you meant by what you said.

Mqwathi: So now I can't talk to my ancestors without informing you?

Nokonwaba: That is not what am saying and you know it.

Mqwathi: Then What are you saying?

Nokonwaba: I want to know what you meant when you said it hurt you to take a human life but it's the only thing you can do to protect your daughter?

Mqwathi: Oh man no I was talking about the killings that are happening in this village. I asked them to show me the way and the person who is doing this because it hurts me to see people's lives being taken. Not me taking a life and yes I did ask them to protect my daughter for me while I find a way to solve this.

Nokonwaba: But that is not what I heard Mqwathi.

Mqwathi Are we going to fight about this all night or go to bed and sleep? It's late and am tired, I don't sleep at night worried that the next morning people will be coming here telling us about another dead body. What more do you want from me.

Nokonwaba: It's okay I understand (she said that but she was not convinced) they went to the main house and went to their separate rooms.

Mthatha:

Vusi was sitting in his study on the laptop trying to

do research on Asithandile but he couldn't find anything. He wondered what kind of a woman who doesn't have a social media foot print. He stood up and went to pour himself whiskey, he lit a cigar and went to stand at the balcony feeling the midnight breeze. The sky was clear and beautifully decorated with stars that lit up the sky, each one with a different light like others were deemed on purpose and other lit up brightly. But the combination they presented was a beautiful one with the center piece which was the moon bring out the light of the stars that fit perfectly with its own.

Vusi: Oh how I would enjoy a night like this with you my love, with your skin glowing under the moonlight. Oh how beautiful you would look. Asithandile deserves a good man like me, Yes that boy of hers seem to be a good boy but not good enough for her. She deserves the best and I can give her that and more. I never believed in love at first sight but with her I was taken the very first time I saw her. My mind was never at ease since that day, I think of her and I

dream about her. She is the mother of my kids no one else. Mother better come through for me but if she doesn't let me arrange with my main man.

He took out his phone and dialed his number but his right hand man picked up.

Vusi: Sticks

Jacob: No it's Jacob

Vusi: I need sticks man

Jacob: His not around but you can talk to me.

Vusi: I want a girl brought to me in Cape Town money is no issue.

Jacob: Send a picture now (he quickly sent Asithandile's picture and Jacob looked at it and shook his head as if he can see him)

Jacob: Not happening

Vusi: What Why?

Jacob: Because she is on the bosses protected list and if were you I will stay away.

Vusi: How did she get on that list.

Jacob: I don't think that is any of your business. Stay away (he dropped the call and Vusi threw his phone on the wall and it broke into pieces)

Vusi: Damn it all !! (he said in between his teeth)
Mother you on your own and you better deliver and when Sticks finds out what she has done she is as good as dead and I will be left with the business and my wife. This is not a bad idea at all, killing two birds with one stone. (he smiled as he took his whiskey and cigar and went to the balcony and watched the beautiful night sky.

Oh this is going to be fun, you called me your son, adopted me but kept me far away from your real family because I didn't fit the standard. You say you got me a job mother yet that is just a cover and my real job is to handle your dirty dealings. But now you will pay and not even by hand. (he smiled as he thought of how fulfilling it will be for his mother to die)

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Insert 36

Joburg:

Lisa POV

I have been training for quite sometime now and if you asked me why am training day in and day out I promise I won't give you an answer because I don't know myself. What am trying to say is that I have been training so hard but I don't know what for and Jacob is not saying and and I wouldn't dare ask Sticks because that guys mood is just like Cape Town weather. One minute he gives you the most beautiful side smile and the next it's his usual scary

look like his going to murder you and burry you all on his on, which I can't put pass him really because he looks like the type who would do that.

It's my first week of school this week and I have been working hard because I don't want to be on Sticks bad books, when he comes back he must see progress and so far I think am doing well. I have also been training really hard with Jacob but I wouldn't call him a trainer but a slave driver, the guy can't push a person during training and my body aches in places I never even knew existed until now. It's 5 PM in the evening and it's time for raining and I can't be late, I quickly put on my training shoes and head downstairs and find Jacob pacing up and down in the living room.

Jacob: You late! (he said in a stern voice) Jacob is another scary dude, no wonder his Sticks right hand man they are the same.

Lisa: Only by a minute

Jacob: Yes but you still late, let's go. (we headed to

the training hall and my knives are laid out for me and I mean any type of knife you can think of)

Jacob: Today I will blindfold you and I want you to hit the target on that dart board. Understood!

Lisa: Yes sir (well am supposed to call him sir when we train) He took the blindfold on the table and blindfolded me.

Jacob: Now use the sharp knives and hit the target (God how the hell am I supposed to see which one is a sharp knife when am blindfolded? But I take a knife anyway and threw it, it hit something but then I heard it fall. I take another and I threw it and hit something but it didn't fall, when I was about to take another he held my hand and I stopped, he then took off the blindfold)

Jacob: You failed miserably and am not impressed.

Lisa: But sir..(he cut me short by raising his hand at me and I stop talking)

Jacob: What is rule number 1?

Lisa: Don't talk back sir!

Jacob: Then why are you taking back? (I know he just wants to see if I will answer but I learnt this lesson the hard way and am not answering)

Jacob: Good! Now you are good with knives but the problem is that you only good with them only when you can see them and the target which is not good enough. Now what I want you to do is sit on that chair in front of the table and feel each knife so that you know what each knife feels like so that you can be able to tell them apart. You have 10 minutes (he said and left me there)

I went and sat on the chair then started feeling the knives but at first I didn't feel any difference, but I concentrated and closed my eyes as I touched each knife and recorded on my phone what it feels like in my hand. When I finally finished I opened my eyes and started feeling the knives once again but this time with my eyes open and I could tell which one was which. Jacob came back and I stood up and

took position.

Jacob: Tell me about your knives

Lisa: The start knife has a blunt edge, the blade has a sharp edge, the kill has the rough handle and the the army knife is thick on the handle sir!

Jacob: Now I want you to close your eyes and listen then pick a knife and threw it at the direction I will be in.

Lisa: Yes sir (he blind folded me again)

I closed my eyes and listened but I didn't hear anything, the place was quiet so I didn't throw the knife I had in hand. But I don't know what happened, something that felt like a tennis ball hit me hard and I dropped the knife and brushed my forehead. But with in a second Jacob was next to me holding my hand very hard it was painful and spoke in a stern voice in my ear.

Jacob: What nonsense was that? Are you going to drop your weapon when you in battle? The moment

you do that you are dead and your people are dead is that what you want?

Lisa: No sir! (I was crying because my hand was really painful)

Jacob: Wipe those damn tears and pick up your weapon (I bent down and moved my hand around trying to feel my weapon because I was still blind folded and I found it and took position)

Jacob: Now listen and hit the ball as I throw it.

Lisa: Yes sir (I closed my eyes and listened I had to concentrate hard if I wanted to hear that ball and I did. I heard one coming and I threw the knife and took another and listened and it came from a different direction and I threw the knife)

This went on for a while until he decided to take the blind fold off, when I looked I saw that I only hit 5 of the balls that were thrown at me.

Jacob: You did well today but from now on I want you to use your ears more than you use your eyes.

Lisa: Yes sir

Jacob: Now get that hand taken care off because I want it Well tomorrow morning.

Lisa: Yes sir (he left me there and I went to the house)

Asanda: Shame Babe, let me look at that hand.

Lisa: It's so sore Asanda and Jacob said he wants it Okay tomorrow morning.

Asanda: I have some Chinese power that will help with that.

Lisa: Thank you girl friend, God I want this training to be over.

Asanda: Well just work hard and get everything right then it will all be over.

Lisa: I guess I have to work hard then.

Mthatha:

Vusi was watching Nosiyamcela's house waiting for everyone to leave so that he can go and see Nosiyamcela when everyone is at work. He was sick and tired of waiting for something to happen and today he was more than determined to push her to do something. He had his journalist friend on speed dial, he watched as the people leave the house. It was first Nkosibuthe followed by Ncebakazi then Zodwa followed shortly. As soon as everyone was out of side he drove in and the security opened for him since he knows him. He drove in and parked his car and got out then walked to the door and knocked.

A maid opened for him and showed him where Nosiyamcela was sitting and he went to him. He was drinking tea in the lounge and he went and sat opposite him.

Vusi: Good morning mother

Nosiyamcela: Good morning

Vusi: Please tell me what the progress is on the issue we discussed?

Nosiyamcela: I still have a lot to plan and you know this job is not easy.

Vusi: Let me motivate you then mother so that you can work faster (he took out his phone and dialed his friend and he picked up immediately)

Journalist: Yes?

Vusi: Do it

Journalist: For the 8 o'clock?

Vusi: Yes, I want to see it on my screen in the next 5 minutes.

Journalist: Done

Vusi: Great

He dropped the called and looked at Nosiyamcela who was trying to keep her cool drinking her tea.

Nosiyamcela: So do you have a plan to help me out with this?

Vusi: Of course I do

Nosiyamcela: So? Tell me.

Vusi: Turn on the news and you will see it in this hour's headlines.

Nosiyamcela changed the channel to the news Chanel and it was now two minutes to 8 and she sat back and waited.

They were both quiet looking at the TV, waiting for the news to start. Vusi was so excited about what was about to happen while Nosiyamcela was crossing fingers praying that Vusi didn't do anything stupid. The news started and Vusi upped the volume and they concentrated on the tv.

News:

Presenter: On the headlines today, a truck between Eugie and Maclear collided with a backie and over turned, taking the lives of 3 people.

- On other news a well known business woman is associated to the killings that have been taking

place in the village of Encoko not so far from Mthatha CBD.

- We are expecting sting storms this weekend and viewers are advised to not travel and stay at home this weekend.

- I am Sandisa Ndlanga coming to you with your 8 o'clock news.

- The truck that turnover and caused the accident belong to one of our biggest crops formers Mr Steward. The truck was transporting crops when the accident took place and unfortunately there were no survivors.

- The well known business woman in Mthatha is believed to be responsible for the killings happening at Encoko village. It is said that the unknown woman is killing these people for their organs. Our sources are still getting more information on the matter.

Nosiyamcela switched off the TV and stood up pacing up and down the living room. Clearly fuming, she stopped pacing and looked at Vusi with disgust.

Nosiyamcela: Why in the hell would you do that for?

Vusi: Like I said, to motivate you to work faster or else bits and pieces of your operation will be made public until I reveal your name and the evidence linking you to all of this.

Nosiyamcela: Get our of my house now!! (she screamed)

Vusi: No need to shout now Mother am leaving, (he smiled) you have 3 days and I won't come back here again but if I don't see results I will keep leaking information about your business.

Nosiyamcela: I said get out!!

Vusi walked to the door smiling and got out.

Nosiyamcela was left screaming and cursing in the house.

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Insert 37

Mthatha

Nosiyamcela was talking to the chief who called her because he was concerned about their operation and getting arrested should things go south.

Ncebakazi was preparing to go to her date with Luxolo when she saw that she left her shoes in the lounge. So she went to get them wearing her gown as she wasn't dressed yet. She heard her mother shouting and talking to someone on the phone and she stopped and listened. Because she really sounded upset and she wanted to know why.

Convo:

Nosiyamcela: Look here, I told you it's business as usual and the person who did this is someone close to me.

Chief: If that person is that close to you then why did

he or she divulge such sensitive information to the media.

Nosiyamcela: Because he wants me to get him something and I can't do that if you stop working and I need those hearts this weekend.

Chief: You will get them just make sure you take care of this.

Nosiyamcela: I always take care of my problems now do your job and I will do mine.

Ncebakazi's jaw dropped as she closed her mouth with her hand trying to process what she heard.

Nosiyamcela turned around and saw Ncebakazi.

Nosiyamcela: Yintoni kuwe yangathi obone isithunzela (what is it with you looking like you just saw a ghost)

Ncebakazi: Ungubani (who are you?)

Nosiyamcela: haibo Ncebakazi mntanam ndim umamakho oh Thixo kwenzaka ntoni ngomntanam (Ncebakazi it's me your mother, lord what is happening to my child)

Ncebakazi: No what is happening with you woman?
Who the hell are you?

Nosiyamcela: Mandingaqheleki sekutheni ngoku
wathetha nam ngathi wehla emthini? (hey don't be
forward what is wrong with you talking to me like
you falling off a tree?)

Ncebakazi: Nosiyamcela am asking you who are you?

Nosiyamcela: I don't know what makes you think it's
okay for you to call me by my first name but I will let
it pass until you tell me what is going on.

Ncebakazi: I heard you on the phone.

Nosiyamcela: What Exactly did you hear?

Ncebakazi: I heard everything, I heard that the
woman I used to call my mother is gone and
replaced with this heartless thing standing before
me (Nosiyamcela threw a mean slap at her and it
shocked Ncebakazi as she held on to her burning
cheek)

Ncebakazi: You can hit me all you like but as from
today I don't have a mother, you died the moment

you decided that killing people was a good thing.

Nosiyamcela: Don't be a fool Ncebakazi, those people had nothing, their lives were meaningless and all I did was to do them a favor of ending it for them.

Ncebakazi: Who died and made you God

Nosiyamcela huh? What gave you the right to play God with other people's lives and families?

Nosiyamcela: You call what they had life and I call it misery.

Ncebakazi: You are heartless, do you even have a heart? No wonder dad never loved you.

Nosiyamcela: I also didn't love him but I loved his status, what makes you think I didn't give him a son.

Nkosibuthe: Becomes a son would have forced you to be a chiefs wife and stay in the rural areas, a place you resent. (said Nkosibuthe getting in coming from work)

Nosiyamcela: I resent it Alright! I grew up there and I wasn't about to spend the rest of my life there

looking after those filthy people.

Nkosibuthe: It's funny how you call them filthy yet you were one of them when I found you.

Nosiyamcela: I might have been living there but my life and my home was way better than that of those people.

Nkosibuthe: And you wonder why you will never amount to anything. Ncebakazi Lets go to my study my child I have something to run by you.

Ncebakazi: Yes Father

Nosiyamcela: Ncebakazi come here for a minute (Nkosibuthe walked ahead going to his study while Ncebakazi was left looking at her mother with disgust)

Nosiyamcela: Listen here girly and listen good, if you so much as say a word of what you heard to your father believe me I will kill your sister while you watch then move on to your father.

Ncebakazi: You wouldn't dare

Nosiyamcela: Try me baby girl try me, I brought you

to this world and I can take you out just as easy.

Ncebakazi: Ukhohlakele Fuziswa (you are cruel Fuziswa)

Nosiyamcela: You can call me by my maiden name or my marital one I don't care but dare open your big mouth and you will regret it.

Ncebakazi left her mother standing there and went to her father in the study. She sat opposite him at the table.

Nkosibuthe: Look nana the company abroad is suffering because no one is there keeping track of things so I was thinking that maybe you should go and take care of things for a month or two.

Ncebakazi: How are about you send Bukhosi? I mean it's high time he learns managing the family business.

Nkosibuthe: You right my dear, so are you going to talk to him or should I?

Ncebakazi: Lets talk to him together so that he

knows that we are both okay with this.

Nkosibuthe: Okay then, you know my baby am proud of the woman you are becoming. You are matured now and I like how you think and do things now.

Ncebakazi: Thank you father but it's only logical that my brother learns because one day Zodwa and I will get married and who will take care of the business?

Nkosi: You all will Because that's how I want it to be like. Married or not I don't want you to feel like you don't have space in the company or this house.

Ncebakazi: Thank you father. Father can I ask you a question?

Nkosibuthe: Yes anything.

Ncebakazi: What kind of a person was mom when you first met.

Nkosibuthe: Well I don't know really, your mother was chosen for me so I didn't know anything about her. All I knew is that she came from a well off family but everyone knew her aunt in that house because of how cruel and heartless she was.

Ncebakazi: What did she do to be labeled like that.

Nkosibuthe: I don't know if it was rumors or what but people used to say that she uses human parts as muti and also gave people all sorts of things for money rituals.

Ncebakazi: Mmm Okay

Nkosibuthe: Why do you ask?

Ncebakazi: It's just that I never really knew the kind of person mother is, she doesn't talk to us like you do and only says what she needs to and that is it.

Nkosibuthe: Well she has always been like that.

Nosiyamcela was listening by the door as Ncebakazi and her father were talking.

Nosiyamcela: You did well by keeping your mouth shut baby girl because I wouldn't let you or anyone else ruin what I worked so hard for.

Vusi was at the park hoping to see Asithandile but

he has been there for a while now and Asithandile was a no show. He decided to go to her house, he drove there and parked next to Bukhosi's car and went to the door and knocked. Bukhosi opened for him and let him in.

Bukhosi: What can I do for you?

Vusi: I came to apologize to your sister and you for my behavior a few weeks ago.

Bukhosi: Lets sit, I think you and I need to have a man to man (they went and sat on the couches) now tell me what is your problem?

Vusi: I really don't know what came over me that day, but I will not sit here and lie to you. I love your sister and I fell for her the very first day I saw her, and when I saw her again that day I couldn't control myself, I couldn't pretend to be happy with another while the one my heart yearns for was right in front of me.

Bukhosi: I hear you and I empathize with you. However the threat you made about making her your wife like you were planning something did sit well

with me as her brother.

Vusi: As I said , I apologized for everything I did and said that day, if I didn't see anything wrong in what I did I wouldn't be here today.

Bukhosi: I know you don't know this but if you dare do something to my sister then you will live to regret it. Ask Sticks who Power is?

Vusi: You know Power? (he asked sounding shocked)

Bukhosi: Please leave now

Vusi got up and left. He got to his car and sat there thinking about what Bukhosi just said.

Vusi: How does that guy know Power? I mean no one who has seen the guys has lived to tell the tail or describe what he looks like. How could he know him and still be alive and well. Let me call Jacob (he took out his phone and dialed his number and he picked up on the second ring)

Jacob: Yeah?

Vusi: I have a question for you man.

Jacob: Shoot

Vusi: How does the brother of the girl I sent you a picture of know Power?

Jacob: What girl? Because I deal with many girls.

Vusi: The one I asked you to bring to Cape Town for me and you told me she's under the protection of your boss.

Jacob: Oh that girl! What about her?

Vusi: How does her brother know Power?

Jacob: Let me just say if you mess with her you will meet both Sticks and Power.

Vusi: But I heard he retired

Jacob: Retired or not man, you mess with family you meet your ancestors. Simple as that. (he drop the call)

I don't know what this spider web is but whatever it is it's dangerous. Mother will have to bring out the

big guns to pull this off.

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Insert 38

Asithandile POV:

What I don't understand about ancestors is that they leave you in this world with nothing then when they are dead they ask you to do things they themselves couldn't afford to do when they were still alive. I have been having the same dream for the past two days and I would wake up only to go back to it when I fall asleep. In the dream it's like am back home Encoko and I still live with both my parents. My mother is outside busy on the fire while cooking steam bread and my father is in the room. It's like his not feeling well and is in bed, he calls me to the

room and when I get to him he asks me for a blanket because his cold. I go to the wardrobe and get the blankets but when I give it to him he tells me that is not the blanket he wants. Then I see us outside the house in the kraal and he points at a bull, not just any bull but a big brown one with big bent horns.

He then gives me a spear and tells me to slaughter it and skin it then let the skin dry because it is the one that will keep him warm. Then I take the spear and start slaughtering the cow and when I look at my hands they are full of blood and I wake up drenched in sweat. So I resort to not sleeping because I don't want to repeat the same dream over and over again, I have dark circles under my eyes because of lack of sleep and at work I pump myself with energy drinks just to stay awake. For school I do the same but my marks are sure going to drop because of lack of concentration.

Well talking about work, I might as well wake up and

prepared myself for the day. I wake up and go to the bathroom, took a cold shower because God knows I need it. I got dressed and ready for work, then went to the kitchen for breakfast and I find my brother having coffee.

Asithandile: Morning big bro

Bukhosi: Morning baby sis

I yawn as I go to the cupboard to get some cereal and pour it in my bowl and my brother was looking at me all this time.

Bukhosi: What is going on with you?

Asithandile: Nothing really

Bukhosi: Asithandile you sleep early every night yet you wake up looking like a zombie. Now tell me what is going on with you.

Asithandile: I just haven't been sleeping well.

Bukhosi: Why?

Asithandile: I have been having the same dream over and over again with my father asking me to give him a blanket because his cold.

Bukhosi: I don't know much about that but mama must know something so let's call her now to find out what it means.

Asithandile: Anything That will help me with this I will take it.

Bukhosi took out his phone and called his mother who picked up on the third ring.

Convo:

Nosakhele: Mntanam (my child)

Bukhosi: Mother how are you?

Nosakhele: Am well child how are you and your sister doing?

Bukhosi: Am well but she isn't ma

Nosakhele: What is wrong with my child Bukhosi?

Bukhosi: But Mother why are you shouting like I did something to her?

Nosakhele: Hey don't try me what is wrong with my granddaughter?

Bukhosi: Yho! She's been having dreams about her father saying his cold and showing her some bull to slaughter and says it's skin will make him warm.

Nosakhele: Oh I understand mmm

Bukhosi: Mama sithini kaloku (mother what should we do?)

Nosakhele: Khawuthule Bukhosi ndisacinga (shut up Bukhosi am thinking)

Bukhosi: Yho I don't know what got to you today.

Nosakhele: Jonga kuzawufuneka kwenziwe umsebenzi wezila kuxhelwe lenkomo ayifunayo ze ifele layo lomiswe lisukwe lizothamba emva koko liyokombathiswa ingcwaba lakhe (look we will have to perform a ritual for him and slaughter the bull he showed her, take its skin and dry it then use oils to make it soft then go cover his grave with it)

Bukhosi: Am sorry mother but I don't understand how this man can want all that from a child he abused while he was still alive. Now that his dead and has the power to take her sleep she must walk around like a zombie because he wants something?

No! To me his still abusing this child and we are allowing it.

Nosakhele: Bukhosi ways of the ancestors are unpredictable and we can't always understand them. Yes he abused her while he was alive but my question is to you, are you doing this For Sakhumzi or you doing it for your sister to get well.

Bukhosi: For my sister

Nosakhele: You got your answer, tell me when you guys are ready and I will talk to Sakhumzi's people so that this can be done.

Bukhosi: Okay Mother, we have to be on our way to work now.

Nosakhele: Okay visit me soon I miss you.

Bukhosi: We will Mother bye.

He dropped the call and told Asithandile what their grandfather said. She didn't mind doing all this as long as she will get some rest. They left the house and made their way to work but since they didn't get

the chance to eat breakfast Asithandile asked her brother to drop her off in Town so she can get something and he did.

She got out the car and walked to the place that sells bunny chow and got in and bought it then when she got out she collided with an old woman.

Asithandile: Ndiyaxolisa mama bendingajonganga apho ndihamba khona (Sorry Mother I didn't look where I was going)

Old woman: Kulungile mntanam (its alright my child) she then lifted her head and looked at me straight in the eyes and I looked back. Her eyes were sparkling like they had tears on them that will fall any moment and she spoke while looking at me without blinking.

Old woman: Bad luck will continue to follow you if you appease ancestors that are not even yours.

Royal blood is strong and the fight going on between the two ancestors is going to affect you. Find him and get him to do right by you.

Asithandile: Makhulu uthetha ngantoni?
(grandmother what are you talking about?)

Old woman: Royal blood has to go back to where it belongs, Your fathers hands are stained with blood and only you can grant him the forgiveness he needs from the ancestors. Find him and make things right for both your sakes.

Asithandile: I still don't understand my father died and I don't understand what you mean about royal blood because am not royalty and...(she cut her short)

Old woman: Go now child, but remember being guarded by two ancestors can cause you problems, choose the one you belong to and make peace with the other and all will be well. (she said pushing me to go and I started walking but I turned back to look at her again and she was gone) I searched for her with my eyes but I couldn't find her. I got back to the car still confused and trying to make sense of what she said.

Bukhosi: What took you so long?

Asithandile: I met an old woman who said very

confusing things to me.

Bukhosi: How old was she?

Asithandile: Very old like a grandmother that is over 80 years old because her skin is wrinkled and walks with a cane. Her back is bent and can't stand up straight.

Bukhosi: The you should know that those old woman are delusional.

Asithandile: Maybe. Let's go to work.

They drove off to work with Asithandile quiet trying to make sense of it all but nothing was making sense from what the woman said. 1 one she's not royal at least that's what she knows, 2 there are no two ancestors fighting for her only her father that is giving her sleepless nights, 3 How can she find her father when his dead. 4 who's blood is staining his hands and why is she supposed to be the one to help him gain forgiveness from the ancestors. 5 What is it that she has to make right for both their sakes and finally what does she mean choose one

and make peace with the other? All these questions were running through her mind but with no answers.

Encoko village:

Nokonwaba was concerned about her husband, she noticed that he hasn't been sleeping and when she asks he would say ' dreams are keeping me up at night my dear don't worry about it' but from there he would sit in his kraal in the middle of the night till the early hours of the morning. If he doesn't do that he will say his going to the fields because he needs to think. Now today she wanted to know exactly what the dreams are about because no matter how angry she was at her husband she didn't like seeing him like that. She went to him with breakfast in hand and sat next to him.

Nokonwaba: My husband, here is breakfast.

Mqwathi: Thank you my dear.

Nokonwaba: I know we haven't been ourselves lately

but I don't like seeing you like this. What is going on?

Mqwathi: I just keep having one recurring dream every night and it's bothering me.

Nokonwaba: Tell me about it maybe I can help.

Mqwathi: I don't think so, I also tried but nothing.

Nokuthula: Two minds are better than one. Please tell me.

Mqwathi: Okay, in this dream am always in a ceremony introducing my daughter to the ancestors and acknowledging her as my own but during that time when we are preparing for her ceremony she is busy with another ceremony, a ritual to Sakhumzi. From there my grand father, my grandmother, my father and mother go there and I follow behind and when we get there they start fighting with Sakhumzi and his people. Then I try to stop them while am holding a spear and the next thing I see is blood on my hand with the spear in hand also covered in blood. Everyone is now quiet and looking at me and when I look around I see my daughter laying on the ground in a pool of blood and I wake up.

Nokonwaba: I did say that the ancestors are fighting over this child and I did say that all the bad luck will go to her because instead of being protected by her people they are fighting for rights to her. Try by all means to get that child here and tell her the truth then introduce her probably to the ancestors. Royal blood is not to be abandoned and you know that, the ancestors have given you a lot of time to make things right and you didn't. Now they are going to punish you by taking your only child if you don't listen.

Mqwathi: Ndikuvile nkosikazi kwaye unyanisile. Ingase nje abadala bandibonise indlela ngoba zininzi izinto ezimi endleleni yam. (I hear you my wife and you are right. I wish the ancestors can show me the way because there are a lot of things standing in my way)

Nokonwaba: I say bring back the healer of the palace and let him do his job. What made him go live in the mountains to begin with?

Mqwathi: After What I did to Asithandile's mother he said the ancestors have turned their backs on me

and my people. He said he will only come back when it's time to make things right.

Nokonwaba: But he has been gone for over 20 years, what about his family?

Mqwathi: Since I knew I was the reason for him leaving them behind I took it upon me to take care of his family until he returns.

Nokonwaba: At least you did well by doing that.

They continue talking about sending palace guards and men who will know him to go searching for him in the mountains and bring him back to the royal house but they were also worried that he may not want to come back if he still lives.

Stay tuned.

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Insert 39

Mthatha

Nosiyamcela was pushed into a corner by Vusi when he gave her the ultimatum of delivering Asithandile in 3 days. She had to call in a lot of favors to pull this whole thing off, at first she thought he wouldn't do anything after three days but after 3 days there was a leak of one of her warehouses that had new equipment in and a kidney to be shipped off to Cape Town and it was sealed as evidence so she worked hard to pull off the kidnaping of Asithandile. She spoke to her doctor friend in Cape Town and it turns out she was volunteering in Colombia for two years and has a place there and friends who can help Vusi and Asithandile to find their feet when they get there.

She also got one of her husbands associates to land

her his company jet and he only did that because they have been seeing each other for years now so he saw no problem in landing his lover the jet. The jet is set to take off this morning and Vusi is all packed and ready to go but is also crossing fingers that they get Asithandile because if they lose this chance they won't get another one.

Asithandile's dreams got worse over the past week as a result their grandmother spoke to Sakhumzi's people to do the ritual which took a lot of convincing for them to agree because they still believe that Asithandile killed their brother. So today she was preparing her staff to go to Encoko while Bukhosi woke up early to go get their grandmother in Eugie and Asithandile was left alone in the house. She finished packing her stuff and her brothers because they don't know how long they will have to stay there. She saw that the luxury cupboard was empty so she decided to go to town and buy a few things for them and some mageu for her grandmother since she likes them.

She left a note for her brother in case they came before she returned the note read.

Hey big bro

I quickly went to get us snacks for the road and a few things for the house since I know there is nothing there. If you get home with grandmother before I do our bags are ready just load them and meet me in town so that we can go.

Greet grandmother for me

Love

Asi

She put the note on the coffee table and took her

phone and bag then locked the house and left going to town. Nosiyamcela's people were on standby others following her. Bathandwa was to meet them the following morning at the village since the ritual will be done the following morning but they had to leave early to prepare for the people. She took a cab to town and she left with Nosiyamcela's people following behind. She got to town paid the driver and went to spar she started with an energy drink since that was her life now. One of the guys took an energy drink and put some drug in it and went to her.

Man: Beautiful lady

Asithandile: Hey

Man: I see we have the same addiction

Asithandile: addiction? (she asked with one eyebrow raised)

Man: Energy drink

Asithandile: Oh yeah but I wish it was something I did because I wanted to but I have no choice.

Man: You look like you need one now.

Asithandile: You have no idea mine finished yesterday that's why am getting more.

Man: Here take mine and I will go get another.

Asithandile: No it's okay I will manage till am done shopping.

Man: But you look like a dead person walking and you yawning all the time. So take it I already opened it and I will go get another and don't worry I will pay.

Asithandile: Well then thank you.

Man: I didn't drink it I promise haha

Asithandile: Yeah Okay thanks again

Man: It's a pleasure, my name is Abongile by the way.

Asithandile: Nice to meet you Abongile and thanks for the drink.

Abongile: You welcome now let me go get my fix

Asithandile: Okay (he left and went back to the fridge for another one carrying a shopping basket.)

Asithandile continued her shopping while drinking the energy drink. When she was about to finish it she was halfway through it and she was feeling sleepy. The guy was not far behind her, she decided to go pay and leave. She went to the till but before she could get there she fell and Abongile caught her before she hit the ground.

Abongile: Babe what's wrong? (Asithandile didn't answer as she was drifting off and hearing his voice from afar. People who saw came together with one of the guys Abongile was with)

Woman: What happened here?

Abongile: She fainted

Woman: Here I have water sprinkle some on her face (Abongile did as told But Asithandile wouldn't wake up)

Man: Look man my car is just outside the door let me help you with her so that we can take her to the hospital.

Woman: Yes hurry it might be serious

The guys helped each other with Asithandile and put her in the back seat of the car and drove off heading to the air field where the jet was. They got there and Nosiyamcela together with Vusi and some other guys were waiting for them. They parked the car and took her out heading to the jet, Vusi was all smiles when he saw her and Nosiyamcela went to the guys who were holding her.

Nosiyamcela: Good job! Expect your payment on 10 minutes.

Them: Yes mam.

Nosiyamcela: Good now take her to the jet. (the guys took her to the jet and Vusi went to Nosiyamcela)

Vusi: You pulled it off Mother am impressed.

Nosiyamcela: It's not like I had a choice.

Vusi: Either way am happy and you won't be seeing me for a long time.

Nosiyamcela: Good now go before people find out.

Vusi went to the jet and the moment he got in the engine started. Nosiyamcela got into her car and drove off and the guys did the same. The jet took off And Asithandile was gone.

Bukhosi got back home with his grandmother to pick up Asithandile so that they can go. He parked the car and they got out, when he got to the door it was locked to he took his keys and opened. They both got in and the grandmother went to the lounge.

Nosakhele: Asithandile my child come we are here!
(she called for her but nothing)

Bukhosi: Let me go call her mother while you rest on the couch so long, am sure she's asleep.

Nosakhele: Okay am tired really am not used to leaving my home and traveling this far.

Bukhosi went to her room and knocked but there was no answer so he opened the door but she was not there, he checked the bathroom still nothing. He took the bags that he saw and went out with them.

Bukhosi: Mother she's not here.

Nosakhele: Liphepha lantoni eli Bukhosi?

Alibhalwanga nguye? Andiboni kakuhle ngoba iglass zam zisebhegini ina funda (what is this note

Bukhosi? Didn't she write it? I can't see properly and my glasses are in my bag, take it and read. She said handing the note to Bukhosi and he read it)

Bukhosi: She's in Town mother she says we must meet her there.

Nosakhele: I hope she won't forget my mageu.

Bukhosi: No she won't mother let's go we will meet her there.

He took the bags to the car and his grandmother followed and got in, Bukhosi went and locked the door and went to the car and drove off to town. They got there and he got out and went to spar since it's the only big supermarket in Mthatha besides shoprite. He looked around in all the isles but he couldn't find her, so he took out his phone and called her but it went straight to voicemail. He got out of

spar and went to shoprite to look for her but nothing. He thought of the bunny chow place she likes and went there but still nothing. He panicked and went back to the car.

Nosakhele: Where is she?

Bukhosi: I can't find her mother

Nosakhele: Then call her

Bukhosi: I tried but her phone is on voicemail.

Nosakhele: Hayi hayi Bukhosi hambo jonga umntana wontanam (no no Bukhosi go look for my grand child)

Bukhosi went out the car again and went to spar asking people if they have seen her, showing them a picture of her in his phone but no one saw her. He went to the cashier.

Bukhosi: Am sorry miss but am looking for this girl, did you maybe see her here?

Cashier: Yes she is the one who fainted not so long ago (Bukhosi breaths a sigh of relief)

Bukhosi: Okay she fainted and where is she now?

Cashier: Haibo uyintoni kuye (what are you to her?)

Bukhosi: Am her Brother now please tell me where she is.

Cashier: Abanye obhuti ebebelapha bamse esibhadlele ngoba ebengavuki segalelwa amanzi (other guys who were here took her to the hospital since she wasn't waking up)

Bukhosi: Okay Thank you

He rushed to the car and got in and started the car.

Mosakhele: Where is she?

Bukhosi: They say she fainted and wouldn't wake up and some guys took her to the hospital.

Nosakhele: Lets go now, this ritual needs to be done because this is getting out of hand.

Bukhosi didn't answer he just pressed hard of the accelerator going to the hospital. There are only two of those there, the public one and the private one so

sincerely he knows Asithandile is not on medical aid he went to the public hospital. Got there and asked about a girl who was brought in an hour ago but no one knew her. He showed the stuff pictures but no one knew her and he panicked and went straight to the wards opening each and every one of them and security was following him trying to stop him.

They got to him but he was so angry that he punched the security guard and continued with his search. He even went to theater but nothing, he got out and went to the car.

Nosakhele: Did you find her?

Bukhosi: No mother.

Nosakhele: Oh lord where is my grand child?

Bukhosi drove off going to the private hospital which was a bit smaller than the public one but same thing. He found nothing and by now Power was starting to resurface. He went to the car against.

Bukhosi: Mother I don't think we are still going,

Asithandile is missing and am taking you home so that I can look for her.

Nosakhele: it's alright son, What is important now is finding her.

Bukhosi drove off going back home to drop his mother. He couldn't control his anger.

In the Jet Vusi was at his happiest drinking whiskey sitting back enjoying the ride to Colombia while Asithandile was out cold in the room in the jet, her phone in her bag but with no signal since she was airborne.

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Insert 40

Mthatha

(It's not edited my people am sorry)

Bukhosi was going crazy about his sisters disappearance. He left his mother home and went to Town then straight to spar and asked the cashier to describe the guys who took her and she did. But the problem was that he didn't know them or who their boss was. He went to their old warehouse that was in between Ugie and Maclear in a farm. He got there just late afternoon and went to his parking spot which had a car parked there and that made his even more angry. He got out the car and went straight to the door and knocked, the guys opened with guns pointed at him but the moment they saw him they dropped their weapons.

Power: Can somebody tell me who the fool that parked in my spot is?

Danger: It was me boss

Power: And you did that because?

Danger: Since it's been years since you came here I thought I could use it.

Power: Go and park my car in it's pot and I want my old car out front in 5 minutes!

Danger: Yes boss.

Power: Go What are you waiting for! (he shouted and danger ran out the door going to do as told while the other guys were sweating and the new comers that didn't know him just assumed it was him by the respect and fear the other guys showed)

Power: Now I want to know who the morons are who took my sister today?

Liver: Boss you have a sister?

Power: Don't ask me retarded questions when you just heard I said my sister.

Liver: Sorry boss.

Power: Now I asked Sticks to put surveillence on her, so who are the morons who were responsible?

Liver: It's Kat and Mouse boss

Power: Do you want me to keep asking questions or

you are going to tell me where they are?

Liver: The last time they checked in they said they were in Mthatha still in surveillance.

Power: Get them on the line and tell them I want them here in 10 minutes and not a minute longer.

Liver: Yes boss

Power: And tell these fools you hired to spot staring at me. (he walked to the office at the back and called Sticks but Jacob picked up)

Convo:

Jacob: Bozza

Power: My sister was taken

Jacob: I have an idea who might be responsible.

Power: Who?

Jacob: Vusi

Power: Vusi?

Jacob: Yes the guy sent me a picture of her about

two week ago and told me he wants her in Cape and I told him she's protected. Clearly he didn't listen.

Power: Do we still have Zukes in Cape Town?

Jacob: Yes we do.

Power: Tell him to turn Cape Town upside down and find this Vusi guy.

Jacob: On it

Power: Also Tell Sticks to wrap it up and get his ass here.

Jacob: I will.

They said their goodbyes and he dropped the call then danger knocked. And he invited him in.

Danger: Boss they are here

Power: Good am coming but so long get Fingers to ping my sisters phone and give me feedback in 5

Danger: Yes boss.

Power went to the other side of the warehouse

where all the guys were and Kat and Mouse were there.

Power: So you are the fools who were supposed to be surveilling my sister.

Kat: Boss we didn't know it was your sister.

Power: Does it matters who's sister it is? Your job was to do surveillance and you failed! (h shouted and everyone got scared because those who know him knew very well that it's about to go down)

Mouse: Boss I saw the guys but she was talking to one of them inside spar and even gave her a drink so I thought they new each other.

Power: Then what happened?

Kat: Then a few minutes later they were rushing her to the car it seem she fainted or something and they drove off.

Power: Did you get their plates?

Kat: Yes boss.

Power: Did it occur to you that they might have drugged her when they have her the drink?

Mouse: We didn't think about it Boss.

Power: You know the only reason why am not killing you both now is because you know these fools and I want you to find them as in yesterday.

Kat: Yes boss.

Power: And you still standing here? I said now!! (he shouted and one of the new guys fell backwards as he was moving back as he spoke)

Power: What the hell!! You ever let fools like this one join us? (no one answered)

Power went to the computer room to find Finger and get the information on the phone. When he got there Fingers was busy on doing his thing on the computer.

Power: Fingers

Fingers: The phone moved from spur in Mthatha to the air field that is just outside of down and from there the signal was lost but I think I can ping it again because the phone seems to be on but with no

network. (Fingers knew better than to waste time with Power when his like that)

Power: Air field huh?

Fingers: Yes boss and I assume the reason why it doesn't have network is that they are airborne.

Power: Clearly whoever took her is an amateur if her phone is still with her but for now am going to the air field to get some information on the whatever airplane was there. Someone knows something.

Fingers: I will keep you posted on my side.

Power: Good.

He went back to the other guys and stood in the middle of the room.

Power: Dare devils!

Them: Bozza

Power: I need all hands on deck, I want the guys who took my sister found and I want them found yesterday! The guys who are on operations I want

reports on everything when I come back. Those on the ground and other cities contact them and let them know to be on the look out. The picture of the people we are looking for you will get from Fingers. Are we clear?

Them: Sure bozza

Power: Donger is my car ready?

Danger: Yes boss

Power: Which one?

Danger: The R8

Power: Keys (danger handed him the keys and he walked out leaving everyone getting busy sorting out everything that he asked for)

He went to his parking spot and his R8 was parked nicely there while the Fortune was parked with his other cars. He liked the Fortune because it's the only car he bought working a daily job after he retired. But now that Power is back he had to look the part and the R8 did exactly what he wanted. Getting out of the

warehouse was smooth but in high speed leaving dust behind. He was driving so fast going to the air field because he knew very well that with kidnapping one better get all the information the very same day and not a day later. He was at the air field in 20 minutes he parked his car next to the container that is used as the office there because the air field was only for helicopters and private planes. He went to the office and a security guy was there drinking cake and eating a fat cake (igwinya)

Bukhosi: My guy

Security: Sure man

Bukhosi: I need your help

Security: What can I do for you?

Bukhosi: I need to know if there was an airplane here this morning and what was written on it?

Security: I don't think I remember very well(Bukhosi took out an envelope full of money and handed to him)

Security: Now we talking and I can give you more than what you asked for.

Bukhosi: Lets hear it.

Security: Well there was a private jet here this morning just after I started my shift at 6 it landed. The jet had the letters JJ Madikizela written on it, there was a tall guys with beard and a chiskop that kept on coming out and smoking on the outside and he seemed stressed too. Then at around 9 a BMW X5 came here and there was a woman who spoke to the guys and they seemed like they were arguing but I couldn't here what they were saying. They at about 9:30 another car came, that one was a VW city golf and there were two guys who came out and brought a young girl that seemed to be unconscious and took her to the jet. They everyone left and the jet took off.

Bukhosi: When you were looking at those people how did they seem to you?

Security: Oh ungatsho nje ngempahla zabo uba ngabantu abafumileyo epokothweni kwaye la jet

ibintle nje yona ubuyibona nje uba yeyesinhanha (oh you can tell by their clothes that they are rich people and the jet was beautiful and one could tell that it's owned by a rich person)

Bukhosi: Thank very much the information will help a lot.

Security: Anything for you my man.

Bukhosi: Take my number in case you see any of the people you saw here today and I will make it worth your while.

Security: I will be more than happy to (Bukhosi have him his number and went to his car and made a call to Fingers and he picked up immediately)

Convo:

Fingers: Bozza

Bukhosi: I need information on the owner of the jet written JJ Mafikizela.

Fingers: On it.

Bukhosi: I need the info pronto Fingers

Finger: Sure boss

He put the phone away and drove home to check on his mother.

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Insert 41

Colombia

Vusi was on Asithandile's side the whole trip to Colombia, he wouldn't leave her side. It was like she will disappear if he even left her for one minute. His heart was content, his love was by his side and he

couldn't wish for anything more than what he had right at that moment. Being by her side, watch her sleep, caress her cheeks and playing with her hair. Nothing mattered to him at that moment only the two of them. It was the first time in as long as he can remember that he left this way, loved and appreciated, by whom I don't know but in his mind that's what that moment amounted to. They arrived in Colombia and a car was already waiting for them at the airport and they got in and the driver took them to this beautiful lodge. They got there and Vusi asked the guys to show him the room and he did as told. He gave him all the information he needed about his job and the documents for Asithandile's school, as well as new identities, Vusi was now Rodrigo Perez and Asithandile was Ximena Diaz. It was identity documents, passports with a few stamps from different countries to make it more legit. Asithandile's or Ximena's Second year results in university of Colombia and according to the results she was going to start her third semester the following week as it was Sunday. Vusi or Rodrigo was the CFO of one of Colombia's best

transportation companies.

Rodrigo couldn't wait for Ximena to wake up and take her shopping so that they have all they need for Monday because school was starting as well as work for him. He went to the room and noticed her bag on the couch where he put it and went to it and took it. He opened it and found her wallet with her bank card and he took out the cards and destroyed them then replaced them with the new ones they got. Then changed the currency to a Colombian one which is the Colombian peso bills. He then looked through it and found her phone and panicked, he took it and took it apart then threw the rest of the contents down the drain and when he went back to the room Ximena was awake.

Vusi: You are awake?

Asithandile: Where am I Vusi? What am I doing here?

Vusi: Listen my name is Rodrigo now and yours is Ximena.

Asithandile: What?

Vusi: Yes we are in Colombia my love now no one will get between us.

Asithandile: Vusi are crazy?

Vusi: Don't call me Vusi I told you my name is Rodrigo and you are Ximena and am not crazy!(he said between his teeth with his veins popping out on his forehead. Asithandile got scared and thought if they are really in Colombia as he said she would better play along because she doesn't know what Vusi or Rodrigo is capable of)

Asithandile: Am sorry Okay am just scared and confused by all this.

Rodrigo: Am sorry Ximena but we have to get used to theses names because that's what people at school will be calling you on Monday and what my colleges will be calling me at work.

Ximena: So my name is Ximena but what is my last name?

Rodrigo: Ximena Diaz and Am Rodrigo Perez

Ximena: Rodrigo Perez and Ximena Diaz right?

Rodrigo: You got it baby, now shower so that we can go shopping on Monday our schedules starts.

Ximena: What will I be doing?

Rodrigo: Take a look at this (he said handing her the university results of the second year in her course and her eyes popped because even in the results her name was Ximena Diaz a straight A exchange student from Mexico. She looked at Vusi)

Ximena: Vusi.. I mean Rodrigo how did you get his and do you know that I was just going to start my second year now am going to have to work extra hard to get the straight A's to keep up with this.

Rodrigo: I know that my love and I have faith that you are going to do it and besides school is the only thing you have and I want you to make me proud.

Ximena: What will you be doing and who's lodge is this that we are at?

Rodrigo: You will know everything as time goes by but for now let's get to the shops before they close.

Ximena: But I don't have anything to wear.

Rodrigo: That is why we going shopping now let's go.

Asithandile had no choice but to go with this man and play along with his game. From the abuse she got from her father she learnt that its best not to argue with people like Vusi because they will beat you up for no reason. To make matters worse she knew no one but him in this foreign country. As she took her bag she thought of her phone and started searching for it.

Rodrigo: Looking for your phone?

Ximena: Yes it was in here

Rodrigo: Don't worry about it we will buy another one when we get to town now let's go. He led the way and Asithandile followed, when she stepped outside and saw all the Colombian people she lost all hope. She thought that maybe Vusi was playing with her and that they were maybe somewhere in South Africa. But from the looks of it they were far from home, she listened to those people talking in a language that she didn't understand and thought of

Bukhosi, her grandmother And Bathandwa and a tear escaped her eye but quickly wiped it so that Vusi or Rodrigo doesn't see it.

She knew it in her heart that if she will get through whatever this is she will have to play along. She was not looking forward to being abused again and she was willing to do anything not to be beaten up again. They got into the car And Vusi put a GPS on and they drove to town with the help of the GPS. They got there and started shopping with Rodrigo telling her not to take certain things because they were too sexy or too revealing. She had no say in anything, no voice and she thought of how her father took her voice and cried in the fitting room looking at herself in the mirror.

Asi/Ximena: Once again my voice is taken by a man, my rights violated and my choice taken. I Pray that you be with me again God and mother, don't forsake me and I will make the best of the situation I find myself in yet again. I will study because an opportunity has been forwarded to me and I will do

exactly that. God please heal all my loved ones and protect them for me, for I would like to see them one day with you willing of course. Amen. She got out of the fitting room and they went to pay and left for the lodge again and it was beautiful indeed. Rodrigo showed her where he will be working and where her school was. He also told her that he will be taking her to school and picking her up at the school library after work at 5 PM because she needs to catch up and make him proud. She simply nodded.

Mthatha:

Bukhosi and his mother couldn't sleep last night, all they could think of was Asithandile, Bukhosi blamed himself for her disappearance and her grandmother was praying all night asking God to protect her. He woke up in the morning and thought of Bathandwa that was going to go to Encoko for the ritual today so he decided to call him. He dialed his number and he picked up on the second ring.

Convo:

Bathandwa: Am leaving the house now Brother I should make it before 9.

Bukhosi: Drive to my house there is something you should know.

Bathandwa: What is the problem? Is Asithandile Alright?

Bukhosi: Just come to my house and I will explain everything.

Bathandwa: I will be there in 10 minutes.

He dropped the call and he went to take a shower and waited for Bathandwa before he could go and hear what the guys have for him this day. Bathandwa arrived and knocked and Bukhosi opened for him.

Bathandwa: Is everything okay? Why are you here? And where is Asithandile?

Bukhosi: Look when I came back from Eugie yesterday morning Asithandile was not home but she left a note telling us she's in town and we should meet her there but when we got there she was

nowhere to be found. What am trying to say is that Asithandile has been kidnapped.

Bathandwa went down slowly on the couch and sat down.

Bathandwa: He took her didn't he?

Bukhosi: Who do you think took her?

Bathandwa: Vusi he took her! After that day at dinner he threatened to have her one way or the other. Oh God we have to find her, that guy is crazy we have to find her.

Bukhosi: Am On it we will find her. Now I have to go somewhere to get information on the guys that took her.

Bathandwa: Am coming with you.

Bukhosi: Where am going is no place for you so I'd rather go alone.

Bathandwa: With all due respect I am not going to be standing by and wait for you to find her. Asithandile is my girlfriend and I love her. I want to help look for her, let me do that.

Bukhosi: Whatever happens there don't be a sissy because you are going to see and hear a lot of things and I want to know that you can handle it.

Bathandwa: I can, am a man after all so am doing it.

Bukhosi: Let go then I don't have time to waste.

Bathandwa and Bukhosi drove off heading to the warehouse and the speed Bukhosi was driving in was like he was racing with time. He got there and parked in his spot and went in as the door was opened but the guys were armed standing by.

Power: Fingers?

Danger: Computer room (Power headed there followed by Bathandwa)

Power: Talk to me.

Fingers: The phone pinged last night in London

Power: East London is not far I can get there in an hour.

Fingers: No bozza I mean London England

Power: What? (he was angry and his eyes were turning blood shot red and Fingers got scared as he quickly dialed Sticks since he knows only him could calm him down and luckily Sticks picked up His emergency number)

Convo:

Sticks: This better be good

Fingers: Power is resurfacing bro and you know if his not stopped we are all dead (he said in a shaky voice while Power banged on the container leaving the marks of his fist on it and Bathandwa moved back while Fingers was talking to Sticks on Bluetooth and he was also far from him with a tablet in hand)

Sticks: What the fuck man!!! This is serious put me on speaker now!!! (Fingers didn't waste anytime, he did as told and Sticks voice filled the room)

Sticks: Skhothamile ngonyama yabantu base Nkomanzi, siyacale ngonyama yehla izicaka zakho zizokwenza njengokuba ufuna. Wazisiwe ebantwini bakho ngoku bakwamkela, nathi siyakwamkela,

yehla ngonyama Nkomanzi uthethe nezicaka zakho. Sizindlebe sonke Kumkani (we now before you oh great lion of the people of Nkomanzi, we ask that you calm down great lion your savants will do as you wish. You have been introduced to your people now and they accepted you, we also accept you. Calm down oh great lion Nkomanzi and speak to your savants. We are all ears My king)

Power was calming down as Sticks kept repeating this to him over the speakers and he finally did and spoke.

Power: When are you getting your flat ass here Sticks?

Sticks: Welcome back and I will be there in the next 30 minutes.

Power: I will be here getting all the information I can.

Sticks: Fingers give power a secure line now!
(Fingers didn't wasted time to organize the banner phone and gave it to Power)

Power: Talk to me.

Sticks: Listen man, you found your old man now, tell him what the sangoma said and find a way to control Power.

Power: I will man but I need to find my sister first.

Sticks: No man do it now, because if you don't a lot of people are going to lose their lives. You don't want to go back to that place man you have come a long way.

Power: Fine I will do this when you get here, I need someone I trust on this before going to talk to the old man.

Sticks: Sure

They said their goodbyes and dropped the call. Bathandwa was scared but he knew that he will have to be strong for Asithandile.

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Insert 42

Mthatha

Sticks POV

Sticks was on the way to the warehouse thinking about what almost happened had he not picked up that call. Sticks went to university with Bukhosi, Sticks had inherited the businesses he had from his father when his father passed away and he got the business. He has always been into business even his course that he was doing was General Management, while Bukhosi did marketing. When his father's business was going under because he neglected it due to school work Bukhosi offered to help him out by using his skills and market his businesses. He agreed and Bukhosi helped him a lot going around when they did their internships in

companies he would recommend his company and even created a webpage for it and his business picked up. Since then they have been friends and only he knew about the illegal businesses he inherited from his father as a result he decided to register the legal ones under Bukhosi's name but he doesn't know.

When Bukhosi started being sick, going around killing students on in res he was there for him, covered for him and protected him. This went on for the whole year and during the December holidays he asked him to go with him to Matatiele and told him there is a songoma there that could help. He agreed and they went but before they even got close to the yard the old man got out of his yard and went straight to them and when he got to Bukhosi he bowed before him. Which shocked both of them because as far as they both knew none of them had blue blood. The old man kneeled on one knee before him and said and I quote ' your highness, when you need assistance from your savants you just speak

and let your savants do all the work. You should have summoned me your highness and I would have come. No questions asked'

Bukhosi asked the only man what his talking about because we were both confused really. He invited us in and told us everything about Bukhosi being royal and his name not being Mbuzeni and his father that is waiting for him to introduce him to the ancestors. He gave him something to stop the beast for a while and told him to control his anger because when his angry the beast wants blood and until his father does right by him it will continue to resurface. He told me what to say when it resurfaces to calm it down. When we got back to school he was trying really hard to control his anger as the results the killings lessen. Police believed that an animal was killing the people Because the way he killed them was like a wolf killed them. He wouldn't miss a person's heart taking it out completely followed by a huge bite on the neck.

We drove in the yards of the warehouse and I see his car is here, damn I didn't even get to pass by burg to check on things but my friend needs me and I will be there for him always. I got out of the car while the drive went to park it and went in.

Power: About time you got here.

Sticks: About time you get out of here.

Power: Brother (the bro hugged)

Sticks: Talk to me.

Power: Fingers says her phone pinged in London from the It was off I think battery died. But we have a lead on the Jet.

Sticks: Who does it belong to?

Power: Jonathan Junior Madikizela.

Sticks: I thought that guy ran legit businesses what is he doing with trafficking.

Power: I believe it's not him because according to the intel we got the guy has been in London for the past two months now we have to find out who used that jet in his absence.

Sticks: I get that bro but what was it doing in London if he is not involved?

Power: That we have to find out.

Sticks: Not we, me you are going to your old man.

Power: I can go tomorrow

Sticks: Not happening, you didn't tell him the whole story when he went to introduce you.

Power: Fine but keep me updated.

Sticks: Sure. (Thank God he left or else he would be angry about every little thing that goes wrong here. I admit he gets these boys in order because I can tell he is around by how everyone is doing what they are supposed to be doing) He left with some guy I don't know but I don't mind because if he trusts the guy then he must be one of the good ones, in his books of course because the guy doesn't keep friends. Says he might end up killing them which I don't dispute.

I went to the office and made a call to my associates

in London because this girl has to be found or else people are going to die. I dialed his number and he picked up immediately.

Convo:

Sticks: I just sent you a picture

Voice: That's what I was looking at when you called. A beauty she is.

Sticks: And you know how power kills.

Voice: Am all ears.

Stick: She's been kidnapped and her phone pinged in your town in the early hours of the morning.

Voice: Transport?

Sticks: JJ Madikizela

Voice: The business man?

Sticks: Yes

Voice: What can I do?

Sticks: Turn London upside down and leave no stone and sweet wrapper unturned. I want her found as in

yesterday.

Voice: You know that can't be done in a day.

Sticks: That's fine I will just tell Power to come look for his sister himself in your town.

Voice: No need I got this

Sticks: Feedback by sunset

Voice: Got it.

They said their goodbyes and Sticks went back to the guys.

Sticks: Where is Kat and Mouse?

Danger; They just parked outside (as he was talking Kat and Mouse got in pushing some guy who looks beaten up. Good thing Power left.)

Sticks: And this?

Kat: One of the guys who took her.

Sticks: You don't want me to ask now do you.

Abongile: Whatever you say or do am not talking.

Sticks: Alright, Danger!

Danger: Boss

Sticks: I need the cutter please (Danger didn't ask questions and he went to the back and came back with the cutter and gloves)

Abongile: That doesn't scare me.

Sticks: That's what a scared person would say. Chair! (Mouse brought the chair and I sat on it in front of the guy) you said you not talking right?

Abongile: Damn right (god I hate the word damn, this guy deserves more than a cutter) I stood up and went to the back and came back with my golf stick and a baseball bat.

He held the bat tight and beat Abongile on his knees as he screamed asking him to stop. He got tired and put it down then took his golf stick and swing it hitting the bones on his feet and he groaned like wounded animal. He swings again and hit the other foot, he swings again and a gain hitting his rib cage breaking his ribs . He was swollen and full of blood.

Sticks: You said you won't talk right?

Abongile: I will talk please I will talk.

Sticks: Now talk

Abongile: We were hired by the wife of that guy who owns the big companies here in Mthatha I don't know her name.

Sticks: What did she ask you to do exactly.

Abongile: Our job was to take her to the air field and that's it.

Sticks: Okay!(he took out his gun and shot him in the head and asked the guys to clean up as he went to the office.) he got in and banged the table in frustration.

Sticks: So the guys step mother took his sister, oh she's dead and I will let him do it himself.

Bukhosi went and dropped Bathandwa at his place to take his car while he drove to the office to talk to his father. He got there and asked his PA if his busy and she said no, so he went in.

Nkosibuthe: Son, I haven't seen you since Friday.

Bukhosi: Father I have a problem, no make that two problems.

Nkosibuthe: Talk to me son.

Bukhosi: My sister was kidnapped in Saturday and the jet that took her out of the country is the one your business partner owns.

Nkosibuthe: Which one?

Bukhosi: JJ Madikizela

Nkosibuthe: But he has been in London for the past two months and if it was here then someone else was using it.

Bukhosi: I also got that concludes but what was the jet doing in London Sunday morning if he was not involved.

Nkosibuthe: If he was I will find out, what is the second problem? If you need money I can give you.

Bukhosi: No father I don't need money it's just that I didn't talk you everything when you did the ritual for me.

Nkosibuthe: What is it that I need to know?

Bukhosi: I have something inside me and it comes out when am angry and I ...

Nkosibuthe: You end up killing people

Bukhosi: Yes, but how did you know?

Nkosibuthe: My Father, your grandfather had it and if you had it then the ritual we performed was not supposed to be done I. My house but the royal palace. How did you find control it?

Bukhosi: A sangoma in Matatiele helped me.

Nkosibuthe: Are you talking about Serame?

Bukhosi: Yes do you know him?

Nkosibuthe: He was the royal chief priest when father was king and after my uncle killed him he left the palace.

Bukhosi: How did he kill him then if he had this thing?

Nkosibuthe: It's not a thing son but a royal gift. Father was stabbed with a spear in his sleep.

Bukhosi: Okay What are we going to do now?

Nkosibuthe: Something I vowed never to do for as long as I lived, going back to the royal palace which can turn into a disaster because that gift will be unleashed the moment you set food on the soil of your people.

Bukhosi: I need to find my sister first this can wait.

Nkosibuthe: When you ready then.

They continued discussing the issue of the kidnapping and what Nkosibuthe will do to help.

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Insert 43

Colombia (not edited)

Asithandile/ Ximena POV

It's my second day of school in a Colombian university, my name changed to Ximena Diaz and am not used to it but I believe that I will get there. The past two days have been very busy for me trying to catch up with work and working hard to achieve those straight A's because if I don't, only god knows what Rodrigo/Vusi will do and I don't want to find out. He bought me a phone and I only have his number on it no one else, I wanted to use it to call my brother but the first day when he came to pick me up I noticed that he had my call logs for the day and today as well he had them. So that can only mean one thing, that his monitoring the calls and messages on my phone so my plan failed before I even execute it. One thing though that I will not let pass me by is the opportunity to study and make something of myself. I don't know how long I will be here but for as long as here I will study and improve myself.

Rodrigo: Ximena baby let's go

Ximena: Let me pack up and we can go (it's after 5 and his coming from work to pick me up from the school library just like he said)

Ximena: Am done, let's go.

Rodrigo: I want to cook for you tonight

Ximena: Can you cook? (seriously now his going to want me to be getting my teeth cold grinning as he speaks)

Rodrigo: Oh am a man of many talents my baby, you just wait and see.

Ximena: I can't wait.

Rodrigo: Ximena babe I know this situation is not ideal but I will promise you this just to prove to you that I mean it when I say I love you.

Ximena: What is the promise then?

Rodrigo: I will wait for you to finish school in two years before we do the deed.

Ximena: The deed? (oh God let it be sex and maybe just maybe I will be found by then.)

Rodrigo: Sex babe, I know you have never done it before so that is why I want to make it extra special either on the day of your graduation or on our wedding night.

Ximena: That would be nice and I appreciate it (oh dear lord what is this guy smoking)

Rodrigo: That's my girl and we home.

Ximena: Good am tired (I said as I get out of the car going to open the door)

Rodrigo: Take a shower while I start on dinner

Ximena: I will do just that (I said as I walked to my room)

This is my life now and I pray that he keeps his word and not touch me. Oh how I miss my grandma and brother. They must be going out of their minds now wondering if I have eaten or if am safe. God protect them for me, then there is Bathandwa, my first love, first kiss and I thought that one day he will be my first in everything but no Rodrigo had other plans.

Mthatha:

Bukhosi and Nkosibuthe were still in his office and Nkosibuthe has already gotten information that Madikizela didn't use the jet and now they are waiting for the pilot to land in South Africa so that they can question him and his screw.

Bukhosi: We are getting somewhere but it seems that every lead we get leads us to a dead end.

Nkosibuthe: I know this is frustrating son but we have to follow every lead because we don't know which one will lead us to something.

Bukhosi: I know father am just frustrated (his phone rang and it was Sticks and he picked it up)

Convo:

Bukhosi: Talk to me

Sticks: Are you still with your old man.

Bukhosi: Yes Why?

Sticks: I think it will be best to put me on speaker.

Bukhosi: What is it man?

Sticks: Put me on speaker man you will thank me later. (Bukhosi put him on speaker and put his phone on his father's table) Talk now man.

Sticks: I know this will not sit well with either one of you.

Nkosibuthe: Thetha kwedini simamele (talk boy we are listening)

Sticks: I just found out that your step mother was involved in your sisters kidnaping.

Bukhosi: What!

Nkosibuthe: Remember What I just told you?

Bukhosi: Yes

Nkosibuthe: Now calm down. Boy tell me what happened?

Sticks: Well we found one of the guys who took her and when we interrogated him he told us that he and his friend were hired by your wife to take her and bring her to the air field.

Nkosibuthe: I married a witch (he said throwing his hands in the air)

Bukhosi: Thank you Sticks

Sticks: Sure (he dropped the call)

Bukhosi and Nkosibuthe were both fuming with anger. Bukhosi wanted to rip Nosiyamcela's head off while Nkosibuthe was asking himself how he got here.

Bukhosi: What is the play?

Nkosibuthe: What do you mean?

Bukhosi: Father this is your wife and mother of your children, who now kidnap my sister so am asking you her husband. What do we do now?

Nkosibuthe: I will call her to meet with me in my old house. The one I used to live with your mother in, it's out of town a bit.

Bukhosi: Give me the address and I will be waiting for you there.

Nkosibuthe: Okay here (he gave him the address of the house and Bukhosi left)

Nkosibuthe took out his phone and called his wife who picked up on the third ring.

Convo:

Nosiyamcela: Nkosibuthe What is it?

Nkosibuthe: I would like to see you.

Nosiyamcela: You? See me, why?

Nkosibuthe: We need to talk Nosiyamcela and we need to be alone.

Nosiyamcela: What it that can't wait till you get home?

Nkosibuthe: I don't want the kids there when we have our talk. We owe each other that much.

Nosiyamcela: Send me the address then.

Nkosibuthe: It's my old house.

Nosiyamcela: Haibo where will the tenants be when

we are going to be there?

Nkosibuthe: They moves out last month so the house is empty.

Nosiyamcela: Alright then I will see you there.

Nkosibuthe: Thank you (he dropped the call)

Nkosibuthe: My ancestors, what is this that you allowed me to marry? You are the ones who approve the women in our lives but for me you approved a monster. Why? If Bukhosi's mother in my life when I was with Nosiyamcela I would say you are punishing me for it but no. What did I do to deserve such a woman to mother my children? Today she might be killed by my son, in fact I have no doubt that he will kill her if she doesn't tell him what he wants to hear and this gift of his will be a problem if it's not tamed. Let me go meet this woman.

He drove to his old house and when he looked around for Bukhosi's car it wasn't there so he

thought he also wasn't there. He parked his car and went inside and when he got in Bukhosi was sitting on the couch.

Nkosibuthe: How did you get here?

Bukhosi: With my car

Nkosibuthe: But I didn't see it when I came in.

Bukhosi: That's the point. Is she coming?

Nkosibuthe: She will be here any moment now.

Bukhosi: Drink while we wait?

Nkosibuthe: I need it. (Bukhosi poured two glasses of whiskey from the bottle he had in front of him then gave his father his and they drank)

Bukhosi: Your wife better tell me what I need to know or else...

Nkosibuthe: Am sorry you were put through this by someone who was supposed to be a mother to you.

Bukhosi: I don't blame her for not being a mother to me because my own mother wasn't a mother to me too.

Nkosibuthe: You will have to forgive her the same way you forgave me because she did that because of me.

Bukhosi: Well she's dead now.

Nkosibuthe: Now more than ever is when you should forgive her.

Bukhosi: I will think about it.

Nkosibuthe: That's all I ask.

Nosiyamcela parked next to Nkosibuthe's car and walked out going to the door with such confidence. She knocked on the door and Nkosibuthe opened and invited her In then locked the door behind her. She walked to the lounge and saw Bukhosi.

Nosiyamcela: I thought you didn't want the kids involved in this conversation.

Nkosibuthe: I don't

Nosiyamcela: So What is this one doing here?

Bukhosi: This one wants to know where his sister is?

Nosiyamcela: Do I look like her bodyguard?

Nkosibuthe: Nosiyamcela we know you were involved in her kidnaping and we want to know where she is.

Nosiyamcela: You called me here to ask me this nonsense?

Bukhosi: For the last time Where is my sister?

Nosiyamcela: Even if I knew where she was which I don't I wouldn't tell you.

Bukhosi: And why is that?

Nosiyamcela: Because your witch of a mother took my husband and even after she left she took his heart with her.

Bukhosi: That is my sisters fault because?

Nosiyamcela: Becomes I want to punish everyone who had something to do with that woman and you Nkosibuthe haven't seen anything yet because what I will do is something you won't forget.

Nkosibuthe: That is if you get out of here alive.

Nosiyamcela: And Who is going to kill me? You hahah I don't think so, you have always been a weak link so you won't do anything to me.

Bukhosi: But I will.

In a matter of seconds he had Nosiyamcela against the wall choking her and picking her up by her neck.

Nosiyamcela: Where is my sister? (he asked in a more bold and cold voice)

Nkosibuthe: If you kill her we won't get anything out of her (Bukhosi threw her across the room and she fell and groaned in pain)

Nosiyamcela: Even if you kill me I will not tell you where she is. Forget about her before you will never see her gain.

Nkosibuthe: Yhoo uyathakatha mfazindini yhoo hayi mntanam yenza lento uyifunayo nagaye mna ndiyahamba asoze ndihlale lento (Yho you are a witch woman yhoo. No son do what you want with her am leaving because I can't stand this)

Nkosibuthe left leaving behind Bukhosi And Nosiyamcela to deal with each other.

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Insert 44

Mthatha

Bukhosi POV

People think that those of us who have powers or gift as my father call it have it easy in life. Since I discovered that I had this thing I have been incomplete and the only time I would feel fulfilled

was if blood is spilled. That went on for so long and I had a detective that was on my case always suspecting me of the killings but couldn't get proof because Sticks protected me. I remember the first time he came to me he said 'ubabulaleni abantu nkosiyam? Why are you killing people my king?' But when he called me my king something in me moved but then I didn't take notice. But my answer to him was that am not the one killing people and that he must find the person and live me alone and he said 'Uyaxoka umbulele, ingangabi ngulo ndithetha naye kodwa lo ubulalayo uphila ngaphakathi kuwe. (you are lying you killed him, it might not the one am talking to that is doing the killing but the one who kills lives inside you) I took it that the man was crazy and I wasn't about to listen to anymore of his nonsense.

Then I noticed as time went by how painful it is when this thing I mean gift come out. I would cry in pain that quickly turns to anger and it comes guns blazing and there is no stopping it. The sangoma we

went to told me that it will continue to cause pain when it comes because I don't summon it the right way, like I summon it because it just comes. Well he said I summon it with anger and it's instincts when it comes out is to protect, but it doesn't just protect it kills and eliminates the threat. My name is well let me mention all of them, at birth I was given the name Bukhosi because my father knew that am royal and his first son who was supposed to be heir apparent to the throne, then my mother's heart was turned into stone when she found out that her love is married, she then changed my name to Mbuzeni meaning ask him, I think she was asking the people to ask my father why? Why did he break her heart, why did he not tell her he was married, why did he act like he was over the moon when she gave him a son. Little did she know that he really did love and wanted me. But her anger made her resent anything to do with my father, thus resenting me and leaving me with my grandmother and never looked back. I think father is right to say I must forgive her because I think she died still angry at the man she loved, her first love and the father of her first born. Then the

gang gave me the name Power because of what I have, then when I went to be introduced to the ancestors they also gave me their own name Lebone a Sotho name meaning light. Why they gave a Sotho name instead of just giving me the name Khanya in Xhosa I don't know but they say the gods don't make mistakes.

This woman here in front of me right now is making me angry and I can feel from the pain that comes and goes that it's coming, She will regret this if she doesn't tell me the truth and no bone of hers will ever be found. What makes it worse is that father left me alone with her, maybe because his reached his limit because from the way he spoke this woman has done a lot of things and I guess his tired now.

Nosiyamcela: Ungandijonga imini yonke andikhathali ndiwatya nawenkomo kakade (you can look at me the whole day I don't care, I eat even the cow's eyes)

Bukhosi: I will ask you one last time to tell me where

my sister is?

Nosiyamcela: Yazi kwedini awazinto wena, wena wakhuliswa ndim (you know boy you don't know anything, I raised you)

Bukhosi: Haha raise who?

Nosiyamcela: Hlaka kodwa uyise kadade wenu wayemthanda unyoko kodwa unyoko uyalibele kuleqeka emva kweyam indoda endaweni yobona umfana lo umthandayo (laugh but your sisters father loved your mother but your mother was busy running after my husband to notice a man to loved her)

Bukhosi: What does this have do to with you telling me where my sister is?

Nosiyamcela: Everything, when I came here and found out about your mother and my husband I knew because of how innocent she was that she will not continue being with my husband, especially after she saw my daughters. So asked this man because I knew his sister from back in school, I told her about what happened and she told me about her brother

who loves your mother and I worked with him and told him to take her as his wife so that she can stay away from my husband.

He did that indeed but he had conditions, one of them was not taking you with him to his home and the second one was that I would have to support you because no money of his will support a child he didn't give birth to. So I agreed to support you, I sent money to him every month to support you. I Nosiyamcela am the reason you are who you are today.

Bukhosi: I hear your life story it shame if you looking for credit you won't get it from me because had you let me be raised by my father like your children you wouldn't have had to support me yourself.

Nosiyamcela: Ungrateful brat! And you think I will tell you where my son and your sister are then you are mistaken.

Bukhosi: So Vusi is your son?

Nosiyamcela: Yes, his the son I was going to give

Nkosibuthe but he became selfish and distant from me all because of your mother and from then Vusi has been my weapon. I swear I will die and Rest In Peace knowing that he took that woman's child and hurt her and you in the process because your mother hurt me and my children all those years. Even when she left she took Nkosibuthe's heart with her and ndiyamzonda nenzala yakhe ngaphezulu (and I resent her and her offspring for that matter)

Bukhosi: Enough!!!

Nosiyamcela: What will you do? Huh

Power was fast approaching as Bukhosi couldn't control his anger, his eyes changed color and he held on to the steel table that was on the far end of the room but it couldn't withstand the weight on it as it bent in the middle and a frustrated Power took it wrinkling it with his bare hands like paper and threw it across the room and it landed on the mirror shattering it in the process and the glasses spread all over the place as they landed in the floor.

Nosiyamcela: Oh nkosiyam ndafa namhlanje! Thixo lomntana unikwe ezazilwane zikayiseMkhulu, oh bawo akwaba ndandimnikile uNkosibuthe unyana ngeyinguye ngoku lo, unamandla Thixo ngendine ntonga yasekhusi, ndinesixhobo sasebukhosini esiqinileyo kwaye neshishini lam ngelifana nelosaziwayo mna ndisisi nhanha. Oho kunani ukuphupha sendizobulawa sesisilwane sika Nobuntu no Nkosibuthe. Waze wandenza umfazi sefile kodwa sose ndimxelele inyani ndizakufa nayo qha nje ubayena uzakungcungcutheka. (oh lord am going to die today! This child was given his grandmother's beast, oh lord I should have given Nkosibuthe a son, this could have been him, with power, lord I would have had my right hand man, a strong weapon from a royal family and my business would be blooming just like those of well known people and I would be rich. Oho What is the point of dreaming when am about to be killed by this beast of Nobuntu and Nkosibuthe. Oh this woman keeps bothering me even in her death but I will never tell him the truth, I will die with it for as long as he will be unhappy)

Power looked at Nosiyamcela but this time things were different than all the other times he came out. This time he could see all that Nosiyamcela has ever done, from the killing of children back in the village with her aunt, the conspiracy on the death of the king and her hand in the killings that are taking place Encoko village. All these things angered Power even more as he went to Nosiyamcela full force, his teeth especially the incisors were like those of a wild dog or a wolf, sharp and dangerous. He became an omnivore by a second as he saw her flesh and he went for the leg breaking it with his teeth and Nosiyamcela screamed in pain. This irritated him as he went for her esophagus and ripped it out with her voice box but not killing her just yet.

In two minutes Power was done with eating the leg with its bone, as he ate her flesh it was like his reviving and waking up more than just Power in him. When that happened he jumped to Nosiyamcela landing on her feet and started devouring her flesh

like a cannibal except it was not Bukhosi eating but Power. He ate her up so fast which tells that it has been hungry for years, it finished her up and left the head. It even licked the floor clean like there was never any blood on it.

After taking a drive Nkosibuthe went back to the house and opened the door and went in. He locked behind him and went to the lounge only to find his wife's head on the coffee table which scared him causing him to stumble back.

Nkosibuthe: Wenzeni Bukhosi? (what have you done Bukhosi)

Bukhosi: Nothing.

Nkosibuthe: Then What is this? And where is the rest of his body?

Bukhosi: Ndithe andiyazi ngoba nam ndivuke ilapha lentloko. (i said I don't know because I also woke up with this head here)

Nkosibuthe: Uyaxoka Umbulele (you are laying you

killed her! Bukhosi's eyes turn blood shot red as he quickly stood up and looked at his father dead in the eyes)

Bukhosi: I said I didn't kill her!

Nkosibuthe: Oh mntanam kufuneka sihambile nditsho ngomso oku kusayo ngoba uziquzibini ngoku, uyihloMkhulu uphila kuwe kwaye lonto inobungizi (oh my child we have to go home and I mean tomorrow morning because you are two people in one now. Your grandfather is living or lives in you and that is dangerous)

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Insert 45

The Journey:

You know before you travel to a place you don't know, you get so excited that you don't sleep at night or even if you do you will dream about the place as you would like it to be. Bukhosi didn't sleep the previous night because he was worried about going to the royal palace of his people in Matatiele. He didn't know the kind of treatment he will get there because judging by what his father said it might not be good because he also doesn't set foot in the Royal palace of Nkomanzi. But something in him didn't allow him to refuse to go, in fact he was pushing to go. He woke up early and prepared for the trip, he told his mother all about it and she was supportive and because he didn't want to leave her alone he got Zodwa to stay with her while they look for Asithandile because he didn't want her to be alone not even for a minute. He finished with his stuff and went to pack them in the car then went to the house and locked before driving off to his

father's house.

He got to the house and the guards opened for him. He drove in and parked then went to the door and knocked, the maid opened for him and he went in and saw Ncebakazi sitting in the lounge looking far in her thoughts.

Bukhosi: Penny for your thoughts?

Ncebakazi: Hey bro, how are you?

Bukhosi: Am Okay But you are not. What's up?

Ncebakazi: Am well dear Brother, how do you feel about going to Matatiele?

Bukhosi: Nervous But What can I do?

Ncebakazi: Hang in there everything will be fine, I think.

Bukhosi: See even you can't guarantee that everything will be fine or if am going to be welcomed.

Ncebakazi: You right I cant but at least father will be there with you every step of the way.

Bukhosi: And am grateful for that. Now tell me what is eating you?

Ncebakazi: Well Mother didn't come home last night (Bukhosi became tense immediately and Ncebakazi saw that) Listen brother, I don't want to sound cruel or anything but am happy that mother is not here.

Bukhosi: Why would you be happy not knowing where your mother is?

Ncebakazi: Can I confide in you and please don't tell anyone?

Bukhosi: Promise I won't.

Ncebakazi: Well I found out a few weeks back that mother was involved in some shady businesses.

Bukhosi: What do you mean shady business?

Ncebakazi: Well remember in the news when they talk about the killings that are happening in the village not so far from here?

Bukhosi: Encoko village?

Ncebakazi: Yes That village, I found out that mother is involved in that, when I confronted her she straight

up told me that those people didn't have a life and she was saving them.

Bukhosi: By killing them?

Ncebakazi: My point exactly! And I threatened to tell father but she said if I do she will kill Zodwa then father while I watched.

Bukhosi: Maybe she was Just Kim joking sis.

Ncebakazi: No she was not because of how cold her voice was when she said it and how dark and distant her eyes were. She was definitely telling the truth.

Bukhosi: I believe you, so is that why you don't want her back?

Ncebakazi: I would rather have that woman dead than wait for her to kill my family. Sorry for my language and how I said it but Nosiyamcela is a heartless witch.

Bukhosi: if she is indeed dead what are you going to do?

Ncebakazi: Put on the act of a life time, cry louder than everyone else then after the funeral I will drink

till I can't anymore celebrating the death of witch I once called a mother.

Bukhosi: Yhoo so why drink?

Ncebakazi: Because when I do the people will think that am deeply hurt and want to numb the pain.

Nkosibuthe: So am not even told when you here?
(he said getting into the lounge with his sport bag)

Bukhosi: Sorry Father I was just catching up with my sister. You know we haven't had time to talk since this whole kidnaping thing.

Nkosibuthe: I understand son.

Ncebakazi: I hope you find my little sister and bring her home.

Nkosibuthe: We will my baby. Now Bukhosi lets go and we are taking the Subaru

Bukhosi: Which one?

Ncebakazi: Latest Brother and it spits fire I tell you.

Nkosibuthe: No matter how much you praise the car

Ncebakazi I will not give it to you.

Ncebakazi: Yhoo Father I never said I wanted it am just admiring a good machine.

Bukhosi: Sounds like you want it to me.

Ncebakazi: Who's side are you on?

Bukhosi: The car! Bye sis

Ncebakazi: MXM go and don't come back both of you. (they laughed and went out the door)

The car was very fast which will make the drive to Matatiele less than the normal two hours it usually takes. The drive was a silent one with Nkosibuthe thinking about what the people will say when he gets to the palace. His the prince of the land who left home and never looked back when his father died and the throne given to his uncle because he didn't have a male child. Bukhosi was thinking about the kind of Welcome he will receive in his father's home , but contrary to that the beast in him felt like pushing the car itself so that they can get there faster. He

didn't understand how he could be worried about not being Welcome and anxious to get there at the same time.

They passed a board that says Welcome to Matatiele and Nkosibuthe's heart started beating fast that his hand tighten on the stirring wheel and Bukhosi saw that.

Bukhosi: Whatever happens we will go back home together as one. We will not allow anyone to chase us out until we have completed what we came here to do.

Nkosibuthe: Thank you son I needed to hear that. Am the prince of this land and I have every right to be here as much as my uncle.

Bukhosi: Now That is the Father I know but you got one thing wrong.

Nkosibuthe: What did I get wrong?

Bukhosi: You are not the prince of this land (Nkosibuthe had a look of disappointment) you are

the king of this land and am the prince. We can't both be princes that is unheard of. Father and son princes no.

Nkosibuthe: Haha you right my prince.

Bukhosi: Thank you my king (they both laughed and continued with the drive)

Bukhosi: Is that a small village town?

Nkosibuthe: No! That my son before you is the royal palace of Nkomanzi, where your forefathers lay to rest. That is where your lineage comes from.

Bukhosi: My God! It is true when they say that paradise is a fantasy we create about people and places as we would like them to be. Is that where you grew up?

Nkosibuthe: Grew up, went to school, stick fighting, initiation, celebrations and had my first kiss at. That is my home.

Bukhosi: What a beauty it is.

Nkosibuthe: indeed

They drove to the palace gates and the guards went to them outside the gate.

Guard: Greetings

Nkosibuthe: Greetings, I am here to see the king.

Guard: And who will I announce you as?

Nkosibuthe: Announce me as Nkosibuthe the prince of the land (the guard was shocked because all of them have heard of Nkosibuthe but have never seen him)

Guard: My prince (he bowed his head) I will go announce your arrival.

Nkosibuthe: I would appreciate it if you made it fast we don't have all day. (the guard left in a hurry going inside the palace)

Bukhosi: Why are they not letting us in?

Nkosibuthe: in the royal palace guards are not allowed to let anyone in without informing the king and he approves.

Bukhosi: Ridiculous! What enemies can this king have? Farmers who want mealie meal.

Nkosibuthe: Haha when you have a heart of stone you get paranoid that even farmers are your enemies.

Inside the palace the king and queen of the land were sitting in the throne room discussing matters of the kingdom when the guard came in and bowed before them.

Guard: My king

King: Speak!

Guard: There is someone at the gate who wishes to see the king.

King: Who did he say he is?

Guard: He said he is Nkosibuthe the prince of the land.

King: impossible! (he stood up) take me to him! I want to see for myself if what you are saying is the truth.

Guard: Yes my king (they got out going to the gate and when Nkosibuthe saw his uncle he got out of the car and stood next to it. The king saw him and

signaled for the guards to open for them and they did and Nkosibuthe drove in)

He got out of the car while Bukhosi remained.

King: If it isn't the long lost prince of the land and my nephew Nkosibuthe.

Nkosibuthe: In the flesh Zwelibalele!

King: Nephew I think you have forgotten the ways of the kingdom. No one and I mean not even the prince is allowed to call the king by name.

Nkosibuthe: My bad uncle I just didn't see any king that is why (Zwelibalele was angry but he didn't want to show it. In the car Bukhosi was losing himself because Power was coming out, what was bothering him was that he was not even angry but Power was surfacing he got out of the car and the uncle and father turned and looked at him and when Nkosibuthe saw him he knew that the beast was about to come out)

King: What is this that you have brought us?

Nkosibuthe: My son!

King: WOW you finally have a son! Pity he came too late.

Nkosibuthe: Oh I wouldn't say that (he said with a smile on his face)

Bukhosi looked at Zwelibalele and saw him on the day he killed the king his grandfather and the moment that happened he howled so loud and transformed and jumped into Zwelibalele landing him on the ground with his front paws on his chest and his mouth open and drooling on his face.

Zwelibalele was both shocked and scared because he thought the beast died with the late king. The guards ran for their lives.

Nkosibuthe: What were you saying uncle?

Zwelibalele: Get it off me!

Nkosibuthe: Am sorry uncle but I don't know how to control it. It's not my beast.

Power went for his shoulder and bite it coming back

with the chunk of his flesh and spit it out on the ground and Zwelibalele was groaning in pain under the beast but there was no running because its paws were pressing him down on the ground. The queen was watching from the door of the palace crying and calling for help but no one came. The chief priest came to the palace chanting his clan names.

Chief priest: Nkosi yase Nkomanzi! Wena uzovuselela ubulungisa kweli komkhulu, sizukulwa sa maCirha, Ncibane, Nojaholo ndiyazi nkosiyam sikonile, ikomkhulu likonile, kothama uzinze kumkani kuzolunga ngoku ufikile ekhaya (king of Nkomanzi! You who will bring peace into the palace and the kingdom, grandson of the Cirha clan, I know we have wronged you, the palace has wronged you. Calm down and rest my king, everything will be alright you are home now)

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Insert 46

Encoko

The chief of Encoko village has been in peace for the past couple of days, only because the evil witch as he calls her, Nosiyamcela wasn't making any demands or orders like she is ordering clothes in an online store. He was actually sleeping peacefully at night however the dreams are still there and now more than ever they are intense and he doesn't know what to do. The guys who went to look for the chief priest have been gone for over two weeks now and that worried him because those people are his responsibility and having them return safe is his main concern. Nokonwaba comes to him and sits next to him under a tree and they looking at the view of the mountains both hoping to see the man coming back home but nothing.

Nokonwaba: My husband you have been doing this since the day they left, I ask that we go have lunch then come back and wait for them together.

Mqwathi: I know my dear am just worried about their families if they do not come back.

Nokonwaba: Don't be negative my dear they will come back you will see. Now can we please go inside and eat?

Mqwathi: Of course let's go. (they went inside and Nokonwaba served her husband food. They do have people working there but when it comes to making food for her husband she does it herself)

Mqwathi: The food is really good my dear, I didn't realize how hungry I am until I started eating.

Voice: Uhleli apha wena uyatya kodwa konakele, ungumntu onjani kanti? (you sitting here eating yet things are getting out of control, what kind of a person are you? Mqwathi and his wife turned around to look at the door and they couldn't believe what they were seeing)

Mqwathi: Gasela you still alive oh thank the gods.

Gasela: Thank the gods for what when you have made a bigger mass than the one you made when I left?

Mqwathi: Am sorry chief priest but...(he cuts him short)

Gasela: Don't even try the I didn't have a choose line with me. Nokonwaba make food for me and the man you sent to get me and make it a feast and you come we need to talk.

Nokonwaba didn't waste anytime getting up and going to the kitchen to ask the kitchen stuff to make food for the man that just arrived, while she makes food for the chief priest because his food as she remembers must not have any spices or any of the modern things only salt or aromat and halsome that block of oil that looks like butter or white cheese covered in white paper wrapping. The chief of the land and the chief priest went to his hut and the chief priest was please to see that all his things were exactly the way he left them many years ago.

They got in with the chief leaving his shoes at the door but the chief priest didn't have any, he was walking barefoot. They both sit on the grass mat and the chiefs priest burnt incense and lucky sticks and spoke to the ancestors announcing his return to the royal house and when he was done he looked at Mqwathi and shook his head.

Gasela: Usatsalwa ngempumlo ngulamfazi nangoku? Kutheni ungazimeli njengendoda kodwa unabantu engekudala bamsusayo okanye umsuse wena ngokwakho? (are you still being pulled by the nose by that woman? Why don't you stand up for yourself like a man, because you have people that could have taken care of her a long time ago or you could have done it yourself?)

Mqwathi: Gasela that woman is

Gasela: Powerful?

Mqwathi: Yes

Gasela: mmm I see so you undermine the power the gods of this land gave you and decided to be led by a

woman you don't know?

Mqwathi: It's not like that but...

Gasela: Unyanisile ayikho njalo, uligwala qha wena akhonto iyophinda ithethwe (you right it's not like that, you are just a coward and nothing more will be said)

The chief knew better than to argue with the chief prince so he kept quiet this time around and waited for him to speak.

Gasela: Things are bad and I mean very bad, the woman you trusted with everything dear to you have betrayed you in the worst way ever.

Mqwathi: What do you mean?

Gasela: I mean that the princess is no longer in this soil, she was taken away and that woman planned it all.

Mqwathi: If she harmed my daughter I swear I will..

Gasela: You will what? Because I know very well that there is nothing you could've done even if she was

still alive.

Mqwathi: What do you mean by that?

Gasela: You can be slow sometimes, she is dead killed by a powerful god and now that child is suffering with dreams where she is and I only came back because the gods wanted me to do a ritual in her absence and ask them to protect her and give us time until she is found to do a proper ritual.

Mqwathi: My daughter is kidnapped and am sure no one is looking for her and on top of that she is suffering. What have I done!

Gasela: You keep saying your daughter like she knows you. Look we have to do the ceremony at midnight because these two ancestors fighting are both very strong so this has to be done to free her at least for a little while. As for the blood on your hands it will be washed the day she is introduced to her rightful people.

Mqwathi: It shall be done as the gods pleases.

Gasela: Good now lets go eat am hungry

They stood up and went to the dining area and the other men were already eating. They joined them and ate too talking about the journey to the mountains.

In Matatiele the royal palace of Nkomanzi was tense after what happened, the guards and maiden were scared to even make noise because they were scared of what might happen. All the palace staff was new so they were not there at the time of the late king so they didn't know all this. Inside the palace a palace doctor was attending to the kings wounds as the chief priest said there is nothing he can do until the real king orders him to which Bukhosi didn't because he didn't know that he was referring to him. Bukhosi, Nkosibuthe and the chief priest were sitting in the throne room waiting for the king and queen of the land to come back and join them and they did after a while and the kings shoulder was bandaged. He and his queen came in and sat on the throne next to each other, anger visible on the queens face but the king was more

scared than angry.

Chief: The king is here to do a ritual and I will need a bull to be slaughtered and two goats and 5 chickens.

King: Can't the ritual wait till tomorrow so that we can invite the people?

Chief: Only if you want to wake up dead and not witness the ritual (the king got tense)

Queen: It is not late to do the ritual now?

Nkosibuthe: You are a woman and this has nothing to do with you, so wait your turn and speak when spoken to (the queen kept quiet)

Chief: It's only after 12 and besides the things of the gods don't wait. Bukhosi base Nkomanzi go and pick out your bull from the kraal.

King: The boys have already taken the live stock out to the field for the day and will only come back late in the evening.

Chief: I knew you would say that which is why I told them to turn back with them when I came here and

they should be in the kraal as we speak.

King: Oh

Bukhosi stood up and left them there and they all stood up and followed him behind, he got to the Nkomanzi palace kraal and got in. He looked around at the bulls and as he walked among them they would move aside giving way to him. But only one bull stood still looking at him, they made eyes contact for about 5 long minutes not breaking it. The other cows and bulls were on the sides watching, if you can call it that because they were looking at them. Finally Bukhosi went closer to the bull and when he got closer it went down on its front legs more like a bow of some sort and the boys outside the kraal whistles as that is one of the bulls that always gives them problems, it never follows the others but leads them where it wants to, never eats on the field and it waits to be given hay like a horse. This to them was shocking as well as surprising.

King: What are you whistling about?

Boy: My king this is the bull we always complain about and for it to me doing this to us it mean it has met its master.

King: You can be stupid sometimes! No bull has a master.

Boy: Then What do you call that?

King: Have you forgotten you speak to your king! (he shouted at the boy)

Boy: Am sorry my king I got over excited.

Chief: You should stop shouting at the boy because he speaks the truth, the bull has met its master and even bowed to him. What animal bows before you huh? (the king kept quiet)

Chief: I thought as much.

Nkosibuthe: The evil animals might be the ones who bow for him at night who knows.(the king was fed up and couldn't wait for them to go)

Bukhosi pulled the bull by its horns and it obliged and took it out of the kraal and stood next to it.

Bukhosi: This is the one

Chief: Boys go call youngman to come immediately (the boys went out the palace running)

Bukhosi went to the kraal where the goats were and got in and as he got in all the other goats moved back but two came forward and when the chief priest saw this he started reciting his clan names and those of the king praising them and thanking them for bringing the king back to the kingdom. Bukhosi got out of the kraal with the goats and the boys that remained went to tied them up next to the cow.

By this time woman were busy cooking for the ritual others were checking if there is enough traditional beer for the ritual because there is always some in the palace for ritual like these that are not planned. In no time the young man where at the palace and some villagers too to help with the work that has to

be done. Don't ask who told them because village people is like they can smell when there is a ritual and just show up. The young man were about to slaughter the bull when Bukhosi took the chief priest hand and pulled him towards where the bull was and he got there and Bukhosi pats the bull twice in between its horns on the forehead and it started making noise that filled the palace. The chief priest was shocked by this because normally a spear is used to poke the cow for it to make noise. Bukhosi went to the goats and did the same and the goats made noise, he then went to the young man and took the spear and stabbed the bull right between its eyes where he pat it before and it went to down the ground making noise. He then gave back the spear and the young man started skinning the bull.

Chief: No need to slaughter the goats because you have already done it with the bull the young man can slaughter them.

Bukhosi: Alright.

Bukhosi didn't know what he was doing the whole time he did it but something in him told him to and he couldn't resist. The queen of the land was now scared of what she witnessed even though she was from afar because women are not allowed in the kraal. The king just wanted them gone so that he can go appease his own things and do his own rituals to make sure they don't come back.

Nkosibuthe was proud and left alive from just setting foot in his father's soil, it was like a load had been lifted off him. The chief priest knew that change is coming and good things are about to happen in the kingdom.

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Insert 47

Cape Town (not edited)

The doctor who works with Nosiyamcela was having a hard time getting orders and fulfilling promises to her client because she can't get hold of Nosiyamcela. She decided to dig up their contract as the numbers of the associates have to be listed on it so that all partners know who is involved in the business just for safety sake. She went through the contract and the first person was Vusi which the doctor knew was not around since she helped him when he left the country and there was another number written king and she took it down and put the contract back in the safe. She took the number and dialed it from a burner phone and Nokonwaba who was cleaning her husbands room heard the phone and looked for it and answered because her husband was busy with the chief priest but she was shocked to see a second phone but thought of the woman her husband spoke about and she answered anyway.

Convo:

Nokonwaba: Hello

Doc: Good day Ms, may I please speak to the owner of the phone, this is doctor Mthusi speaking.

Nokonwaba: Oh hold on let me call him.

Doc: Thank you.

Nokonwaba went and called her husband who saw from her facial expression that something was wrong. He took the phone and answered.

Mqwathi: Hello

Doc: It's me, I have a order.

Mqwathi: Where is my usual contract?

Doc: I don't care in fact you can get all her share because she has dropped the ball.

Mqwathi: I don't care about that and I will not be fulfilling any order without my original contact.

Doc: Oh believe me you will or you will end up in jail or dead with your organs inside one of my clients just you try me.

Mqwathi: I don't care you can do whatever you want with me am not doing it.

Doc: Really?

Mqwathi: Yes.

Doc: Okay I will send you your daughter's remains when I get what I need from her, goodbye.

Mqwathi: No! Wait!

Doc: Changed your mind?

Mqwathi: Do you know where she is?

Doc: Who do you think helped your partner with taking her away huh?

Mqwathi: Fine I will do it, what do you need?

Doc: I kidney blood type O+

Mqwathi: Time frame?

Doc: Two days

Mqwathi: Fine

Doc: Nice doing business with you (she dropped the call)

Nokonwaba looked at her husband and shook her head.

Nokonwaba: What does this person want now?

Mqwathi: I don't have a choice.

Nokonwaba: That is not what I asked.

Mqwathi: I know but she has my daughter and if I don't do what she wants she will kill her.

Nokonwaba: You got yourself into whatever this is and I believe you can take yourself out of it but please whatever you do don't get my poor child in danger.

Mqwathi: Your child? (he asked with a smile on his face)

Nokonwaba: What's yours is mine and that girl has been through enough she needs love and protection now not this.

Mqwathi: I will fix it.

Nokonwaba: You keep saying that but no results.

Mqwathi: Soon you will see them.

She just looked at him and continued with her work. Mqwathi went back to the chief priest but before he could get closer he stopped him.

Chief: If you are to continue spilling more blood then I don't want you involved in this ritual.

Mqwathi: This is my child we are talking about so I have to be involved.

Chief: If you are going to bring your bad luck to this ritual then we might as well not do it because it will be useless.

Mqwathi: Fine do it your way.

Chief: Kodwa wena uyindoda nje ngegama (you are just a man by name) Mqwathi didn't say anything he just left feeling heartbroken that he will have to stand on the sidelines for his daughter's ritual. But he turned back as he remembered what the chief priest said when he came back and he went back to him and stood at a distance.

Chief: What now?

Mqwathi: You said that woman was killed by a god.

Chief: Yes So?

Mqwathi: What god is that?

Chief: It seemed to have the same blood as her running through his veins but his not completely human but a god.

Mqwathi: Does that mean I have another child? (he asked with excitement clearly visible in his face)

Mqwathi: Hayi uyagula ngoku, xa uzijongile wena uzala izinyanya? Kukho izinyanya ezihamba ngenyawo kakade ema Qwathini? (no you crazy now, when you looking at yourself you give birth to gods? Are there gods that walk with its own two feet in the Maqwathini clan?)

Mqwathi: It was just a question.

Chief: A stupid one at that.

Mqwathi shook his head and left him again but wondered who could the person be that killed the witch.

Matatiele:

The ritual was done but there were more people coming into the palace because of the meat that was there. The chief priest was the happiest man in that palace, it was as if Bukhosi was his son that just came back from initiation school. He wore a proud smile on his face just like Nkosibuthe. The king of the land was not himself, he can see that the sun is setting but their guests didn't show signs of leaving which irritated him even more. The queen has been isolated this whole time, not talking to anyone just watching this whole thing happen. She was pissed and disgusted by the greedy, ungrateful villagers who were happy eating in her palace in the name of other people and praising him like his a god.

Chief: All is well now my king.

King: Why do insist on calling this boy a king?

Chief: Because he is the chosen one.

King: Chosen or not am king in this kingdom not this boy we don't even know where it comes from.

Chief: IT, as you call it is your brother and his grandson all in one person. Dare try what you did before and you will meet your maker, I won't even say ancestors because the Nkomanzi ancestors don't even recognize you as their own.

King: I care not about that all I want is for this thing to leave my palace.

Nkosibuthe: Call my son a thing one more time.

King: What are you going to do huh? You are just a boy Nkosibuthe and am your uncle, don't forget that boy.

Nkosibuthe: I said call my son a thing one more time Malume mbhumbhulu (fake uncle)

King: Don't push it Nkosibuthe take this your son out of my palace.

Bukhosi: We will go Zwelibalele but don't even dare try what you are thinking because it will backfire.

King: Now his accusing me of something, so you hear him? When something happens to me know that it's him.

Chief: It's funny how you are quick to point fingers but if something really does happen to you know that you were warned.

Queen: You are no longer the chief priest of this palace, you can take your people and leave this place at once!

Nkosibuthe: I told you before that don't involve yourself in matters that don't involved you. Now shut up woman you are starting to annoy me.

Chief: Leave her she's just here for benefits nothing more and don't forget Mpokeleng that I stopped being the chief priest of this palace the day your husband killed the king.

King: Where do you get that from?

Bukhosi: Do you want me to show you?

King: No I mean I would really appreciate it if you leave.

Bukhosi: Lets go father and you mkhulu (grandpa) don't forget what I said.

They three of them walked to the car and got in. They drove the chief priest to his home and made their way back to Mthatha. The sun was setting in the mountains when they left Matatiele behind heading to a place they now call home.

The king went to his shrine the moment they left the kingdom, he took a grey dotted chicken and went in there with it. In that shrine there was a big size ten three legged pot that had black liquid in it that had live toads in it. There was also the bing metal bath tub full of fresh thick blood in it, one could not see what was inside it but there was a spear in there, the one he used to stab his brother the late king with. He took the chicken and held it with its feet with its head hanging looking at the big pot with toads in, the liquid moved as the toads showed their heads and the chicken started bleeding from its mouth and eyes. He quickly move the chicken from the pot to the metal tub and let its blood drip into the tub. After 3 drops of blood into the tub thunder stokes followed by lightning that striked in the hut cutting the roof in half with its burning blaze and burning the

hand that had the chicken and he dropped it. And groaned in pain, while he was looking at that, thunder roared outside and lightning strikes again burning the hut starting from the door and window and there was no way out for the king. He screamed like a woman from inside the hut and the guards came running to try and open the door but the fire was too hot. The maidens brought water and put out the fire on the door and the guards kicked it down and the moment the door fell the hut also came crumbling down on him. Then soon after heavy rain poured putting out the fire in the process. The queen had already called the ambulance, while the guards removed things on top of him. When they got to him, he was badly burnt with his skin peeling off. The ambulance came and took him away with the queen following behind leaving the villagers gossiping about the things that came out of that hut. Some felt sorry for him while other said it serves him right for being cruel.

On the road Bukhosi had been groaning like Power

was about to come out, Nkosibuthe had the heart to just turn the car around and go to the chief priest again because he thought that something was wrong. Finally Bukhosi calmed down after a while and looked at his father who kept stealing glances at him then focus back on the road.

Bukhosi: Your uncle is badly burned and will not be able to make use of his legs.

Nkosibuthe presser on the emergency brakes hard bringing the car to a halt.

Nkosibuthe: What?

Bukhosi: Yes it just happened.

Nkosibuthe: What happened and how do you know?
No don't tell me (he took his phone and dialed the landline at the palace and a maiden picked up)

Convo:

Maiden: Nkomanzi palace hello

Nkosibuthe: Maiden it's prince Nkosibuthe

Maiden: Yes my prince.

Nkosibuthe: Is everything alright in the royal house?

Maiden: No my prince the hut that the king used to work in burnt down with him inside. He was just rushed to the hospital, but that is not even the worst of it.

Nkosibuthe: What is it?

Maiden: In that hut there was a big metal bath tub full of blood and a big three legged pot with live toads in a black liquid (she said whispering on the phone like a renowned gossip queen)

Nkosibuthe: Did the guards get rid of the toads and blood?

Maiden: How can they My prince when the Place where there was a hut doesn't look like there was even one, there is not even a structure to say there was a house yet the blood bath and black liquid pot remained unshaken.

Nkosibuthe: That is strange!

Maiden: Strange doesn't bring to describe this, I tell

you my prince this is witchcraft.

Nkosibuthe: I will call again dear maiden.

Maiden: If I were you my prince I would run for the hills and never come back.

Nkosibuthe: Yet you are still there even though you the one who witnessed this whole ordeal.

Maiden: I... i..

Nkosibuthe: I will call again.

He dropped the call not believing what he just heard. He went back inside the car and started the engine, but before he drove off he looked at his son and asked.

Nkosibuthe: Who are you?

Bukhosi: I am who I am. (ndinguye endinguye)

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Insert 48

Mthatha (not edited)

A week later the king was released from the hospital, his body was healing well but pain refuses to leave his body, pain killers doing nothing and the queen was fed up by the wining his been doing ever since he got back from the hospital. She even hired a professional nurse to take care of him, she last saw him two days after they came back from the hospital and she never went to that room again. She uses the spare room because she says the king smells like a dead person. This morning she woke up and told a shower then went to the dining area to for breakfast, she sat and the maidens served her. She ate and

while she was eating the nurse came in pushing the king, she queen had a disgusted look on her face as the smell of rotten flesh filled the room. She looked at the nurse from head to toe.

Queen: Couldn't you wait till I was finished before bringing him here?

Nurse: Am sorry my queen but he said he was hungry so I brought him for breakfast. (the maiden who was serving him couldn't hold it in as she blatantly spoke without being spoken to)

Maiden: His not "he" his the king (she then held her mouth)

Nurse: Am sorry my queen.

Queen: No wait! Why are you taking his side? Do you have something to tell me?

Maiden: No my queen.

Queen: You better speak or am throwing you in the dungeon.

Maiden: My queen if you may allow me to speak my mind then I would say something.

Queen: Speak!

Maiden: My queen what you are doing to your husband is wrong. When the king was well he did everything for me and now that his in this condition the queen refuses to even share a meal with him let alone a room.

Queen: Yeah You right!

Maiden: Thank you my queen

Queen: But let me ask you this, where were you when this man fed all my unborn children to his toads? Who wiped my tears when he took one child after another sacrificing them like they were lamb to the slaughter? What did you think that blood in that metal tub came from? You saw the material things he gave me and think he gave me everything but no! He was paying for my silence. This man right here is cruel, I would be pregnant and sometimes no even know it but his toads will know and he would force me to go sit on that pot then the next thing I know am bleeding and in the bath tub filling it with my baby's remains and blood. He took six of my children

and you think am cruel?

Nurse: Oh my queen why did you endure such abuse all these years?

Queen: Because when I married him I was greedy for power and status, I wanted to be queen and the most important and well respected woman in this kingdom. Little did I know that will be my downfall, today I don't have children because this man right here you call a king killed them and am the one who's supposed to be sorry? For what?

Maiden: Am sorry my queen I didn't know.

Queen: If you want to know all about what this man did to me ask my personal maiden, she will tell you everything as she was the one who always took care of me and nursed me back to health while this man got richer and richer with the blood of my children.

Nurse: Why didn't you leave my queen?

Queen: Hahah (he laughed in between sobs) oh I left Alright when I was pregnant with my sixth child because I wanted to protect him, but this man told me if I don't come back he will kill my little sister and

guess what I said?

Nurse: What?

Queen: I said ' I dare you to try' and boy was that my mistake because my little sister never woke up that night and you want to know what was worse than her being dead?

Nurse: That's enough now my queen.

Queen: No it's not! It's not, my sister looked like an old woman wrinkled and old yet she was only thirteen. This monsters toads sucked the blood out of her leaving us a human dried fruit, my parents were traumatized and I couldn't let something like that happen to any of my family members so I came back and my baby was taken yet again. He told me to stay by his side and support him always and everyone I loved will live and I did. Now tell me am cruel one more time.

The maiden went on her knees crying.

Maiden: Am sorry my queen it's just that the picture he painted for everyone in this kingdom was convincing and am sure everyone who sees how you

treat him will blame you and accuse you of being cruel and heartless. We were sold dreams my queen and we bought them. With that I apologize.

Queen: I won't say it's alright but never judge a book by its cover because what is written inside might shock you (she stood up and left them)

The nurse looked at the king with eyes full of hatred. The maiden did too but she had no choice but to do her work and serve the king. No matter what she heard she is still loyal to the throne and whoever sits on it just like any good maiden.

Bathandwa:

It's been weeks and I don't know where my love is, it's hard for me to even think of what might be happening to her right now. It saddens me that I can't do anything about this whole situation. I love that girl and God knows I will wait for her, well that is

if she will have me when she returns but I made a promise to her that I will wait for her and fight for our love and that am willing to do. Now who could be knocking when am trying to get some alone time.

My mother came in.

Nomthandazo: My love! How are you baby.

Bathandwa: That would have made me smile like a retard had it come from the right person.

Nomthandazo: Does That mean I am the wrong person to call you my love?

Bathandwa: You know what I mean mother.

Nomthandazo: How long are you going to wait for this girl?

Bathandwa: Until she comes back.

Nomthandazo: You talk as if she is on holiday or something, God forbid but what if she is found dead, what then?

Bathandwa: I will bury her and then grieve for her, heal and when my heart tells me too I will move on.

Nomthandazo I: You are as stubborn as your father.

Bathandwa: That's a Good thing is it not?

Nomthandazo: It is baby, hey Linda come by here when you were in town.

Bathandwa: Mention That girl again and I will pack my things and go live at red until the day Asithandile comes back.

Nomthandazo: Haibo am just telling you what happened.

Bathandwa: If it has to do with Linda then I don't want to know.

Nomthandazo: Okay but listen to me, don't feel obligated to wait for Asithandile if your heart no longer wants to, Yes for now you can wait for as long as your heart allows you to but when it doesn't move on.

Bathandwa: I don't I will but I will do as you say if it comes to it.

Nomthandazo: That's all I ask.

Lisa:

Right now am a professional at fighting and knives, Sticks is happy with how I have been doing and his happy with my progress in school. He said he has a mission for me today and I hope his taking me out as a reward for doing well in my training and school because god knows I need some me time. I miss my parents like crazy but I have not been awarded the opportunity to call them yet but I can see that little by little Sticks is starting to trust me. He comes into my room looking ever so fine, damn guys Sticks is handsome minus the scary look he always has.

Sticks: Am hot I know so don't drool.

Lisa: You wish shame.

Sticks: Your mouth says one thing yet your eyes say another.

Lisa: Please, So What can I do for you?

Sticks: So now I can't just going around my house without being asked that.

Lisa: You came into my room so something might be up.

Stick: Your room which is in my house if I might add.

Lisa: Fine

Sticks: I want to test your skills tonight and I want you to wear the clothes Amanda will bring you.

Lisa: Which skills do you want to test?

Sticks: Knives and fighting.

To say I was disappointed was an understatement because I thought am going out but no and going fighting.

Lisa: Okay then, what time are we leaving.

Sticks: In 10 minutes (he said and got out while Amanda walked in and gave me the clothes) it was a black crop top, black skinny jean, black hills and jewelry.

Lisa: I won't ask

Amanda: Good girl because I also don't have answers.

Lisa: To think I was going out

Amanda: Technically you will be going out friend. Let me do your make up.

Amanda is good at what she does because when she was done with my make up I didn't even recognize myself. I was beautiful, I wore my clothes and finished off the a long letter jacket on top and put my knives just the way Jacob showed me, hidden but easy to access. Sticks came in wearing all black himself looking dangerous but good and if you could see us now I swear you would say we are goals. He took my hand and I grabbed my purse and we left the house.

Sticks: You look beautiful

Lisa: Thank you and you don't look too bad yourself.

Sticks: Just say it already

Lisa: Say what

Sticks: That am handsome

Lisa: Not a chance (wow he smiled, he has a

beautiful smile though manly but beautiful)

We got to this place that looked like a bar and restaurant kind of thing and we sat on the table. There was a guy sitting behind me with a briefcase beside his chair and Sticks signaled with his head for me to take the briefcase and I did and pushed it towards him. He stood up and I did too and he went to the door but before we could get out 3 guys stopped us and my heart started beating fast.

Sticks: Gentlemen! What seems to be the problem?

Guy: You have what belongs to us.

Sticks: Is that so?

Guy: I will not stand here and listen to you acting stupid.

Sticks: Well Take it if you see it

The guy went for the briefcase and Sticks handed it to me then moved aside and those guys came rushing to me and I had no choice but to follow my training and fight but not letting go of the briefcase. I

tripped the one in front of me and he fell as I kicked the one behind him, the third one gave me the mother of all punches which got me moving back and he came at me again and his punches are felt. I dropped the briefcase and put my foot on it making sure that I don't move it as I reached for the a knives cutting his joints and he fell down but the two were already up coming for me. I quickly scan the room to look for Sticks only to see him at the bar having a drink looking at me which made me angry as I took my army knives on both hands kicking and stabbing those guys. It was like an not in control of my whole body and actions, mind you my one food it still on the briefcase because Jacob told me never to let go of what you go on a heist for. I felt someone grab me from the back and I turned and stabbed him on his thigh.

Sticks: Shit woman it's me! (he was bleeding and so were the guys on the ground) he took my hand and the briefcase and we went to the car and drove off. I was mad as hell because he left me there to fight those guys.

Sticks: What are you mad about?

Lisa: You left me there alone!

Sticks: Dare raise your voice at me again am stopping this car and kicking you ass right here.

Lisa: Why did you leave me there?

Sticks: Was that my fight or yours?

Lisa: You should have given me a heads up.

Sticks: So you think people who will attack you will give you a heads up?

Lisa: No but..

Sticks: But nothing! You did well back there but you will be taking care of my wound since you stabbed me.

Lisa: Am sorry

Sticks: You can show me that by tending to my wounds.

Lisa: Fine! What is in this briefcase anyway that I had to earn bruises for.

Sticks: Open it (I did as told and it had diamonds)

Lisa: No! It can't be.

Sticks: It can and you just made that guy my enemy again.

Lisa: What? (he just looked at me and continued driving, shit what have I gotten myself into)

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Insert 49

Matatiele:

6 months later:

They say in life you rip what you saw whether good or bad but when the season come you rip what you

saw. They also say everything in life has its on time like the day gives way to the night, light gives way to the dark, the good outweighing the bad. But what about those who do good and yet life keeps throwing them with lemons, put obstacles in their way, those who work hard but never see the fruits of their labor. Life is unfair especially to those who are good at heart, those who work hard to put food on the table but never succeed. They live from hand to mouth every month yet those who have no care in the world live fulfilling lives, those who rob others, those who steal from those who have nothing, those who spill blood and those who have no heart whatsoever live the best of lives. Which make one wonder if the devil is more rewarding than the God we worship, but he says in his word, in your time of hardships seek me and I will be there to deliver you. But there has been no one to deliver the king of Nkomanzi from the pains he has been feeling since the day of the fire.

Everything he earned through his evil deeds is

perishing right before his eyes and it hurts him because his definition of hard work paid off only temporary and now it's perishing. He has no one in his corner as he continues shedding skin like a venomous snake. He is in pain and even the people who try and help him can't wait for him to die as he has become a burden to them but they are doing it because they are getting pains too. Right now he is at the mercy of the gods as they clearly tell him every night in his dreams that he will not die until he makes things right with the prince of the land Nkosibuthe. The pains are killing him but he is not losing weight but shedding skin, he smells like a death person and even the strongest of colognes don't work. In his room there is always air freshener which doesn't help much but it lessens the smell.

He called Nkosibuthe the previous day and to meet with him because he can't take the pain anymore and he said he will find time to come but is not making any promises. So long he called his queen to come see him and she agreed. She went in the room

and sat by the window to get some fresh air as the room smells like death.

King: My queen, I know you don't want to be close to me because of how I smell but I would like it if you could bare it for just a little while until am done talking to you. I can't speak any louder because of the pains, it's hard for me.

Queen: So you want to kill me along with yourself.

King: Even if I wanted to I wouldn't be able to, please I beg of you (the queen moved closer to him)

King: I know what am going to say is not going to bring back our kids and will not bring back your sister. But I have to say am sorry for all that I have done to you and our children, for depriving you the chance of being a mother and a big sister. I know you didn't marry me because you loved me and I didn't love you either, I just wanted to make my ritual stronger with royal blood, which I did at first when I killed my brother, but as the time went by they needed more blood and I wanted to keep my power and riches. Which is why I used our kids and am

sorry for all that I have done to you.

Queen: Is that all you wanted to say?

King: Yes.

Queen: Thank for apologizing but it's too late for that now as you said you can't bring my kids back and my sister so I don't have a reason to forgive you (she stood up and left him)

Mthatha:

Bukhosi wasn't sleeping once again because of dreams, in his dream he sees a woman and it looks like his reaching for her as she slips and falls into the river and a voice that tell him to go and save her before it's too late. It's been a week and this dream is not going away and it's the exact same dream every time even the events show the same way. As a result he decided to go to his father and find out what is happening or what could the dream mean. Oh by the way Nosiyamcela's head was found in the

fields a week later already decomposing, Ncebakazi did exactly as she said she will the day they buried it and Zodwa was just numb because she didn't understand what her mother was doing there but the police said she was killed by wild animals that later ate her body. The coroner confirmed that wild animals are the only ones that can cause the kind of damage that was found on her head.

Bukhosi drove into his father's home and parked and knocked, the maid opened for him and showed him where his father was.

Nkosibuthe: Son

Bukhosi: Father, how are you?

Nkosibuthe: Not well at all son.

Bukhosi: What seems to be the problem?

Nkosibuthe: My uncle called and asked to see me in Matatiele and now I don't know if I should go or not.

Bukhosi: Go his waiting for you, you are the only one who can set him free and for as long as you delay

going he will continue to suffer.

Nkosibuthe: I won't even ask how you know that but okay I will go see him.

Bukhosi: I came here for a reason.

Nkosibuthe: Tell me about it.

Bukhosi: I have this dream that I can't seem to figure out, in the dream am told to save a woman I don't even know and I have been having it for the past week.

Nkosibuthe: You know so much yet you don't know what this dream means?

Bukhosi: Well it's not like I have control over what am shown or not.

Nkosibuthe: I understand, see I had the same dream when time came for me to marry, it is said that that's how the gods of Nkomanzi chose a wife and a husband for the princes and princess of the kingdom.

Bukhosi: Are you saying that is the woman am supposed to marry?

Nkosibuthe: Yes

Bukhosi: Then Why did the gods choose Nosiyamcela for you?

Nkosibuthe: They didn't

Bukhosi: I don't follow because the gods choose the wife that a prince is to marry and you just told me that you had the same dream.

Nkosibuthe: That is true but Nosiyamcela is not the woman the gods showed me but since I was just a young man I had no say when my wife was brought home. My aunt my uncles first wife chose Nosiyamcela for me and from that day the gods were never happy with me. They took away my crown and my kingdom and deprived me of a son from the woman that was my wife. But I think my uncle and aunt planned the whole thing so that when time came I wouldn't take over as king.

Bukhosi: Now I understand so what am I supposed to do now.

Nkosibuthe: The girl is also having the same dream that you are having but to her she has to save you and until you two meet you will know no sleep.

Bukhosi: Then I guess we are going to Matatiele together then because a week of no sleep is more than enough.

Nkosibuthe: I was dreading going there but I guess if we both have business there we might as well go.

Bukhosi: How About we drive down there this evening, it's Friday anyway.

Nkosibuthe: Yes we can But I know this is also your way of avoiding sleep.

Bukhosi: You know me too well.

They continued talking about the trip and what they think will happen with the woman and what the uncle will say.

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Insert 50

Matatiele

IMINATHI (not edited)

Mother: Kodwa Iminathi koze kubenini ungasilalisi yhini mntanam sizomfumana phi lomntu kuthwa msindise? (but Iminathi how long will it be my child, you not letting us sleep, where are we going to find the person you must save?)

Grandma: Hayi kaloku Bulelwa ezizinto thina singazibona ziyinkathazo kanti abaphantsi bazama usixelela into evalulekileyo sibe thina singahoyanga. (No Bulelwa we can see these things as troubling only to find out that the ancestors are trying to tell us something important while we not paying attention.)

Mother: I don't know any traditional healer to take this child to mama because I can't take this anymore, Iminathi doesn't sleep at night and thus keeping us

awake as well.

Grandma: I know someone who is not far from here and if we want to sleep tonight we better go now.

Mother: Let me go get my purse.

That's my mother and grandma, they like doing this all the time, talk about me like am not here, make decisions about and for me like am still 12, yet am a 24 year old woman a graduate looking for a job. But you know how things are in rural areas, when something strange happens then it's witchcraft and you know better than to argue because you will be reminded that you grew up hear and you have seen things so don't think you are better because you have a little education. My name is Iminathi Mohole, well I know you might be asking why I have a Xhosa name while am Sotho. Well am an only child after so many years of trying my mother and father were blessed with me but it was too late for their marriage because my mother had endure enough over the years in the hands of her in laws so the year that she

left was the year that she was pregnant with me because two months after she came back home to live grandma she found out she was pregnant so when she gave birth she said the only name that was befitting was Iminath'inkosi.

Mother: Haibo Iminathi kunini ndikukhwaza? (Haibo Iminathi I have been calling you)

Iminathi: Sorry Mother I was just distracted.

Mother: How you passed in school I don't know because you get distracted very easy.

I wonder what school and distraction have to do with my distraction now but I will not say anything because this woman stick beats I tell you. My mother will give you a moerse clap then say 'ndikuxelele uba ndizakubhabhisa nempama, awukhomdala apha endlini' I told you I will give you the mother of all claps because you are not an adult in this house.

Mother: Hey let's go! Where did you go now?

Iminathi: Am ready mama let's go.

Mother: Mother let's go to this place because am losing this child.

Grandma: Uyathanda ubaxa kanene wena (you like exaggerating)

We left the house and walked a distance on a gravel road that will leave you feet red because the soil here is that red one that when you wear sandals your feet will be full of dust. Especially when you use Vaseline to lotion your body, I swear that thing will show you flames and you will look like you didn't bath even when you did. The only evidence will be on your shiny face that you at least bathed. We got to the stop and waited for those bakies with a canopy because that is what we use to go to town and around other kingdoms because we don't have taxis and buses. We got transportation and we were off moving from one stop to the next picking up people and now we already look like sacks of potatoes in this car but what choice do we have. We finally got

to our stop and the whole bakie had to get out because we were the first ones in. We walked to the place where the healer was staying and the place looks horrible well not horrible but scary well to me at least because I have never been to a traditional healer before. All the animal skin, the strange bottles hanging around and a strong smell on incense that filled the whole compound.

We were instructed to leave our shoes outside, we did as told and got in. There was a grass mat on laid on the floor and we were instructed to sit on it with out feet facing the the healer. He didn't even throw bones or anything all he did was look at me for the longest time that I started feeling conscious about myself, I even suspected myself of smelling bad because of how he was looking at me.

Healer: Nizorhini apha? (what are you doing here?)

Grandma: Asilali tata...(he cut her short)

Healer: I know that she is not sleeping my question is what are you doing here?

Grandma: We here seeking help.

Healer: There is no help I can offer you, the help you are looking for you will get at the Royal palace of Nkomanzi not here.

Grandma: Nkosiyam sone bani ngoku ebukhosini
(oh lord who did we wrong in the royal house)

Healer: It's funny how you see a blessing as doing something wrong. Please leave now the king will be there soon and you will get all the answers you seek.

Mother: Then we will go there tomorrow because it is already late.

Healer: Suit yourself but when you wake up with your daughter gone please to bother other people for something you did on purpose.

Grandma: Yhoo get up and we go as soon as possible.

Mother: I get that mother but where will we get transportation to get there is already late?

Healer: Go now!! (the man shouted with a serious face and we got up from there in a hurry getting out

going to the stop)

Asithandile/Ximena:

It's been six months and I must say am doing very well at school, am getting those straight A's and am enjoying the seeing my hard work on paper and lecturers giving me encouraging words is just so magical for me. I wish my brother and grandma were here to tell me how proud they are of me. I must say am getting used to the crazy man I live with, his like a roommate who cares about me but I always make sure that am extra nice when am with him and that is only during dinner which he cooks because he says he doesn't want to disturb my studies. I burry myself in my school work just to avoid talking to him or being in the same room as him.

At school I was one of the students chosen to go to a National Education Seminar in France to represent the Colombian university. So I hope this lunatic

allows me to go because I need this, I need to make contacts and associate myself with people who can later help me escape this prison. I am enjoying school don't get me wrong but it's like there are not enough hours in a day because am always dreading going to a place I now call home. He still checks my phone on a daily basis and get the call records from the provider just to make sure I don't contact anyone from my past life as he calls it. He also still picks me up after school every day and his never late just like now.

Rodrigo: Ximena

Ximena: How are you?

Rodrigo: Very well thank you, how was your day?
(this is our routine every day, he calls me by my new name and I ask how he is and he asks how my day was and I do the same then silence files the car until we get home and then another annoying question comes)

Ximena: My day was fine and productive and yours?

Rodrigo: I couldn't wait to see you.

Ximena: That's Nice. I was nominated to go and represent the school in France next week Friday and I will be gone for a week.

Rodrigo: Okay that means you doing very well at school.

Ximena: I believe I am.

Rodrigo: Okay I will ask for leave so that I can go with you and am sure I will get it. (there we go again, it's a student seminar what is he going to be doing there)

Ximena: What will you be doing the whole day because I will be busy at the seminar the whole day?

Rodrigo: Don't worry about that sweetheart I will be fine. Am glad that you care.(care? Really)

Ximena: Okay then (we got home and we got out of the car and got in the house and now am waiting for that annoying moment when he gets to the kitchen asks that his favorite question. There we go)

Rodrigo: What would you like to eat today? (I told you, my life is a routine and a struck one at that. It's

like we are robots programmed to say the same thing and give the same answers)

Ximena: Spaghetti bolognaise.

Rodrigo: Great! (I wonder what excites him about cooking)

He starts on the pots while I go to shower and burry myself in my books.

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Insert 51

Matatiele

The king of the land couldn't wait for Nkosibuthe to

arrive because the pains were getting worse by the minute and he couldn't take it anymore. What bothered him the most was the fact that where he lays he leaves pieces of his flesh behind, even when the nurse baths him she used a dump cloth so as to not wash away the flesh on his body. The second thing was the smell in the room that was unbearable but he had no choice but to bare it. He was a man full of regrets about the way he chose to live his life and the lives he took including his own flesh and blood. He even wished to see his brother one more time to ask for forgiveness but he knows that is impossible but he hopes to see him in the after life, which is also a far fetched idea because he was already told that he will not be laying with his ancestors as they don't recognize him as their own.

Nkosibuthe and Bukhosi arrived at the palace but then something happened, Power came out as Bukhosi turned and stood on his feet in the car damaging the roof of the car in the process. He got stuck but he cut the roof of the car with his sharp

nails and opened it and got out, he ran out of the palace of Nkomanzi all the way to the royal burial grounds where he sat on top of the late Kong's grave. Nkosibuthe was left wondering what it is that makes him turn into a beast the moment he sets foot in the palace. The guards were long gone by then, they ran for their lives when they saw what happened. Nkosibuthe closed the gates then went inside the palace where he was met by a stench that was coming out of the palace and he closed his nose.

The maiden that he spoke to that day came to him smiling.

Maiden: Oh my prince, I feel sorry for you because you are not used to the smell but we even got used to it now. You know I always wondered How the people who work with sewage survive but now I understand that you end up getting used to something you smell everyday and it doesn't bother you anymore.

Nkosibuthe: Do you ever shut up? Or do you ever

think before you speak?

Maiden: Am sorry my prince I didn't mean to.

Nkosibuthe: So where does this smell come from?
Or you people are keeping a dead body here.

Maiden: Permission to speak freely my prince.

Nkosibuthe: Yes

Maiden: Well my prince to say things got worse after you left would be an understatement yhoo (she said clapping her hands) the king is shedding skin like a snake and that is not even the worst part, the worst part is that he doesn't heal and smells like a dead person.

Nkosibuthe: Okay take me to see him.

Maiden: Just make sure you open windows when you get in there, you don't want to die in there with him (Nkosibuthe shook his head following the maiden to the King's room)

He got inside and the king saw him and managed to give him a weak smile. He was really happy to see

him.

Zwelibalele: Thank you for coming

Nkosibuthe: Say your peace.

Zwelibalele: Am sorry my prince for everything that I did, first for taking your father away...(he cut him short)

Nkosibuthe: You didn't take him away, you killed him.

Zwelibalele: Yes, I killed him and that was wrong of me, am dying now and all I ask is for you to forgive me. I killed my brother yes and it was because of jealousy and greed. I wanted to be king and have power which I did everything to get and eliminated everything and everyone that stood in my way starting with you and your wife, then your father, this kingdom was never mine to begin with and now you can have it back. It's yours and it always will be.

Nkosibuthe: Thank you for asking for forgiveness but this will not change anything but I forgive you none the less. Go and rest now it's time.

Bukhosi: Not yet (they both turned to look at the

door and saw him standing there yet no one heard him come in)

Nkosibuthe: I won't ask how you got in or where you were but I will ask what you mean by that? (Bukhosi didn't answer but a strong wind blew inside the house as he turned into his grandfather the late king Nkosivumile, he was wearing his royal attire with his royal scepter in hand) Nkosibuthe almost fell off the chair he was sitting on.

Zwelibalele: Nkosivumile my brother (he smiled) my wishes came through thank the gods.

Nkosivumile: I didn't come here for you but for my son the prince of this kingdom. My prince, my only son, oh how I have waited for you to come home.

Nkosibuthe: I was no longer welcomed in my own home father.

Nkosivumile: I know that son but remember this, no one can chase you away from your own home and kingdom you were supposed to be king here but worry not your son shall take over from you.

Nkosibuthe: But am not king father.

Nkosivumile: I know but your son will explain it all. I will take my leave now.

Zwelibalele: Brother please forgive me and let me come rest with my ancestors.

Nkosivumile: Oh you will rest with the ancestors Alright but not the ones from. Nkomanzi But the ones you chose for yourself. (he said and the wind blew again and Bukhosi turned back)

Nkosibuthe: Thank you son.

Bukhosi: For What Father?

Nkosibuthe: The gift the gods gave you for today because of you I have closure.

Bukhosi: It is well father and you uncle can now leave I would say rest if I didn't know where you going but because I do so leaving is more appropriate.

Zwelibalele: It is well my king (he took his last breath and died. While they were still looking at that he his flesh turned to ash that blew away going out the window)

Nkosibuthe and Bukhosi went to the dining room and told The maiden to clean The room.

Queen: My king and prince, I would like to go back to my maternal home, as there is nothing keeping me here anymore.

Nkosibuthe: You My leave. (while they were still talking about what just happened a guard came in)

Guard: Royal family

Nkosibuthe: Speak

Guard: There are people at the gate that request to come in.

Nkosibuthe: Who are they?

Bukhosi: My wife and her family (Nkosibuthe looked at him then back to the guard)

Nkosibuthe: Let them in (the guard left and a few minutes later came back with the family)

Iminathi saw Bukhosi and immediately went to his side touching him checking him all over, her mother

pulled her back by the arm.

Bulelwa: Am sorry my prince I don't know what got over her.

Bukhosi: It is well, she is just happy to see her husband safe and healthy.

They looked at each other and back at Bukhosi then Nkosibuthe who just looked away.

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Insert 52

Italy

Ximena POV

This is the second day of the seminar and am

enjoying it, having to share a table with great minds in different industries makes me think that I underestimated myself and did a course that only limited my knowledge to such a little. Being here showed me that there is more to education than just books and getting good marks but it's about innovation and creativity. Changing lives and improving the way of life, the world is changing as we know it and am glad to be part of the change. Whatever happens in my life but after this I will do all that I can to make it in life, to be the best version of myself. To stand tall and say I made it. But ever since I got here I can't seem to shake the feeling that am being watched, but who cares because I already know that Vusi has people watching over me even on campus. I remember this one time Marisa was showing me transcripts from her phone and a guy I always thought was a lecturer came and took the phone from me and gave it back to Marisa and said never do that again or you will regret it and from that day forward I stayed away from peoples phones because I don't want to be a punching bag to some unstable guy in a foreign land with no where to run.

Anyway I had no where to run even when I was back home being beaten by my father.

I wonder what happened to the dreams because they stopped all on their own but we didn't do the ritual yet. Maybe my ancestors didn't follow me to this land and decided to let me be. See when the dead turn their backs on you then you should know that you are doomed or cursed whatever it is but it has something to do with bad luck. But I do miss my people yhoo, I always heard people saying kuyadika uthetha isilungu oko (speaking all the time is tiring) but I never understood why but now I do. Even Vusi speaks English all the time like someone who regrets being born black and Xhosa.

Voice: My lady (a voice said bringing me back from my trail of thoughts)

Ximena: Good day (I sad and smiled at him)

Voice: Good day my lady, may I join you please.

Ximena: Of course.

Voice: Oh I thank you my lady, my name is Thomas by the way from England.

Ximena: Ximena from Colombia

Thomas: Nice to meet you Ximena from Colombia, what are you doing so far from home?

Ximena: Am here representing my school in the seminar that is taking place here. What are you doing here?

Thomas: I brought my niece here who is also attending the same seminar chosen among many students in the university in London and now she's here doing her uncle proud.

Ximena: I wish I could hear my brother talk like that about me, I wish he knew that I was here.

Thomas: Am sure your brother is proud of you wherever he is.

Ximena: I hope so and I hope his Okay

Thomas: You not from Colombia are you?

Ximena: I ..

Voice: There you are, I have been looking all over for you (Okay I don't know who this man is and God help me I don't want to be kidnapped again in another country)

Ximena: Why were you looking for me?

Guy: Rodrigo said to come and find you dear (what did I tell you about that lunatic watching over me)

Ximena: Okay then let's go, it was nice meeting you Thomas.

Thomas: Like wise my lady.

We walked away with this guy who kept looking at Thomas behind us. When we got into the hotel he stopped me.

Guy: Look if you know what's good for you then you will stop talking to strangers because Rodrigo will kill you if he found out not with his bare hands but he will make someone do it and I don't want to be that someone. The guy is dangerous and the sooner you accept that you are his the better for everyone.

Ximena: How dangerous can one guy be?

Guy: You say that because you don't know what his into and the connections he has. The guy and his people can make you disappear from the face of the earth and no one will ever find you not even a strand of hair on your head.

Ximena: Thank you for the warning and from now on I will not make your job difficult for you.

Guy: That I would appreciate because my own family is in danger here and I won't hesitate to kill for them.

Ximena: It won't come to that.

Guy: it better not.

I went back to the seminar and the guy disappeared but I know his not far and I know his watching me wherever he is. Vusi will one day pay for this I swear on my mother's grave.

Matatiele:

The guests were invited to sit and the maiden brought them refreshments because they seem tired and hungry. Nkosibuthe also asked the chef to make them something to eat. Bukhosi was sitting next to his father in the couch while their guests were sitting together before them.

Nkosibuthe: You are welcome in Nkomanzi palace and I you don't know we would like to know who you are and what brings you here this day?

Bulelwa: My daughter hasn't been feeling well these past few days, she has been dreaming of a man she has to save.

Nkosibuthe: I hear you but what lead you here?

Bulelwa: Well when the problem persisted we went to see a healer in another village not too far from here and we were told to come here.

Nkosibuthe: Maiden do you see the man you are supposed to save here?

Iminathi: Yes your majesty

Nkosibuthe: Can you point him out?

Iminathi pointed at Bukhosi and he smiled at her.

Nkosibuthe: That Which you just pointed out is the prince of this kingdom and as you heard him before you are his chosen one.

Bulelwa: Yayi ngeke ukhethiwe ukhethelwe ntoni?
(no never! She is chosen but chosen for what?)

Nkosibuthe: To be the princess of this kingdom and wife to the prince.

Grandma: I don't quite understand my king.

Nkosibuthe: In this kingdom the gods choose a wife for the princes and husbands for the princess of this kingdom whether royalty or not but if one finds favor in the eyes of the gods that person is chosen. What am saying is that your daughter has found favor in the eyes of the gods of Nkomanzi and they chose her to be the wife to our prince here.

Grandma: And the dreams?

Nkosibuthe: The prince had the same dream but in his he was supposed to save your daughter as your

daughter had to save him in her dream.

Bulelwa: Asoze yenzeke lonto shame not ngomntanam soze(never that will not happen shame not with my daughter never!)

Bukhosi: I understand your frustration mam I do and I would feel the same way had this been my child. In this family we don't do things by force and even if we wanted to the gods wouldn't allow us to disrespect them like that. They are the ones who chose your daughter and they will be the ones to decide.

Nkosibuthe: For now let go have something to eat and the maiden will show you where to sleep and you can leave in the morning since it's already too late now.

Grandma: Thank you my king.

They all moved to the dining area and sat down for their meal. But Bukhosi kept on hearing Italy, at first he ignored it but it persisted, a voice in his head kept telling him about Italy.

Bukhosi: Father can I be a excused for a while?

Nkosibuthe: Go ahead my prince.

He stood up and went outside. He took out his phone and called Sticks who picked up on the second ring.

Convo:

Sticks: Sure

Bukhosi: Yeah, I need you to do something for me.

Sticks: Anything

Bukhosi: I need you to ask the guys in Italy to be on the look out for anything.

Sticks: I don't understand what is happening?

Bukhosi: I don't know but I keep getting Italy, it could be where my sister is or that our people are in danger.

Sticks: Let me get on with.

Bukhosi: Sure let me know of anything.

Sticks: Got it.

Bukhosi went back to the house and finished his meal then went to retire I. His chamber and the guests as well. Sticks called Miguel in Italy and he picked up immediately.

Convo:

Miguel: Sure

Sticks: I just sent a mass message to all of our guys all over please be on the look out for either one of the things mentioned in the message.

Miguel: Got it, but I feel like we are letting power down by not finding his sister.

Sticks: Tell me about it, the guy has never let any of us down not even once and here we are on the first time he asks us for something we are failing him.

Miguel: Yeah that's exactly how I feel. Let me get on with it then.

Sticks: Please report back if anything.

Miguel: Will do.

Sticks went and sat on his bed thinking about where Asithandile is and it has been way too long since she disappeared and there have been no leads. While he was thinking a call came through and it was Thomas.

Sticks: Thomas

Thomas: I just got the message

Sticks: Yeah man do you have something for me?

Thomas: Look am not sure but I think I saw this girl here but her name was Ximena.

Sticks: In London?

Thomas: No in Italy remember I told you that I will be bringing my niece here for her school thing?

Sticks: Yes, now tell me you have a picture of her at least

Thomas: I do, I took one after some shady guy came and got here at the table we were sharing.

Sticks: Send it to me and to let her out of your sight.

Thomas: Well That was a while ago so I already lost her but I will look to see if I can't find her.

Sticks: Good I will let the other guys know so that they can help you. Send the picture.

Thomas: Alright.

Thomas dropped the call and sent the picture to Sticks he looked at the picture But It showed only her side and the man she was with more. He forwarded it to Bukhosi with a message ' is it her?' Bukhosi heard his phone vibrating on the bedside table and took it. It has a message from Sticks and he opened it.

Bukhosi: Asithandile!! (he said)

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Insert 53

Matatiele

Nkomanzi kingdom (not edited)

Iminathi's grand mother couldn't sleep thinking about what the king said, she wondered what will happen if they don't allow Iminathi to marry the prince. She is old and her grey hair went not only from aging but from the experiences that come with aging and from what she knows bad things will happen to their family if they refuse to do this and she didn't want anything happening to her daughter and grand daughter. Her daughter has been through enough from her previous marriage and she didn't want her going through more but this time not with the people but with the gods. Not just any gods but powerful ones from a royal family. Her grand

daughter found favor in the eyes of the royal gods without even seeking it, so who are they to say no to that? She stood up and went to her daughters room which was just next door to hers and knocked. Bulelwa asked her to come in and she opened the door and walked in.

Bulelwa was sitting on the bed as well and it was clear that she too couldn't sleep. She sat next to her and took her hand in hers.

Grandma: You also couldn't sleep?

Bulelwa: No mother I couldn't am worried.

Grandma: Tell me what worries you my child?

Bulelwa: This whole thing made me think about my own marriage, how it was beautiful at the beginning but turned sour in the middle all the way to the end. I don't want that for Iminathi mama, people change and not for the good and I don't want her to go through the same thing I did.

Grandma: I understand how you feel my dear believe

me I do, but did you stop and think about why the gods of Nkomanzi the biggest kingdom around chose your daughter to be their princess?

Bulelwa: No mother.

Grandma: Did you even ask Iminathi what she wants?

Bulelwa: No mother Iminathi is just a child.

Grandma: That's where you wrong my dear, Iminathi is a woman, a 24 year old woman who we both raised well. One that can think for herself and make her own decisions, why must we make this decision for her without asking her what she wants because you know very well that Iminathi will never argue with us no matter what we say or ask of her.

Bulelwa: I understand mother but she is my only child and I can't lose her.

Grandma: Iminathi will always be your child and you will never lose her.

Bulelwa: What if she chooses to stay here when we ask her what she wants What then?

Grandma: We will support her and be happy for her and with her for the blessing.

Bulelwa: Why did she have to find a husband like this?

Grandma: Because the gods of this land saw your pain and tears and now they want to wipe them away through her. They want to bring back a smile to your face through your only child.

Bulelwa: This is why I love you, you talk some sense into me all the time.

Grandma: That's because am your mother.

Bulelwa: That you are, you know what I liked about this family?

Grandma: What?

Bulelwa: They didn't throw their status and power on us. They spoke to us like equals and are with us on the same table eating the same food. I have never heard of such in a royal palace and for them not to force us into this says a lot about them.

Grandma: Indeed.

Bukhosi was in his room looking at the picture of his sister, he was happy that she seems alright but he wondered if she was on Italy all this while and that got him thinking and he decided to call Sticks again.

Convo:

Sticks: Is it her?

Bukhosi: Definitely

Sticks: Good I will inform the guys.

Bukhosi: Who found her?

Sticks: Thomas is the one who sent me that picture.

Bukhosi: Let me call him, I need to hear everything that he knows.

Sticks: Do that while I get the guys to work.

Bukhosi: Sure.

He dropped the call with Sticks and dialed Thomas and he picked up immediately.

Convo:

Thomas: Boss

Bukhosi: Tell me everything about the girl.

Thomas: Well I saw her having lunch on her own and I went and joined her and she introduced herself as Ximena.

Bukhosi: Were you making a move on her Thomas?

Thomas: Definitely not boss.

Bukhosi: Okay and ?

Thomas: She said she was from Colombia

Bukhosi: And What was she doing in Italy.?

Thomas: She said she is here for some student seminar representing her school.

Bukhosi: At least that basted let her study.

Thomas: It seems so. So I told her that I am here with my niece and that she is always nominated to represent her school and making me proud. She said she wishes her brother was as proud of her as I am of my niece, she also said she wished he knew where she was and I asked her that if she's really from Colombia but before she answered an Hispanic guy came and interrupted us and took her away.

Bukhosi: Why did you take the picture?

Thomas: Because she seemed like a nice girl boss and like she didn't know that guy until he mentioned some Rodrigo.

Bukhosi: I need you to find anything you can about a Rodrigo from Colombia and find my sister. I will be there tomorrow.

Thomas: Yes sir.

Bukhosi: Good.

He dropped the call and looked at the picture again and smiled.

Bukhosi: Am glad that you are well and am glad that you are keeping yourself safe in whatever situation you are in. Am proud of you for continuing with your studies regardless of the situation you are in. For you to be chosen to represent your school means you are doing really well and am very proud of you. Grand mother will be proud of you too, hang in there little sis I will find you.

Back in Italy the guys were all over the place looking for Ximena, especially after Thomas told them that the boss Power is coming. The guys saw Thomas looking around and he went to where Ximena was sitting and pulled her aside and she didn't resist.

Guy: We have to go now!

Ximena: But the seminar is not over yet, there is just one more speaker then we done.

Guy: I don't care we have to go.

Ximena: Okay

The guy took her upstairs into the room she shared with Vusi and knocked. Vusi opened the door and was a bit shocked to see her there because according to the schedule she still had more speakers to listen to.

Vusi: What's wrong?

Guy: Let her in so we can talk (Vusi moved aside and Asithandile went in and took off her clothes going to the shower)

Vusi: Told to me.

Guy: I saw some guys down stars looking for her.

Vusi: How Do you know they were looking for her?

Guy: Because one of the guys is the one she was talking to at lunch and by the looks of things his not alone.

Vusi: How many?

Guy: A lot of company and we can't handle the hit with just the 4 of us.

Vusi: Get the minister on the phone we are leaving tonight. Tell him I need his jet as soon as possible.

Guy: Okay

Vusi: Ask Sergio to open the door in the kitchen we will take the service lift.

Guy: I will stay here and be on the look out then follow you later.

Vusi: Good idea.

Bukhosi couldn't sleep, he woke up and called Sticks.

Convo:

Sticks: No man you need a woman! You can't be calling me at night like am your girlfriend.

Bukhosi: Last time I checked you didn't have one yourself.

Sticks: Am working on it.

Bukhosi: So am I

Sticks: Touché

Bukhosi: Is the Jet in the country?

Sticks: It will be in here in an hour, why?

Bukhosi: I need to be in Italy as in tonight.

Sticks: No wonder the guys called saying you coming and they were scared but enough about that. Go to the airfield in Matatiele and there is a small plain there it will get you to joburg faster than a car then get the jet here.

Bukhosi: See you around 2Am

Sticks: Wase wathetha ngathi ndiyataka (talk like am sleeping out)

Bukhosi: Oh but you are

Sticks: Get a woman! Sies

Bukhosi: hahah

He dropped the call and took his belongings and left a not for his father then went to the car and drove off.

Bukhosi: Hang in there little sis big brother is coming for you (he said and pressed hard on the accelerator)

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Insert 54

Bukhosi PoV

Bukhosi drove to Matatiele airfield in high speed trying to get to his sister on time. He got to the airfield and the pilot was already waiting for him with the engine running. He got in and the pilot got the bird in the air rushing to joburg. He felt like pushing the plane himself to get there in time, but unfortunately he couldn't do that. After an hour he was In joburg and Sticks was already waiting for him. He got out and went into the car with Sticks and Jacob and drove off.

Bukhosi: Thanks man I will keep you updated on the progress when I get there.

Sticks: No need am going with you.

Bukhosi: Are you sure?

Sticks: Of course man you are my brother and that out there is our sister so I won't let her down anymore.

Bukhosi: Thanks man.

They got to the airport and the jet was ready and

waiting for them, they got in and gave Jacob some instructions on what needs to be done In their absence then they went into the jet and got ready for take off. In no time the pilot got the bird in the air.

Italy :

Vusi took whatever he could find of his and Asithandile and waited for her to come out of the shower which he was rushing her to. She came out of the shower and Vusi told her to get dressed quickly they have to go because they were in danger. Without waisting anytime Asithandile got dressed, while she was dressing up there was a knock on the door and Vusi went to open.

Guy: Hurry up and leave now they are at reception.

Rodrigo: Ximena get out now! (he shouted and Asithandile got out with only her purse because there was no time to take her bags) Rodrigo took her hand and ran out to the service lift and went down to the kitchen where the chef opened the door going

outside the alley to the back employee parking. They got there and the car was already waiting with the driver they got in and drove off to the airport.

Thomas and his guys bumped into the guy that took Ximena earlier on and stooped him.

Thomas: Where is she?

Guy: Who?

Thomas: You know exactly who we are talking about where is she?

Guy: I don't know what you are talking about.

Thomas: Check the room (he said to the guys he was with and they went) Now Look here we own this hotel and everyone that works a here is on our payroll so it will best if you tell me what I want to hear.

Guy: Are you sure about that? I mean if they were all in your payroll then why don't you ask them and leave me alone.

Thomas: You have a smart mouth but wait a few

hours and we will see how smart that mouth of yours really is.

Guy: if I were you I wouldn't even bother looking for whoever you looking for because you won't find her.
(the guys came back)

Guy: She's not there, they are gone and it seems like they just left because the shower is still went and the clothes are still in the room.

Thomas: They can't be far find them before Bloody Power gets here! (the guys didn't wait for more as they scattered around looking)

Thomas: You are coming with me

Guy: With pleasure

Thomas: I wonder if you will have the same pleasure when you meet Power.

Guy: Just who is this Power that you guys cower when his mentioned?

Thomas: The Guy you don't want to meet not even in your dreams.

Guy: Well I already have that guy so yours won't be any different.

Thomas: We will see about that now won't we.

He took him and left the hotel going to their home as they call their meeting spot.

Asithandile and Vusi got to the airport and boarded the jet the same time Bukhosi and Sticks landed and they had to wait for their jet to move from the runway before they could take off. Bukhosi and Sticks got out of the whole the other one was leaving the runway taking off. Bukhosi ran inside the office to ask where the jet was going to and he was told that it's on route to Colombia and his world came scrambling down as he realized that his sister might be on that jet. Power was not far from surfacing.

Sticks: Hey man don't let him come now let us go to the guys maybe they have a solid lead or else we are going to Colombia.

Bukhosi: Lets go then.

They got to a car that was already waiting for them at the airport, it was now in the early hours of the morning. The driver was not driving at the speed Bukhosi wanted as he roared so loud that Sticks closed his ears and the driver slowed down the car.

Sticks: What the fuck are you slowing down for ?!!
(he shouted as he also didn't want to be in the same car as Power because there is not guarantee that he won't kill him. The driver drove like a maniac to the hotel because that is where he wanted to start.)

They got to the hotel and went straight to the reception and ask Talita the receptionist who is also one of their people where the room Asithandile was in and she gave them the key and they went up.

Bukhosi: Get everyone we work with here in the lobby now.

Sticks: Sure (he turned back and left)

Bukhosi went to the room and opened it and he could smell Asithandile's body wash as he entered and he knew she was there. He looked around and

saw the bags and opened the first one and realized that it was a mans bag, he then went to the other and opened it and a woman's were in it. He took them out searching the bag for anything that will give him a clue. He found a pamphlet of Colombia university and he new that was where her sister was. He searched and again and found a picture of the two of them, the one she used to carry everywhere she goes and he took it and went out going to the hotel lobby.

When he got there every one was already gathered there and waiting for him.

Bukhosi: This is all of them right.

Sticks: Right!

Bukhosi: Where the hell where you when my sister was here this whole time? (they were quiet which got him angry) I asked where the the fuck where you when my sister was here!!!

Talita: We were here but we didn't know it was her and she didn't look kidnapped as she was moving

around here freely.

Bukhosi: Moving freely! Moving freely? You mean all of you big heads didn't notice that she was being taled?

Talita: No boss.

Bukhosi: Who new here?

Talita: Only the assistant chef

Bukhosi: You fools even let a woman speak for you Talita has more balls than any of you combined. Didn't you think that this new assistant is the one who helped them escape? Where is he?

Talita: In the kitchen.

Bukhosi banged the wall leaving it cracked.

Bukhosi: You bloody fools, his gone! Go check now and I bed you his gone!

Sticks: When was this guy hired and where is our guy?

Talita: He asked for leave for two weeks and sent that guy to replace him and his been here for two weeks now.

Sticks: Did he come in and ask for leave?

Talita: No he sent an email.

Bukhosi: Oh my lord we hired fools, his dead dummies his rotting away somewhere as we speak. Bloody brainless fools! (Sticks could see that Power was on the way and he didn't want to risk it)

Sticks: I just got word from Thomas that the they got the guy she was with.

Bukhosi: Where are they?

Sticks: Home

Bukhosi: Lets go! And you fools better make sure you bring me the footage of these fools including that so called assistant chef of yours understood?

Them: Yes boss

Bukhosi and Sticks drove to the house which was not really far but it was isolated. They got there parked then went into the house and the guy was bleeding with a swollen face. As soon as the guys saw him they moved away creating distance

between them.

Bukhosi: Where is my sister?

Guy: My name is Pedro am 34 years old I have a wife and daughter.

Bukhosi: Who the hell asked for your life story huh?

Pedro: No one

Bukhosi: Where is my sister?

Pedro: Am sorry but I can't tell you that. (when he said that he released Power full force as he transferred right before their very eyes. Mind you not even his guys ever saw Power like this because before not his hands would change and his eyes but today they saw the beast itself right before their eyes) Sticks was among those who didn't know Power was this thing in front of him and he too was scared. A lot of the guys fainted upon seeing Power and some peed their pants including the guy tied to a chair.

Stay tuned...

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Insert 55

Italy

The guys who fainted remained on the ground and Sticks was close to the door just for safety sake and Pedro was shivering on that chair he sat on. He was silently praying that he doesn't die here as there will be no one to rescue his family from the mad guy Rodrigo. Power turned around and walked slowly to him. He got in front of him and looked at him dead in the eyes and he could smell his fear.

Power: I will ask you one more time, where is my sister?

Pedro: Listen man right now am shit scared and as

you can see I even peed my pants. That's how scared I am of you but you are missing the point here.

Power: Then help me find it.

Pedro: Look that guy is protected and safe in Colombia now, that girl your sister is not even allowed to have friends so you won't find her without me so I ask that you listen to reason because like this you will never find her. (Power was calming down a little)

Power: Why do you think I need you?

Pedro: Because he trusts me, well not trust but because he has my family he has a hold on me and knows I won't betray him so that they stay safe.

Power: You still not giving me anything because I have a sister to protect.

Pedro: And I also have a family to protect.

Power: I will protect you and your family.

Pedro: No offense man but what makes you think you can protect my family when you couldn't protect

your own sister? Look it's not like I don't want to help I do but when you let your guard down knowing a crazy guy like Rodrigo was after her you dropped the ball just like I did. (Bukhosi was now changing back upon hearing about him dripping the ball, he knew that Pedro was telling the truth and if he wanted his sister back he had to work with him)

Power: How did you end up working for this guy anyway?

Pedro: Look man I would really appreciate it if you changed back because you really scaring me. I might have been in military and seen a lot of things but I have never seen your kind before so please. (Bukhosi changed back because he needed all the help he can get)

Bukhosi: Now Tell me.

Pedro: Well when I was discharged from military and came back home I struggled to find work. Rodrigo kept asking me to work for him but knowing what he was into made me refuse well that was until he took

my family last year and I knew I had no other choice but to work for him.

Bukhosi: How Do you even know your family is still alive?

Pedro: He lets me visit them every Wednesday but it's always under supervision.

Bukhosi: And My sister?

Pedro: He treats her like a queen, a heavily guarded queen at that. He has people in every corner watching her, even her cellphone is monitored and the sites she goes to on the internet are monitored.

Bukhosi: Then help me get her from Colombia the jet is ready.

Pedro: You don't understand, the guy owns Colombia and Mexico those are his territory. Even the government officials are in his payroll, no offense but you can't just go into Colombia and come back alive, which is where I come in.

Bukhosi: Talk to me.

Pedro: He expects me to follow him back today and

that I must do so that he doesn't suspect anything. I will get you the location of my family and the routine of the guards there. I will also monitor closed the change in the guards that follow your sister around because no one knows who they will be working with the following day and we don't even see each other only when there is a problem.

Bukhosi: So How Do you plan on getting all this if you are all closely monitored?

Pedro: With the help of your sister Ximena

Bukhosi: My sister is not Ximena

Pedro: If your sister is light skinned young woman about 22 with curly black hair and black eyes then that's Ximena.

Bukhosi: So the fool changed her name.

Pedro: He did more than that, but she is smart because he hasn't done anything to her.

Bukhosi: What do you mean more than that?

Pedro: Your sister is like his weakness, he goes

crazy when he doesn't see her for an hour that he would ask me to video call him and show him your sister. She doesn't know of this because it is always done discretely but the only thing I like about her is that she has a fighting spirit. She does well at school and smiles at everyone like her life is perfect but only to those who don't know pain when they see it.

Bukhosi: What do you mean?

Pedro: Your sisters drive is that of someone who has been through a lot, someone who has something to prove to herself and the world.

Bukhosi: So How can I trust you to pull this off?

Pedro: You might just be my family's only hope at freedom. Look what I will do is I will get a phone that I can call you on and update you on the plan.

Sticks: That is risky, we will give you a device that we can monitor but we will give you one for Ximena as well and more for your family then we can monitor everything ourselves then strike when the time is right.

Pedro: How will I give it to them?

Sticks: I will tell you all you need to know but you not going alone one of our guys is going with you.

Pedro: How will he fit in because your guys are more Italian and white and black and their accents gives them away.

Sticks: Oh we have someone alright but you don't have to know him.

Pedro: I guess I have to prove myself.

Colombia

I have no idea what happened back in Italy but whatever it is scared Vusi like hell. The poor guy has been shaking like a leaf ever since we got here and am not going anywhere near him right now. Pity I didn't get to finish the seminar or even take my bags when we left, now I have lost the only thing I have of my brother. Sigh! But it will be okay I can feel it but I swear to God that I want to be the one to kill Vusi when the time comes. I want to be the one to

actually kill someone and not just be accused of doing it when I didn't. I want him to pay for separating me from my first love, from my grandma and brother. From my newly found sisters Ncebakazi and Zodwa.

But it's will just a matter of time before I get what I want and I will take Vusi down with me. All I have to do now is to be strong and ask him to sign me up for fighting classes and am going to say it to protect myself, let me go now while his still like this.

Ximena: Rodrigo (he got up so fast like I said something)

Rodrigo: Yes baby are you alright.

Ximena: No am not.

Rodrigo: Talk to me baby you know you can tell me anything or ask anything you want.

Ximena: Listen am tired of this, I need to be able to protect myself while am here, you are a powerful man I see and you have enemies as well. Your

enemies will want to get to you through me.

Rodrigo: I will never let that happen I promise you.

Ximena: I know you won't but I also want to be trained, I want to be prepared for the unknown. I don't want to be your shadow but your partner and it's time.

Rodrigo: You right it's time, I will organize training for you and you will train every day after school but on one condition.

Ximena: Anything

Rodrigo: Your school work shouldn't suffer because the moment it does an cutting off your training.

Ximena: That won't be necessary I can do both and when am well trained I need to know who we are up against. We are in a foreign land and if we don't stick together we will lose.

Rodrigo: Now this is one of the things that made me fall more in love with you. We will be the power couple in all or Colombia. Do well on your training and business follows.

Ximena: Deal.

Rodrigo: Am sorry happy right now, go study while I organize training for you starting tomorrow.

Ximena: Great! I won't let you down.

Rodrigo: I know you won't.

Ximena: Oh you have no idea what I have in store for you, am tired of being a victim and am tired of being pushed around. Now it's time to fight back.

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Insert 56

Joburg:

Lisa POV (not edited)

Well my life is changing and I don't if it's for the better or worse but as time goes I see a new version of myself, a version I never knew I had. When I first arrived here all I could think about was Bukhosi and how worried he must have been about my disappearance but now I laugh at the thought. I really don't know what got to me, I lost a friend and a lost a lover. I believe it was never meant to be because if it was we would be together now. Am doing well in school not straight A's but good, I still have people watching me even though now I drive myself. Jacob is still my trainer and mentor but now his more of a partner in crime than anything else. We have gotten close as friends but man if you don't know him you would be offended by some of the things he says, but am used to the way he is now and we get along just fine. He makes sure that I have packed my gear every day when I go to school and he always says 'you will never know when an enemy will strike, always be prepared Liss' well he calls me that, much to Sticks disapproval. Talking about Sticks, he has

been in and out the country on business he says and his always talking to a person he calls Power over the phone, must be his boss. Well he gave me permission to call my parent at least 3 times a week but on certain days like Monday, Thursday and Sunday. But I haven't used this privilege yet as am still afraid of how they will react to my call after so long. I miss them though and I hope they are okay.

It's after class and am walking to the parking lot to drive home. I got to my car opened and hopped in and drove out of campus, but there is a car tailing me which I know is one of Sticks people. Jacob taught me to be vigilant and take in my surroundings and am doing just that. I drove to Mc Donald to get some late lunch, I go to the drive through and place my order, paid and drive out. But I noticed that car not far behind mine but am not worried, I continue driving and eating my chips at the same time because am really hungry. Suddenly the car in front of me breaks without warning and I hit its bumper and the owner came out fuming like his going to

murder someone. It's funny because his the one in the wrong. I get out too and check the damage to my car but when I turn a gun comes in contact with my belly and I freeze but I don't want to show this guy.

Lisa: If you want me to pay for the car then I will do it but put the gun away because this is no gun fight.

Guy: You talk too much, I don't care about the car all I want is what belongs to me.

Lisa: And That is?

Guy: You know exactly what you took that day at the bar and I want it back (damn it Sticks, you made me take that briefcase and now you not there to help me fight these people. What am I saying? Even if he was here he wouldn't fight he would watch)

Lisa: Look Mr I think you have a wrong person.

I don't have time for games now move we have to get out of here before we attract the wrong kind of crowd and don't even think about running because you are surrounded. (I just nodded and went to my and so did he, I got in and started the car then pressed the emergency button in the My watch. I

then drove behind him. In no time Jacob called)

Jacob: What's up Liss?

Lisa: Code red, I need assistance and where are the guys?

Jacob: I called them off for a job I needed done by tonight. You turn the light green so long but I will be there to assist in no time.

Lisa: Can you at least track my phone so that you know where I am?

Jacob: Don't worry I will find you and Liss?

Lisa: Yeah

Jacob: Remember your training.

Lisa: Always. (he dropped the call and I continued to drive following this guy and his driving out of town)

He stooped at some abandoned farm not too far from Limpopo, at least that's what the board said. All the cars stopped and they got out while I looked at them scanning and sizing them to see which one I

will attack first. Jacob better hurry up because even I do win this fight am going to sleep with a sore body in the morning. A knock comes through my car window but instead of opening the window I opened the door and got out. Am in jeans, T-shirt and half boot with a slightly big jacket to pack my tools.

Guy: Now missy, where is my briefcase?

Lisa: I really don't know what you are talking about.

Guy: So you think that Sticks will save you? No darling we know his out of town and the lapdog of his called off your tail creating an opportunity for us. Now am going to ask one last time, where is the briefcase?

Lisa: I said I don't know! (I half shouted as I swiftly take out a knife from my jacket pocket)

Guy: Guys! Make her sing

The guys all come towards me as I moved back to stand again the car so that no one comes behind me, the one who knocked on my window gave a thr meanest clap ever leaving my cheek burning which irritated me. Lisa then took out her knife and threw it

at the guy and she hit him on his neck then went and ticked him and took out her knife as he fell in the ground. The rest of the guys went charging to Lisa and one threw a punch hitting Lisa on her tummy and she stumbled back ward. The rest of the guys went charging to her, punches rained in her but she managed to take out a knife and cut the joints of two on the guys and they fell on the ground as their feet were not connected with the legs.

She managed to get up and took out her knives, she was already bleeding blood those guys really did a number on her and her cheek was starting to swell up. She fought the other two guys because it was either kill or be killed and she was not going to be the one to be killed. The two guys fell On the ground the same time as the one who was giving orders and when she looked up Jacob was standing there.

Lisa: About time.

Jacob: I came didn't I?

Lisa: That you did. What about this mess?

Jacob: I already called the cleaners to sort it out. Let's go home and leave the car here (I didn't ask questions I just went back and took my belongings and went to the car with Jacob and drove off) I wonder what is in that damn briefcase that is worth killing for?

Encoko:

Mthunzi has just come back from work and his wife gave him water to wash his hand before bringing the food for him to eat. She went and threw the water away and came back with both their plates.

Mthunzi: Enkosi, ingaba awukavanto ngo Lisakhanya? (thank you. Haven't you head anything from Lisakhanya?)

Wife: Wamgxotha kaloku umntanam ngoku ufuna ntoni? (you my child so what do you want now)

Mthunzi: Jonga ke sisi apha emaQwathini uze ngomendo konto uthetha ukuthi ungumfazi apha

indoda ndim. Ungaze uphinde uthethe nam olohlobo nditsho nasemaphupheni akho. (look her sister, here in the Maqwathini clan you came by marriage which means you are a wife here and am the husband. Don't you even talk to me like that ever again, not even in your dreams.)

Wife: Ndiyaxisa myeni wam, ndenziwa nje kukumkhumbula (Am sorry my dear husband I just miss her)

Mthunzi: Does it look like I don't miss her? Lisa is my child but one thing I will not allow is being disrespected by a child in my own house.

Wife: Am sorry dear I didn't mean any of the things I said am just worried about her. We don't even know if she's okay or where she is.

Mthunzi: When she wants to she will come home or call us but for now we will not stress about her.

Wife: What if she's dead while you busy not carrying?

Mthunzi: If she was dead then see Would have been informed.

I guess my husband is right Lisa must be safe wherever she is and she will come home to us when the time is right.

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Insert 57

Matatiele (not edited)

Iminathi was thinking about the rejection her mother gave the prince. Yes she doesn't know the prince but he seemed like a good person, not those arrogant royal princes that always want to get their way. To them it's their way or the highway, but not this prince, he was different, humble and kind. He didn't even embarrass her when she was acting crazy touching

him all over instead he gave her a warm smile. The dreams have stopped and I have been looking for a job but with no luck as yet. She was sitting on the veranda when her two favorite women came to join her.

Grandma: Imi wam (my Imi)

Iminathi: My favorite grandma.

Grandma: Hayi uthetha ngantoni ngoba ndim ndodwa umakhulu wakho (no what are you talking about when am your only grandmother)

Iminathi: Ndiyadlala Makhulu (Am playing grandma)

Grandma: That's much better.

Iminathi: Mother why are you so quiet?

Bulelwa: Am just thinking about the fact that the gods of that royal family are the ones closing all avenues for you.

Iminathi: Well even if they are there is nothing we can do about that.

Bulelwa: Iminathi we never asked you how you feel about the prince's proposal, we just made a

decision, m without talking to you and asking you first.

Iminathi: Mama there is nothing we can do now, we have already rejected him.

Grandma: We can still fix this my baby.

Iminathi: Grandma the decision has already been made and am not about to go and make the prince an option. If it was me rejected by him I would also not accept to be made an option just like you wouldn't like it when it comes to me.

Bulelwa: Haibo Iminathi! (Iminathi! She said in a reprimanding tone)

Iminathi: Mama am not trying to be disrespectful but think about it, how would you feel if the prince did that to me?

Bulelwa: Am sorry Iminathi I did think of it that way, I was just trying to protect you.

Iminathi: I won't ask from what because you are my mother and you know best but once in a while ask me before taking decisions about my life. What I say

may not make sense but at least you would have asked me for my opinion.

Grandma: it's done now so let's look for a way forward.

Bulelwa: I understand mother but I just don't know what to do.

Iminathi: It will be alright mother.

Colombia

Pedro arrived home at home, he had to wait for the swelling to die down before going back. He told Rodrigo that his laying low before he heads back home. He got to Colombia with the small devices that he has to give to Ximena and his family. Powers guy was in the plane with him but he didn't know that because they were not introduced so he thinks he was traveling alone. When he got there he took a taxi to Rodrigo's workplace to see him before heading home. He got there and the receptionist called Rodrigo to let him know and he told her to let him up. He went up to his office and knocked, he invited him

and he opened the door and walked in.

Pedro: I came to report for duty

Rodrigo: Pedro my man you did well back in Italy and you do your job well.

Pedro: Thank you

Rodrigo: Now you can go and see your family then take the rest of the day off and I will see you in the morning.

Pedro: Thank you boss. (he turned to walk out when he called him)

Rodrigo: Pedro!

Pedro: Yes

Rodrigo: Ximena began training a few days back and I want you on her detail form now on.

Pedro: I will do just that.

Rodrigo: I know you will, now go see your family.

Pedro: Thank you.

He walked out and went straight to where his family was kept and the guards opened for him, apparently Rodrigo had already called ahead because he always goes through security checks but not today. He went in and they gave him privacy.

Girl: Daddy!

Pedro: My Valerie! How are you baby?

Val: Am fine daddy and got to go out and play yesterday.

Pedro: Really (he asked looking at his wife)

Val: Yes

Pedro: Okay then baby girl go and play daddy wants to talk to mommy for a while.

Val: Okay (she left and went to play at the back of the house)

Pedro: How are mamasita?

Sammy: Am well papi, we just miss you.

Pedro: Listen, I have something that I want you so keep close to you at all times.

Sammy: What is it?

Pedro: Something That could get you and Valerie out of this place.

Sammy: Am in! What do I have to do?

Pedro: Nothing just keep it with you at all times, the second one on Val.

Sammy: Okay then so when it's time what do I expect?

Pedro: I don't know but they will be the only people who will come here to get you guys and take you to a safe place till I can get to you.

Sammy: But papi am scared, what if Rodrigo finds out?

Pedro: He won't trust me on this one, those guys are professionals.

Sammy: Okay leave now we don't want to get them suspicious.

Pedro: Call Val for me to say goodbye (the wife and called the daughter and Pedro said his goodbyes and left)

Encoko village:

The chief was still doing business with the doctor even though he didn't want to but he believed that it was in his daughters best interest to continue as the doctor threatened her. Sometimes he will be sent packages that had addresses that didn't even belong in the country and the courier would pick them up at the warehouse, money kept coming though so in that department he didn't complain as he got the full 50% of everything. Now he resorted to killing homeless people as the chief priest told him that if he continues to kill the people in his kingdom the gods were going to take his life. Now you know what it's like when your life is threatened yet you don't care when you threaten others. So how he does it is, he takes the people and let them stay in the old warehouse for that he turned into some sort of hostel with beds, a kitchen and a open plan lounge with TV. He would buy groceries and clothes for them and the people appreciated the fact that they

didn't have to be on the streets cold.

They had nothing and what they were getting was more than enough with them. He would take them for tests to some doctor that he works with now so that they can be treated for whatever illnesses they may have and for them to know their blood types. The people who were still alive from the old ones were those who had rare blood types according to the doctor and they were making a lot of money from it as people with power would require such blood because it fit with any blood type and repairs the blood cells in the body. So the Chief opened bank accounts for them and put some of the money on it for them, he would give the allowances every mother so they can support themselves and the families they claim to have. They know him as a kind and generous man because all the people there man and women had gym membership cards to keep fit as that was part of the agreement to take them in. He was just coming back from the warehouse delivering food stuff when the chief priest came to

him just after he got out of the car.

Chief: Mqwathi things are not looking good.

Mqwathi: What is it eye of the gods?

Chief: The princess needs to come home soon because the ritual we did without her will soon wear out.

Mqwathi: How long does she have?

Chief: Maybe 18 months or two years if the gods are willing because I see dead in the palace around April.

Mqwathi: Will my child die?

Chief: I don't know who is going to die as the gods didn't show me exactly who.

Mqwathi: I need to find my daughter and fast.

Chief: There is another problem

Mqwathi: What is it now?

Chief: Her mother wants you to publicly admit to what you did to her and free her spirit and cleanse

her house.

Mqwathi: In public?

Chief: Yes in public

Mqwathi: I can not do that, what will my people say and think of me after that?

Chief: You shouldn't care much about what they say or think because they won't be your people for long.

Mqwathi: What do you mean? (the chief priest looked at him and left him there confused)

He walked into the house and greeted his wife then went to the bedroom and changed. Nokonwaba came in and looked at him as she could see that he wasn't himself.

Nokonwaba: Talk to me

Mqwathi: No there is nothing to talk about.

Nokonwaba: I know you by now Mqwathi and I know when you not well, Now talk to me.

Mqwathi: The chief priest just told me that my people will not be mine for long.

Nokonwaba: What does that mean?

Mqwathi: Clearly someone else is going to take over the kingdom.

Nokonwaba: But who could it be?

Mqwathi: I don't know but what I do know is that I don't want my kingdom to be taken over by someone who is going to destroy it.

Nokonwaba: But you are doing the same.

Mqwathi: Were Which is past tense.

Nokonwaba: When Wait and see what the gods have in store for you.

Mqwathi: The Wait is what is going to kill me even way before the person comes and takes over.

Nokonwaba: Don't be dramatic.

The will of the gods will always be done as they know best. You people were given just a little freedom to decide for yourself what you want to do with your lives. But you turned around and forgot

those who come before you. Those who left you with the responsibility to fulfill, gods are not dead and not all who are dead are gods. You denied the gift the gods gave you and now be prepared to face the consequences of your actions. Your reasoning is weak and you speak as though you were of the flesh. You forgot what we told you and neglected to even mention it to those who claim to love you. You have disappointed us greatly and the consequences of that can be deadly. You have sinned child.

I woke up drenched in sweat, what's funny is that I didnt even sleep that long. What gift did I not use and what responsibility did I forget to fulfill.

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Insert 58

Matatiele:

IMINATHI' HOME

Bulelwa had just woke up early in the morning to make breakfast before she goes to work. She was busy in the kitchen making her mother soft porridge as she likes to eat it in the morning. She woke up early this morning because she couldn't sleep anymore thinking about what her daughter said, yes it was true that had she been the one rejected she wouldn't want that same man coming back because she herself wouldn't trust him. She didn't think of this before she turned down the prince but what can she do now because it's done. She made the porridge and put in some tartaric because her mother likes it when it's a bit sour. Her mother walked into the kitchen wearing he gown.

Grandma: Good morning nana

Bulelwa: Morning mah

Grandma: Are you not going to work today?

Bulelwa: I am mah but I woke up early so I thought I should make you porridge so long before I go.

Grandma: Bulelwa ndiyakwazi mntanam, utyiwa yintoni? (Bulelwa I know you my child, what is eating you?)

Bulelwa: Am just worried about the decision I made mah, now that I have spoken to Iminathi I am not so sure if it was the right one.

Grandma: Well nothing can be done now what is done is done.

Bulelwa: No use crying over spilled milk right?

Grandma: Of course, now dish up for me.

Bulelwa: Okay and I have to go now or am going to be late, town is far from here.

Grandma: Go and I will dish up for myself.

Bulelwa went and took her bag then passed by her daughters room and she was sleeping peacefully. She kissed her forehead and left.

Bulelwa: Mama ndiyahamba ngoku (Mother am leaving now)

Grandma: Alright my nana have a good day.

Bulelwa: Thanks man, bye.

She left in a hurry rushing to the stop to get a transport to town. Her mother sat on the kitchen counter eating Her porridge and also thinking about this whole situation. She finished and washed her bowl in the sink then went back to her room and cleaned up, she took a bath then went outside and cleaned the yard. The time was around 10AM in the morning when she went back to the house and noticed that Iminathi was not awake yet. She went to her room to wake her up and when she got there she was sitting on the bed looking far in thoughts. She looked at her for a while but it seemed like she is not even aware of her presence in the room.

Grandma: Iminathi! (she called her)

Imi: Mah

Grandma: Yintoni? Ucinga ntoni? (what is it? What are you thinking about?)

Imi: You won't believe me even if I tell you mah because I don't believe it myself.

Grandma: Baby you scaring me, what is going on? (she went and sat on the bed next to her but she was looking at the direction on the wardrobe not her)

Imi: Makhulu ndicinga uba andiboni (grandma I think am blind)

Grandma: What makes you think that?

Imi: Because I cant see you, I have been awake for a while now trying to adjust my eyes so that I can get out of bed but nothing. I can't see mama.

Grandma: Haibo Iminathi! Bekuqale kwathini ngoba ulele ubona nje (Haibo iminathi what happened because you were fine and could see before you slept)

Imi: I had a dream mah.

Grandma: A dream? Tell me about the dream (she

was scared but she didn't want to show it to her grand daughter)

Imi: I was by the old river the one that runs between Matatiele and Mount Fletcher next to that big tree I used to play at growing up. While I was sitting there people I don't know came to me and sat by my side, I don't know who they are but they seemed like powerful people and their aura nje demanded respect.

Grandma: What did they say to you?

Imi: The woman said she doesn't understand why I ran away from my responsibilities and the man said that I forgot the gift the gods gave me. He said we people were given a chance to make decisions for ourselves and we abused it and forgot about the gods.

Grandma: That's strange.

Imi: That's not all, he also said because of the decision I made I shall face the consequences and also mentioned something about not all that are dead are gods. I woke up sweating from that dream

in the middle of the night but I could still see but now I can't.

Grandma: Don't worry child we will figure this out. For now let me help you get out of this bed so that you can bath and eat something.

Imi: Thank you mah.

The grandma was very worried about this sudden blindness of her granddaughter and wondered what more can they expect because clearly the gods were angry about something.

London:

Bukhosi and Sticks were in London monitoring Pedro's family while they waited patiently for the device for Asithandile to go on so they can monitor her as well. The guy they sent to Colombia was reporting back his findings as well at the end of each day. His job was to monitor Vusi/Rodrigo to study

his schedule as well as the people he meets with every day and report back. Bukhosi this day woke up to a strange dream and he woke up and went for his run then came back and Sticks was having breakfast. He went and took a shower then called his father, it rang for a while till he picked up.

Convo:

Nkosibuthe: This better be good.

Bukhosi: Good morning to you too father.

Nkosibuthe: There is nothing good about it, you woke me up!

Bukhosi: Am sorry father but I need answers.

Nkosibuthe: Okay am up now, what is it?

Bukhosi: Your Father is angry, he says we don't listen yet he made things easy for us.

Nkosibuthe: What does that mean?

Bukhosi: I think he wants you to go back home and take care of his kingdom.

Nkosibuthe: Eish now that is difficult, how am I supposed to do that when you not even here? You are the director of the company.

Bukhosi: And Ncebakazi is the managing director and she is more than capable of taking care of thing until I return. You just go back home and do what is required.

Nkosibuthe: We don't want to anger the gods now do we?

Bukhosi: No we don't. One more thing

Nkosibuthe: Bukhosi base Nkomanzi ndinguyihlo hayi itshomi yakho kutheni ngoku gathi uzandisokolisa? (Bukhosi of Nkomanzi I am your father not your friend, why it now that you seem like you going to bother me)

Bukhosi: Haha am sorry old man but I need a favor from my father.

Nkosibuthe: Fine! What is it?

Bukhosi: My wife is not well, her heart is troubled and the gods are angry, if she comes over please

accept her on my behalf.

Nkosibuthe: As you will my king.

Bukhosi: I can never be king when the current king still lives father. I am merely your son at the moment until I am introduced to the people as their prince.

Nkosibuthe: You talk to much.

Bukhosi: Haha

They said their goodbyes and he dropped the call.

Sticks: You busy talking to your father like you talking to a woman.

Bukhosi: Is that jealousy I smell?

Sticks: Go to hell

Bukhosi: Let go together friend

Sticks. That's gay (he said making a face and Bukhosi laughed)

Bukhosi: What is so urgent?

Sticks: Your sisters device just went on.

Bukhosi: Great now Pedro is working.

Sticks: Now lets bring down this fucker.

Bukhosi: You got it (they fist bumped)

Colombia:

Ximena: I just got this small device thing that this body guard guy gave me and told me it's from my brother. I wanted to ask more questions but but my trainer was coming so I just said thank you. I wonder if his playing games with me or my brother truly gave him the device. He said he will make contact soon but I don't know how because this thing is just a small thing that looks like a fly. My trading is going well and am pushing myself, not that it doesn't hurt because it does but what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Rodrigo and my trainer say am a natural at this and I aim to please. I want to take this guy down by myself and show him what women are capable of.

Rodrigo: Ximena!

Ximena: Yes (I turned and looked at him and he had that stupid grin on his face and I smiled)

Rodrigo: How long do you still have to go on for?

Ximena: I just finished, I can pack up and we can go now.

Rodrigo: No babe I was coming to inform you that I have a business meeting and I will be back home late. One of the guys will take you home when you ready.

Ximena: Are you going to a meeting like that?

Rodrigo: What's wrong with what am wearing?

Ximena: Maybe the fact that you were wearing those clothes the whole day at work.

Rodrigo: I like it when you care and you know what? Let's go home together so that I can change.

Ximena: Now you talking (I packed up my gym bag and we were off)

Rodrigo: I like this new you (he smiled)

Ximena: Well am adjusting and if we are going to

stay here we need to be united, we don't want your people seeing a crack between us. I want them to see a United front.

Rodrigo: You so smart and listen the report I get from your trainer is impressive and in 3 months I will introduce you to the business and associates.

Ximena: I will wait for you on that one, am just happy training so that I can protect myself and when you ready to give me more responsibilities I will be more than ready for them.

Rodrigo: That's my girl, now let me go change.

Ximena: Let me go shower as well

Rodrigo: Okay but when you get out I will be gone so lock up I will take my keys.

Ximena: Alright then have a good meeting.

Rodrigo: Thanks babe.

Rodrigo went to change and head for his meeting while Ximena took a shower. When she was done she ate and went to watch tv for a while, she felt a

tingling feeling on her arm and looked at it and the device had a red light on. She wondered what it's for and she ignored it, the feeling didn't go away so she decided to go check on the envelope she was given by that guy. She went to her room and opened her gym bag and looked for the envelope and found it, she opened it and there was another piece in there and she took it and looked at it. She wondered where it goes, she tried to fit it with the device but it didn't fit so she went outside and found Pedro sitting in the car.

Pedro: Can I help you miss?

Ximena: What does this do?

Pedro: It's an ear piece now go (she turned and went back to the house and put the piece in her ear and listened.

Bukhosi: Nana are you there?

Asithandile: Oh my God brother! Can you hear me?

Bukhosi: Loud and clear baby, how are you? Is he treating you well ?

Asithandile: Am fine Brother and he treats me well.

Bukhosi: Don't worry it won't be long now and I will come for you Okay?

Asithandile: No brother

Bukhosi: What do you mean no! Do you want to be with this guy?

Asithandile: Of course not and that is not what I meant.

Bukhosi: Then What do you mean because am lost right now?

Asithandile: I want to bring this guy myself, I have started training and I have convinced him that we have to be United if we are going to win because we are in a foreign land and he bought it. He says he will introduce me to the business when am ready.

Bukhosi: So What is your plan? Because what you want to do is dangerous and mama will kill me if she finds out I had a chance to bring you home and I didn't take it.

Asithandile: My plan is to take everything he has and

I want to punish him for everything his done to me. I also don't want to leave school because am finishing off next year anyway so I want to come back home with a degree and maybe if things go well Vusi's business.

Bukhosi: You do know that his business is not legal right?

Asithandile: Yes, Which is why I am going to change it once I own it.

Bukhosi: I don't like this but at least now we can communicate. If you want out just say the word and I will be there.

Asithandile: Thank you brother, mmm

Bukhosi: What is it?

Asithandile: I don't want to be disrespectful but I wanted to ask how Bathandwa is?

Bukhosi: His fine physically but going crazy emotionally.

Asithandile: He still thinks of me after all this while?
(she asked with a genuine smile on her face)

Bukhosi: He doesn't just think of you his waiting for you. He says he will move on the day you are found dead but until then he will wait.

Asithandile: I so miss him right now, all of you.

Bukhosi: Ai I won't talk to you about your boyfriend.

Asithandile: I have to go now as well.

Bukhosi: Take care and remember am here.

Asithandile: Thank you.

That night Asithandile went to bed a happy person, she was now more than determined to bring Vusi down and go back to her family and boyfriend.

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Insert 59

Matatiele:

IMINATHI's HOME (not edited)

The grandma spend the day taking care of a blind Iminathi waiting for her daughter to come back from work. The hours in the day seemed longer than usual yet when they have a lot to do it seems like the hours in a day are not enough. She was cooking dinner while Iminathi was in the lounge listening to the music coming out of the radio wishing she could see so that she can watch the show she likes to watch around this time. She wondered if she will ever see again. It was around 7PM when her mother arrived home from work, tired as usual after a long day and walking from the stop to the house, walking on that road with red soil. She got to the house and saw Iminathi sitting in the lounge.

Bulelwa: Molo Imi (Hello Imi)

Imi: Hello mah, how was your day?

Bulelwa: It was okay but am tired, I had a lot to do today.

Imi: Go bath then you can relax.

Bulelwa: You right nana (he left going to her room passing the kitchen and saw her mother busy cooking and went to her)

Bulelwa: Njani upheke kodwa u Iminathi ukhona?
(why are you cooking when Iminathi is here?)

Grandma: Go bath and we will talk after dinner.

Bulelwa: Mama ungandixeleli uba ukugezele lomntana (mother don't tell me this child was rude to you)

Grandma: Iminathi is not a rude person and you know that. Go and bath then I will tell you everything.

Bulelwa: Okay then

Bulelwa went to her room and threw her bag on the bed then undressed and went to take a shower. She finished and wore her night dress and a gown on top because she wanted to go straight to bed after

eating. She went to join her mother and daughter in the dining table and her mother dishes out for them.

Grandma: Imi I will help you my child.

Imi: No grandma I will manage, I have to start getting used to doing things on my own.

Bulelwa: But you can do things on your own (they both kept quiet) they ate but Bulelwa was noticing that Iminathi kept missing the plate and messing on the table. She kept looking at her mother she would shake her head so that she doesn't say anything.

This irritated her but she kept quiet until they finished eating. Her mother took the dishes to the kitchen and she followed her, her mother washed as she dried, she was wondering why her mother was doing everything when Iminathi is just sitting there. They finished and her mother asked her to go to the lounge because they need to talk.

Grandma: Bulelwa I know you are wondering what is going here

Bulelwa: Yes I am and I will be relieved when

someone starts telling me what is happening.

Grandma: Well Iminathi woke blind this morning.

Bulelwa: hahah Haibo mama unjongile nje u Iminathi wena uthetha ngantoni (she laughed mother she is looking so what are you talking about?)

Grandma: She is looking Yes but she can not see.

Bulelwa: Imi look at me (Iminathi looked at her direction) what am I doing?

Imi: I don't know mama.

Bulelwa: Oh God my child! What is going on? What happened that all this happened?

Grandma: Well... she told her everything that Iminathi told her.

Bulelwa: Oh lord! Am not working tomorrow I want to see where this is going.

Imi: Am tired now mother may you please help me get to bed now.

Bulelwa: Of course (she helped her up and took her hand leading her to the bedroom and tucked her in,

then went back to her mother)

Bulelwa: Mother What is happening to my child?

Grandma: The gods of Nkomanzi are what is happening to your child.

Bulelwa: What do you mean mama?

Grandma: Do you remember what the prince said?

Bulelwa: He said a lot of things which on are you talking about?

Grandma: Well when you refused for Iminathi to marry him, he said he will not force anything and that the gods were the ones who chose her and they will be the one to take action when their Willis not done.

Bulelwa: I don't remember the last part though.

Grandma: That one is mine but what is happening here is the results of our rejection of the favor they showed up through my grand child.

Bulelwa: So now we were supposed to jump at the change of marrying her off to a rich family like we

desperate for money and status?

Grandma: Bulelwa you forgot that the gods know no status, that is something of this world not theirs, in their world there is right and wrong, black and white. Also agreeing for her to marry the prince doesn't say we are desperate.

Bulelwa: What does it say then mama because right now if we go groveling and asking them to take her will be like we only doing it so that they can help her.

Grandma: So What is wrong with that? You know long ago a poor man once starved to death because of the pride he has. He never wanted to seem desperate and ask for help when he needed it and you are doing the same thing.

Bulelwa: I hear you mother but I want us to monitor this situation and if it continues then we take action.

Grandma: Alright but remember what i said, the ways of the gods are unknown to us mere mortals. Am going to bed now it's late.

Bulelwa: Good night mah.

Grandma: Good night child.

The family went to bed and slept hoping for better results in the morning. But Iminathi was not sleeping, she prayed the whole night for her sight to return and fell asleep in the early hours of the morning. Her mother woke up Her usual time but she was not going to work this day. She made her bed and took a bath then went to the kitchen and made porridge for her mother. The time was around 7AM when her mother walked into the kitchen.

Grandma: Yintoni wavuka ekuseni kangaka ungaphangeli ngathi uchamile? (why did you wake up so early when you not going to work like peed on your bed)

Bulelwa: I just couldn't sleep anymore mah.

Grandma: Mmm I hope you made yourself useful and made me porridge while you were awake.

Bulelwa: I did mother here (she gave her the porridge)

Grandma: Yabona wena indlela ovuka ngayo kusasa ngathi uvele ndibanweni yamagqwirha egwadana (you see the way you wake up early it's like you coming from the witches gathering)

Bulelwa: No parent can sleep while their child is sick.

Grandma: Iminathi is not sick she's... (she didn't finish and they heard a scream coming from Iminathi's room and they ran over there only to find her sitting on the bed crying.

Bulelwa: Nana What is it baby tell your mother? (she didn't say anything she just continued sobbing)

Grandma: Thetha kaloku mntanam kwenzeka ntoni? (talk to us child whatbis going on?)

Imi: I can't walk mah!! I can't feel my legs!

Grandma: What do you mean you can feel your legs?

Imi: I tried to get up from the bed but I couldn't mah, my legs won't move and I can't feel them. Am now blind and crippled mah please help me! (she was crying painfully as she said that)

Bulelwa: Oh lord my child! What is happening to my

child! (she said also tear rolling down her cheeks with her hands on the head)

London:

Bukhosi woke up early because he couldn't sleep. The dream he had was terrible, in the dream he wanted to be blind and crippled. He couldn't do anything for himself, then the same dream his sling started peeling off like his uncle was after the fire and he woke up drenched in sweat. He took a shower and packed a few things then went to the kitchen and joined Sticks for breakfast.

Bukhosi: Am going home today

Sticks: And your sister?

Bukhosi: I will continue monitoring her and talking to her and if something happens the guy there can take her out of that place.

Sticks: Alright then let me pack a few things and go home as well. But I will also be on top of this

because I want that guys family rescued.

Bukhosi: Yeah we have to keep that promise.

Sticks: Yeah! Mind telling me why you want to go home so suddenly?

Bukhosi: My wife is in danger.

Sticks: Okay enough about this wife thing because the last time I check you didn't even have a girlfriend and now you have a wife?

Bukhosi: Well she's not my wife yet but she's my chosen one.

Sticks: I hope she's chosen for Power too because if not then I feel sorry for her.

Bukhosi: You sick now go we have to leave.

Sticks:Am going yhoo

Sticks packed up his stuff and he and Bukhosi first spent an hour briefing the boys on what has to happen when they give a go ahead. Then they left going back home and in 3 hours they had arrived in

joburg and Jacob and Lisa were waiting for them. They took their bags and got out and Lisa froze the moment she saw Bukhosi, they walked up to them.

Bukhosi: Jacob

Jacob: Power

Sticks: Hey man (he and Jacob fist bumped)

Bukhosi: Lisa! I see you are well, let's go guys I have to get home.

Sticks went to the car with Lisa and Bukhosi went with Jacob. In the car Lisa was quiet.

Sticks: What is it with you?

Lisa: Nothing

Sticks: Want me to repeat my question or you going to answer this time around?

Lisa: Was he responsible for me being here?

Sticks: And if he was?

Lisa: Then I would hate him for the rest of my life.

Sticks: And you think he cares what you do because?

Lisa: I never said he cared but..

Sticks: But nothing! Look if you want to pack and go home feel free to do so when you get home but never in your life disrespect me by talking about another man while am here and for your information that guy did you a favor had he not have a good heart you would be as good as dead. So if I were you I would thank him. (he then kept quiet and the ride home was filled with silence) they got home and parked the cars and before Sticks got out he said something to Lisa.

Sticks: If you love him so much then go in that house pack your things and leave.

Lisa: Sticks I...(he cut her short)

Sticks: Boss to you lady and get the hell out of my car and leave my house.

He left Lisa in the car not knowing what to do, but one thing for sure she has never seen Sticks that angry.

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Insert 60

Mthatha

Zodwa and Ncebakazi are together in Ncebakazi' aroma helping each other get ready as Ncebakazi has a date with Luxolo and Zodwa was going to be doing a night shift at the club since they have special guest performing tonight. So he wanted to make sure that everything went well.

Zodwa: You know I miss Asithandile so much now.

Ncebakazi: You And me both, that girl is good at heart and she doesn't deserve this.

Zodwa: What am worried about is how she will be when she's found.

Ncebakazi: These kinda of situations changes a person even the most humble people turn into something you don't because of the trauma they went through.

Zodwa: I hope that he treats her well because if not I don't know what our brother will do when he lays his hands on him.

Ncebakazi: You know Bukhosi was supposed to be our big brother I tell you. The way he protects us and looks out for us is the same way a big brother would.

Zodwa: And I appreciate that about him, he has no favors even now That Asithandile is not here he doesn't miss the chance to check on us.

Ncebakazi: He has a good heart but grandma's health is not good at all.

Zodwa: Anyone's health would be affected by this especially her because she just found Asithandile only to lose her.

Ncebakazi: Am so taking her shopping when she come back.

Zodwa: Am in as well I miss her and her shy smile.
(Ncebakazi's phone rang indicating a message)

Ncebakazi: Well My data is here.

Zodwa: Go I will let Noma know that I will be working late so that she can look after umah.

Ncebakazi: Please man I will also check on her when I come back. Oh don't forget her medication.

Zodwa: Noma already gave it to her, now go.

Ncebakazi left with Luxolo going on her date and it was in sophisticated restaurant and when they got there they were shown to their table that already had a bottle of champagne on ice.

Ncebakazi: Mmm this is nice

Luxolo: I am to please.

Ncebakazi: And Indeed I am pleased.

Luxolo: I love you, you know that?

Ncebakazi: I knew that when you didn't give up after I have one insult after another. You didn't give up

instead you respected me more.

Luxolo: Am glad you noticed that babe. (Ncebakazi saw that he was nervous somehow but she brushed it off, their food arrived and they ate in light conversation.)

Luxolo: Care for dessert my lady?

Ncebakazi: Wel of course (he signaled the water to bring dessert and he brought If after a few minutes)

Ncebakazi: Babe is everything okay?

Luxolo: Yes Why?

Ncebakazi: You seem off some how I don't know.

Luxolo reaches into his pocket and took out a box, soft music started playing as he went down on one knee in front of her. Ncebakazi has hee hand on her mouth covering it.

Luxolo: Ncebakazi, when I said I want you to be mine I didn't mean as a glorified girlfriend but I meant as my wife and partner. Ncebakazi I love you and I want you by my side every day, I want to wake up next to you every morning and sleep next to you every night.

I want to pick you up from work just to show people that you taken. Please make me the happiest man in this room by being my wife and hopefully mother of my kids someday.

Ncebakazi: Wait I have a question (he seemed disappointed but he nodded) is that why you refused to sleep with me? (she whispered)

Luxolo: Hahah yes, I wanted you to be mine officially first before that.

Ncebakazi: Then Yes! I will be your wife.

Luxolo: Hahah but o didn't ask yet

Ncebakazi: Then What are you doing on your knee with a ring in hand?

Luxolo: Well you got a point, now will you marry me?

Ncebakazi: I already said yes now my ring please.

Luxolo: Oh lord what am I getting myself into (they both laughed as he slid the ring on her finger and stood up and they shared a hug)

Luxolo: Thank you babe for agreeing to be mine

Ncebakazi: Thank you for making an honest woman out of me.

Luxolo: You also make me an honest man.

They continued with their dessert with Ncebakazi already day dreaming about how she wants her wedding to be like and Luxolo was just sitting there watching her with a smile on his face. He was complete and content.

Joburg:

Lisa didn't know what to do with herself because one thing she knows is that she is enjoying her stay there and school. Even her training and being around Amanda and the others. She didn't want to leave but how was she going to convince Sticks to let her stay? Damn Bukhosi for showing up and ruining things for just when they were going well. She got into the house and. Bukhosi was in his way out with Jacob

by his side and she saw this as an opportunity to talk to Stick alone.

Bukhosi: Brother we will talk

Stick: Sure and I will keep you updated and you do the same.

Bukhosi: Great now let me get home and see my old lady.

Sticks: How is she holding up by the way?

Bukhosi: Hee health is not at its best but I hope she will be fine after I give her the good news.

Stick: Go make her day man she needs it.

Bukhosi: Yeah, let me go now and we will talk.

Sticks: Sure (he walked them out and I come from the kitchen just as he was making his way to the lounge)

Lisa: Can we talk?

Sticks: I have nothing to say to you.

Lisa: Then I will follow you around until you talk to me. (he clicked his tongue and turned to look at her)

Sticks: My room now! (Lisa followed him like a lost puppy)

They got to his room and he went and stood by the window looking out. Lisa stood behind him and spoke.

Lisa: Look Sticks, I don't love Bukhosi anymore just that when he showed up I got angry, I got angry because of how he got rid of me but am also grateful to him for doing that because he save me from myself. He gave me to a person that is both kind hearted and stubborn at the same time but that person showed me the best version of myself and I still want to get to know that Lisa. Please forgive me for disrespecting you, it was not my intentions.

(Sticks turned around and looked at thee for the longest of time and Lisa was now starting to sweat because she didn't know what will come out of his mouth the moment he decides to open it)

Sticks went closer to her and grabbed her by her neck then pressed her against the wall and kissed

her, Lisa froze but he didn't stop until Lisa responded to the kiss. The kiss went on for some time and they were both losing their breaths, he pulled out and moved away from her. Leaving Lisa trying to stabilize her breathing.

Sticks: Am sorry about that, it won't happen again and I forgive you but never do that again you hear (Lisa did trust herself to speak so she resorted to nodding) good now please leave. (Lisa walked out, confuse as ever.

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Insert 61

Mthatha (not edited)

Bukhosi arrived at home and decided to go straight to his father's house to see his mother and family. He got there and guards opened up for him and he drove in and parking his car on his spot and made his way into the house and was greeted by hulumilating and he rushed to the lounge.

Bukhosi: What is going on in this house?

Nosakhele: Oh umtanomntanam ubuyile (oh my grandchild you back)

Bukhosi: Yes Mother am back, what is going on.

Ncebakazi: Bhuti am engaged haaa ! (Brother am engaged)

Bukhosi: Before you get all excited set up drinks with this guys for me to meet him and if his not what he claims to be then you not marrying him.

Ncebakazi: Haibo Bukhosi! Am old enough to make my own decisions.

Bukhosi: You maybe old enough sis but men are men and only a few a good and have good intentions.

Nosakhele: Bukhosi kanti yintoni mantanam

ungavuyeli udade wena nje? (Bukhosi What is it, why can't you be happy for your sister?)

Bukhosi: Mah and you sis don't get me wrong, am not saying you getting married is not a good thing, in fact it's wonderful and am happy for you but I will not sit back and let you marry a man we know nothing about.

Ncebakazi: Fine then I understood so when do you want to do drinks with him?

Bukhosi: This Afternoon before I leave for Matatiele.

Ncebakazi: So soon?

Bukhosi: Well he got engaged to you without asking for your hand from father or me so yes so soon.

Ncebakazi: Brother Luxolo is a good man.

Bukhosi: Let me be the judge of that. Anyway set it up and come back I have good news for all of you.

Ncebakazi: I just sent him a message so let's hear it.

Bukhosi: Where is Zodwa?

Ncebakazi: She was working night so she spent the

night at her flat.

Bukhosi: Okay then we might as well.

Nosakhele: Please Tell me you found my child
Bukhosi.

Bukhosi: I have mother.

Nosakhele: Oh Makabongwe uYesu ngoku uphi? (oh
praise the lord so where is she?)

Bukhosi: Uyafunda mama pha so ucele ikuba
ndiyeke agqibe azokwazi ukubuya (she's studying
there mother so she asked for me to let her finished
then she will come back)

Nosakhele: Ukuba unyanisile ndifuna uthetha maya
amdixelele ngokwakhe (if you are telling the truth I
want to talk to her, I want her to tell me herself)

Ncebakazi: Am confuses, wasn't she kidnapped?

Bukhosi: She is I mean she was but the guy put her
in school and now she's finishing off her third year
next year she's doing her final year and graduating
then come back home?

Ncebakazi: So Where is the guys now?

Bukhosi: He was arrested so Asithandile is safe now.

Nosakhele: Mna neither ndifuna uthetha naye (I said I want to talk to her)

Bukhosi: Let me check if she will be able to answer the phone she might be in class.

Bukhosi moved away from them and put on the earpiece then switched on the device to send signal to her. She saw it as she was in the school library, she knew she was being watched so she left her stuff and walked to the bathroom and got into one of the cubicles and answered.

Bukhosi: Is it safe (he whispered so that the other won't hear him)

Asithandile: Yes But not for long, is everything alright?

Bukhosi: Mother wants to talk to you.

Asithandile: I would love that. (Bukhosi went to his mother and put the earpiece in)

Nosakhele: Yho yintoni ngoku lena Bukhosi? Yhini ndihleli ndingeva kakuhle.(Yho What is this now

Bukhosi? Oh my when I don't even hear properly)

Asithandile: hahaha Molo Makhulu (hello grandma)

Nosakhele: Umhlola! Uthetha phi nalo mntana okanye ndishiywa zingqondo (wonders! Where is this child talking? Or am I losing my mind)

Bukhosi: In that thing I put in your ear, please talk to her she is about to go to class.

Nosakhele: My baby is that you?

Asithandile: Yes mah it's me, I don't have much time because I have be in class but I will call soon. I want you to know that am okay and going to school.

Nosakhele: Kuhle mntanam (that good my child)

Asithandile: Grandma please give me a little time to finish school then come back home to you.

Nosakhele: It's okay child, as long as you are okay and happy then I will wait til you come home. I love you child.

Asithandile: I love you too mah.

Nosakhele: Oh Bukhosi she sounds like she's fine

Bukhosi: She is fine mother I promise you.

Matatiele:

These passed 3 days have been hell for iminathi and the problem continues instead of going away. Day 1 she woke up blind, Day 2 she was crippled, Day 3 she lost her ability to talk and today is day 4 and she woke up looking like someone who has cancer as her hair was not on her head but on the pillow and on the blankets she covered herself with. But she didn't see because she was blind, her mother saw this when she went to check on her in the morning, she herself hasn't been to work since the day she came back home to a blind daughter.

Bulelwa: Mother What are we going to do? My child is suffering and I feel useless. The doctor we took her to says there is nothing wrong with her yet today she woke up with no hair on her head and I didn't have the heart to tell her. All she does is cry.

Grandma: I did what I thought is right.

Bulelwa: What is it you did mother?

Grandma: I organized transport to take us to the palace because there is nothing we can do now.

Bulelwa: But Mother..

Grandma: No buts Bulelwa, I will not watch my only grandchild die right before my eyes when I can do something to help her. Swallow your pride and remember what you went through to get her.

Bulelwa: Alright Mother let's wait for the transport.

Grandma: It just arrived, now go prepare her while a take a blanket and a pillow to make her comfortable in the car.

Bulelwa went to Iminathi's room and changed her, then out a doek on her head and when she was done the grand mother came in with the driver and he helped them pick her up and put her in the car and drove to the royal palace of Nkomanzi. On the way Bulelwa was thinking about how they will be received

at the palace while the grandmother prayed that they helped her grand daughter. The drive to the palace was about an hour and half and they arrived. They announced themselves and the guards went to inform the king as Nkosibuthe was home after Bukhosi told him to come back. He asked the guards to let them in and he went and opened the gate for them and they drove in. The driver once again helped them carry Iminathi into the palace And upon seeing her the king was on his feet, anger visible in his face.

Nkosibuthe: Did you have to let her suffer like this before you swallow your pride and brought her here!

Grandma: My king..(he cut her short)

Nkosibuthe: Am sorry mah but am not talking to you but this woman here, what kind of a mother are you to watch your daughter's health deteriorate like this and do nothing about it?

Bulelwa: I was afraid my king, I did my daughter wrong and I did the prince wrong and I was afraid that he won't accept us after the rejection I gave him.

Nkosibuthe: It's funny how you think the matters of

the gods have something to do with us. Even if we wanted to reject your daughter we couldn't because she is chosen by the gods of this land not us.

Grandma: Will you be able to help her my king.

Nkosibuthe: No..(she cut him short)

Bulelwa: Please my king don't punish my child for my mistakes.

Nkosibuthe: Woman that's not what am saying, what am saying is that only my son can help her not me. She is not my chosen one but his, she's connected to him not me.

Grandma: Is the prince around my king?

Nkosibuthe: No his not but he will be arriving here late in the evening. I will asked the maidens to prepare rooms for you.

Bulelwa: Thank you my king.

Nkosibuthe: Don't Thank me, Thank my son and the gods of Nkomanzi.

He walked away to instruct the maidens to prepare rooms for their guests.

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Insert 62

Matatiele (not edited)

The ways of the gods are not ones to be taken lightly, real traditional healers will tell you how their journey came about and most of them were chosen while they were not even interested in being healers only in living their lives the way they see fit but the gods had other plans for them. Much like Iminathi, she thought after graduation she will apply for jobs and work for a better life for her family. Those were her plans but the Bible says, the plans are ours however the decisions are not. Iminathi learnt that the hard way,

she was first blind the one day, then crippled the next, losing hair and her hearing. All these things were painful to her as she had no one to share the pain with, no one who would truly understand her situation. Being with the prince was not in her dreams, even as a girl she never dreamt of being a prince's wife or even belonging to a royal family. Yet today she finds herself at the mercy of the gods and the royal family she never even admires, not even from a distance. During the time all these things were happening to Iminathi it was like they are happening to somebody else and not her, she refused to believe that she now depended on her family to take care of her most basic needs. And that hurt her.

The prince arrived at home and parked his car but as soon as his feet touched the grounds of Nkomanzi he roared so loud that the guards took cover and dogs ran for their lives. Power surfaced and he ran to the back of the palace jumping the fence, running down to the royal burial site. He got there and sat

beside his grand father's grave.

Nkosibuthe: Guards! (he called standing by the door and the guards came running)

Guard: My king

Nkosibuthe: Where is the prince?

Guard: The animal

Nkosibuthe: What did you say?

Guard: Am sorry my king, I meant the prince ran out the palace to the direction of the royal burial site.

Nkosibuthe: Oh gods of Nkomanzi, what have we done now. Guards, prepare a bull, a goat and call the chief priest.

Chief: Am here my king

Nkosibuthe: Do you now appear in thin air?

Chief: When the royals summon me I get here in speed of lightning.

Nkosibuthe: I don't want to know, what needs to be done?

Chief: The king will tell us when he comes back but for now take me to the queen.

Nkosibuthe: Nkomanzi kingdom has no queen.

Chief: Bite your tongue Nkosibuthe for you are about to do the work of the gods. Now take me to the queen (Nkosibuthe didn't say anything but lead the way to the room where Iminathi was in) they got inside and the chief priest went closer to the bed and looked at her then shook his head. He took Africa incense and put it on top of a zink and burnt it, adding snuff to it and reciting the clans of Nkomanzi.

Bukhosi came back to the palace and saw Bulelwa and her mother in the lounge.

Bukhosi: Greetings my elders.

Grandma: Greetings my prince.

Bukhosi: The damage is great and a goat to appease the gods is to be slaughtered. The ones who wronged the gods should be the ones to bring the goat and it shall be slaughtered at sunset at the river.

(he said and left the two confused as ever)

Bulelwa: What does he mean mother?

Grandma: Am not really sure as he wasn't even looking at us when he spoke. It was like he was speaking alone but o think that we should get the goat because according to my understanding we are the ones who wronged the gods.

Bulelwa: yhoo where will we get a goat at this time, especially one that will be slaughtered at sunrise?

Grandma; We will make a plan, but that goat needs to be here in the morning.

Nkosibuthe: Not in the morning but this night, the goat must sleep in the Nkomanzi kraal this night.

Grandma: My king, will the king be kind and organize us transport to go get the goat?

Nkosibuthe: As you wish but be here before the sun completely sets. (they nodded and Nkosibuthe went and told the guards to get the backie and take the family where they want to go.)

Bulelwa and her mother left the palace going to look for a house that has goats so that they can buy one and get to the palace on time. Bukhosi got into the room where the chief priest and Iminathi were and sat on the floor next to the chief priest.

Chief: A king is not supposed to sit that way.

Bukhosi: Whether king or president but when the gods want to use you to do their work you don't say no.

Chief: Wise words, what is it that should be done?

Bukhosi: When the goat arrives, the maiden is to be taken outside the palace and be placed outside the kraal.

Chief: The whole night?

Bukhosi: Yes, with the goat tied next to her as well as the one we are going to slaughter on her behalf.

Chief: I believe that no one must keep an eye on her or go close to the kraal this night.

Bukhosi: That is right, so long I will go inform the guards to do exactly that.

Chief: I will do the protection ceremony so long, we don't want her being taken by her witches at night.

Bukhosi: Worry not the gods are on high alert, they are more than determined to make sure that they get the queen they want this time around.

Chief: Camagu! (we agree)

Bukhosi went to inform the guards of what is to happen this night. Bulelwa and her mother right before the sun completely sets on the mountains. They arrived with the goat that was required and the guards took it to the kraal but stood outside while one went to call the prince. He can and touched the goat between its eyes and it went down on both its front legs. He opened the kraal and it went in. The maiden with the help of Bulelwa got a mattress and prepared for Iminathi a place to sleep in outside the kraal.

Night time came and everyone wrapped up everything they were doing close to the kraal so as to not go anywhere near there during the night, I

must say that the guards were more than happy to oblige as none of them didn't want to come face to face with the beast as they call their prince. Word has traveled to a few close kingdoms and all were preparing to grace Nkomanzi with their presence at sunrise to show support, some don't even know what the even is about they just heard that something is happening in Nkomanzi and they wanted to go and see because they didn't know who was king there since the king they knew is late.

It was around 11PM when Iminathi was taken to the kraal, the goat that her family brought was tied at the feet on the mattress and the one the royal family got for her is at the head. She was carefully laid there and covered with throw then everyone left, Bulelwa looked like she wanted to cry because she was worried about her child sleeping outside alone. The king saw this and went to her.

Nkosibuthe: You better not shed tears here because this ritual will not work, you should be rejoicing for your daughter getting her health back.

Bulelwa: How can I My king she's out there alone and with a small blanket, what if she gets cold, what if something happens to her?

Nkosibuthe: Yazi uyandidina wena, ungunibangela walento kodwa ngoku xa encedwa wenza ngathi uyakhathala Hayi maan (you annoying me, you are the cause of this but now when she is getting help you act like you care, no maan)

Bulelwa: I don't act like I care my king I do care, she is my only child and I love her.

Nkosibuthe: Then you should start showing your love instead of saying it. (he said and left her there)

Everyone went to bed worried this night not knowing what the gods will say in the morning.

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Insert 63

Colombia

Ximena POV (not edited)

My plan is working like a charm, now I challenge Vusi/Rodrigo to show him that am not that naive girl he kidnapped but what is funny about that he says it's sexy, mxm bloody prick! He must enjoy while it lasts. Yesterday after gym he was going to one of his meetings, he has already gone out the house when he came back and told me to dress up and go with him. And of course I wasn't about to turn him down because I wanted to learn everything I can. So I went to my room and dressed up in my navy pants suit with a white shirt and red hills, when I got out the idiot smiled like a retard complimenting me with things like 'you sure look boss babe' and I simply smiled. We got to that meeting and what shocked me is the fact that the people who were there are all

people with status, when I say status I don't only mean warm bank accounts I mean ministers, MP's and drug lords. I say drug lords because the other guy there names Martinus is a well known and wanted drug lord in Mexico City.

When we got there I had to keep my head down but how stupid their marketing is and the dodgy ways their finance guy did things made say something. I stood up like the boss that I am, oh and believe me when they all looked at me with cold stares includ Rodrigo who had the don't embarrass me look, I was shaking but I had to do what I stood up for.

Flash back:

Ximena: Gentlemen! I will not take up much of your time but I have a few things that I would like to address. With no disrespect to you of course. (I kept quiet and waited for a response but I got none instead the cold stares became darker)

Ximena: Right! Now I was listening and looking at the finance spread sheet as the finance gentleman here was explaining it.

Martinus: What about it?

Ximena: Well it shows that you making money..

Martinus: We know

Ximena: Right! But listen or look at this, this here doesn't make sense at all.

Martinus: Elaborate

Finance: Are you going to let a nobody analyze my work?

Rodrigo: Call my wife a nobody one more time trigger!

Trigger: No but you can't let her analyze my work, what does she know?

Martinus: I was still listening and I would like to continue. (there was silence and he signaled for me to continue)

Ximena: As I was saying before being rudely

interrupted, here, I will just say here because the spread sheet doesn't say what this is which am fine with it but you should be making more than 5 million a month instead of 2.5 million because according to the figures shown here if you calculate property using the correct accounting system then 5 million is what you should be making.

Martinus: What are you trying to say?

Ximena: That creative accounting was used here to steal funds or cover up expenses that shouldn't be here, either way money is missing here.

Martinus: Care to explain where our money goes trigger?

Trigger: I... mmm (clearing throat) I must have made a mistake when doing the books and balancing the accounts.

Martinus: What do you say to that little girl?

Ximena: Right! If this was only this month I would agree a mistake was made but if you look at the spread sheet, let's look at the 6 months, see here on distributions you should have made 8million this

month but creative accounting was used and you only made 6mil, of which 2 million is not accounted for, also look at the second month on new clients, according to my calculations with the figures here you should have made 15 mil because that is where most of your money comes from but instead you made 13million. So every month 2 mil or 2,5 million goes missing.

Martinus: Made sense and we will deal with it accordingly (I looked at Rodrigo with a corner of my eye and he had a side smile and that fueled me to continue to my next reason for standing up)

Ximena: Now moving on, apologies again for taking your time and over taking your meeting.

Minister: Talk mamasita you are shedding some light on a lot of things here that we were blind sided about.

Ximena: Thank you. Now your marketing is not very effective, I won't say go public as I can guess that what you sell doesn't require the public eye.

Rodrigo: Your point being? (he sounds intimidating and that scared me a bit)

Ximena: My point is, create an app that can be monitored by the admin to make sure that each member has special log in details where they can make orders and make payments on the app for their order and also track their order on the app. The information there will only be available to the admin that will monitor the smooth running of everything and the client to check their accounts and orders.

Rodrigo: That way no one goes to deliver anything to clients.

Ximena: Precisely, the orders go to the warehouse where the packers will pack the order and scan it when it leaves the warehouse and when the client gets it instead of signing he will scan the bar code with his app and it will update on our side as received as well. No paper work and no dealings with drivers and all.

Martinus: Smart But What about new members?

Ximena: Now with those you need to run a

background check, not only just but a thorough background check to make sure that you don't have undercover cops infiltrating the organization without your knowledge and leaning your ways. after the background check then the IT will send him a long to the app and he will enter log in details and that's it.

Martinus: Rodrigo, bring her to every meeting.

Rodrigo: You got it.

Minister: This is the first meeting where I got to hear exactly where my money comes from and goes and this app thing will save us a lot.

Ximena: Now to finish off, the people who are here can have specialized apps where they can see when and where the next meeting is, what emergencies you have, and so forth.

Martinus: This is a real business woman, Rodrigo me meeting tomorrow to finilize every thing and sort out the matter at hand.

Rodrigo: Send details and I will be there, gentleman, let me leave you now it's already late.

Martinus: Tomorrow man and you mamasita good work. (I was proud of myself but I wasn't about to smile with drug lords or they won't take me seriously)

Ximena: My pleasure. (Rodrigo and I walked out but I could see that trigger was pissed but I couldn't care because I gained myself more protectors in that meeting. Trigger is a fool to steal from a drug lord and expect to walk scot free. I might have caused him his life which would have happened sooner or later but his family won't lack a thing with all that money he stole. Am girl on a mission and I will achieve my goal)

End of flash back.

That's how I owned the meeting and earned the respect of the nam that kidnapped me. Now he just says ' you are a natural babe, had I known before you and I would be more rich than we already are' which I got even know what his talking about because am not rich, the only money I have on my account are

the Peso bills he gives me for my allowance which he monitors as well. But that is not why am doing this, am doing this for the life he stole from me, for my grandma, for my brother, my sisters and for the love of my life. Vusi stole from me and his going to pay me back with interest.

Joburg:

Lisa was Sticks we're still avoiding each other. Lisa enjoyed the kiss more than she thought she would and to Sticks it was everything he had been fantasizing about since the day he first laid eyes on her. Now even the most ruthless of gangsters are afraid of rejection which is why Sticks avoided Lisa, he wanted to drag it as long as he can as he doesn't want to hear her tell me that she can't be with him. That was something he was not willing to live with, Sticks never fell in love or felt the way he feels about Lisa. He is strictly a no commitment kind of guy, the hit and run type as he usually describes himself. But

his time there was no running because every time he closes his eyes flash backs of the kiss invade his mind. Her soft moans as he kissed her fill his ears and it drove him crazy, he leaves before everyone wakes up and comes back at midnight when everyone is in bed but not this time. This time when he open he almost died seeing Lisa in the lounge laying on the couch watching movies. He went to her.

Sticks: Shift (Lisa moved a bit making space for him and he said) how are you?

Lisa: Am good just struggling with sleep.

Sticks: I can stay up with for a while if you want.

Lisa: You must be tired so I don't want to be a bother.

Sticks: Not at all, I struggle with sleep myself so it's good.

Lisa: Okay then (they stayed silent for a while until Sticks spoke)

Sticks: Am sorry I kissed you that day.

Lisa: I liked it so no need to apologize

Sticks: You did?

Lisa: Yes I did but I know we will not get involved that way so that is okay too (Sticks kept quiet for a while then turned her face around to look him, he looked deep into her eyes and slowly got closer to her until their lips touched)

He kissed her, the kiss was slow, passionate and fulfilling. They broke it and looked into each other's eyes and kissed again. Things got heated and Sticks picked her up and took her to his room and closed the door behind him.

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Insert 64

Matatiele

Everyone in the palace went to bed even the guards went told not to patrol at night so that they don't go where they are not supposed to be. In the middle of the night it sounded like a war zone outside, animals making noise, the cows, the goats and other wild animal sounds were made. Some sounded like they were right on the roof of the palace while others sounded like they were surrounding the palace. Everyone in the palace was awake except for Bukhosi who was sleeping like a log on his bed and even snoring a little. Bulelwa was tempted to go and look if her daughter was alright but was also scared of what might happen to her when she goes out there. So she resorted to going down on her knees and praying for the safety of her daughter, she doesn't remember when or how she fell asleep but she was woken up by a knock on the door and when she opened her eyes she realized that it was morning, she stood up and went to open the door and her mother was there already clean and looked fresh.

Grandma: They are about to go out and slaughter the

goats and you have to be there.

Bulelwa: Kanti what time is it?

Grandma: Just after 5 now shower quickly.

Bulelwa: I will be down in a moment, how is she?

Grandma: How am I supposed to know when they won't allow anyone near that place till the time of the ritual.

Bulelwa: Am sorry mah that was a stupid question.

Grandma: Finish up Bulelwa maan I want to see my grand daughter.

Bulelwa went and took a quick shower and changed. When she went out the maiden come in to clean the room, she went and everyone was sitting in the lounge.

Bulelwa: Good morning and am sorry to keep you waiting.

Nkosibuthe: You like thinking you are important don't you.

Bulelwa: I don't follow my king.

Nkosibuthe: Good.

Bukhosi came in coming from outside.

Bukhosi: Father I think it's time you go out there and receive your guests.

Nkosibuthe: What guests now?

Bukhosi: Well it seems that the word has spread and there are royals at the gate which asked the guards to put in the guest chamber.

Nkosibuthe: I forgot how word spreads around here. Let me go greet them while you tell the maidens to prepare something for them.

Bukhosi: Don't be long the chief priest just arrived.

Nkosibuthe: It's going to be a long day (he said and left going to receive and greet the guests)

The people that just arrived were the royals of Maluti, when the king was done with them, he went out only to be met by a goddess accompanied by her guards

and he went to them.

Nkosibuthe: Greetings your majesty

Woman: Greetings your highness, I am princess Nobukhosi from the kingdom of Mdeni not far from Mount fletcher and I am here today representing my father.

Nkosibuthe: Nice to meet you princess, I am king Nkosibuthe of this kingdom. Is the prince also coming (he asked wanting to know if the princess was married)

Nobukhosi: We don't have a prince in my kingdom your highness.

Nkosibuthe: Oh no my princess, I meant your husband so that we can prepare for the both of you.

Nobukhosi: Oh no my king, I never married and now the number of suitors have redux so I guess I am old and unmarried princess.

Nkosibuthe: May I ask why that is?

Nobukhosi: Well I was a very picky person in my youth as a result I rejected every suitor that didn't

meet my standards.

Nkosibuthe: Am sure that must have driven the queen crazy.

Nobukhosi: Hahah you have no idea

Nkosibuthe: Let go inside my princess.

Nobukhosi: I cant wait to meet the queen because if the king it this nice and accommodating the queen must be something special.

Nkosibuthe: Oh I don't have a queen my princess, Am windowed.

Nobukhosi: Am sorry to hear that my king.

Nkosibuthe: Oh don't worry about it.

They went inside the house and he asked the maidens to take good care of her. He was taken by the princess that he wasn't even thinking straight. It was time for the ritual to commence, the king, Bukhosi, and Iminathi's family with the chief priest went by the kraal and when they got there iminathi was sitting on the mattress with her goat sitting

right next to her. She was still weak but was better than what she was when she came. She had her sight back and could move but still weak. Her mother fell in her knees in front of her.

Bulelwa: Oh my baby, how are you feeling?

Iminathi: Lets talk after the ritual but am well.

The chief priest went ahead and summoned the ancestors and pleaded on their behalf. When he was done the goat was slaughtered to appease the ancestors and the second one to apologize for taking so long. Then a cow followed and they took Iminathi in the palace and left the young man skinning the the goats and cow. At this time the palace was crawling with people. Royals from different kingdoms and the people of the kingdom. The maidens and the women of the kingdom were up and down cooking with big pots to accommodate everyone.

Nobukhosi stood up seeing that the maidens in the house were overwhelmed by the work load. She put

aside the her royal scepter and her blanket then gave them to her maiden then went to the kitchen and started boiling the potatoes that were there and helped out with making the salads.

Maiden: My princess you shouldn't be doing that, you are a guest in this palace and I will get into trouble if the royal family finds you here.

Nobukhosi: You know that am a princess in my kingdom not here and part of me representing my family is me doing what maidens do and that is work.

Maiden: But you not just any maiden but a princess.

Nobukhosi: Princess is just a title. While I am a human being, a maiden at that.

Maiden: The prince that will marry you will be lucky

Nkosibuthe: Indeed (he said coming in) I won't ask why you working my princess all I will say is my thanks.

Nobukhosi: My pleasure my king.

In the room Bulelwa finished helping Iminathi bath

and when they went back to the barroom a maiden was there holding a traditionally designed dress Umbaco.

Maiden: Am sorry to come in unannounced but I didn't want to go into the bathroom as I heard you were busy.

Bulelwa: It's okay my dear. What brings you here?

Maiden: The prince asked me to bring this dress for her.

Iminathi: My name is iminathi my dear.

Maiden: Am sorry but I didn't know your name, I meant no disrespect.

Iminathi: It's okay i understand, can you please bring me some food am ready hungry.

Maiden: Am sorry but the prince said you should to eat anything until you eat the meat first.

Iminathi: Thank you and send my thanks to the prince.

Maiden: I will.

The maiden left, iminathi wore the dress the prince got her and she smiled a little thinking about how was being. They left and went to the kraal and she was given the meat to eat and after that the maiden gave her food. The festivities went on.

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Insert 65

Colombia (not edited)

Rodrigo and Martinus had removed triggers permanently from the picture. They are now sitting in one of their meetings with the ministers and all the big players in the game. They were given the test run of the app by their IT and now are meeting to

discuss how well it has been working. They are a boardroom in one of their houses they own, having whiskey.

Rodrigo: Gentlemen, I think we all know why we are here today, so let's get to it.

Martinus: Well I did try out the app and I must say it works like a dream. I ordered a kidney from Mexico and it arrived here with in 11 hours, I scanned the code and it updated.

Minister: I ordered for one of the clients a liver from South Africa and I got it yesterday.

Rodrigo: So the no middle man situation is working.

Martinus: It's working but I suggest we put it to the test for a month and see what happens.

Minister: I say we give the app to every member then we can monitor the situation from there.

Rodrigo: How is the money situation?

Martinus: From What I have gathered we have made more these couple of day than what we made when trigger was in charge.

Minister: I say let's give the boss lady the responsibility of taking care of the money but just for a month.

Martinus: That is a good idea.

Rodrigo: As long as you guys are sure I don't have a problem with it.

Minister: It's settled then Miss Ximena is taking over finances and the young blood is doing wonders and I can't wait to see what will happen once the app is active on all members.

Martinus: Great things brother and fat bank account.

Rodrigo: You can say that again. If there is nothing else the meeting is adjourned.

Martinus: Till next time Gentlemen.

They went their separate ways and Rodrigo couldn't wait to get home and tell Ximena the good news, he was both proud and excited that his baby is following his foot steps and is doing well at it. He smiled to himself thinking about how lucky he is to

have such a force by his side. To him Ximena was really a force to be reckoned with and she was his. He started at the flower shop and got a bouquet of yellow roses as he has noticed how much she loves yellow roses and violets. She got her a Swiss chocolate and a nice bottle of wine. He drove home and parked the car, he notice her gym bag on the couch in the living room and knew that she is back from training. He took the back to her room and knocked but there was no answer so he went in and heard the shower running and knew that she was taking a shower. He placed the bag on the bed and went out to the kitchen and warmed up the food he got and set the table. Then out the flowers he got her in a vase and put them on the table as center piece, put the wine on the table and he chocolates by her side of the table. Ximena come into the dining room and found a nice set up which would have made her heart jump for joy had it been Bathandwa who did that but she convinced herself to hold on just little while longer. Also hoping that he still waiting for her.

Ximena: This is beautiful! What is the occasion?

Rodrigo: Am celebrating having the most wonderful woman in the whole world.

Ximena: Is that me?

Rodrigo: You And no one else, you are everything to me Ximena which is why I respect you so much, I want you to trust me and know that I would never do anything you not ready for. I might have kidnapped you but that was just to get you far away from distractions so that you can really see the kind of person I am and I hope that you see am not that bad.

Ximena: Wow that was a mouthful, can we eat am starving.

Rodrigo: Let me go get the food I don't want to starve my woman. (he went to the kitchen and got the food and came back and served her)

Ximena: Thank you

Rodrigo: The pleasure is all mine my lady.

Ximena: What did I do to deserve these chocolates and flowers?

Rodrigo: You did you, and the guys have decided to give the responsibility of taking care of the business finances.

Ximena: What section will I be taking care of?

Rodrigo: All of it

Ximena: What do you mean all of it?

Rodrigo: It means that I am now looking at the new financial manager of our organization.

Ximena: Wow who came up with that idea.

Rodrigo: The ministers and Martinus backed them up. You have them baby you have them wrapped around your finger and eating out of the palm of your hand.

Ximena: Wow am honored, thank you.

Rodrigo: No thank you for being amazing.

They are over light conversion and when they were done Rodrigo said his going to gym and Ximena said she will study. So when Rodrigo left she called her

brother but couldn't get hold of him so she tried the other line which she doesn't know who it belongs to and Sticks picked up.

Sticks: Sisters

Ximena: Are you working with my brother I can't get hold of him.

Sticks: We are brothers me and him and he told me to keep an eye on this line. Is there a problem?

Ximena: No there is no problem just that now am in.

Sticks: How in?

Ximena: Financial manager of the organization in?

Sticks: Wow wow wow my sister you good, now play your game calmly, don't rush because you have time. Don't give them reasons to doubt you. Show them you are trustworthy and continue bringing up new ideas to better the business and in no time you will be essential to them.

Ximena: That's the plan, I just wanted to inform you guys of my progress.

Sticks: Will let your brother know.

Ximena: Where is he?

Sticks: His in Matatiele they have some ritual there but he will be back tomorrow.

Ximena: Oh I miss those, I even miss the food.

Sticks: Don't worry I will make sure that I organize something for you.

Ximena: That would be nice, I have to go now.

Sticks: Sure.

They said their goodbyes and right then Lisa got in and Sticks stood up and went to her and hugged her.

Lisa: What was that for?

Sticks: Why didn't you tell me that you were still pure?

Lisa: Well I don't know really.

Sticks: You should have told me and I would have made your first time special and now I feel like I didn't treat you right.

Lisa: Hey don't say that, I wanted you as much as

you wanted me. But you can make it up to me.

Sticks: Anything

Lisa: I want to go to the Maldives.

Sticks: Pack your bags we leaving tomorrow evening.

Lisa: Are you sure?

Sticks: More than sure and thank you for trusting me with your innocence I really appreciate it and I hope I didn't hurt you

Lisa: if you didn't hurt me when I was crazy about Bukhosi then you can never hurt me again.

Sticks: Thanks babe

Lisa: No thank you for saving me from myself

Sticks: It's a pleasure my dark beauty.

They kissed and Lisa went to her room to pack for her trip. She was excited about going but Amanda was not impressed by the relationship that Lisa and Sticks have. She always wanted Sticks but he never saw her that way but for as long as he was single

she had hope that one day he will see her as something more than just the girl he rescued.

I know it's short and I will make it up to you.

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Insert 66

Joburg (not edited)

Jealous can blind a person, it causes envy, hatred and deceit. Hatred is a very strong emotion that can be felt by someone for something or someone else. Usually in these cases, the haters don't have reasons for hating the people they hate it's just jealousy most of the time, you would hear them say things like, Andimphiwanga ke lo (I don't like this person) but

the question is who told you to go around liking everyone? No one people out there are busy carrying other people's burdens while the owners feel lighter because you decided to take their problems upon yourself. You made it your business to know their business but the sad thing about that is that you don't get anything by doing that. Jealous people don't progress in life because they spend time getting to know other people's business instead of focusing on their own issues and bettering themselves.

Amanda came into the kitchen while Lisa was having a cup of coffee and saw the suitcases. She went and sat next to her and poured herself a cup.

Amanda: Ntombazana yintoni ngemithwalo ekuseni (girl whatbis it with bags in the morning?)

Lisa: Am going away for a while.

Amanda: How long is a while and with whom are you going?

Lisa: Weekend and am going with Sticks.

Amanda: Where to?

Lisa: Maldives

Amanda: Business of pleasure?

Lisa: Haibo yintoni imibuzo engaka? (what's with so many questions?)

Amanda: You don't have to tell me am just asking.

Lisa: Oh

Amanda: So you not going to tell me?

Lisa: Amanda, I see how you look at Sticks and I see that you have a thing for him so I will not discuss my business with him with you.

Amanda: Eyonanto uyafika ke apha njeba sewuzibamba tsolo ngam nje (you are new here so don't be clear with me)

Lisa: It's not about being clever or stupid, it's about knowing what to share and with who.

Amanda: But you used to tell me everything and now all of a sudden you have a problem with sharing.
(Sticks was now standing by the door behind them

listening)

Lisa: Amanda, a person needs to know what to share and when to share it. As well as who to share it with. Am I not going to discuss my business with you forgive it.

Amanda: Mamela ke ntombazana, uBhuti lo walapha wena ozidla ngaye akangomntu wami dyolo so uzijonge ntombazana ngoba uzo khubeka. (look here girl, the man of this house is not a relationship kind of person, so look after yourself because you will get hurt)

Lisa: If his playing with me then that's his problem. We don't choose who to love and we can't force people to love us back and that I have learnt the hard way.

Amanda: Uzuzenze onamava kewena apha kum kodwa ungakhali ekugqibeleni (act wise with me but don't cry in the end)

Sticks got tired of listening to this and called Amanda.

Sticks: Amanda!

Amanda: Buthi (Brother)

Sticks: What is your problem with me or Lisa?

Amanda: No I have no problem with you and will never have a problem with you.

Sticks: So the person you have a problem with is Lisa?

Amanda: That's not what am saying.

Sticks: Then what are you saying?

Amanda: Nothing

Sticks: It better be nothing (he took the bags and went out to put them in the car)

Amanda: So you even got him to fight your battles.

Lisa: I never asked him to because am more than capable of doing somyself.

Amanda: Keep fooling yourself because one of these days your fighting skills will not mean anything, mark my words. (she left her there and went to her room while Sticks came and took her hand and then they went to the car and left)

Matatiele:

Iminathi was getting better each day and that pleased Bukhosi. Today is the day her parents go back home so that they can go prepare for the negotiations. Iminathi was excited about this but scared at the same time about moving to a new home but not just any new home but a royal palace. She was going to be a princess of the land.

Bulelwa: Oh my baby girl, you are soon to leave home and come live in this enormous palace. Am proud of you baby and am scared for you at the same time. For me marriage was hell but I hope it will be joyous for you.

Grandma: Your Mother is right my child, you are our pride and joy, I only had your mother and she only had you. We were never blessed with many kids but I hope that you will be blessed with more than one child so that you can grow this palace and be the queen the god want you to be.

Iminathi: why do you both talk like you will never see me again? Am going home for lobola and I will visit my home every chance I get.

Bulelwa: But you hear that the prince lives in Mthatha so the chances of seeing you will be slim.

Iminathi: Even So Mother I will visit and call you all the time.

Bulelwa: Okay but what I want from is for you to leave if the marriage is not what you want to be. Don't be like me baby girl, don't stay until you resent him because it is not healthy. If he doesn't listen to you or respect you leave because you have a home.

Bukhosi: I am not going to promise your daughter the world, the heaven and the stars. Am human and am going to make mistakes not one or two but a lot of them but what is important is for your daughter to speak up and put me in like just like I will do to her because that is how we will grow together in this marriage. (he said as he came in)

Grandma: I for one like the fact that you not making promises that you will not keep and I like the fact the

you admit that mistakes you will make and to err is human and to forgive is divine.

Bukhosi: Thank you mah.

Grandma: Am not going to lie, I like the fact that there is not other woman here that my granddaughter will be fighting with or try to prove herself to.

Bukhosi: The only person she will have to prove herself to is me and no one else.

Iminathi: My thanks my prince.

Bukhosi: I will be going to Mthatha for a couple of days but I will be back for the negotiations.

Bulelwa: We will see you when you come back then my prince.

Grandma: Are we allowed to take her home to await the negotiations?

Bukhosi: Of course mah, we wouldn't keep her here before we do right by her and her family.

Bulelwa: That is good to hear, where is the king to that we can but farewell?

Bukhosi: I will go and call him.

Bukhosi left going to find his father and found him in the Harding talking on the phone with a wide smile on his face. He stood there waiting for him to finish but he just put his hand over the phone.

Nkosibuthe: Son What is it?

Bukhosi: The guests are leaving and wanted to buy you farewell.

Nkosibuthe: Then Tell them I said goodbye and we will see them at the negotiations.

Bukhosi: Father!

Nkosibuthe: No Bukhosi you have your woman let me try and get myself one as well.

Bukhosi: Oh as you wish.

He left him and went to inform the guests and they left. He came back to the house and took out his phone and he had a message from Sticks telling him about talking to Asithandile and going away for a week. He read the message and called his contact in

Colombia to get feed back. It rang and he picked up immediately.

Convo:

Bukhosi: Machete!

Marchete: Power

Bukhosi: It's time

Marchate: For Which job?

Bukhosi: The family, I will be in London tomorrow and I want them there because I don't want to get out of the jet.

Marchete: Done!

Bukhosi: Make it clean, there is a child involved in this.

Marchete: Sure Boss does the father know?

Bukhosi: No and he doesn't have to know, I want him to appear innocent in this when asked.

Marchete: Got it.

Bukhosi: My sister?

Marchete: Doing Great And seems to be moving up the ladder fast.

Bukhosi: The sooner this is over the better.

Marchete: Sure Boss.

He hand up and organized a jet for him to London for the evening. He got up and went to his room and packed a few things and he was off after sending a message to his father.

Nomthandazo was worried about her son, he acts like his Okay but she can see that his not himself. In fact he was never himself since his girlfriend was kidnapped.

Nomthandazo: Bathandwa

Bathandwa: Yes mam

Nomthandazo: How is school?

Bathandwa: School is fine and as you know that am doing my last year next year so..

Nomthandazo: That's good to know, so how are you

really?

Bathandwa: Am fine mah no complaints.

Nomthandazo: Bathandwa did you forget that I gave birth to you?

Bathandwa: No how can I forget that?

Nomthandazo: Then why are you doing this to yourself?

Bathandwa: Mother I didn't do anything to myself am fine.

Nomthandazo: Okay then if you fine why are you not moving on? What you doing is not healthy and I hate seeing you like this, not even when Linda cheated you were never like this.

Bathandwa: The difference between Asithandile and Linda is that Linda is a liar and Asithandile is not. Linda cheated and Asithandile was kidnapped so pleas tell me why would I give up on her?

Nomthandazo: Because you don't know if she's dead or alive wherever she is.

Bathandwa: You right I don't know but what I do

know is that I might be the reason she's fighting everyday to come home and am not going to let her down.

Nomthandazo: It's been 9 months Bathandwa and the year ends in a month, how long are you willing to wait?

Bathandwa: Let me make you a deal, if by the time I graduate she's still not found them I will move on, how is that?

Nomthandazo: Bathandwa you only graduating in 13 months.

Bathandwa: Exactly Because If I move on now I might be distracted at school and I don't want that, I want to graduate and make something of myself.

Nomthandazo: Fine But after your graduation I don't want to hear excuses and pleas try to live a little, look at you, you even lost weight.

Bathandwa: Mother am fine, really I am.

Nomthandazo: If you say so.

Bathandwa: Asithandle you better give me sign that you are live before I graduate because this woman will not let me rest. Give me a sign that you still with me my love and I will hold on till you return.

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Insert 67

London (not edited)

Bukhosi has just landed in London and is waiting for his guy to come with Pedro's family. He did say that he doesn't want to get off the jet so I'm 20 minutes after the jet landed the guy came with the little girl and her mother. He showed them in and told them to get comfortable, the little girl was a little scared because she didn't know what was happening but the mother was fine because her husband told her

that time when he gave her the devices that people will come and take them away. So her being her meant that her husband kept his promise of taking them out of that place. Outside Bukhosi was talking to his guys.

Bukhosi: How did it go?

Guy: Very well boss.

Bukhosi: Witnesses?

Guy: No we took them while the guards were changing shifts and busy gossiping like women so none of them saw anything.

Bukhosi: Job well done! How is my sister?

Guy: She is safe and it looks like she's gaining the trust of the people there, that guy took us with him to the meeting where they agreed to make her the finance manager of their entire organization so your sister is good.

Bukhosi: Now That sounds like someone who's related to me. (he said smiling) keep an eye on her and if you hear any whispers talk to me immediately.

Guy: Sure boss, let me get going my shift starts in an hour so I have to be there so that they don't suspect anything.

Bukhosi; Good let me also get going, tell me if anything and I have organized another jet from Emiliano it will get you to Colombia in 45 minutes.

Guy: Thank you boss.

Bukhosi: You know what happens with payment right?

Guy: Alright got it boss.

Bukhosi: Sure thing.

The guy left and Bukhosi went to the jet and the woman and child were nicely seated and eating.

Bukhosi: Do you understand English?

Val: Yes we do, at school they teach us to we can communicate with people like you (Bukhosi laughed a little because the little was cute)

Bukhosi: Okay missy what is your name?

Val: Am Valerie my mother is Ivonisia and my dad is Pedro.

Bukhosi: Oh wow, tell you what, me you and your mom are going to South Africa.

Val: Where is that?

Bukhosi: Somewhere far from here.

Val: Is daddy going to be there?

Ivy: Daddy is going to join us soon my darling.

Val: Okay mommy but what about school? Do I get to go back now?

Bukhosi: Of course you going back to school, your daddy found you the best school with the nicest kids and a big play ground.

Val: Yeeehh mommy I get to go to school.

Ivy: Yes you do are you excited?

Val: Very much.

Bukhosi: Okay there is a bed in here in case you want to sleep, we will be in South Africa in the next 2 hours and if you want anything ask the attendants.

Ivy: Thank you.

Bukhosi: My pleasure.

He went to the other side and made a call to Jacob and he answered on the third ring.

Convo:

Jacob: Bozza

Bukhosi: Is the house ready?

Jacob: Yes boss

Bukhosi: The school, the help, the security and the driver?

Jacob: All sorted even a job for the Mrs at the restaurant?

Bukhosi: Waitressing?

Jacob: No boss, I read in her file that she is a chef so she will be working the day shift while the original chef takes the night. But on the first two days they will be together so that he can show her the robes.

Bukhosi: Good job Jacob, when is Sticks coming back?

Jacob: He said in 3 days, the man is in love.

Bukhosi: Then you should be happy because he won't be grumpy all the time.

Jacob: Now that you put it that way I will be more appreciative of the relationship.

Bukhosi: Great I will see you soon.

Jacob: Sure meet you at OR Tambo

Bukhosi: Sure.

Colombia:

Pedro went to visit his family as per usual, he drove to the place and when he got there the security was tight. He wondered what is going on but decided to push it aside and drove in. He parked in there and got out the car and by that time the security was already by his side.

Pedro: What is it? Are you going to search me outside now?

Security: No but we can't let you in

Pedro: Why? That is my family in there

Security: I..i...

Pedro: Stop stuttering and tell me what the problem is.

Security: Well the they are gone

Pedro: What do you mean they are gone?

Security: Well when the cook went to give them breakfast they were not there. They are gone.

Pedro: you telling me that with all of you here someone came in and took them.

Security: Well...?

Pedro left and drove to Rodrigo's work place, he was worried because he didn't know for sure that power took them because he didn't say anything or Pedro had something to do with it. He got there and the receptionist tried to stop him but he pushed her aside and went to his office and he was with another guy in what seems like a meeting but as soon as he saw him he stood up.

Rodrigo: Let's continue this in an hour Okay (the guy nodded and stood up and left)

Rodrigo: What seems to be the problem?

Pedro: You tell me!

Rodrigo: I wouldn't ask if I knew now tell me.

Pedro: Where is my family Rodrigo?

Rodrigo: Now you don't know where they are kept or you just here playing games?

Pedro: Look am not here to play games my family is gone and you damn security doesn't know where they are! (he banged the table)

Rodrigo: What do you mean because the security didn't tell me anything?

Pedro: Because those fools are afraid of you!

Rodrigo didn't answer but he took out his phone and called the security and they confirmed that the family is gone but they don't know how. There is no force entry. He dropped the call and looked Pedro.

Rodrigo: Look we will find your family.

Pedro: How did you lose them in the first place? You promised me they will be safe and now they are gone. So you better find them or am leaving this place to go look for them myself.

Rodrigo: Look give me a week to find them and if I don't then you can go look for them.

Pedro: And you will let me go that easy because?

Rodrigo: Because I failed you man, I made you a promise and I failed so I know how much your family means to you and you lost them under my protection so I will let you go and look for them.

Pedro: I told you that this was dangerous and my family will be in danger and now they are gone. Look for them Rodrigo and if you don't find them m going to find them myself and please to pray that they are alive because if not am coming after you.

Rodrigo: Look am not scared of you, just because I said I will look for them doesn't mean am scared of you so watch what you say.

Pedro: Or you should be scared.

He left and wondered if power and his people took his family or not. No one is contacting him and his worried for his family's safety.

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Insert 68

Joburg (not edited)

Bukhosi vase Nkomanzi arrived in Joburg and Jacob was waiting for him. They got into the car and drove off to the house they prepared for them in the suburbs of Pretoria. The house was four bedrooms and had an upstairs with 2 bathrooms, a play room and a big open plan kitchen and a lounge. The garden was also not so bad, it was full of red roses,

yellow roses and blue violets. It was beautiful indeed. The security was there but it didn't seem so tight to the neighbors as it seemed like just one security guard and a gardener. But in actual fact the gardener is one of the security detail. They got in and they were shown the house and they loved it. Bukhosi got a call from his father and went out to answer it.

Convo:

Nkosibuthe: Bukhosi

Bukhosi: Father

Nkosibuthe: Your negotiations are starting tomorrow and I need you here, bring your mother and your sisters so that they can show you support and it's time the people got to know their princesses.

Bukhosi: That's funny because one of them is not marrying a royal.

Nkosibuthe: No royal will make me force my children to do something they don't want to do. So they can both marry the man they chose and if the people of Nkomanzi have a problem with that they can address it with the king.

Bukhosi: That's not a problem then king they will come to you.

Nkosibuthe: Who said anything about me?

Bukhosi: Haibo kanti ngubani inkosi apha? (Haibo Who is the king here?)

Nkosibuthe: You are since you approved the young man so the people will come to you.

Bukhosi: WOW Father so you throwing me under the bus?

Nkosibuthe: You asked for it now please come home.

Bukhosi: Am in joburg and I will be home tomorrow, I will start in Mthatha and pick up the sisters before driving down there.

Nkosibuthe: Good But hurry I want to see my woman.

Bukhosi: WOW I didn't know we have a new mother already.

Nkosibuthe: Nobukhosi is not your mother yet until I make an honest woman out of her if she would let me.

Bukhosi: Okay so the reason you want the sisters there is to see if they like her or not before you make your move.

Nkosibuthe: Yes! God you know how dramatic Ncebakazi can be, I can imagine what she will say to the poor woman if she doesn't like her.

Bukhosi: Father you have to understand one thing, my sister are grown women who will soon leave home to build their own with their husbands, you can't put your life on hold like this and besides you not getting younger.

Nkosibuthe: Futsek Bukhosi! Who said am old?

Bukhosi: Haha well you did Father me, Ncebakazi and Zodwa so add their ages and you will get how old you are.

Nkosibuthe: Boy did you see my abs? This body is that of a young man.

Bukhosi: Wow dad so we comparing bodies now and abs (Nkosibuthe on the other end was smiling like a retard because it is the first time Bukhosi called him dad, it's always father to him and being formal)

Nkosibuthe: Well boy! I told you to hit the gym, look at you now being out-staged by your old man and even my woman is hot.

Bukhosi: Hahah where did you hear what you saying? And what do you know about hot?

Nkosibuthe: You think living with two girls in the house that go crazy over guys on tv is a joke I see.

Bukhosi: Well my woman is hotter than yours and is younger just like me.

Nkosibuthe: As it should be but mine is a hot middle aged virgin boy! Take that haha.

Bukhosi: Mine is pure too dad so we even.

Nkosibuthe: Haha just get my kids and come home.

Bukhosi: WOW your kids huh? So what am I Then?

Nkosibuthe: A king! (he said and dropped the call before he could answer)

Bukhosi: WOW this old man is going to give me grey hair! What am I even saying his already giving grey hair. (he said smiling looking at his phone)

He went back inside and Ivonisia had already claimed the kitchen, the aroma that came from there made Bukhosi remember that he didn't eat anything for the past two days since he was traveling (I need to get myself a wife now) he thought to himself.

Bukhosi: Smells Good in here

Ivy: Well the food is almost ready, this my way of saying thank you for getting us out of there.

Bukhosi: No need to thank me, you husband and I work very well together.

Ivy: Well thank you anyway and Val loves her room. She says it's much better and bigger than the room she had back home in Colombia. Am not talking about the playroom, I couldn't get her out of there.

Bukhosi: Am glad you both like the house, you have a driver that will drive you around and a job at my restaurant as a chef. They are expecting you on Monday so since today is Friday you can rest and go shopping over the weekend for everything you might need.

Ivy: Thank you so much, I really missed working. Those men ruined everything when they took us from our home.

Bukhosi: Don't worry, everything is alright now, you and Val will get your life back and one day you want to go back to Colombia that can be arranged too.

Ivy: Colombia is no longer home for me anymore and I know it's no longer home to Val as well. My daughter suffered a lot back there and am even surprised she is still as bubbly as she always has been.

Bukhosi: She is a child she will adjust.

Ivy: Get the security guy and the one we drove here with so that we can have some lunch.

Bukhosi: Yes mam.

He went out and called Jacob and the other security guy as well as the one who is a gardener. They all went in and Val and Ivy were already at the table, Ivy Bless's the food and they ate.

Jacob: Boss can we have her as a chef at home instead of the restaurant?

Bukhosi: You crazy! You want to eat good food everyday?

Jacob: There is no harm in that.

Bukhosi: Get a wife Jacob (they laughed and continued eating)

After the meal Jacob and Bukhosi said their goodbyes and left going to the airport so that Bukhosi can go back home. Jacob dropped him off and he was off to Mthatha. When he got there one of his guys was already waiting to drive him home. They drove home and when he got there Ncebakazi was on her way out with Luxolo.

Bukhosi: Hey sis (they hugged)

Ncebakazi; Hey bro, I going out and welcome back mama will be happy to see you.

Bukhosi; Luxolo can you take a rain check on this one? We are needed at home and I just came here to pick them up.

Luxolo: Not a problem bro, I will see you when you come back Okay.

Ncebakazi: Okay Babe, talk about dressing up for nothing.

Bukhosi: Sorry sis but we really need to go.

Ncebakazi: Fine go tell Zodwa and mama so long while I say my goodbyes.

Bukhosi: Sure

Bukhosi went into the house and Nosakhele and Zodwa were eating dinner.

Bukhosi: Good evening family

Nosakhele: Evening Bukhosi, how are you child? I hardly see you.

Bukhosi: Am fine mama I have just been busy, but today we are going to Matatiele together.

Zodwa: How Nice now am going to come back to an empty house after work.

Bukhosi; Oh no sister we are all going, My lobola

negotiations start tomorrow and we all have to be there.

Zodwa: Oh well I can't wait, am going to pack for the both of us mama.

Nosakhele: Go child.

Zodwa went to pack a bag for herself and Nosakhele. Ncebakazi came in and helped her with the packing and when they were done Bukhosi took a shower and they left. All roads heading to Matatiele.

Encoko village

The chief Mqwathi and his wife Nokonwaba were having their supper when the chief priest came in.

Chief: Phakama Mqwathi konakele (get up Mqwathi we have trouble)

Mqwathi: What is it Chief?

Chief: Will you stop asking questions and come with

me (Mqwathi stood up and followed the chief priest, Nokonwaba did the same thing) they got outside and went towards the gate and looked down hill.

Chief: Look at that (he said showing him Asithandile's home)

Nokonwaba: Oh my God is Asithandile back home?

Chief: No my dear queen, that what you see there is the light of a sprit ghost. You are running out of time Mqwathi.

Mqwathi: Who's spirit ghost could that be?

Chief: The one and only mother of the princess of this village. She is back and what she is doing is demanding attention because everyone can her that light.

Mqwathi: That will alarm the villagers and it will cause panic.

Chief: Exactly!

Mqwathi: We have to do a ritual here to try and reason with her or else that won't stop and am afraid more will come if she is not pleased with what we do.

Mqwathi: Can't we just do it at her home?

Chief: Are you ready to tell the people what you have done? Because that is what she wants.

Mqwathi looked down in embarrassment.

Chief: I thought as much.

He said and left them standing there, at Asithandle's home and light was moving around as if someone was busy in and out the house. No one could ready see anything but the light that kept moving in and out of the house.

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I hope this is a bit longer.

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Insert 69

Matatiele (not edited)

The royal family arrived in Matatiele late in the evening and the king Nkosibuthe was waiting for but as usual the moment the prince set foot in the palace he changed into the beast ghost and ran out to the royal burial site leaving his siblings and mother fainting being and the king trying to revive them. The way he damaged the car was beyond the other times he done it, which is the reason why his siblings and mother fainted as they were too shocked to comprehend what had happened. The king Nkosibuthe asked the guards to get them into the palace so that they can be taken care of. Even the guards had already taken cover because they knew the prince and how he behaves when he arrives at the palace. The king had to shout calling for them to come and assist with the royal family. They were taken inside the palace and the maidens went and looked after them until they are okay. Bukhosi base Nkomanzi was at the burial site but today was

different, he was not sitting on top of his grand father's grave this time but at the top of the gate of the burial site. The weather started to change at the kingdom and now thunder was rumbling like an upset stomach in the sky, showing that rain is about to fall any moment now. The king went outside to check what is going on because the weather had been okay until they got there. When he looked up in the sky what he saw he wasn't ready for, he went back to the house and started pacing up and down and sweating like his been in a steam room. The guards came running to the palace and baligilangesifuba ucanga xa bengena (the guards went running to the palace opening the door with their chests as if they were being chased by someone or something) the king looked at them waiting for them to say something but they were sweating as much as he was, they couldn't talk and say what the problem is but one could see in their faces that what they have seen is something that scared them half to death.

Nkosibuthe: Are you going to just stand there or are

you going to talk? (he said with a stern voice, with his handkerchief in hand that was soaking wet with his sweat)

Guard: My king explaining it will not give you a clear explanation so I think you should go outside and see for yourself what is out there. (the king knew right there and then that they have seen the same thing that he has and he was not willing to go and look the second time)

At the burial site Power was out to play but he wasn't alone, as he was standing by the gate of the burial site his grand father was beside him. The other fallen royals were waking up from their graves but little did they know that every person that died in the kingdom around the times the kings and queens died also woke up. The palace looked like the graveyard, in the kingdom it was like they were celebrating the day of the death as they all rose around the same time. The royals were still wearing the royal attires that they were buried with as the Xhosa people say that a king wears isinxiba mxhaka

meaning the royal attires.

Back at the palace Nosakhele, Mcebakazi and Zodwa woke up, they felt like they were dreaming. They heard voices coming from downstairs and they made their way to where everyone was. All the guards, the maidens, the kitchen workers and the gardeners were all in the palace looked like they have just seen a ghost. They assumed that they also saw what happened when they arrived that is why they were scared.

Nosakhele: Iphi inkosi! (Where is the king? No one answered) ndithe uphi uNkosibuthe! Okanye nizizimumi (I said asked where Nkosibuthe is! Or you are mute)

Nkosibuthe: Am here mah come this way(he lead them to one of the rooms in the palace)

Nosakhele: Kwenzeka ntoni apha Nkosibuthe?
(what is happening here Nkosibuthe?)

Nkosibuthe: Mah I really don't know, what I do know is that every time Bukhosi comes here he does that which is why he always comes back home with a

different car.

Nosakhele: Utheni umntanam? Ubulewe? (what is wrong with my child? Is he possessed?)

Nkosibuthe: Well Yes i mean no

Nosakhele: Which one is it?

Nkosibuthe: It's complicated mah.

Ncebakazi: Tata sinobusuku bonke, sixelele kwenzeka ntoni? (father we have the whole night, tell us what is going on?)

Nkosibuthe: Me explaining one thing is not going to help, go look outside and tell me if you still want to talk about this minor thing you saw.

Zodwa: How can you say minor father when our brother turned into an animal right in front of us?

Nkosibuthe: Go and look outside then you can ask questions if you still can (Nosakhele, Ncebakazi and Zodwa went to the lounge and straight to the front door but when they were about to open the people inside the palace moved further into the palace and away from the door)

Nosakhele: Yomihlola kodwa le! Kanti kwenzekani apha? (wonder shall never end! What is going on out there?)

Ncebakazi: Let me open mah so that we can see (she opened the door and the lights outside the palace were bright and showing exactly what was going on) they froze looking at all the ghosts that were moving around the palace others going to the side of the kraal. Ncebakazi slowly closed the door with her eye popping out of their sockets. They all moved to the room they were in with their father, he looked at them and saw their shock.

Nosakhele: Bubuqwirha bantoni obu usibizele bona apha Nkosibuthe? (what witchcraft is this that you called us here for Nkosibuthe?)

Nkosibuthe: Mah this has never happened in this kingdom and the only person with the answers here is Bukhosi and when he decides to come back we will ask him. Right now am as in the dark as all of you are. The people I see out there are the people

that raised me, some died the same time as father some the same time as my grand parents and some I don't know.

Zodwa: So where does our brother go to when he turns into that... I don't know what that is?

Nkosibuthe: To the royal grave site....oh gods on Nkomanzi!

Ncebakazi: What is it Father?

Nkosibuthe: If these people are here then what might be going on in the burial site?

Ncebakazi: Inene kuzothiwa siyathakatha kaloku xakunje! Idibana phi no Bukhosi lento? (truly people will say we practice witchcraft when things are like this! What does this have to do with Bukhosi?)

Before Nkosibuthe can answer they hear a noise outside and when they went to the lounge every one that was in the lounge were outside and they also went and what they saw was worse than what they saw before.

Royal poet that past away a long time ago:

Camagu Camagu!

Ndiyacamagusha ndiyanqula ndiyangxengxeza,
ziqbile zaqalekisa izinyanya zase Nkomanzi! Ilifu
elimnyama lingxathile phezukomzi wase Nkomanzi!

Zabhoz'intaba zikabholokodlela! Yathokombisa
intaba kandoda! Wadudujambase! Yalal'inkomo
isengwa!

Umqolo uphandle madoda! Zayaphi'ininkomo
Zeziponda! Ayaphi amakhehla namkhehlelele!
Zayaphi izidweshane nezidwangube! Zayaph'inkonde
nenkondekazi! Zayaphi izisele zenyathi sibuze
kwabaphambili! Inyathi ibuzwa kwabaphambile
kaloku madoda! Yabhangane inkcubeko sijongile Bantu
bade Nkomanzi! Zovukile ikumkani nejumkanikazi
zizovakatshela Nina! Kodwa ziyabaleka izizukwana
zase Nkomanzi kwenzenjani na!!

Iyhooo!!

The royal poet was asking in front of Bukhosi and the fallen royal members walking behind him. Bukhosi was leading like a true king holding a spear and shield. The guards and the maidens were now humiliating walking up and down the entire palace but also scared to get any closer but the song that the fallen were singing couldn't allow them to stand still. Nosakhele and the princesses were still shocked by what they see. Nkosibuthe was in tears because what he was seeing was his father, his mother, his grandparents and all the other relatives. The sadness in his eye could not be missed. He wished this was just a dream that he will soon wake up from but no it was real. His father kept looking at him as his mother was as humble as ever with a beautiful smile next to the king. They weren't skeletons anymore but the people they knew them to be, but to Nkosibuthe it was torture. He knew it will come to an end any minute now and he will be left with the emptiness he felt when they left him all alone to fend for himself.

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Insert 70

Matatiele (not edited)

The royals were lead to the back by the kraal of Nkomanzi, the men sat in bunk chairs while the women sat on grass mats. Bukhosi sat next to his grand father while his siblings and father stood before them. Nkosibuthe and his father made eyes contact and his father saw the pain in his sons eyes. His mother saw that too and it broke her heart to see him like that, she wanted nothing more than to get upset and run to him and give him the biggest hug and tell him that everything will be alright. The chief priest was there, now the chief priest is another one

that has unscrupulous tendencies of just appearing out of nowhere and disappear into thin air. One minute you see him and the next you don't, like a magician but he was no magician but the eyes and ears of the gods of Nkomanzi.

Bukhosi: My people I know that many of you are wondering what is going on here, in fact you are asking what witchcraft is this. But let me assure you that this is not witchcraft, the royals are here for a reason and they are going to state those reasons, all I ask is that you all keep calm and not be alarmed. (he sat down and the king stood up and by this time some people from the kingdom were already at the palace as they saw what was happening and the ghosts going to the palace.)

King: My people, well you are not my people anymore but I hope that you will allow me to call you my people one last time. I know this is unusual in fact it is unheard of, not in this kingdom or any other for that matter but here we are. Nkosibuthe my son, we are here for you (Nkosibuthe's eyes popped out of its

sockets) don't be shocked son, when I was brutally murdered, you didn't get the chance to lead these people because you no longer had a place in your own home. Yes we are the ones who hid your son so that you wouldn't find him until the time was right for you two to meet ukwenzela kuzozaliseka idinga (so that the purpose can be served). We are here today to officially crown you the king because we know that no one would have done that because we have no uncles left anymore, you have no one anymore, it's literally just you and your children. Namhlanje sivukile isizwe sase Nkomanzi sizothwasa inkosi yaso. Size ngawe apha Khwalo, nguwe usingaye namhlanje. (today the clan of Nkomanzi and we came here to crown their king. We can here because of you Mkhwalo, you are the reason we are here today)

The king sat down and the queen stood up and spoke as well.

Queen: My prince, I left this world while you were still young, you were practically raised by nannies

because your mother wasn't there, but today I want you to know that we have always been there with you in all the decisions you made, every deal you closed and in every heartache you experienced, we were there with you. Today we are here because we pleased with the most powerful of them all, the one who gives life to grant us the opportunity to be here today and officially crown you king the right way, with your parents and children by your side. Don't cry Nkosi we are here now Khwalo. (she sat down and the chief priest stood up) he started by talking first.

Chief: The force of habit almost got to me as I was about to burn incense to talk to the gods forgetting that today is a special day where are forefathers visited us only to crown the rightful king of Nkomanzi. I will not be the one to crown the king but his great great grandfather king Nkosivumile (the people started humiliating because all of them there only heard about the late king from stories they were told by their elders but have never seen him and now seeing him was so surreal to them all) The king stood up and went to stand by his grandson and

squeezed his shoulder a little.

Grandpa: I am the reason we are here today because I couldn't rest knowing how we left you, how we left this kingdom and now we are here to put it in the hands of the rightful king. (he took a crown they came with and placed it on Nkosibuthe's head, his father came with what the Xhosa people call umthika the beads worn by the kings and he put it on Nkosibuthe. Then his mother came with traditional royal bracelets and put them on his hands.

Grandpa: People of Nkomanzi! I now give you the true king of Nkomanzi the one who will lead you and protect you and this kingdom. He won't be alone in leading you as he will have all of us behind him supporting him and leading this kingdom with him. (the poet stood up and started praising the new king)

Poet: Hoyina! Hoyina! Phakamani madoda
nibeth'intonga! Phakamazi zimazi zase Nkomanzi
niyiyizele! Ithwesiwe ikumkani yenu namhlanje!
Namhlanje umzi wase Nkomanzi usikelelwe! Vuyani

ngoba niyazi ikuba eyenu ikumkani ikhethwe
ngabaphantsi! Phakamani zintombi nisine!
Phakamani bafana nibeth'intonga! Ifikile ikumkani
yase Nkomanzi madoda zilingiseleleni! Magqeirha
dlalelani kude ngoba nakudobana nezinyanya xa
ninokuzama! Jonga phambili kumkani ukhokele
izizwe sakho! Ndengcingcili iyhooo!!!

Nkosibuthe's father stood up once again and hushed the people who were uncontrollable, they couldn't hold their excitement, some where hululilating while the men were whistling. The people had forgotten about how scared they were when this happens and now they have replaced the fear with excitement. They eventually kept quiet and the king spoke.

King: The crown you have on your head will only be passed on to your son our prince when the time is right. You will crown him yourself and witness the same proud moment I have while crowning you. You will not wait till your dead for you to step down and hand over the crown, I know it might seem unfair of us to tell you to give it away while you still live but

that is how it should be. Do you not want to say a few words before we leave my king?

Nkosibuthe came forward, he was a crying mess, his grand father was by his side as well as his mother and Bukhosi. The daughter's stood at a safe distance as they were still afraid of what was going on.

Nkosibuthe: My people! (the crowd went quiet and bowed their heads, young men were down on one knee bowing their heads, The young maidens were bowing from waist down, the elders only bowed their heads as a sign of respect for the king.)

Nkosibuthe: As you were! (the people raised up and looked forward still quiet) it is with great honor to be standing before you today as your crowned king. I know most of you already called me king but now I won't feel guilty every time someone calls me that because I would truly be a king. I would like to thank all of you people of Nkomanzi for seeing me fit to be your king and to my elders for doing whatever they did just so they can crown me themselves. I truly am blessed as am the only one in the history of Kong's

who was crown literally by his ancestors and that to me is more than a great honor or privilege it is something words can't describe. My son Bukhosi base Nkomanzi I know you had a lot to do with this and am grateful. Today you have done for me something I never thought I would ever experience. I was now only waiting for you to be crowned king of Nkomanzi as you are and always will be above me in everything. I might have given birth to you but you were never mine but the son of the gods. You are a god in human form and if anyone still disputes that then they are blind and deaf. I want you to lead by my side as my right hand for now until your time comes. Ndehlile (I will step down now) he moved back and people started praising him and saying his clan names...

Stay tuned as the story continues

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Insert 71

Matatiele (not edited)

At Iminathi's home the neighbors were there early in the morning helping the family with cooking for the guests that were coming. Traditional beer was made for the people that were going to be there, a sheet was slaughtered for fresh meat for everyone, Sami was cooked and now they were busy with making salads and all the other stuff. Iminathi was fully recovered from the illness, well not illness per se but she recovered even though her weight is still not as it used to be. Her mother got her a dress made for the day and herself and her mother. Beautiful traditional dresses, her uncles on her mother's side were there to head the lobola negotiations. The Nkomanzi royals were already outside calling and reciting the clan names of Iminathi's people. It has been over an hour and they are still out there calling,

the uncles are busy talking right outside the house busy enjoying African beer.

Iminathi: Mama kudala bo ababantu bame phandle masingalibali ukuba ngabantu basebukhosini abanibenza lento (mother it's been a while now those people standing outside, don't forget that these people are royal that you doing this to)

Grandma: My child, don't forget that you are a queen in this house yourself. Those people out there are not going to be tired of standing there. They are not just here for anyone but their queen, they will learn to respect you and your family. Just because they are royalty doesn't mean they will get you on a silver plater without working hard to get you.

Bulelwa: Mothet is right nana, I may not be happy about you leaving us but am happy knowing that you are going to get married into a good family like this one. You are truly bless my queen.

Iminathi: Haaa! Mama andikatshati notshata nje sewundibiza ngekumkanikazi (hah mother! Am not even married yet you call me a queen)

Grandma: You have to get used to it now child because not only the maidens in the palace will call you queen but the whole of Nkomanzi will bow at your feet.

Iminathi: You know I haven't thought about all this, but now that you mention it am scared.

Bulelwa: Woyikantoni? (what are you scared of?)

Iminathi: Failing the Royal family, the people of Nkomanzi, you my family and the prince.

Grandma: How you are feeling right now is exactly how you should be feeling so that when you get there you don't do things that will embarrass you and your people. As for us, it doesn't matter what you do you will never fail us because you are family and we love you.

Iminathi: Enkosi mama (thank you mother)

Outside the uncles financially opened the gate for the royal family, the king himself Nkosibuthe was heading the negotiations for his son, accompanied

by the chief priest and one of his trusted men in his council. The gate was opened and the royal wanted to go in but the uncles closed it again.

Uncle: Masingazodelelwa madoda nani niyayazi ukuba awungeni nje emzini womntu ungakqokqozanga (don't be disrespectful men, you also know that you can't go into someone's house without knocking) the chief priest took out money and put it on the floor on the gate, one of the uncles took it and count it then looked at the others and they nodded. The uncle opened the gate and the royal family went inside and they were lead to the kraal first as per their culture then moved to the house that was prepared for them.

Uncle: Natsi ibhekile madoda khake nothobe unxano noko kushushu. (here is some traditional beer men drink it's hot outside) the royal men took the calabash with traditional beer and started drinking.

Nkosibuthe: Madoda ixesha lihambile masinge emxholweni sizokwazi uqabelisa lomcimbi (men time has gone, let's get on to it so that we can get this done)

Uncle: Akhonto izothethwa apha nababantu (there is nothing to be discussed here with these people! Said a uncle that was standing at the door coming in, followed by four others behind)

Uncle: Mzuvukile nibekwa yintoni apha? (Mzuvukile what are you doing here?asked the uncle)

Mzuvukile: Njani usibuze lonto kodwa uyayazi ukuba lomntana kuthethwa ngaye apha ngowethu? (how can you ask me that when you know that the child you are talking about here is our?)

Nkosibuthe: Sicelwa ucaciselwa madoda thina singabahambi asazinto (explain to us men we are visitors and we know nothing)

Mzuvukile: Kumkani lomntana nizengaye apha ngowethu, ngwhlobo lokuba ngumntana wonyana wethu kwaye akoti umfumene esengumfazi wase Maphingeni noba nje ebesele elapha kowabo nje. Umakoti walotyolwa wagqitywa, watyiswa utsiki waziswa kwizinyanya zaseMaoingeni, oMawawa, oBholokoqoshe, oNtomtwana. Ngokwesiko umntwana ngowethu indaba edibanisa yena imelwa

ngoMpinga hayi ODikela. (My king the child that you came here for is ours, because she is the daughter of our son and our daughter in law got her while still married to our son even though she was here by that time. Our daughter in laws bride price was paid in full, her rights as our wife were performed and she was introduced to the ancestors. So by tradition the child is ours and everything to do with her will be handled by us not the Dikela clan)

Nkosibuthe: So How Do we move on from this?

Uncle: Makibizwe uBulelwa sive kuye (let's call Bulelwa and hear from her)

Mzuvukile: Igama lakhe ngu Nokuthula hayi u Bulelwa (her name is Nokuthula not Bulelwa)

Uncle: Mzuvukile ngathi uzawundidika, Mandla!
Mandla! (Mzuvukile you are starting to annoy me!
Mandla! Mandla! He called for a young men and he came running)

Mandla: Malume (uncle)

Uncle: Habhobiza unyokolume pha khawuleza (go call your aunt there! Hurry. Mandla ran to the other house like the kids in the rural areas who lived their grandmothers who would spit on the ground when they send them somewhere and tell them to come back before the spit dries up) He go to the house and called for his aunt who came from the room.

Bulelwa: Yintoni Mandla indikhwaza kangaka? (what is it Mandla that you called me like that?)

Mandla: Am sorry aunt but I was told to hurry, uncle is asking for you in the other house.

Bulelwa: Do they want me to come with Iminathi already?

Mandla: No aunt he only asked to see you.

Bulelwa: Okay masambe (okay let's go)

Grandma: Yintoni Bulelwa? (what is it Bulelwa?)

Bulelwa: Andiyazi nam ndizova pha (I don't know myself I will hear when I get there. She left going to the other house and the moment her eyes met with her in laws her face changed) he took a grass mat

and sat on the floor in the middle of the room.

Uncle: Child we called you here to resolve something for us.

Bulelwa: What is it uncle?

Uncle: Who is supposed to be here heading the negotiations of your daughter?

Uncle: You are uncle.

Mzuvukile: No my dear daughter in law, the child is ours and it our responsibility as her family to head these negotiations no one else. Remember you are still the daughter in law of amaMpinga and wife to Zuko.

Bulelwa: With all due respect uncle Mzuvukile, when did you realize that Iminathi was yours? When did you people realize that I am your daughter in law because the last time I checked none of you wanted me in your family because you all said I was barren. You let your son live in our marital home with his girlfriend and today because Iminathi is getting married and there is money involved you want to come and make demands?

Mzuvukile: We are not here to resolve issues between our son and you. If you want answers to that question go ask your husband his outside in the car. What we came here for is to head the negotiations of our daughter as per tradition.

Bulelwa: Am sorry but that will not happen.

Mzuvukile: It's either that or there will be no negotiations here today.

Nkosibuthe: This is difficult and we don't need to hear any of it as we visitors not members of the family. We will excuse ourselves so that you can resolve the matter and when you are ready let us know and we will come back.

Mzuvukile: Is that what you want Nokuthula?

Bulelwa: My name is not Nokuthula but Bulelwa, I stopped being Nokuthula the day you let another woman come live in my house.

Mzuvukile: I said to you if you have questions go and ask your husband outside in the car not us because

we are not here for that.

Nkosibuthe: We will take our leave now, when you people are ready let us know, let's go (the chief priest and his men went out the house into their cars and left)

Bulelwa stood up and went to the house, she was fuming with anger she was even shaking.

Grandma: What it Bulelwa?

Bulelwa: The royal family had left

Iminathi: What? (she said coming in)

Bulelwa: Am sorry my child I didn't mean for this to happen am really sorry (she was now crying)

Grandma: What have you done Bulelwa?

Bulelwa: Nothing Mother But your in laws ruined my daughters day.

Grandma: The royal family wouldn't do that!

Iminathi: I told you leaving them out there for too long is going to make them angry, now they have left,

what will happen if I wake up blind again?

Bulelwa: Let me explain, the royal family didn't leave because of that, they left because your father and his uncles are here demanding to head the negotiations and I refused.

Iminathi: My Father is here? He knows where I live yet I have never met him not even once while growing up?

Bulelwa: Your father knows everything about you my child, I never hid anything about you from him but he chose to stay away.

Iminathi: No need to feel bad! Now it's time to talk and stand up for myself! I am going to that man who calls himself my father (she got out of the house going to the gate)

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#loveasmin

Insert 72

Matatiele (not edited)

Iminathi got to the gate and there was only one car outside the gate and indeed the royal family had left and the people on the yard who came to help out were already gossiping about her and her family. They were saying that her family is cursed to lose such an opportunity of marrying their daughter into the most powerful family in Matatiele, not just any family but a royal family. She heard some of the women talking Because some of them didnt even care who heard them. She got out of the gate the woman inside the car was looking at his phone and he kept smiling alone as if he just received an amazing message. She knocked on the window and he opened the door instead and got out of the car, he looked at his daughter and saw his mother in her and for the first time he felt something inside

himself. He has children at home but none of them look like him or any of his family members, the two of them look like their mother and their mothers family.

Father: Nantsi intombi yaseMampingeni! Nanku umama! Oh Magaba ndikuzele mama. Oh mntanam (here is a Mpinga girl! Here is my mother! Oh Magaba I gave birth to you mother. Oh my child!)

Iminathi: Ingathi uyahabadela mntomdala mhlawumbe uyandifanisa andazi (you are going too far old man? Maybe you mistaking me with someone!

Father: Are you not Iminathi the daughter of Nokuthula or Bulelwa?

Iminathi: Oh that is me alright but am not your child! You don't know me and you cannot come here and claim me as if you know me and where did you hear about the negotiations?

Father: People talk my child and we heard. Look I didn't come here to ruin things for you, we just came here to try and salvage the relationship we once had

with your family and maybe build a relationship with you if you let us.

Iminathi: Why now? Why after so long? Why after my mother and grandmother suffered so long raising me on their own while you are alive and well? Why?

Father: Because only now did I realize my mistake, please give me a chance to be a father to you.

Iminathi: How are you going to be a father to someone who is getting married? That is I will get married at this rate because you ruined my day.

Father: It's never too late to be a father to your children and I didn't come here to ruin your day but to show people that you have a family too.

Iminathi: People here know that I have a family and if you doing this for the people then go do it somewhere else because you are not needed here and by tomorrow I want my in laws here so that I can get married and as for you! Take you dirty uncles out of my mothers house.

Father: You will not get married without me Iminathi and the royal knows that, so you might as well let me

do what I came here to do so that this can be over and done with.

Iminathi: We will we about that Zuko (she walked away but he called after her)

Zuko: Am still your father!

Iminathi got into the house fuming with anger, she couldn't even contain herself, she was not the calm Iminathi they knew right there standing before them was a queen! Someone who stands up for herself someone who leads and not follow.

Bulelwa: What did he say?

Iminathi; That this wedding will not happen without him and that the royal family knows and respects tradition.

Bulelwa: Yabona uZuko ulingene mna ke ngoku (you see Zuko will see me this time) she went out the house the neighbors were now standing by the house where the uncles were and judging by the loud voices they were arguing. Some of the people

were by the gate looking at this man they have never seen claiming to be the father of Iminathi. Bulelwa got to the car and Zuko was standing outside smoking a cigarette.

Zuko: My love! The mother of my one and only child!

Bulelwa: You left your children back home as well as your love! Here you have nothing.

Zuko: I never married Nokwanda and those children are not mine.

Bulelwa: How did you come to that conclusion?

Zuko: I saw my child just now and she looks nothing like those things that woman brought me. She is a true Mpinga, uMawawa! Iyambona nawe lomntana ufuze umama (you can also see this child looks exactly like my mother)

Bulelwa: That woman may her souls Rest In Peace is the only one who loved me in that house and she loved me till her death. But you betrayed me in the worst way possible! Now I want to know what you want from here and don't think of lies because I know you very well.

Zuko: I want my share of the lobola money! I want a relationship with my child and I want to be recognized as the father of the queen when she get married.

Bulelwa: So all you want is money and status and the relationship you want with Iminathi is so that you can be known and respected.

Zuko: You know me too well, how did I let you go to begin with?

Bulelwa: Okay you will get what you want just let this be over without any drama, can you handle that?

Zuko: Of course but I want to see my daughter.

Bulelwa: I will talk to her (she left him there and went to the house,)

Bulelwa: If you think you will get what you want you must be mistaken Zuko. You treated me badly long enough and it stops here! You did what you wanted with me but not my daughter! Not while and still alive!) she got to the house and they were looking at her expectantly.

Bulelwa: He wants a share of the lobola money, he wants to be recognized as the queens father and he wants to talk to you Iminathi.

Grandma: That will never happen! Those people have disrespected us enough, no more!

Iminathi: Tell him I will meet him tonight, he must pick me up.

Bulelwa: Iminathi! (she said in a reprimanding voice)

Iminathi: I have spoken!

Grandma: It shall be done!

Bulelwa: Mother!

Grandma; Let her get the closure she needs Bulelwa that man owes her that much. We can't stop her from getting that.

Bulelwa: Fine But am going with you!

Iminathi: No mother! I must do this alone.

Bulelwa: That will not happen, I don't know what that man is capable of because I haven't seen him for the past 23 years.

Iminathi: I need to do this on my own mother.

Grandma: Let her be my dear.

Bulelwa: Fine! But I don't like this one bit.

She left and went and told Zuko that Iminathj will meet with him and she went back to the house and into her room. Mzuvukile and her father left but promised to come back later on. The uncles called the grandmother to find out the way forward from this.

Uncle: Sister we tried but you know how stubborn Mzuvukile is.

Grandma: Sadly I know how that man is and right now our only hope is for Imani to settle this when they meet in the evening.

Uncle: Let's hope it goes well. The grandmother and the neighbors fished out for the uncles and themselves.

Neighbor: Kuzothiwani kengoku? (what will happen now?)

Neighbor: Yhoo anganya kum sana ndingambonisa amaqhekeza engqe! (Yhoo! He would shit himself with me, I would show him what am made of?)

Grandma: You just like talking but if the situation was reversed you would be singing a different song now.

The neighbors and the grandmother with the help of Iminathi cleaning and packed everything in it's rightful place and the neighbors left going to their houses as the sun had already set. Just as they were relaxing in the lounge there was hooter and Iminathi knew that her father was there. She went to her room and changed, she wore black jeans, a T-shirt, pumps and a hoodie as it was now a bit chilly. She got out of the room and her grandma called her to sit for a minute.

Grandma: Take your phone with you but hide it so that he doesn't see it and call us if anything happens.

Iminathi: I will grandma

Grandma: Be careful child, I know his your father but

his intentions are not that of a father so please be careful.

Iminathi: I will grandma I promise.

She got out of the house going to the car that was standing outside her gate. She got in and kept quiet.

Zuko: Where would you like to go?

Iminathi: Anywhere But here, I don't want the neighbors gossiping about me being here, they already had enough news for today.

Zuko: I know just the place (he started the car and drove to a place that overlooked the mountains giving a beautiful view. The place was far from Iminathi's home but not far from the palace. He stopped the car and got out and so did Iminathi)

Iminathi: Talk! What do you want?

Zuko: As I said I want my share of the lobola money and to be recognized as your father and that is not too much to ask.

Iminathi: What are you going to do with the money?

And why do you want it?

Zuko: I am paying myself for all the years I took care of your mother.

Iminathi: Don't you think she paid all of that when she stood for your nonsense all those years ago? Don't you think she paid that debt when she raised me alone and sent me to school?

Zuko: She was doing what any good mother would do, it had nothing to do with me but you and her.

Iminathi: You are such a sorry excuse of a man! In fact you don't deserve to be called a father!

Zuko: I am still your father and you will respect me! Do you understand?

Iminathi: Respect is earned not given! And you are not and never will be my father! You are just greedy and selfish.

Zuko: I will show you greedy and selfish (he went closer to her and slapped her so hard her cheek was numb and she was seeing stars)

Iminathi: You just proved once again that you are not

a man! You hit your own child and woman at that!
What kind of animal are you?

Zuko: I am not an animal!! (he banged the bonnet of the car with his fists)

Iminathi; You just proven that you are worse than an animal! (she didn't finish as he threw a punch at her landing her on the ground)

Zuko: You want an animal? You will get an animal!
Just because you were raise by women doesn't give you the right to talk like that to me. I made you child!

Iminathi: You made who? You were just a sperm donor nothing more! (she was on her feet now but that was not for long as she landed back there she her father threw another punch at her right in nose landing her on the ground with blood flowing uncontrollably from her nose)

While she was trying to get up she balanced with a rock and she picked it up and felt its weight and took it. As Zuko came to her picking her up by her clothing she turned and hit him with that rock landing him on the ground and she went to him with

the rock in hand as he was still on the ground. She got her repeatedly with the rock and after a while she threw it away and looked at him only to realize what she has done and how her father was not moving anymore.

She panicked and looked at her hands and they were full of blood but she wasn't sure who's blood it was because she also had cuts on her hands from the falling and balancing with them and also from the rock. She thought of her phone and took it out, she dialed her mother but then thought about how she will get there as they don't have a car. She stopped and looked for the prince's number and called him, he picked up after the third ring.

Convo:

Bukhosi: My queen what can I do for you?

Iminathi: I need your help and right up the hill from the palace.

Bukhosi: What is wrong? And why are you crying?
(by this time he was already wearing his shoes and

heading to the door)

Iminathi: Something bad happened and I can't talk about it please come.

Bukhosi: I am on my way don't hang up talk to me until I get there Okay! (right now he was opening the care and driving off as they continued to talk but what she was saying didn't make sense to him)

10 minutes later he was parking next to the car he saw there and got out in a hurry but stopped on his tracks when he saw Iminathi sitting next to a body of a man.

Bukhosi: What happened here?

Iminathi: He... I didn't mean to

Bukhosi: Who is this?

Iminathi: The man who fathered me

Bukhosi: Did he do that you your face?

Iminathi: Yes and got hold of a rock and hit him with it but I didn't kill him.

Bukhosi; His dead

Iminathi: No I didn't kill him!

Bukhosi: Uyaxoka umbulele kumkanikazi.

Iminathi: I didn't mean to! (she buried her face in her hands and cried)

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Insert 73

Matatiele (not edited)

Iminathi was devastated by what happened to her father, all she wanted was to reason with him but he had to turn into an animal and beat her up. She didn't mean to kill him she was just defending herself for

once in her life and that didn't turn out well. She was in Bukhosi's arms not even thinking about what he thought or if he would still want to marry her. All that was in her mind now was the fact that she murdered the man that gathered her, a man that gave her a chance to be in their world. No matter what kind of a person he was she never wanted to kill him but it's done now.

Bukhosi: How Do you want to handle this?

Iminathi: What do you mean?

Bukhosi: I mean there are two ways of dealing with it, 1 is for you to tell the truth? Go to jail and trial and the second one is for my to make it disappear.

Iminathi: Isn't there another way? I mean I know he has children and another woman that will want closure and am sure my mother is one of the people that would want that very same closure.

Bukhosi: Well there is a way and that way is for you not to be here, did anyone see you leave with him?

Iminathi: Only my mother and grandmother know that I left with him.

Bukhosi: Okay this is what you are going to tell them, that you went with him and when you got to the stop here you asked him to drop you off and called me to pick you up.

Iminathi: But the bruises on my face

Bukhosi: Don't worry about those I will get you something in the palace and you will wake up like nothing had happened.

Iminathi: My blood there what about it? Oh God Am going to jail.

Bukhosi: No you not, I will get this sorted trust me.

Iminathi: Okay And Thank you.

Bukhosi: Lets get you to the palace so that I can sort this out.

Bukhosi drove to the palace and used the back of it to sneak Iminathi in, then went to the spare room and let her in. He told her to shower and went to Zodwa and asked her for a dress for Iminathi to change in. He knocked on her door and she opened.

Zodwa: Brother at this time of night?

Bukhosi: I need your help sis, well the thing is a tool Iminathi to the river and she slipped and fell into the mud and now her clothes are dirty.

Zodwa: Why would you take her to the river?

Bukhosi: Well I wanted her to distress a bit after what happened today and to assure her that everything will be alright.

Zodwa: Where is she now o want to see her?

Bukhosi: She is showering in the guest room but please see her in the morning because she didn't want to come here but I promised her no one will see her.

Zodwa: Fine! Let me look for the dress and some pjs for her.

Bukhosi: Thank you sis (Zodwa went and looked for the dress And pjs and gave them to her brother)

Bukhosi: Thank you.

Zodwa: Next time learn to be more romantic and the river is definitely out of the question.

Bukhosi: I will (he left going to the room and

iminathi was sitting on the bed staring into space.)

Bukhosi: Here is the dress for tomorrow and here are pjs for nothing.

Iminathi: Thank you.

Bukhosi: You welcome now get dressed while I go get you something for your bruises. (he left and went to his room and took out the ointment the chief priest gave to him to use every time he turned Because he always comes back with bruises and scars and they heal over night with the ointment. He took it and went to Iminathi.)

Bukhosi: Let me apply it on your back then you can do the rest while I go take care of some stuff.

Iminathi: Okay But I don't think I will sleep tonight.

Bukhosi: Trust me you will. (he applied the ointment on her back and by the time he finished she was already yawning.)

Bukhosi: Apply to the other areas then get some rest.

Iminathi: Thank you

Bukhosi left the room and went to the back of the palace where he parked the car. He got in and drive to the scene, got there took the rock and cleaned the blood that had hand prints on it and the little splatters around it. Went to the car and wiped clean the passenger side of prints then to the door and did the same. As he left he sprinkled water on their foot prints until he got to the car and drove off. He got to the palace and went to check on Iminathi and she was out. He went to his room showed and got to bed as well.

Encoko village

The chief was standing outside watching as the light go in and out of Nobuntu's home. He was tired of this as he was still dragging telling the people about what he had done. Nokonwaba came from behind him and touched his shoulder and he turned to look at her.

Nokonwaba: This is not helping, you standing here

every night watching this is not doing anyone any good.

Mqwathi: I know it's not, which is why I have decided to go down there and talk to her.

Nokonwaba: So now you talk to ghosts?

Mqwathi: It's not like that, I just want her to give me time.

Nokonwaba: That is a bit selfish of you! You had all the time in the world while she still lived yet you never said anything and now in her death you still want her to wait for you.

Mqwathi: Why does it sound like you want me to be exposed?

Nokonwaba: It's not about me wanting you to be exposed it's about you getting yourself together and take responsibility for your actions. Yes people will judge you and yes some might even hate you but that doesn't mean you should keep quiet.

Mqwathi: Let me try talking to her first.

Nokonwaba: Go But Don't day I didn't warn you. (she

left going back to the house while the husband went out the gate going down hill to Nobuntu's house. He got to the gate and opened it only to be thrown out by a big force he couldn't see and landed outside the gate with him hitting the ground and he groaned in pain)

Mqwathi: Look Nobuntu I didn't come here to fight but I came here to reason with you. I know I did you wrong and I know I should have apologized when you were still alive but the fact of the matter is that I was a coward and I still am. Thank you for the beautiful daughter you gave me and I know it was not by choice but thank you anyway. Please give me time to gather a little courage to do what you ask of me. (he was now kneeling where he fell, he got up and went to the gate again and he opened it with shaking hands and then the hair at the back on his neck stood and his heart started beating fast and before he knew it he was flying over the gate landing on the same spot he landed on before and he groaned in pain once again.)

He stood and limping and went back to his home,

his wife was watching him as he was coming limping. He got inside the gate and she met him halfway.

Nokonwaba: What has your stubbornness gotten you?

Mqwathi: Not now please

Nokonwaba: Okay But I told you so (she left him standing there going to their chamber)

Mqwathi went and sat by the kraal and started talking.

Mqwathi: Gods of my forefathers, gods of Encoko I apologize for all that I have done and tonight I make this promise to you. I will make things right by surprise and the people will know of what I did. I will also ask the chief priest to cleanse me and the palace after that is done. All I ask now is for you to protect my princess wherever she is, never leave her side until she comes home.

He stood up and went to his chamber to sleep.

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Insert 74

Encoko village (not edited)

Today was the day the Chief confesses his sins. The people were informed early in the morning to come to the meeting place for a meeting, some asked what the meeting was about and they were just told that the chief has something important to say. The chief Mqwathi today woke up with a heavy heart, not for what he was about to do but for taking this long to tell the truth to both his daughter and her mother. Had he done it sooner none of this would have happened, he wouldn't have to embarrass himself in front of his people which will not be his soon as the chief priest keeps reminding him. While he was still

deep in his thoughts his wife come in and sat next her.

Nokonwaba: I know how you feel today but I want you to be strong and get this over and done with.

Mqwathi: I wish it were that easy, after today I will be all alone, the hate in my people's, the looks they will be giving me and the talks behind my back.

Nokonwaba: Imoto engakhonkothwayo zizinja yemileyo kodwa ehambayo iyakhonkothwa. Into ethetha ukuthi nawe njengoba uzoza ngaphambili ubike ozono zakho kuzawuthethwa ngabantu kodwa ikhumbule ukuba noba ubusenza into entle bebeza kuthetha kakade ngoba imilomo yabo yasikwa yaphola ngoku bazawungathethi ngoba? (a car that is not barked at by dogs is the one that in on a stand still but the one that moves is the one that is barked at. That means even you now that you will go forward and confess your sins people will talk but remember that even if you did something good they will still talk anyway because they mouths were carved and they healed so why wouldn't they talk)

Mqwathi: All I need to know is you will be by my side through all this.

Nokonwaba: If I wanted to leave I would have done so the moment you told me but I grew up in a generation where if something is broken you don't just throw away, you fix it and use it again.

Mqwathi: That is all I need, with you by my side I can get through anything. Thank you for being a wonderful wife to me and a great chiefs wife this village has ever had.

Nokonwaba: That reminds, Did you see the invitation from Nkomanzi?

Mqwathi: Nkomanzi?

Nokonwaba: Yes Nkomanzi

Mqwathi: Which Nkomanzi?

Nokonwaba: The one that used to be under the leadership of that cruel great uncle who banished your father.

Mqwathi: I want to thank him for what he did because had he not done that Encoko wouldn't be

here.

Nokonwaba: What happened really?

Mqwathi: This is not the time yet but when I see that man all will know the truth.

Nokonwaba: Well you will see him soon because the invitation say that there is a celebration in the kings honor and welcoming of the new queen.

Mqwathi: Unbelievable! His taking another wife again?

Nokonwaba: How many wives does he have?

Mqwathi: Well the nicer one that he got married to when he came of age died in a mysterious manner. The second one is as cruel as he is and now this one.

Nokonwaba: It's his right to take as many wives as he wants to and besides he can take care of them, the kingdom is rich so I see no problem.

Mqwathi: I don't want to get involved because am content with the wife I have.

Nokonwaba: Okay finish dressing up so that we can go the people are starting to arrive.

Mqwathi: Go I will finish up. (she went out and left her husband getting dressed)

The chief priest was outside humming and sprinkling some muti all around the palace bush humming and occasionally reciting the clan names of the chief. He saw that the square was getting full with people and he finished what he was doing and went to the the chiefs chamber.

Chief: The sooner you get out of there and get this over and done with the better it will be for everyone. (Mqwathi came out dressed in his royal attire)

Mqwathi: I am done we can go

Chief: Before That, Why are you wearing that? I mean those are just your people no other royal will be there.

Mqwathi: This might be the last time I wear these so let me wear them so that I prepare myself so that when the time comes it won't be difficult for me to hand them over.

Chief: You make sense! Let us go (then went to the square and whispers were already going around people speculating about what the child wants to talk about. But most were agreeing with each other saying its about the light at Sakhumzi's house.

- [] Mqwathi: My people! Greetings (the people greeted back) now I won't take long and waste your time because I know you all have something to do. Now what I called you here is to tell you about something I did before, what happened back then was a mistake. The village was struggling and it was just after I had taken over and no one wanted to assist me not even my great uncle who is a king a very powerful kingdom in Matatiele. Someone came to me and asked me to use some medicine on Nobuntu, Sakhumzi's wife and make her pregnant. I didn't that because the money I was promised was a lot and I was going to solve a lot of problems in this village. I did it and the money kept coming but I only did it once and forgot about it because the person never asked me to do it again. I used the money for our forms, to buy tractors and all the other

essentials needed for farming. I then started to trade and get alliances and that was all because of that person. When Nobuntu was pregnant I have my doubts but I never cared to ask as I had done what I was asked and the money kept coming and the more it came the more developments I made, like the clinic that you now have. The roads and the school that you have, all of that is from that money. Today I came to tell you that I have a child with Nobuntu because of what I did, I have a princess and I want to apologize to you and to Nobuntu May her would Rest In Peace for what I did to her. I know you are angry Nobuntu and you have every right to be because I wronged you and failed to come forward and apologize, I have no excuse only that I was a coward. (he sat down knhis chair while the people where going wild. One woman stood up)

- [] Woman: How can you do that to another woman and not even a apologize? You degraded her because you did that without her knowledge. (a man stood up)

- [] Man: You don't deserve to sit in that chair and

you don't deserve to be called a man after all this.
(another woman stood up)

- [] Woman: What I want to know is how is your wife still standing next to you knowing the of animal you are? (Nokonwaba went forward)

- [] Nokonwaba: I am standing next to him the same way you people are still enjoying the fruits of his deeds. Your children have schools and education like other children from other villages. The same way you enjoy not going to town for basic health care because you now have a clinic from his deeds. The same way you have food on your tables because of the farms that he revived with the money from his deeds.

- [] Woman: Did you know about this? And how do you feel about your husband having a child with another woman while you here?

- [] Nokonwaba: I didn't know about this until recently and yes I was angry like anyone would be but that very same thing he did gained me a daughter I couldn't have and this village a princess it

didn't have. Yes she didn't come from my womb but she did come from the gods and to be that is more than enough.

- [] Man: How can the same person that killed our people be our princess? What example will she set for our children and what example are you setting as a leader?

- [] Mqwathi: Enough! (he shouted) now you listen and listen good, you can do whatever you want with me and say whatever you want but I will not allow you to call my daughter a killer. Her hands are clean but you people accused her of such evil. This meeting is now over! I have said what I wanted to say now you may leave.

- [] Man: Are you still going to be Chief? After all this?
(the chief priest stood up)

- [] Chief: He will be the chief of this village until the gods decide other wise.

- [] Man: This man deserves to die

- [] Others: Yes!!

- [] Chief: Let he who is without sin cut the first stone and wait to face the wrath of the gods and they do not make mistakes. Had they wanted him to be punished they will do so themselves not you for you all are as sinful as he is.

- [] Them: We are not like this man! He must die. (before anyone could say anything the people were already pulling him towards the crowd) they started beating him up. The chief priest and Nokonwaba tried their best to stop the people but there were too many of them. They pulled him out of the yard beating him up and dragging him to the fields. His royal clothing was scattered all around the yard and his wife was crying but her cries fell on deaf ears.

- [] Chief: Do not cry my dear he will not die because the gods are not finished with him. He still has to tell the princess the truth, he still has to introduce her to the gods and he still has to handover the crown properly to the next person to take his place.

- [] Nokonwaba: Chief priest you can see that those people are angry and they have no mercy. They will surely kill him.

- [] Chief: Remain here while I go and try to stop them.

When the chief priest arrived it was like Mqwathi has been beaten for a long time as he was laying there with blood all over his face. He was swollen and one couldn't even recognize him because of how badly beaten he was.

Chief: You dare spill the blood of royalty? Who do you think you are to take the punishment into your own hands?

Man: This man doesn't deserve to live.

Chief: Oh is that so? Let me ask you what makes you better than him?

Man: Am a real man and I would never do what he did.

Chief: Are you sure about that?

Man: Very sure! I was raised well and I respect woman.

Chief: The Same way you respect children? (the man went quiet)

Woman: Why are you quiet now? Say something or is it that you did something like he did?

Chief: Even you just talk too much to cover up the fact that you are a witch!

People: What?

Chief: Don't act shocked because all of you have skeletons in your closets and you all have a past that you don't want other people to find out about. Yet you are here judging and punishing others just because they came forward. If I were to tell each every secret you all have you would be fighting amongst yourselves.

Woman: What have we done!

Chief: There is no time for that now, men help me get into to the palace I need to check his wounds (the men helped carry him to the palace and into the chief priests hut)

Nokonwaba was crying like he was already dead.

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Insert 75

Colombia (not edited)

Things were going well for Ximena, Rodrigo and his team even increase the security on her, she was their asset, their hope and they trusted her with their biggest and most important thing to them, their money. She is now enjoying the attention because it meant that she is closer to getting what she wants, by the beginning of next year she wants to be in a flight home. She misses Bathandwa dearly, she misses him when she would tell him she loves him and reply with 'I love you better' they would always argue about who loves the other better than the other. She smiled alone as memories of her time with Bathandwa came running into her mind she wondered if he would ever forgive her for not coming home when she had the chance. Wondered if he had

moved on or something but she hoped that he waited, that she is waiting for her to come back just like she is waiting for me, to go home to him.

Rodrigo watched her from the door as she kept smiling alone, he over walked over to her.

Rodrigo: I can't remember the last time I saw you smiling like that and I never thought I would ever see that smile ever again.

Ximena: Oh I was sad when I came here because you treated me like am stupid and now that you appreciate me and what I do it makes me happy.

Rodrigo: I can see it from that smile you wore, am happy you finally adjusting to the situation and working with me to make this business more successful.

Ximena: Am just doing the books nothing more.

Rodrigo: About that, I wanted to tell you about the other parts of the business and I need your help growing them as well, just like the organ business. You came up with the app and it doing wonders.

Ximena: I actually have some ideas but I don't want

us to discuss thing regarding the business alone, let us meet with the partners and discuss everything there so that they don't feel like we discuss things alone and get to meeting and make changes without them.

Rodrigo: Where have you been all my life, I love you babe, you are my lifeline and my everything. I appreciate everything you do for me and I can't wait to make you mine forever.

Ximena: Good things come to those who wait.

Rodrigo: And I would wait a life time for you, now let's go to a meeting.

They got out and went to the meeting place and when they got there the others were already seated talking.

Rodrigo: Gentlemen!

Martinas: Rodrigo my man (he stood up and took Ximena's hand and kissed it) my lady

Ximena: Evening Gentlemen

Rodrigo: Let's sit and discuss business.

Martinas: My side is going well and making money the First Lady can confirm that, right my lady?

Ximena: Indeed

Major: My side has been the most profitable business of the app, so far we have not received not even one complaint from our clients and the money is rolling in.

Ximena: Indeed it shows on the finances because your side alone is up by from 40% profit to 75% profit in just a matter of 3 weeks.

Martinas: Now we are talking! Now how is my side my lady?

Ximena: Your side since we know it makes a lot of money as well increased from 45% to 55%

Rodrigo: I don't need to be told about my side, things haven't been going well, I have lost 2 big shipments and the police got another two and I need help that is why I called this meeting.

Martinas: Let increase security

Ximena: Remember the purpose is to save and have more money not spend and earn less.

Major: What do you suggest?

Ximena: Well as I mentioned before that I have a lot planned. 1 Mr Martinas I would like you to change fro being the most wanted man in the world to being the god father of the nation.

Major: Now you are just rumbling because the moment he makes a mistake he will be in prison for the rest of his life and we will lose money.

Martinias: Yes my lady his right I can't risk it.

Ximena: Here me out for a minute.

Martinias: Go on and it better be good.

Ximena: Trust me it will, now as I was saying I want you to be the god father of the nation. I want to change your job from being a drug lord to being the face of the business, I want to see you in charity events, orphanages and hospitals. But before that I want you to go to Mexico and choose the most poor village there and do some developments because

that will make the people of Mexico change their minds about you. Your job is to take care of the social development side of the business and for that to happen you will have to lose the gold chains and rings, I will organize you an image consultant that will work and your image, a PR guy that will handle all your public affairs. I want you in suits dining with the most powerful men of the country doing tv interviews, tell your story to inspire people and don't lie about it.

Martinas: Are you trying to send me to jail my lady?
(his facial expression had now changed)

Ximena: The opposite actually

Major: But wouldn't what will be doing cost us money that you said we should save?

Ximena: It will But we will get it back, and this is how, Now big companies donate to charity and sometimes they don't have the time to do that themselves so they would want to hire someone to do it for them, to be their face and do good in their behalf and get paid for it. That way you get to do

good, do something legal that will make people forget the person you were and worship you for your good deeds.

Rodrigo: That sounds interesting and I like the fact that everything will be legal, which means less police on our backs.

Major: But who will take care of his side of the business?

Ximena: Now that side of the business is more or less the same as the side Rodrigo deals with. So what I want is for all the illegal fire arms and drugs to go to Rodrigo to manage and I will help with the plan to move them. The legal side of the arms deal will manage itself because we only get orders from the military so all the factory workers have to do is check the orders scan, pack and send them through.

Martinas: Listen here Ximena, I can make your life very comfortable in Colombia, get you the respect and power you deserve but if you cross me then you won't live long enough to tell the story.

Ximena: I wouldn't dream of it, what am doing here

is trying to remove the heat we are getting from the police and they always target you because they always waiting for you to slip up but this time give them something talk about but not illegal but good that way they will keep their focus on you because they will think you want to cover up your dirty deals and that way there will be less heat on us.

Major: It makes sense but I need help with the medication side of the business am tired of mules.

Ximena: Remember the hospital and pharmaceutical company I once spoke about? That where you come in, get us permits to open the company and start supplying our medication to hospitals and pharmacies and also hurry the hospital permits so that it can be opened soon for the organ business as well as other units.

Major: That means everything will be legal now.

Ximena: Yes except the drug and illegal fire arms. We have to keep it that way In case things don't work out the legal way then we have a plan B and we don't want our people getting scared because we going

legal and starting seeing us as a threat.

Rodrigo: I like how you think and this will all move the attention off me and to Martinas while I continue on the side.

Ximena: Now you talking. (they finalize everything and left)

In the car Ximena kept on stealing glances at Rodrigo who was smiling like he won the lottery.

Rodrigo: You know I like your ideas and this side that am now going to manage is going to earn me more respect, the same respect Martinas has now and from every one in the underground.

Ximena thanking: Oh please do dig your own grave because when you think you have everything you need, I will strike and you will be the only one from us who goes down for everything as I will put it all in your name. The fake one and the real one then eliminate you in prison. You ruined my life and now am not only going to ruin yours but I will take it.

Ximena: Am glad you like the idea and I want you to have full control of it so that no one can take it away from you.

Rodrigo: How? I have partners

Ximena: Transfer everything in your name then from there we will be unstoppable.

Rodrigo: You right and besides they don't care about the legal stuff only about the money.

Ximena: That's exactly why! You have the advantage and upper hand.

Rodrigo: My lord I love you! We will be the power couple ruling both the underground and the legal side.

Ximena: Exactly !!

Rodrigo smiled as he drove off going home. Ximena smile and thought of how brilliant her plan was.

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Insert 76

Matatiele

Iminathi (not edited)

It was been two weeks since my father died, well since I killed him and indeed the police found his body and concluded that it was a robbery gone wrong. Well when they found him that morning they went to my house to inform my mother as she is still his legal wife and she called me and asked me to come home. I went home and the ointment the prince gave me worked because I had no bruises on my body or hands, it was like nothing happened and am yet to ask him what was in that ointment because had they seen me like that I would be behind bars by now. I hand breakfast with the whole

family except the king who left in the early hours of the morning. We ate breakfast that morning because the prince wanted everyone to see me and vouch that I was there and spent the night. He then drove me home and when I got there I was told of my father's death, my mother asked what happened last night and I told her we went to the field not far from the house to talk but it didn't go well so I asked him to drop me off at the stop and called the prince to pick me up. She believed me, well everyone did and the funny thing about all this is that I don't feel anything, I sleep well at night and am at peace, it's like nothing happened and that worries me because I think that maybe I am a bad person for not feeling anything. The man was buried last weekend and those people wanted my mother to wear mourning clothes for my father since she is his wife but she refused and I was proud of her for that. That man put her through hell but she made it and now her daughter is about to be a queen chosen by the gods of Nkomanzi and I wonder what they think of their queen now. I wouldn't even be hurt if they decided that I was not the queen they thought I was because

am really not but I would like to keep my friendship with the prince because he is a good person.

Its Saturday and am lazy to wake up and go do my washing, at my father's they are doing the cleansing ceremony but since my ancestors are my mothers mine was done Monday together with my mothers.

Noise from the gate disturb me from my thoughts and I look out the window and see the royal family by the gate reciting my clan names. Ones from my mother's side and ones from my father, which I don't understand why they even mention that man but I guess you can't skip with royalty. Oh no wonder my mother made traditional beer, which I thought was for the cleansing yes it was done but only a goat was slaughtered so I thought that the beer was for that but now I get it. Even the uncles slept here but I also thought they stayed because of the cleansing. Kanti What is going on here? Why didn't anyone tell me about this? Let me call the prince. (Iminathi took her phone and dialed the prince and he picked up on the first ring)

Convo:

Bukhosi: Kumkanikazi (my queen)

Iminathi: Ndiyikumkanikazi enjani engayaziyo noba kuzadityanwa ngayo? (what kind of a queen am I if I don't know that people will be meeting on my behalf)

Bukhosi: Ndiyaxolisa kumkanikazi bengazami ukudelela kodwa nje abadala balapha bakudinga komkhulu. (am sorry my queen, I wasn't trying to disrespect you but the ancestors want you at the royal palace)

Iminathi: I understand that but do they still want me after everything?

Bukhosi: A chosen queen doesn't become unchosen just because she did something bad. The gods knew about what you did before you did it and still chose you. They even know the mistakes you will make in the future but still they chose you. Surely they must have a reason.

Iminathi: I hear you and it makes sense but won't I

need to be cleansed before being crowned princess?

Bukhosi: The cleansing you got there was more than enough.

Iminathi: But I don't have anything to wear because you people did tell me about this.

Bukhosi: Worry not my queen I gave your mother two dresses for you yesterday.

Iminathi: WOW Okay let me bath and make something to eat for the visitors.

Bukhosi: Don't worry about them they are before they left.

Iminathi: No Bukhosi I wasn't raised that way.

Bukhosi: Sometimes life throws you curve ball and end up doing things you were not taught to do at home. It's life.

Iminathi: That I understand but I am going to make food for my in laws now bye.

Bukhosi: I can't wait to taste your food.

Iminathi: You will soon, bye

She hang up and wen to bath then prepared food for the people being helped by her mother and the neighbors. Her mother went out and the neighbors started gossiping, well not gossiping but talking so that Iminathi can hear.

Neighbor: Where is her father because the last time he was here demanding money?

Neighbor2: He was found dead last week that one and buried the weekend.

Neighbor: Yhoo! What happened?

Neighbor2: I don't really know but the police said it was a robbery gone wrong.

Neighbor: Robbery fine wrong yantoni? Bulelwa killed that poor man! How can he come here and the next morning his dead?

Neighbor: I don't know sis

Neighbor2: Yhoo people are cruel out here, how do you kill the father of your only child?

Iminathi: You know what? If you don't know what you

came here for! Then there is the door, leave and never set foot in this yard. You will not disrespect my mother in her own house and you will not talk about her in front of me and expect me to say nothing. The poor man you talking about, Where was he when I was growing up? Where was he when my mother struggled to put food on the table? Where was he when my mother was your laughing stock because she begged in your houses for too for me to eat? Where was he when I had to go to school with out shoes? Please do tell me where that poor man was when all of that happened? (the neighbors kept quiet?) I thought so!

Neighbor: Am sorry Iminathi the news just shocked me.

Iminathi: No they didn't, you just wanted to paint my mother with oil when she didn't even eat the meat. Your problem is that now you don't have anything to laugh at my mother about because she is working and her daughter is about to get married, not only that but educated as well, I might not have a job yet but you both know very well that I will get it even

tomorrow.

Neighbor: Am sorry Iminathi I don't know what came over me.

Bulelwa: You know exactly what you were saying and I don't blame you because I owe you big time for helping me out all those years. I thought friends and mothers were helping me out but I was wrong. Now I want each one of you to write a list of things I took from your houses and how many times it happened so that I can repay you. One more thing, don't ever I mean not even in your dreams talk about me in front of my daughter like that (she walked out and met a young boy who told her that the uncles want her to bring Iminathi) she called her daughter and they went to the elders so that the traditions can be done.

Colombia:

Pedro: My man am leaving Colombia

Guy: What will you do and where will you go?

Pedro: I don't know but what I do know is that your boss failed me.

Guy: Yes he failed you but you can stay work and make good money for when they come back.

Pedro: There is no point because I don't have motivation now, I woke up early in the morning because I had a daughter who had to go to school and a wife to take care of.

Guy: I hear you but did you tell the boss?

Pedro: Yes he knows and he agreed because really there is nothing for me here. I need to get out of Colombia and get some air and try to forget.

Guy: Maybe that's for the best, so when are you leaving?

Pedro: When the boss say I could. (Rodrigo came towards them and stopped in front of them and got out of the car)

Rodrigo: Pedro can we talk? (Pedro stood up and they walked close to the car)

Rodrigo: Look man am sorry about your family and I

failed to protect them. So as agreed I will pay you what I owe you then you can leave whenever you want.

Pedro: I'd like to leave tomorrow morning, I am a man and alone so I don't have to pack of anything.

Rodrigo: That's fine I will sort out your payment tonight when I get home. Be safe wherever you go.

Pedro: I will try (Rodrigo walked to the drivers side and got in and reversed out)

Pedro: Oh am the one hoping you will leave long enough in prison the be able to tell your friends that you all messed with the wrong people. The stupid fool is worried about her brother while his sinking in quick sand. Am going to my family but I wish you meet yours too on the other side when you die.

Guy: What are you thinking, did the boss say you can't leave?

Pedro: No in fact am leaving tomorrow morning and you be good because you know that is you cross the line you meet your maker.

Guy: I would never risk that not when my girlfriend is pregnant.

Pedro: Good That will keep you focused., now let me go pack.

Guy: Sure my guy.

Pedro went to pack and get his stuff together for the trip the following morning. He was happy that he will see his family again and he couldn't wait

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Insert 77

Colombia

Ximena (not edited)

It has been three months and my plan is working perfectly. Rodrigo has fully taken over the drug ring and am helping him with the logistics and I must say business is going very well. He get big shipments that he has to go with when delivered because they are just too big and worth billions to be entrusted to employees. Which is where am going to get him, it's December holidays and am graduating next year in March then am going home to my love and my family but not before I deal with Vusi aka Rodrigo. Martinas is now a well known man like he always was but now his not known for drug trafficking but for the charity work he has been doing, the improvements he has made in Mexico, we managed to improve one of the poor schools there and renovate it into a world class school with all the latest technologies to help the children learn better, we have also demolished and renovated houses in a small village in Mexico that is now one of the top 5 tourist attractions in Mexico. Of course we lost a lot of money in that but now that Martinas is well

known donations and endorsements are coming. Especially after the TV and radio interviews where he spoke about his past and how he “Allegedly turned to drug trafficking” I say allegedly because if he blatantly admit to being involved then the authorities will take it as a confession and arrest him. Now if you look at him you don’t see a scary guy who can kill you within a blink of an eye, now he looks like a business man who wears suits and glasses. No more gold chains with it of rings, sneakers and baggy hoodies and pants. Now his a Gentlemen and I think his enjoying not having to hide anymore. The major got us the permits we needed for the pharmaceutical company and the hospital and I must say both building are coming together perfectly and by the end of February next year we will be opening. That means by the time I go home after graduation all aspects of the business will be legal and running smoothly. As for the drug business, well it will die with Rodrigo because am not having illegal business, not under my watch and I know that now all the partners will agree with me because they are enjoying not having to worry about authorities

and auditors when they come. They know that the books are good and not cooked, they know that everything we do is legal and accounted for. And the drug business books are done separate so that they don't affect the legal ones, which is how am going to get Rodrigo.

Am sad though because my brother got married and I wasn't there, I know he understands but I wish things were different. Yes it was just a traditional wedding and they say they will wait for me to come back to have the white wedding but still. My elder sister Ncebakazi, oh how I miss her shopping sprees that just come out of the blue, how she's always on point with how she dresses and always wears a small shy smile that shows off her beautiful small teeth. I never thought I pay attention to the small things a person does but now that am far from them I miss the little things. Zodwa oh my sister! The ever so rational, always has the best advices for every situation, she's beautiful and I hope she finds a good husband to make her happy. Then my brother

Bukhosi base Nkomanzi as he calls himself when he wants to brag to me on the phone hahah! I miss his smile and how he clenches his jaws when his angry yet speak in a low and calm voice when you are expecting a outburst. I wonder what kind of a person his wife is? But I will find out in a few months. It's funny that 2 years ago I would be worried about if she will like me or not or if we will get along well for the sake of my brother, but now I really don't care about any of that, the kidnapping and Rodrigo together with the training I got toughened me up. I miss my grandmother as well and I hope she's alright, yes she sounds happy but seeing her would make a huge difference.

I just parked outside our office, we have our last meeting of the year before we take a beak, at least I take a beak from both school and the business and only check the books every two weeks just to make sure everything is still running smoothly. When I walk in the Gentlemen are already sitting and Martinas is look good in his navy slim fit suit, I must

say the image consultant is doing a good job together with our PR manager.

Ximena: Gentlemen

Them: Mamasita

Martinas: How are you my lady?

Ximena: Am very well thank you for asking and how are you doing?

Martinas: Very well my lady.

Ximena: I like how you say my lady now, it had that gentleman touch to it.

Martinas: Your idea is working like a charm mamie, the people of Mexico even want me to run for mayor and I even have endorsements lined up.

Ximena: That is good but the decision for that will solely depend on you because that is a personal project you will take for yourself and people will vote for you because you are not just a politician but a man of the people, someone who is just like them, who faced poverty and struggles like they did so they will vote for you because of that.

Martinas: I hear you my lady but I will need assistance and someone to put me in line through it all. I don't want to go astray.

Ximena: You won't

Martinas: How Do you know I won't? They say once a criminal always a criminal.

Ximena: You won't go astray because I believe in you and I believe that you want to do good but the position you were in didn't allow you because you lived a life a criminal and that of a wanted person but now you not.

Major: Down to Business Gentlemen and lady. How are things going?

Rodrigo smiled and cleared his throat.

Rodrigo: Well my side of the business is making us a lot of money and I mean each shipment makes us billions of both South African rands and US dollars and European pound since we go a route there now.

Martinas: What are the numbers in that my lady?

Ximena: For the past week because that side of the

business I do it's books weekly so keep track of the amount of money that comes through. So for this week only we have made, first from the South African route we made 4,4 billion rands, for the US route we have made 7,2 billion and for the European route we have just started but made 4,5 Million.

Major: WOW with that amount of money I can afford to retire and travel with my family.

Ximena: Haha true but a business needs to be maintained if you are going to spend funds from it so that you don't wake up one day and realize that you are broke.

Major: True! And for you Mr good guy (Martinas laughed)

Martinas: Let me start by saying thank you my lady for all that you have done. To tell you the truth I was scared of what you wanted me to do, I thought you wanted to get rid of me and I actually had people watching you so that they can take you out had something happened to me. But now, now am a man I never thought I would ever get to be because of the

life I chose, I thought I would remain a criminal till my last days but you changed that and made my parents dreams for my to be a good man come true so thank you.

Rodrigo: Wow Mr man! You are making her cry haha but yeah man I feel you, I never thought this would be you one day.

Major: She did good because I never thought I would stop being corrupted and do things the legal way but look at me now! I paid all the money I took from the government and actually use it for what it was meant for and now the people trust me again and am sure in this election again will be good for me.

Ximena: Thank you all for the kind words, I did all that to show you that not everything you do has to be against the law and that you can be better people and do good while making money the right way.

The meeting continued and when everyone was done they went their separate ways.

Joburg:

Lisa and Sticks relationship is very serious now but Lisa and been in and out of the hospital but the doctors don't see anything wrong with her. Sticks even organized a specialist from London to come and look at her to see if he will find someone because she is only okay for a few day then start again. Amanda has been poisoning Lisa with iron poisoning and heavy metal knowing very well that it will not be picked up in the blood unless tested for it specifically. She knew that Sticks will kill her if she even thinks of acting funny towards Lisa so she pretended to be okay with their relationship and got close to Lisa so she can poison her while close to her. She is standing by the doorway from the kitchen holding poisoned tea as she watched Lisa laying on the couch watching tv.

Amanda: I will make sure you die slowly Lisa, I warned you to stay away from Sticks but you didn't listen. You can't come here and take what's mine and get away with it, No it doesn't work like that and

I will show you.

Lisa: Amanda why are standing there?

Amanda: You just looks so peaceful my friend and am standing here not wanting to disturb you because in no time you will be sick with something we don't know so when you are like this I just want to watch you.

Lisa: Thank you Amanda but am fine now, I haven't been sick for four days now but Sticks is not taking chances. He doesn't even want me to go out so am stuck here with you.

Amanda: I don't mind that because everyone in this house works then am all alone and this house it big for one person it get lonely.

Lisa: I know what you mean because I have noticed that since I have been sick.

Amanda: I made you tea

Lisa: Thank you so much but where is yours?

Amanda: In the kitchen! Let me go get it. (she went to the kitchen and sat on the high chair drinking her

tea and waiting for the poison to work so that she can feed her some more) while enjoying her tea Lisa called for her.

Lisa: Amanda! Amanda! (Amanda sat on the chair not moving drinking her tea) in the living room Lisa was coughing blood that came out with piece of meat that she didn't know what it was or where it came from. She cried out loud as she saw it and am stood in the doorway watching her until she came in a hungry like she's been running.

Amanda: What is it now what happened?
(pretending to be shocked)

Lisa: I don't know but please get the driver to take me to the hospital something is really wrong with me please (she pleaded with Amanda as she stood up in a hurry to go get the driver but she was out of sight she walked slowly going to the front door..

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Insert 78

Joburg (not edited)

Witchcraft is not only using traditional medicine to do things to people but it is also jealousy that lead to someone doing bad things to another person.

Failure to accept that the next person has what you don't have, failure to understand that life is not a competition and that not all of us will have what we want at the same time. Life is not a race each one of us will have and achieve things at different times all we have to do is work hard and be happy for those who manage to get their blessings early. I know it's difficult but marriage at 35 is still something to celebrate, getting a diploma or a degree at 40 is still an achievement, building a house or buying one at 50 is still an achievement. Don't be in a rush to have what other people have because it's not your time yet, wait for your and struggle through and you will

appreciate it more when your time comes.
Remember life is like a wheel, those who are up there will soon be down here while you go under there. You just have to be patient.

Amanda stood by the corridor not going outside to call the driver to take Lisa to the hospital while she was coughing blood with piece of meat coming out of her mouth. Lisa noticed that time is running out for and decided to look around for her phone as Sticks was on speed dial. She found it under the pillow on the couch which she also messed on as she was looking for it. She pressed 1 on her phone and it dialed Sticks immediately.

Convo:

Sticks: Babe

Lisa: He... coughs... help coughing

Sticks: Babe what is going on? (the panic in his voice couldn't be missed, Lisa didn't respond so

Sticks dropped the call and called on of the drivers)

Convo:

Driver: Boss

Stick: Go into the house now and check on Lisa!

Driver: Amanda is there boss

Stick: Hey don't fuck with me wena maan! Did I call Amanda or you?

Driver: Me boss

Sticks: Not go to that damn house and check on her or you are all dead! And don't drop the call I want to hear what is going on. (the driver didn't say anything as ran towards the house, Amanda heard footsteps and she quickly hid. The driver passed going to the lounge and saw Lisa passed out with a lot of blood around her)

Driver: Oh my God! Mike!!!! Mike!!!! (he called for a guard to help him and Mike came in running.

Mike: Oh damn it! Help me with her (they picked

Lisa up and hurried to the car and put her in the back seat while the driver started the car and drove off.

Sticks was talking on the other side but the driver left his phone in the living room where Lisa was laying. He dropped the call and called Jacob while driving like a mad person going to the direction of the house.

Jacob: Eitha

Sticks: Drop what you are doing and track the car Muzi is driving now!

Jacob: Give me a minute

Sticks: Do your thing am not dropping the call

Jacob: Got him! His driving toward the hospital route.

Sticks: Thanks man go to the house and check what is going on there.

Jacob: On it

Sticks dropped the call as he changed routes going towards the hospital. Jacob on the other side driving to the house while Amanda went into the house use in her room and drank two sleeping pills then got under covers trying to fall asleep.

At the hospital Muzi and Mike drove and parked in the emergency parking where ambulances park and Mike ran for n calling for help, two nurses and a doctor came running to the car with a stretcher and took Lisa putting her in the stretcher.

Doctor: She loosing a lot of blood!

Nurse: The pulse is weak!

Doctor: Get the OR ready am coming in now! (they said while running through the doors rushing to OR leaving the two looking like they were about to die)

Mike: The Boss is going to kill us if something happens to that girl.

Muzi: He already said so

Mike: What happened in there because she was fine the past couple of days and yesterday she was

outside with us his laying cards telling us how bored she is of being home all day.

Muzi: My question is where was Amanda in all this? I mean the chick sits at home doing nothing the whole hole day, she should have seen her.

Mike: But I have noticed that Amanda doesn't really like that girl.

Muzi: But you think she would be that cruel as to let her die while she's in there?

Mike: I don't think so man, Amanda has always been a good girl.

Muzi: Oh shit there canes the boss!

Mike: Shit! (Sticks parked next to them and got out without killing the engine)

Sticks: Where the hell is she?

Mike: The doctors just took her a few minutes ago.

Sticks: What happened and why you both have blood on you?

Muzi: I found her on the floor next to the couch

unconscious with blood all around her and when I inspected her she wasn't shot but the blood was coming out of her mouth.

Sticks: Shit what do the doctors say?

Mike: We haven't heard anything since they just took her.

Sticks: Fine you can go (he went inside the hospital and waited)

In the house Jacob looked around and saw that there was blood on the floor and saw the pieces of meat that were in there mixed with the blood. He took a picture of both the couch and the floor, found Muzi and Lisa's phone and took them. Went to his office and took a smile plastic container and a tweezer. He went back to the lounge and took some pieces and put them in the container and closed it then made a call and the person picked up immediately.

Convo:

Voice: Jacob my man! Long time

Jacob: Indeed

Voice: What can I do for you but no body parts this time.

Jacob: No nothing like that, Listen I have something that I need you to check for me, check for anything.

Voice: What do you mean anything.

Jacob: Start with diseases that can make someone coughing blood and pieces of meat to poisons every type of it and I want to results tonight.

Voice: Tonight?

Jacob: Yeah

Voice: It's going to cost you my man.

Jacob: Money is not a problem.

Voice: Okay let me have it.

Jacob: It's on its way

Voice: Sure

He dropped the call and called one of his trusted men to deliver the container to the lab. He went and called the cleaners who clean after an operation then went back to his office and got some devices including small cameras. He inserted them from the lounge, kitchen, the bedrooms except for Sticks bedroom. He went to Amanda's room and saw that she was fast asleep. She installed the devices and cameras then went out. The cleaners were already finishing up with the cleaning.

Jacob: Good job guys

Guy: Sure what happened here?

Jacob: That's what I want to find out.

At the hospital the doctors approach Sticks who was sitting on the bench with his head buried in his hands.

Doctor: Excuse me (he lifted his head and saw the doctor then stood up)

Sticks: Yes doctor

Doctor: Am looking for the two guys who brought in the young lady

Sticks: Her name is Lisa and she's my fiancé, how is she?

Doctor: We managed to stabilize her but we still haven't found the cause of all this and the sooner we find it the better her chances so that we can provide proper treatment.

Sticks: I hear that she had pieces of meat coming out with the blood what caused that?

Doctor: You said pieces of meat?

Sticks: Yes (the doctors turned around and ran to the direction she came from leaving Sticks confused)

Mthatha

Bukhosi and his wife were at home preparing to go to Matatiele for the Kings introduction celebration

since it was canceled due to his wedding but this weekend it's happening. Iminathi has just finished with breakfast when Bukhosi came in.

Bukhosi: My beautiful queen

Iminathi: Morning my prince, breakfast is ready have a seat so that I could serve you.

Bukhosi: Thank you dear. Do you not want any maidens to help you around the house?

Iminathi: No I can manage the house on my own, I am not used to having people do things for me. Maybe when we have a baby or mama moves back then we can have one.

Bukhosi: Yes and I got you a job at the office

Iminathi: What kind of job?

Bukhosi: You will fill my previous position as head of marketing, I have been doing both jobs because I haven't had time to advertise and get someone in that place.

Iminathi: Okay I would like that, it can be boring seating at home doing nothing.

Bukhosi: Yes that's what I thought.

Iminathi: I have been meaning to ask you something.

Bukhosi: What is it?

Iminathi: Everywhere I go in this house there are pictures of this lady and now the other day I was cleaning and went into the spare room where I notice that the wardrobe is full of woman clothes. Who is she?

Bukhosi: That is my little sister Asithandile, she is in Colombia and she is the one Ncebakazi said she's waiting for before she could get married.

Iminathi: Oh I thought she is waiting for a friend or something and I thought she and Zodwa were the only siblings you have.

Bukhosi: Asithandile and I share a mother but not a father and Ncebakazi and Zodwa we share a father but not a mother.

Iminathi: So your mother was the second wife since Ncebakazi and Zodwa are older than you.

Bukhosi: Something like that, are you finished

packing we have to go soon?

Iminathi: I packed last night so we good to go.

Bukhosi: Alright it remember when we get there, no more pants and all the short stuff.

Iminathi: I know I have to dress like a crowned princess and be decent among the people.

Bukhosi: Did I Tell you that I love you?

Iminathi: Really? You love a killer?

Bukhosi: I have my own flaws my queen.

Iminathi: Alright then.

Encoko village

Nokonwaba got into the house where her husband was sitting eating breakfast.

Nokonwaba: I am done packing a few things for us so we are ready to go.

Mqwathi: I told you that am not going to that

introduction.

Nokonwaba: And the chief priest said you must go and face your past.

Mqwathi: What good will it do facing that man? His cruel with the heart of stone, he first threw my father out when he voiced out his concerns about how he was running the kingdom then he set dogs on My when I went to ask for help to run this village and you want me to go back there?

Nokonwaba: You need answers Dikela you need to get closure in this matter. These people are the only living family you have make peace with them and move on. Even if they don't want to make peace you would die knowing that you have tried.

Mqwathi: I am not happy about this but I will go.

Nokonwaba: Thank you But I think we should leave in the afternoon.

Mqwathi: No let's leave before 12 so that if things don't go well we can still turn back and come home.

Nokonwaba: Okay then I understand.

The chief priest was busy preparing for the road and also trying to connect with the chief priest of Nkomanzi.

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Insert 79

Matatiele (not edited)

Family secrets can destroy yet in some occasions they can build. The Xhosa people in the olden days believed in something called 'ukuquma ihlazo' meaning covering the bad things family members do but now they believe in the saying that 'asigqumi mbona ngamakhasi' meaning we will not sugar coat things. Now both these have their own advantages

and disadvantages, like back in the day when a young couple couldn't have children the elders would come together and ask the daughter in law to share bedroom dealings with the brother of the husband to see if she falls pregnant and if not then they would know the problem is with her not the husband. But if she did fall pregnant then they would know that their son has a problem but he would never be told. The child will grow up knowing him as the father and the brother as well never says anything that is called 'ukuquma ihlazo' covering the incompetence of their son. All the rituals for the child will be done as per tradition because the child will be theirs, but if the husband didn't have a brother she daughter in law would be told to something called ' ukutotheza' meaning picking firewood but that didn't necessarily mean for her to go to the forest and pick woods but what they were doing is give her permission to go out there and share bedroom dealing with another man in order to fall pregnant. That child will be raised by this family and all the rituals will be done here but in all of them the man would be present to do the necessities for the child according to his

people's ways. Even before the child goes to initiation school of it's a boy the man will be there to do all that is needed for him according to the ways of his people. No one will notice this people in the kraal it's always men there and it's a joyous occasion so the man of this family would keep the young man distracted while this other man who's his biological father does what is needed so that he doesn't suspect a thing and most of the child's rituals are done at a young age so that he doesn't suspect a thing when his old or he doesn't get sick when his old demanding rituals. That is all done in the name of 'ukuquma ihlazo' as well as when a girl child who falls pregnant before marriage, she would be taken to a far away relative for the duration of the pregnancy then comes back when a child is about 6 months or so and the elders would cook up a story that the child is that of the cousins and he or she will grow up hear because the cousin is not working or something like that. That is ukuquma ihlazo and children from those situations would even die without knowing the truth. Then there is what we have now, what we call 'asigqumi mbona

ngamakhasi' meaning we don't sugarcoat things or hide them. Now we tell our children things they shouldn't know because of the pain we put them through and the feeling of abandonment. Now we call women who can't have children barren yet in the olden days another would carry a child for another woman without expecting anything in return and we didn't have children who were dumped in dust bins and pits but now we do. All in the name of 'asigqumi mbona ngamakhasi' now women have to be paid to carry a child for another something we call surrogacy. Now both of these things have their own advantages and disadvantages. Now am just dwelling on this.

The Chief of Encoko, his wife Nokonwaba and their chief priest arrived in the soil of their forefathers. The soil that abandoned them, a soil they were closed out of like dogs. As they set in the solid of Nkomanzi the original soil of his forefathers where his umbilical cord was buried 'apho Inkaba yakhe yonjelwe khona' something in Mqwathi moved. The

memories of his childhood specifically of the day he, his father and mother were chased out of this palace on a rainy day. Walking on feet burned from their home, they walked until their feet were swollen, they were shaking because it rained on them until it stopped. They were hungry and tired but they kept going until they reached Encoko, it was just a forest back then. The soil was rich and his father thought it best to settle there build their home. Later on more people came from different places they were chased out from, some accused of witchcraft and some of being rapists and robbers but his father had faith in them and took them in. That is how Encoko came to be.

Chief: No need to have a heavy heart my chief things have changed.

Mqwathi: How have they changed when I still have no background because these people didn't want to be told right from wrong?

Chief: That means they are really your family because you are exactly like that yourself.

Nokonwaba: Don't do that you two please stop, we are in a foreign land and we don't want people having a different opinion of us.

Chief: This is no foreign land my dear this is your husbands home and the sooner he accepts that the better.

Mqwathi: I don't have to accept anything about this place.

They all got to the gate of the palace and they showed their invitation and they were allowed in.

Mqwathi: Where have you ever seen something show a piece of paper to enter his home?

Chief: This have changed since you left this and..

Mqwathi: Oh so now you admin that things have changed? (in the house Bukhosi shocked everyone as he pushed the chair he sat on and it fell backwards as he ran outside with the king Nkosibuthe and the chiefs priest ran after him. He went straight for the car that Mqwathi and his

people were in and he turned and saw this man running towards the car.)

Mqwathi: What the hell is going on now?

Chief: What now?

Nokonwaba: Look at that man running towards us (she was shaking because Bukhosi was slowly turning the closer he got tho the car)

Mqwathi: My God! His a beast, my great uncle had that thing! Please don't tell me that Mzuvukile has it too.

Chief: That is not Mzuvukile but a living god of Nkomanzi.

Nokonwaba: What? No!!! (she screamed as Bukhosi got to the car and banged on it right on top and a little hole opened and his fans appeared on his hands as he stuffed them in and pulled the car apart leaving it in two pieces. One with the front that had the driver and Mqwathi and the back side is Nokonwaba with the chief priest. He put those down and looked at them, they got out of what used to be a car and stood in front of him)

By the main door the sister took care of the crown princess Iminathi as she fainted at the sight of her husband changing into an animal right before her eyes. By the car Bukhosi bows down to Mqwathi as the other people were shocked looking at him.

Bukhosi spoke in a voice that was not his but that of the late king of Nkomanzi father of Nkosibuthe.

Bukhosi: Another prince of Nkomanzi has returned home, another royal blood has found its way home, welcome him to the land of his forefathers where he was unjustly chased out of his home with his family. The gods of Nkomanzi welcome you Mqwathi, Dikela, Noni, Blangwe usidindi. (by this time Mqwathi couldn't hold his tears as they ran freely on his wrinkled cheeks, hearing the voice of a man that was like a second father to him growing up did something to him. When he left Nkosibuthe was just a year old and he was 7)

Mqwathi: My thanks my king, coming here was a struggle for me but now my heart is at peace.

Bukhosi: Go to your forefathers graves and pay your respects my prince and now Chief of Encoko, now your village will prosper as you will untie all the ancestors of both sides.

Mqwathi: I will do as you have asked my king.
(Bukhosi got up and ran towards the back and jumped on his usual place going to the royal burial site)

NkomanziChief: Go with him my chief for that is what the gods want. (he turned to Nkosibuthe) my king please organize a goat to cleanse the Chief and another to welcome him home. Today we will have a ritual before a ritual.

Nkosibuthe: As you please wise one. (he turned and went on to give instructions as both the chief priests went to the burial site with Mqwathi, while Ncebakazi and Nobukhozi took Nokonwaba inside the palace.

Joburg-hospital

Sticks stood there lost and confused about what just happened. He resorted to sitting on the bench again and wait for another update. A call came through and he fished it out of his pocket and Jacobs name flashed on the screen and he picked up.

Convo:

Sticks: Jacob

Jacob: Any update?

Sticks: Nothing concrete, am worried man because I don't know what is going on here.

Jacob: I might have a solution but I will get back to you in an hour.

Sticks: Is it related to this? Because is don't want to hear about business right now, this is all my fault! Had I stayed home and looked after her none of this would have happened.

Jacob: Don't blame yourself but I will get you answers that is what am here for.

Sticks: Thank you Jacob

Jacob: Sure.

He dropped the call and went through his pictures looking at the pictures on their outing. He smiled to himself remembering how beautiful and peaceful she looked during those few days. He then remembered that Lisa was never okay ever since they got back from the trip, he wondered if she ate something on the trip or something but could get the answers he was looking for. He spotted the doctor coming his way and this is after an hour after she left him confused, he stood up.

Sticks: Doc what is going on?

Doctor: Well when you said she was coughing blood and pieces of meat I thought she has lung cancer.

Sticks: So? Is it lung cancer?

Doctor: No it's not, when I left here we did some tests and hurried the results and they just came through. It's not cancer and if we don't find what is eating her liver this way she will die during the night.

Sticks: I want to see her

Doctor: Follow me (the doctor led the way and Sticks followed. She showed him the ward and he went in)

Sticks heart sank as he saw his love laying there looking pale like she has no blood running through her veins. He went sat in the chair next to her and took his hand.

Sticks: Oh my baby, my Lisa, my love. You know the day I met you, you were out of it but even then you looked so beautiful and heart pounded like it was going to jump out of my chest. I have never loved before so I didn't know what was happening but I knew was that I wanted to be close to you. When you got to Joburg and I saw you were still hung up on Bukhosi it broke my heart but still I couldn't stay away from you. What am trying to say is that I love you Lisakhanya, I love you so much that am afraid of losing you, am going to go mad if I lose you babe and am telling you now that I will not be able to function. Am sorry I wasn't there when you needed me the most, please my love forgive me and come back to me, I promise I will do better and I promise I

will take you home to see your parent because am sure they miss you by now. But in order for that to happen I need you to come back to me, don't give up on me now. The doctor I got is arriving here in an hour because I sent him a jet, hang in there for My please, I need you Lisa. (he was a crying mess as his phone rang and he reached for it and Jacob's name flashed on the screen yet again and he stood up and went out then stood by the door)

Convo:

Sticks: Jacob

Jacob: Tell then to treat for iron poisoning

Sticks: What?

Jacob: This is no time to question me please not now! Go tell the doctor to treat for iron poisoning am coming.

Sticks: Sure

He dropped the call and started calling like a mad

person.

Sticks: Doctor!!!! Doctor!!!! (the doctor and nurses came running and pushed the door to Lisa's room but she was stable)

Sticks: I called you here now listen to me, treat her for iron poisoning.

Doctor: Oh my God What didn't we think of it when the symptoms are there? Go get the antidote for iron poisoning now!! (the nurses ran)

Doctor: Am sorry

Sticks: For now do your job the doctor I got will be here in an hour to take her case.

Doctor: But she is...

Sticks: Do your damn job!! (the doctor hurried out and left)

Sticks sat on the bench with his head buried in his hands and for the first time he prayed to God to save her.

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Insert 80

Matatiele (not edited)

Setting foot at home and I don't mean coming home from work, No! I mean going home where you were born, where you grew up, where you started your life. When you set foot in the soil it doesn't matter how long it's been since you went home but when you finally get there you will feel the difference. The air feels lighter and fresh, the grass is greener and it feels like the birds sing louder. That's how Mqwathi felt when he set foot in his home, even though he had anger about the things that had happened in the past but he felt how good it was being home once again. Now to make matters even worse he get

welcomed back by the gods of the land themselves way before the royal family even say anything, that made him feel worthy, welcomed and cared for. Even when the chief priest instructed them to slaughter for his cleansing no one questioned him as he expected. As they went to the palace burial site he wondered where his uncle was and if he would allow the cleansing to take place but for now he only cared about finally paying his respects to the people that protected him even when he in the land of fugitives, a land they now call home.

NkomanziChief: My prince please start with the late Kings resting place and pay your respects, we will give you sometime to yourself then we will move on.

Mqwathi: My thanks wise one. (both the chief priests moved away giving him space while Bukhosi base Nkomanzi was standing by the gate as Power himself as if guarding something)

Mqwathi: Oh my dear uncle, where do I even start? You were not home when we were chased out of this land like dogs, your brother and his family were chased out of their own home just for having an

opinion on the way your brother handled business of the palace. I know you were good of heart and I know you might have looked for us but where we went to was just a mare forest, you wouldn't have found us even if you wanted to. I am here today am a man not the young boy that left here years ago. A man with many flaws and blood on his hand hoping by the cleansing that will be done here I will be forgiven by you and all the gods of Nkomanzi. I say Nkomanzi because even my father was the son of this soil, may you forgive me and shed light in my way as I embark on a new journey. (he stood up and did what needs to be done and moved from one grave to the next paying his respects then they walked home)

Mqwathi: I feel lighter now, my thanks wise one.

NkomanziChief: Don't Thank me, it was the gods that brought you here.

Mqwathi: Who is this (pointing at Power, you see power is not just a beast like human size with fur and animal nose, eyes and feet. No! Power is werewolf kind of beast the size of an elephant and

when he changes it starts with his eyes, hands, feet then the whole body turning him into this big dog looking beast that can change form between the gods of his kingdom)

NkomanziChief: That is a god and Guardian of Nkomanzi.

Mqwathi: Isn't he like my big uncle?

NkomanziChief: You uncle only had the best but he could only turn from eyes, hands and feet but still remained human, while he changes everywhere and can take any form of the god that wants to pass a message through him then he would turn into him. Wena what you saw when you arrived was just part of what he can do.

Mqwathi: He must be powerful but he has features of someone I know but am not sure who.

Chief: You And I both know who but you will remember before we leave this soil. (they got to the palace and they goat was ready for him to be cleansed, he was given a spear and he poked it doing as the way of his people. The noise from the

goat filled the palace and the people yelled 'Camagu' meaning we agree. The goat was slaughtered and the cleansing took place)

Power: It is done, you are welcomed my prince.

Mqwathi: My thanks (the men went by the kraal finishing off the process but at the back of his mind Mqwathi wanted to see his uncle and give him a peace of his mind)

Inside the house Iminathi and Nokonwaba were sitting in the same room with each one still lost in their own thoughts. Ncebakazi came in and saw that they were deep in thoughts that they didn't even hear her come in.

Ncebakazi: Molweni bethuna, khange sikwazi no kwazona kakuhle mna ndingu Ncebakazi inkosazana endala yalapha ekhaya (greeting people, we didn't even get the chance to get to know each other, I am Ncebakazi the older princess of this land)

Nokonwaba: Ndiyaxolisa nkosazana kukuthi nje bendisothuswe yile yenzeke apha. Mna ndingu

Nokonwaba unkosikazi wase Maqwathini ndizalwa yintombi yase Mampingeni, utata yena engu Mbhele (am sorry princess but I was just shocked by what happened here. My name is Nokonwaba wife of e Mqwathini, my mother is Mampinga and my father is Mbele)

Ncebakazi: A pleasure to meet you, from what I heard your husband is the prince of this land and a chief of his land, which makes you the princess of this land and a chiefs wife of your land.

Nokonwaba: That is so complicated but am glad his rights are being acknowledged in his home and I know that will make him happy.

Ncebakazi: We aim to please, your husband is family and so are you.

Nokonwaba: Thank you princess, please tell me who is this lady because it seems she is still out of it.

Ncebakazi: That is the crown princess of this land, the wife of my brother Bukhosi the one who scared you when you got here. The reason she is like that is that she is a new wife and didn't know yet that her

husband is a guardian of this kingdom.

Iminathi: What did I marry sis Ncebakazi?

Ncebakazi: It's not what, it's who and you married Bukhosi base Nkomanzi guardian of the land, the prince and the future king of Nkomanzi.

Iminathi: Why wasn't I told about his?

Ncebakazi: That is for your husband to answer but I suggest you tread carefully when you bring up the topic, I will get you some refreshments. (she walked out)

Iminathi: What does she mean tread carefully? This man hid the most important part of himself and am supposed to tread carefully?

Nokonwaba: My dear, this is what is called marriage. I don't know how yours came about but I suggest you listen to her. I have found out things about my husband that made me resent him for a long time but then I remembered all the things he had done for me in the past without judging me and I forgave him. I am not saying do the same all am saying is give him a chance to explain himself as Bukhosi because

believe me you don't want those gods of his coming out to explain themselves.

Iminathi thought of her father's death and how Bukhosi supported her.

Iminathi: I hear you and thank you for your kind words. If you don't mind I would like to keep in contact with you so that you can give me advice.

Nokonwaba: I would like that but I don't want to step on the toes of the queen.

Iminathi: There is no queen in this kingdom yet, the king has no wife.

Nokonwaba: In that case I will be happy to assist.

Back in Joburg Amanda woke up 9 hours after she slept, she woke up feeling hungry, she woke up and went to the bathroom did her business then washed her hands and face and made her way to the kitchen still yawning. She saw Jacob sitting on a high chair having a sandwich.

Amanda: Good evening (yawns)

Jacob: Yeah

Amanda: Where is everyone?

Jacob: Don't know just got here

Amanda: Okay, Am sorry I didn't cook I wasn't feeling well so I took some pills and they knocked me out.

Jacob: It's okay I am having a sandwich, I figured you were not well or not here because I didn't see you.

Amanda: No I was here but I was asleep

Jacob: Oh I hear you

Amanda: I will have an apple then start cooking am sure the guys are also hungry.

Jacob: mmmm

Amanda: Are you Okay?

Jacob: Why?

Amanda: Am asking because today you are worse than your usual grumpy and unpredictable self.

Jacob: I must be tired then.

Amanda: Okay then let me cook.

Amanda started with the pots while Jacob kept a close eye on her and the ingredients she was adding to the food. But when Amanda turned around he would focus on his phone keeping a straight face. Back at the hospital the the specialist had already arrived about 7 hours ago and attending to Lisa. It had been 5 hours since he went in and has not come out with an update yet. The doctors from the hospital including the chief of staff were up and down trying to impress the most prestigious doctor. Sticks was worried and tired but refused to leave until he gets an update on Lisa. The doctor finally came out followed by a bunch of doctors and residents doctors as well. Sticks stood up and the doctor stood in front of his while the other doctor and residents were behind him.

Sticks: Before you say anything please tell your army to leave because am sure you are more than capable

of giving me an upgrade without them holding your hand.

Doctor: My apologies (he turned to the doctors) I will take it from here please leave us (they turned around and left)

Doctor: Now the patient has been poisoned with iron for a period of roughly 3 weeks and some days. As a result the iron had gotten too much in her body that it started eating away at her liver. As we speak she only has half of the liver, which is why she was coughing piece of it.

Stick: Will she be alright?

Doctor: She will be, we operated on her and removed the part of the liver that was already damaged. So am expecting her recovery to take up to 2 weeks of which 1 she will spend here at the hospital to be monitored.

Sticks: I hear you doctor and thank you for coming once again.

Doctor: it's a pleasure now go home and rest you will only see her tomorrow because she is heavily

sedated.

Sticks: Okay Doctor Thank you (Sticks left the hospital going home, it took him less time because it was already late in the evening. He got home parked and went into the house)

Jacob: You back

Sticks: Yeah

Jacob: How is she?

Sticks: She will be alright, how did you know?

Jacob: Let's go to my office (they went out to the back to Jacob's office)

Sticks: Out with it

Jacob: Well when I got here and saw this (he showed him a picture of the blood he took, Sticks face changed from tired to anger) so I took a sample and got it tested that's how I found how.

Sticks: Who did this?

Jacob: Don't worry am going to find out soon.

Sticks: I want to son of a dog found within the next

two day Jacob, I will make an example of him and who would do this without being caught for this long?

Jacob: Leave this to me and I will sort it out.

Sticks: I trust you.

Sticks was fuming because he wanted to find out who the traitor among his people was. He was already think of things he will do to him when he gets his hands on him.

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Insert 81

Matatiele (not edited)

Now no matter how much you enjoy being home but

there are some people you would like to avoid. Like those aunts with big breasts and a mouth that is black from what is called intshongo. It's like they smell when you are home and come to visit, but wait till they meet you and squeeze you between those sweat smelly breasts and kiss you with those black lips oh and not on the cheek but straight on the mouth. Yes I know everyone has that aunt and then when they start chatting the first question they ask is when are you getting married and tell you how old you getting and how your age mates are married with kids and so forth. It's exhausting but those are the joys of being home.

The royal family of Nkomanzi were sitting on the dining table about to have dinner. Everyone is there that would be Mqwathi and his wife, Nkosibuthe and his daughters and son. Bukhosi, his wife and grand mother. The maidens served dinner and everyone started eating.

Mqwathi: I know I just got here but I don't know everyone here it's been a while since I left and I

would like to know who am dining with.

Nkosibuthe: I am Nkosibuthe, king of Nkomanzi and those two are my daughters. The one on your right is the eldest Ncebakazi and the one on your left is Zodwa then my son next to me Bukhosi.

Mqwathi: A pleasure to meet you again Nkosibuthe because I remember when I left you were just a year old.

Nkosibuthe: You know me?

Mqwathi: Yes I do cousin, your father was the elder followed by his brother took over when your father left for some duties. Then my father was the youngest.

Nkosibuthe: Wow I wouldn't remember is I was that young.

Mqwathi: I have been meaning to ask, where is our cruel uncle?

Nkosibuthe: He does earlier this year and I came back to take back what is rightfully mine.

Mqwathi: I heard he chased you away as well.

Nkosibuthe: Yes he did but in the end I came back home.

Mqwathi: Good, I have another question your son looks familiar.

Nokonwaba: Permission to speak royals

Nkosibuthe: No need to ask for permission you are family.

Nokonwaba: My king, I know your son and am sure he remembers me too. We meet back at Encoko and he came for Asithandile.

Mqwathi: You know my daughter son?

Bukhosi: How is my sister your daughter when her father died after our mother died in your village?

Mqwathi: Are you Nobuntu's son? No wonder you look familiar now I see the resemblance.

(Nkosibuthe became uncomfortable)

Nkosibuthe: How Do you know Nobuntu and why do you say her daughter is yours?

Mqwathi: Well it's a long story that I would rather not get into when there are no children here.

Nkosibuthe: All the children leave us, Bukhosi remains, everyone else go to the other dining room and finish your dinner. (nobody asked any questions as they stood up and left the room with their plates)

Nkosibuthe: Now Tell us dear cousin, how do you know Nobuntu?

Mqwathi: Well I could sit here and lie but I won't do that because I have been living a lie all my life. Well Nobuntu was married to Sakhumzi and they lived in my village after coming back from Mthatha. Long story short my village was suffering and someone paid me to drug and sleep with Nobuntu so that she could fall pregnant because apparently Sakhumzi couldn't have kids so I did it and got paid and help out my village. That's how Asithandile became my daughter.

Nosakhele: How cruel can one be? I mean my daughter had no choice in the matter she was actually a victim. You violated my daughter without her knowledge, no wonder my grand daughter was sick she was introduced to ancestors that are not hers. How cruel could you be?

Bukhosi: I would like to be excused

Nkosibuthe: Bukhosi sit down son so that we can resolve this as a family.

Bukhosi: Father If I stay here one more minute I will kill this man.

Chief: Let him leave my king (Bukhosi stood up and left)

Nkosibuthe: That was a love of my love you violated cousin, the mother of my heir and the woman that was supposed to be the queen of this land.

Chief: You will have to cleanse Bukhosi and his grand mother, pay damages for all that you have done and welcome your daughter to the family and introduce her to her rightful ancestors.

Nkosibuthe: Asithandile is not in the country at the moment.

Mqwathi: I know that

Nosakhele: How Do you know that?

Mqwathi: I...

Nosakhele: Did you have anything to do with her kidnapping?

Mqwathi: No but the woman who paid me to sleep with Nobuntu took her and told me to continue helping her and she won't harm her but I haven't heard from her in a long time because now am dealing with her associates.

Nkosibuthe: I am sure you are talking about my heartless late wife who I don't know half the things she got up just to keep me away from my son.

Mqwathi: Was that cruel woman your wife?

Nkosibuthe: Sadly Yes, a wife chosen for me by my so called uncle.

Nosakhele: This keeps getting better and better. I am going to leave and rest my old bones. My daughter suffered a lot and I wasn't there to protect her.

Mqwathi: Am sorry for all that I did.

Nosakhele: Will that bring my daughter back?

Mqwathi: No but...

Nosakhele: I need to get some rest (she left them there and Bukhosi came back)

Bukhosi: I want this man gone

Nkosibuthe: Bukhosi he is family and we have to resolve this.

Bukhosi: It's either he goes or I take my wife and leave. And be sure of this, I will never set foot in this palace again.

Chief: That will be a tragedy my king, the guardian cannot leave the palace and not come back. That will bring Nkomanzi to its knees.

Bukhosi: Make your choice father

Nkosibuthe: Bukhosi my son, I just found you, in fact I just found all of you please let me resolve this the right way.

Mqwathi: I know sorry won't bring back your mother and it won't change what I have done but am ashamed and am sorry for all that I have done. Please forgive me dear guardian of Nkomanzi.

Bukhosi: I speak not as the guardian of Nkomanzi

but as the son of a woman he never knew, a son of a woman that was violated and killed without meeting her son again. I speak in the flesh and not as the spirit or the guardian but as a broken child who needed and waited for a mother that never returned.

Nkosibuthe: Please son don't talk like that, it hurts me because I as well was not a part of your life and when you speak this way you speak not only of your mother but of me as well. I apologize my dear son for the both of us, please forgive us.

Bukhosi: Clearly you have made your choice, long live king Nkosibuthe of Nkomanzi, May your kingdom prosper, may your daughters get married and have children. May you all have peace in your lives. (Bukhosi went up stairs and Iminathi was there)

Bukhosi: Did you unpack anything when we got here?

Iminathi: No it got so busy that I didn't have time, I can do it now.

Bukhosi: No take your bags we are leaving.

Iminathi: Whatever it is that is going on is not worth

leaving your family at a time like this, please my dear prince reconsider.

Bukhosi: Is my wife going to define me now?

Iminathi: Not at all my prince.

Bukhosi: Then Do as I say I beg of you.

Iminathi: Very well then (she took her bags and that of her husbands out of the closet and Bukhosi took them)

Bukhosi: Lets go home (they left going down the stairs and Ncebakazi and Zodwa were standing at the bottom of the stairs.

Ncebakazi: Please don't leave us again brother

Zodwa: We need you Brother please don't leave. How can a king be welcomed and crowned by the people now without the crowned prince and princess present.

Bukhosi: You know where my home is when you need me sisters but right now I can't be here. (he left them there and passed the dining room to the main door and Nkosibuthe followed them)

Nkosibuthe: Son please don't leave I need you here.

Bukhosi: You have your rapist of a cousin you don't need me (he opens the car door and got it and reversed out and left Nkosibuthe there) Nkosibuthe went back to the house and sat on his chair.

Mqwathi: Am sorry I came and am sorry I ruined Your coronation and most importantly am sorry I got between you and your son.

Nkosibuthe: It is well, his angry and it's understandable. We wronged Nobuntu and our children and now we are paying for it.

Chief: It is clear as day now that this Nobuntu woman was the one who was meant to be queen in this land. The gods tried by all means to get her to the royal palace but the evil won with her and now the children are paying the price. My king you have to get the guardian back home or what will happen next won't be pleasant.

Nkosibuthe: But How Because Bukhosi is stubborn.

Chief: Find a way.

Guys sorry for not finishing the insert, my battery is low and electricity just went off. But I will post again after I charge.

#loveadmin

Insert 82

Colombia (not edited)

The evil never think that their time will come, they always think that things will go their way and nothing can touch them. They forget that life is like a wheel that turns, today am the one at the bottom but tomorrow you will be the one at the bottom. The whole family of the Iron Rose company was at their happiest, money was rolling in, their businesses were legal, their hospital is opening in a week and their arms deal business has been accepted by the arm to supply them with special weapons. The drug

business of Rodrigo is at its peak with Ximena getting new business all over the country and making copies of the contracts before sending the originals to be kept in the safe. Everything was just going smoothly and so was the plan for Ximena to send Rodrigo to jail forever.

Rodrigo: Babe I want to do something nice for you but you are dressed to go out.

Ximena: No babe am not going out per se am just meeting with Martinas to discuss his latest job before I come home and rest.

Rodrigo: Okay then please go now I want to prepare somethings.

Ximena: What are you up to?

Rodrigo: Nothing you just come back straight home after the meeting.

Ximena: Not even a hint of what is about to go down? I mean you making me anxious that I might not even go to meet Martinas.

Rodrigo: Oh no! You going or that man will want to

come here to meet with you and that will ruin everything so please go.

Ximena: I never thought I would see the day when am chased out of this house.

Rodrigo: Well today is that day my love, so please leave.

Ximena: WOW am leaving

Rodrigo: Byee and hurry home.

Ximena: Am being chased out but I must hurry back?

Rodrigo: Just go Ximena

Ximena got into the car with two guards following her, she drove to their office building because that is where she is meeting Martinas.

- I hope am doing the right thing here but if this is a mistake, please God let my family forgive me and at least get my body to bury me.

She said a little prayer as she parked in front of the building. She got out of the car and took her bag

then took her time walking into the building as she was nervous and scared of what Martinas will say or do when she tells him everything. She got to the boardroom and he was sitting alone having a glass of scotch.

Martinas: My lady

Ximena: Evening Martinas

Martinas: How is my lady doing today?

Ximena: Very well thank you for asking and you?

Martinas: Not well, am worried that I might have messed up something that is why you want to see me alone. But also hopeful that you will help me get out of whatever mess I have made.

Ximena: Oh no don't worry this is not about you but me. Please sit down and I would like you to listen to me without interrupting until I finish.

Martinas: Okay now am curious (he sat down and looked at Ximena)

Ximena: Let me start by introducing myself to you. My name is Asithandile Malinga all the way from

South Africa.

Martinas: Wait are you a spy?

Ximena: No but please let me finish (Martinas nodded already nervous about what he was about to hear because he trusts this woman and there are a few people that he trusts)

Ximena: As I was saying, I come from South Africa and the man you know as Rodrigo here is also a South African citizen which you might know about him. But what you don't know is how he ruined my life. (Martinas face changed) that man was dating my sister and I met him after he almost ran me over with his car because I wasn't looking, he took me home and made sure I was alright. I met him again when my sisters and I had double dates with our partners that is where I realized that the man who saved me was my sisters boyfriend. So we introduced each other but he has other plans, he told everyone on the table that i was his and that he will do anything to have me. Obviously the men reacted, that would be my boyfriend and my older sisters boyfriend beat him up and told him never to come

back. My sister was hurt because she loved this man and so was I because I felt that I contributed to all that happened somehow. My sister and I spoke and we were fine she didn't blame me in fact she was happy that she found out the kind of man he was. Long story short when I was going to my home town where I was born to do some rituals because I was sick and not sleeping well, that morning I woke up early to go buy a few things for the road and I was going to meeting my brother and grandma in town and I don't know what happened but I woke up here. He had kidnapped me, changed my name and registered me to school here and that's how Ximena was born. Over the past year and few months I forgot about going home because there was no hope because everything I did was monitored even the calls I made and the internet I used. When he introduced me to this business I thought this was my chance to take him down but I had to be smart about it and not take down people who had no hand in his dealings which is why I made sure everything that is being done here is legal and made sure to clean your name and everything. Also him being in

charge of the only illegal business we have was my plan because I wanted to send him to jail. Now am sure you wondering why I am telling you this now, well because am graduating next week and I want to send him to jail at the same time so that I can go home and see my family and also am telling you because I know you would want to bail him out of jail and all that which am hoping you won't.

Martinas: I will do even worse, you get him to jail and I will make sure he dies in there. Rodrigo knows that women are our no go area and he went and kidnapped you and brought you here thinking we won't know? Ximena you did well by involving me and I hope you have enough evidence to at least keep him in there for that night for me to put my plan in place. Am grateful you thought about drug dealers like us with blood on our hands, Am glad you saw us worthy of a second chance at this life and doing things by the book. Thank you for having a good heart and I don't blame you for what you are about to do because I would have done worse. Two years this man kept you from your family and that is no child's

play.

Ximena: Coming here I was scared of what you might say or do to me but am grateful I came.

Martinas: Don't worry my lady I am behind you all the way.

Ximena: Thank you, let me go his waiting for me.

Martinas: Be safe my lady, don't give off anything you almost there.

Ximena: I think I can manage a few days.

Martinas: Good.

Ximena left the office and Martinas made a call and the person answered in two rings.

Convo:

Voice: I never thought I would hear this voice ever again since i saw you on tv doing good stuff and shit.

Martinas: I don't forget where I come from that easy.

Voice: Good to know.

Martinas: I have a job for you.

Voice: Money in my wife's bank account and when she confirms the job is done.

Martinas: Worry not I will do it now maybe tomorrow she will confirm but the job is next week.

Voice: Am all ears.

Martinas: A friend of mine is coming over that side some time next week and I want a clean cut on him.

Voice: Oh my what did the sum of bitch do to deserve the famous clean cut?

Martinas: He messed with what is most dear to me, the one who made me who I am today and took the cops of my back. The one who made sure I go out there and walk the streets without the fear of caps and cop cars.

Ximena: Damn I want this person to clean me up as well, this is not life man and am missing out of a lot of things from my son.

Martinas: Do this and we will talk.

Voice: Name?

Martinas: Rodrigo

Voice: What but I thought that was your home boy.

Martinas: As I said he messed up.

Voice: Consider it cleaned and cup to pieces.

Martinas: I like the sound of that.

They said their goodbyes and Martinas left the office and got into his car and sat there for a while before moving.

Martinas: Rodrigo might have done a bitchy move but he helped us at the same time, this girl gave us something we long forgot we will get it but now we have it because of her and Rodrigo. I just hope she wasn't this hurt about what he did but I understand where she is coming from. My daughter was having nightmares for months after she was kidnapped by mother enemies so I understand where Ximena is coming from. Rodrigo is liability now and she is a asset to all of us. He then drove off.

Ximena went home and when she got there the lights were dimmed and there were rose pedals on the floor going all the way to the dining room.

Ximena's heart started beating fast thinking that Rodrigo might have decided to take her virginity tonight as she had no excuse to get out of it because her period was last week and he knows how sick she gets on her period. She walked in and the table was set nicely with soft music playing.

Ximena: Am home!

Rodrigo: Put down your bag am on my way. (she put down the bag and made her way to the table)

Rodrigo: Let me get that for you my love (he opened the chair for her and she sat. He went and for the food from the kitchen and served her)

Rodrigo: Lets eat.

Ximena: What is the occasion?

Rodrigo: I just wanted to thank you for turning out to be the best girlfriend I have ever been with. Ximena you complete me and I keep falling in love with you every day. This is to say thank you for that.

Ximena: Oh I really appreciate it.

Rodrigo: And it's your birthday next week and time to take our relationship to the next level. As a result I booked us a weekend away.

Ximena: I would love that but you going away on Wednesday.

Rodrigo: Yes am going away on Wednesday but am taking the jet back on Thursday to get here Friday morning in time for us to go.

Ximena: Okay that's good then I will pack a few things for us.

Rodrigo: Thank you babe.

Joburg:

Sticks was in the kitchen having breakfast before going to the hospital to check on Lisa. Amanda got in and made a cup of coffee.

Amanda: Good morning

Sticks: Morning Amanda

Amanda: You up early

Sticks: Am going to visit Lisa at the hospital and I want to be there for the first visit.

Amanda: Is she awake?

Sticks: She should be by now because the doctor said she will wake up this morning. And I have to pass somewhere to get her something to eat.

Amanda: No let me make her something light like a smoothie and a chicken wrap.

Sticks: Okay You right she might not want to eat anything heavy.

Amanda: Wait for me I also want to go see her.

Sticks: Okay but am leaving in 30 minutes.

Amanda: Don't worry I will be done.

Sticks: Sure let me check on Jacob

Sticks left and went to the back cottage to check on

Jacob. He knocked and was invited in.

Sticks: Morning man.

Jacob: Sure

Sticks: Am about to go to the hospital so I want you to take care of business.

Jacob: Sure but don't go empty handed man you know how hospital food is.

Sticks: No! Amanda is making her something we are going together in the next few minutes.

Jacob: Amanda?

Sticks: Yeah

Jacob: Okay but keep your phone close am working on something I might need your go ahead on it all goes well.

Sticks: Sure man and thanks.

Jacob: It's all good man, say hi to madam for me.

Stick: She will kick your butt if she hears you say that you know how much she hates it.

Jacob: Haha I know that will motivate her to come home and deal with me.

Sticks: That might work.

Amanda: Bhut let's go am ready

Sticks: See you later man.

Jacob: Sure

Sticks and Amanda left and Jacob went to his computer and checked the footage and he saw it all. He closed the computer and went to the kitchen where he found the iron poison and put it in an evidence bag. Sent a message to Sticks

Man, get rid of the food Amanda made or you will kill Lisa. Trust me.

Sticks phone beeped and he took it out of the pocket and clicked on the message then got angry but decided to calm down.

Sticks: Amanda may I have some of the food you got, I didn't eat.

Amanda: No let's go to the drive through and get you something to eat.

Sticks: No I will stop at Mc Donald and you can go in I need to make a few calls.

Amanda: Sure

They drove to Mc Donald and Amanda got off leaving Sticks fuming and calling Jacob.

Stay tuned

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Insert 83

Joburg (not edited)

There is a saying that no good deed goes unpunished, now if you ask me the saying is twisted, to me it should say no bad deed goes unpunished. I mean because most of those who do bad do get their punishment one day but it does make sense in some way because most times when you do good you get punished for it as if you did something wrong, you get blamed for people's reactions just because they were not ready to face the truth. Take for example your best friend, this woman you have know for sometime and you look out for each other, then you find out that her boyfriend is cheating on her then you tell her and what does she do? She accuses you of being jealous of her relationship and blames you every thing that ever went wrong in her relationship. But when you don't tell her and finds out of her own and you tell her you knew but didn't want to get involved she accuses you of being a bad friend. So either way you will be in the wrong. Amanda left a fuming Sticks in the car while she

went inside Mc Donald to get him breakfast, he looks at the smoothie she made Lisa and opened it then spilled it on himself and on the chair and made sure to spill the whole lot of it. Amanda comes back while his wiping the chair before wiping himself.

Amanda: Bhuti what did you do? (she looks horrified)

Sticks: Am sorry Amanda I couldn't resist and now my phone had to ring while opening it then when I reached out for it that's when the smoothie spilled.

Amanda: Am sorry as long as you didn't drink it (she quickly realized what she had said and quickly tries to cover it up) I mean you didn't even get to drink it. You should have asked me to make you one.

Sticks: It's okay, Lisa can have my breakfast it's already late to get something else now, let's go. (he drives off still fuming with anger but tried by all means to contain himself) they got to the hospital and parked then made their way in and met the doctor coming out of Lisa's ward.

Doctor: Good morning, I see you are well rested.

Sticks: I am doc, how is she?

Doctor: She is responding well to the treatment and has woken up.

Sticks: That's good news can I see her.

Doctor: One person at a time and only for 10 minutes, she needs all the rest she can get to recover.

Sticks: I hear you doc. (the doctors left and Sticks made his way in and his heart broke at the sight of Lisa looking pale with cracked lips)

Sticks: Hey die hard.

Lisa: haha don't make me laugh it's painful.

Sticks: Am sorry how are you feeling?

Lisa: Like I have been hit by a train.

Sticks: You will get better I promise, I have brought you breakfast.

Lisa: I can do with something other than hospital food. I even miss Amanda's cooking. (Sticks clenched his jaws and stood up and took out the McDonald breakfast then made her sit properly so she can eat and she started digging in)

Sticks: So Tell me, what happened because when I left you were fine and arguing with me about going back to school.

Lisa: Honestly I don't know, one minute I was watching tv and drinking tea and the next am coughing blood with pieces of meat. Which freaked me out.

Sticks: Strange, what kind of tea did you make yourself?

Lisa: It was just a normal herbal tea Amanda made me (she said without paying attention to Sticks who suddenly had a murderous face)

Lisa: This breakfast is good, feels like I haven't eaten in a long time.

Sticks: Am glad you enjoying it. The doctor only gave me 10 minutes so I have to get going so that you can also get some rest because when I come back here I want to go home with you.

Lisa: Well in that case leave so that I can rest and convince the doctor to let me go home. I can't take this place anymore.

Sticks: I can imagine and I have been thinking.

Lisa: Yes?

Sticks: I want to take you home to see your parents after this. I know you going to say you not ready but how do you think I they would have felt had you died here without making peace with them?

- [] Lisa: They would have blamed themselves and my mother would have blamed my father for kicking me out. Sigh.. as much as I am not ready You right I have to go see them but I want to graduate first on Saturday then go home with my degree. At least that will make my father proud.

Sticks: Okay then it's settled but if you don't get discharged until graduation I will go collect your certificate for you.

Lisa: As much as I would love to be there to graduate in front of others and take pictures, if my health doesn't allow it then I will have to settle.

Sticks: You don't have to settle for any babe. If you not discharged I will ask the doctor to let you go then I will bring you back.

Lisa: I would love that, now go please.

Sticks: Are you already tired of me?

Lisa: Never my love.

Sticks: I know babe, let me go sort out a few things then I will come back later on Okay.

Lisa: Okay then (he kissed her forehead and went out and Amanda stood up)

Amanda: How is she? Can I go and see her?

Sticks: I don't think that is good idea and I don't know what the doctor was talking about because this person looks like she will die any moment now.

Amanda: Is it that bad?

Sticks: Worse, her lips are cracked, she is pale, can't even say one word without stopping and taking a breath. It's bad and I don't know what to do anymore.

Amanda: She will be fine you will see.

Sticks: I appreciate your support Amanda, now let's go home this place is depressing. (Amanda smiled as Sticks took her hand and they walked out the

hospital and into the parking, he opened the door for her and she slides in and he went to his side and they drove off. On the way Amanda is looking out the window with a smile on her face as Sticks hand never left hers. They got home and Jacob was outside with the guys)

Sticks: Sure Guys

Them: Bozza

Sticks: Amanda can you prepare us something to eat, I haven't eaten all day.

Amanda: Sure (Amanda went to the house to make food)

Sticks: Your crib

Jacob: Sure let's go (they went to the back)

Sticks: Tell me this is not true Jacob

Jacob: I wish I could but unfortunately I can't.

Sticks: Let's see what you have for me (Jacob went to his computer and switched it on then he went to the footage and it showed Amanda smiling in the kitchen making food)

Sticks: How can someone like that do something like this?

Jacob: Look at this mornings footage and hear what she says.

Sticks: Play it (Jacob connected it)

The footage showed Amanda making the smoothie and taking the container with the poison and adding it to the smoothie then says ' I will make sure you don't get out of that hospital alive, I told you to leave Sticks alone but you didn't listen. You can't come here and take what I have long waited for' Jacob switched it off.

Sticks: What the hell is wrong with this woman?

Jacob: She is obsessed with you man.

Sticks: But I never gave her any hope, Amanda lived in this house for many years and not once did I act inappropriately with her.

Jacob: You can never know man, so what now?

Sticks: Do you have the poison?

Jacob: Sure (Jacob took it out and gave it to Sticks)
what are you going to do?

Sticks: Watch the footage and you will see. (Sticks took the poison and went into the house and Amanda was busy in the kitchen, Sticks went to the cupboard and stood there.)

Sticks: Can you get me water from the fridge please

Amanda: You must be really hungry for you to be standing here while I cook.

Sticks: You have no idea (Amanda went to the fridge to take out the water while Sticks put the poison back into the cupboard) Amanda finished cooking and asked Sticks to call the guys while she sets the table. Sticks called the guys in and went to call Jacob.

Jacob: What are you up to man.

Sticks: Watch and see

Jacob: This won't end well.

Sticks: Just as it didn't end well for Lisa now let's go eat.

Jacob: Alright (they went into the house)

Jacob: The food smells amazing Amanda

Amanda: Oh it's nothing Jacob, sit while I go get the food. (the guys took their seats and Amanda brought the food and they dished for themselves, Sticks took one spoon)

Sticks: This is good but it needs something.

Amanda: What?

Sticks: Back pepper let me go get it (he stood up and went to get that bottle as the poison was in it and came back and sat then opened the bottle)

Amanda: Let me see that bhuti

Sticks: It black pepper (he said pouring it in and Amanda noticed that it was the poison and took it from Sticks then pushed his plate and it fell and broke)

Jacob: What the hell Amanda!

Sticks: What is wrong with you?

Amanda: Nothing that is not black pepper

Sticks: Then what is it?

Amanda: It's a different spice

Sticks: Then it won't do any harm so go fish me another plate so that I can taste it.

Amanda: No!!

Sticks: That's it am sick of this! What the hell is wrong with you?

Amanda: Nothing bhuti But that spice is not good to eat raw it must be cooked and blend in with the ingredients.

Sticks: Amanda am not a child and if I want to have my food with that spice I will do so! Now go get me my food I want to eat.

Amanda: No! I won't let you kill yourself not after everything

Sticks: What are you talking about? (the others were busy eating and watching these two as they go on and on)

Sticks: You know what am going to get the food myself (he went to the kitchen and took another

plate then came back and dished for himself and took that bottle again but Amanda went and took it from him)

Sticks: What the hell is wrong with you? Give me that!

Amanda: No!

Sticks: Amanda I said give me that now!

Amanda: No!

Sticks: You think am playing with you right? (went to Amanda and they fought over the bottle until it fell and broke)

Sticks: What the hell did you do that for!

Amanda: I will not let you kill yourself like Lisa.

Sticks: What do you mean by that?

Amanda: Nothing am just angry

Sticks: Don't fuck with me Amanda what the hell do you mean by that?

Amanda: I said nothing! Don't you say things you don't mean when you angry? (Sticks went to her and pushed her against the wall and choked her)

Sticks: Tell me what the fuck you meant!

Amanda: Sticks.. you are hurting me

Sticks: Tell me what you mean or I kill you right now

Amanda: Okay...I will talk just let me go (Sticks let her go and she started coughing uncontrollably until she comes down)

Stick: Now talk! (he banged his fists on the table and that startled Amanda)

Amanda: That was not a spice it's the poison I have been feeding Lisa. Please understand that I did it for us bhuti (crying) I wanted her out of the way so that we can be together.

Sticks: What gave the idea that I would date you?

Amanda: Because you love me but because you blinded by the lust you have for Lisa you can't see that. We have been through a lot together we can't Lisa destroy that.

Sticks: No you have been through a lot and I helped you.

Amanda: That alone was love, no man would do that

for a woman for nothing. You love me and were patient with me and now am ready to accept your love.

Sticks: Jacob take her to the crocodiles and bring me her bones am going to decorate my office with them.

Amanda: You can't do that to me bhuti

Sticks: Watch me, no one messes with what's mine and get away with it. Jacob do as I say and get you friend to clean the bones because I need them.

Jacob: Sure (he pulled Amanda by the arm while she cried holding on to Sticks who pulled away and she fell and Jacob dragged her way)

Mthatha

Iminathi and Bukhosi are having lunch in the dining table.

Bukhosi: Babe I was thinking we should go for a weekend away, we need it after everything that has

been going on.

Iminathi: I hear you my dear but I would like you to fix things with your family before we leave.

Bukhosi: I told you that I want nothing to do with those people after everything they have done.

Iminathi: It hurts me that the moment I set food in your homestead you have a fight with your family and you don't even listen to me. Am your wife and am supposed to bring the family together at times like this (before Bukhosi could answer his pager went off and he stood up and took the ear piece and put it in his ear)

Bukhosi: My little sister

Asithandile: Brother, how are you?

Bukhosi: Am well sister just missing you and how are you?

Asithandile: Am Good just wanted to let you know that am graduating tomorrow and coming home and Saturday.

Bukhosi: What about the problem?

Asithandile: By this time tomorrow he will be behind bars.

Bukhosi: Good now you talking.

Asithandile: Where is my new sister in law?

Bukhosi: She's right here

Asithandile: Can I greet her at least. (Bukhosi took off he ear piece and gave it to Iminathi)

Iminathi: Hello

Asithandile: It's good to finally talk to you, how are you?

Iminathi: If you can tell me how to get through to your brother then I would be fine.

Asithandile: What is going on?

Iminathi: Fall our with the family

Asithandile: I will be there this weekend and I will convince him.

Iminathi: Thank you and I can't wait to meet you.

Asithandile: Same here, bye for now.

They hang up and Bukhosi was busy in his room getting things together to go fetch Asithandile from London on the weekend and called him guy to make sure everything goes well.

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Insert 84

Colombia

They say every dog has its day, I don't know what exactly that means or where it came from but in my opinion it means everyone gets their day. Whether to prosper or to go down for your deeds. Martina's and his friend had everything under control and so did Ximena. Rodrigo left Colombia with a truck full of

cocaine to Mexico and private police were on his tail because they had already gotten the evidence that was sent to them anonymously, they have also informed the Mexican police since Mexico is not their jurisdiction and also sent them the evidence as well as the address he was going to. They kept informing them of his movements all the way to Mexico, Rodrigo didn't even notice because his trips always ran smoothly he got to the Mexican border and the men he worked with gave him a pass without searching him and he left while the guys were arrested by the Mexican authorities who got the information that they were working with him. See the evidence they got was detailed and had every contact of Rodrigo, every client, warehouse and routes he takes. The police had everything they needed and they were taking his associates one by one as they moved along. They were quietly following him some passing him on the road taking different routes just so they don't blow their cover.

Rodrigo on the other hand couldn't wait to get back

home so that he can take Ximena on a weekend away to celebrate her graduation and to finally take their relationship to the next level. He was smiling as he thought of that, he thought of all the things he will do to her when he finally makes her his. He imagined having her wake up next to him on the same bed every morning, he thought of how beautiful she will look in her wedding dress when they finally get married. He thought of how cute her cheek will be when she is pregnant with their first child. He was smiling on his own when the other guy sitting next to him decided to ask him.

Guy: Rodrigo my man, what makes you smile like that.

Rodrigo: No nothing man. (smiling)

Guy: The only thing that can make a guy smile like that is a woman or hitting what he always wanted to hit.

Rodrigo: Well I didn't hit anything yet, been saving myself for the love of my life for the past two years Ntwana (boy)

Guy: What? Two whole years?

Rodrigo: Yes man two years

Guy: What! is she made of gold? Or is she the presidents daughter?

Rodrigo: None of the above my guy, just that she is different my man, she is a goddess, she makes a man worship the ground she walks on. The confidence she has is not the kind that makes you see her as arrogant but one that makes you see her as independent. She is the whole package my man.

Guy: I have to meet this girl.

Rodrigo: Oh that will be impossible but she is the one that has been making all the changes to the business.

Guy: Well all the guys have been wanting to see the new Chief in town because my guy we have been working well ever since she took over. I mean you know that jail was our second home but now none of us have seen jail in months and we are starting to even gain weight. Not to mention to money dog.

Rodrigo: That's my lady right there my man.

Guy: My man I understand the wait then, clearly this is not one of those women who can't live without sex.

Rodrigo: Man this one is still sealed.

Guy: What? Hay no man you are very lucky, see I have never dated a woman who is sealed my guy ever (Rodrigo laughed as they got to their associates and parked)

He got out of the truck and went inside and few minutes later his associates who took over Martina's routes after he retired. Not small time drug dealers but big shots who saw the opportunity and asked to use the routes and Martinas asked them to talk to Rodrigo about it who made arrangements. They got outside and Rodrigo's guys opened the truck and the drug lords tasted the product then nodded to one another and a bakie was brought forward and opened and stacks of money was full at the back of the bakie. They exchanged the car key and Rodrigo

and his people now got into the bakie and drove off while the others drove the truck into the warehouse. The police got in at that moment and arrested them taking them away without a fight as they were caught off guard. The other police stopped in front of Rodrigo and his guy and pulled out their guns and badges. The moment Rodrigo saw this he step out of the bakie like a boss with his hands in the air. They were all arrested but they were not worried at all because they knew they will be out the next day and have their money back as well.

They were taken into the Colombian police cars since the authorities agreed that they will be prosecuted in both Colombia and Mexico since the two states have different laws and the crimes were committed on both of them. The drive to Colombia was smooth as the guys were already at the boarder when they got arrested.

Guy: Hey Rodrigo my guy, how much do you think we can offer these morons?

Rodrigo: Not a cent because they don't deserve it
(the started laughing)

Guy: I bet it they could hear us now they would be
mad as hell.

Rodrigo: Mad but won't do anything because I would
sue them the moment am let go.

Guy: Who do you think did this?

Rodrigo: No one man, these fools were probably
lucky this time but I know my girl and the guys will
get us out by morning.

Guy: You see what I mean when I say jail is no longer
our friend? I mean the boss lady got us each a
lawyer so that we are not represented by one person
who will be suspected. How genius is that?

Rodrigo: Top I tell you my man. (they got to the
Colombian police station and booked them then
escorted to another car to take them to prison)

Rodrigo: My lawyer will have a party when he hears
you took me to jail without giving me my phone call.
(one of the police guys who drove them there spoke)

Police: It's funny how you think luck will always be on your side. This time you're going down Rodrigo! Or should I say Vusi?

Rodrigo clenched his jaws and veins on his forehead became visible as he was angry.

Police: Oh am sorry I didn't mean to upset you! But hey you can sue me for that hahah (he said and walked away)

Rodrigo was the only one taken to prison while the others remained at the police station and given their phone call to call their lawyers and they were already on their way. Rodrigo got to the prison and was taken to the cell where big criminals were kept and Martina's friends were already waiting for him.

Guy: Bring that one this side he has money and pay for his stay here.

Fingers: No my guy that one is mine.

Guy: Who said he was yours huh?

Fingers: Ask the M boss

Guy: But the M boss retired!

Rodrigo: Says you because you in here, Martina's is more than the boss of the underworld but he rules the legal as well.

Guy: Fuck!!

Fingers: Welcome to hell R

Rodrigo: Not for long my guy

Fingers: We will see about that

Rodrigo: What do you mean?

Fingers looked at him walked away from him joining his crew telling them the target has arrive but they are not to do anything until the boss arrives. The guys nodded in agreement.

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Insert 85

Colombia Prison

Now when your time comes sometimes you don't know it, like when a big opportunity presents itself to you, at first it feels so unreal like you will wake up and be told it was all a lie. But you wake up the next day and find out it's still happening but you still can't believe it as a result you don't even tell your family or friends because you feel like it will be taken away from you at any moment. Now for people like Rodrigo who knows that his bank accounts are filled with money and can afford the best of lawyers. For a person like that to be in prison was hard to believe, in his head the guards will come in and tell him his lawyer is there and take him home to his "woman". But no one came that evening but Rodrigo still had hope that his partners had found him a lawyer and is busy working his case. He was just sad that he will miss Ximena's graduation but thought he will make

up for it when they go on their romantic gateway.

Ximena woke up early in the morning and prepared herself to go to her graduation as it was in the morning starting at 8AM. She was sad that her brother won't be there to give her a proud smile when she receives her degree, or her grandmother hulumilating and coming to stage and stand by her side as she receives her honor, or Bathandwa who will give her one of his bone crushing hugs and tell her how proud he is of her, or her siblings screaming and cheering her on. But she was alone in a foreign country with no one to celebrate her achievement with. She finished dressing up and took her clutch bag and walked out. Her driver was already waiting for her and opened a door for her and she got in and he drove off to the school. Her driver and bodyguard was her brother's friend but she didn't know that, he looked at her in the mirror then stopped at the robots and sent Bukhosi and sms to call him immediately. Just as he was driving off his phone rang.

Convo

Driver: Boss (Ximena tensed up thinking it was Rodrigo)

Bukhosi: What's up man?

Driver: Nothing boss just driving the madam to her graduation but she seems sad.

Bukhosi: Give her the phone

Driver: Sure (he handed the phone to Ximena who has lost all hope that Rodrigo was in jail or hopes or going home)

Ximena: Hello

Bukhosi: Little sis

Ximena: Brother! (she was now excited)

Bukhosi: Yes it's me, now am told you are sad yet you going to your graduation, why is that?

Ximena: I thought it was Vusi and I was sad that am alone on this day.

Bukhosi: Don't worry, go and get your achievement then prepare to come home and you will see all of us.

Ximena: I have already packed and ready to go but not before I tie up some loose end.

Bukhosi: Go to your graduation and then take care of business. Remember you not alone, I always have someone watching over you Okay.

Ximena: Okay, am at school now so I have to go. Thanks for the call it means a lot to me.

Bukhosi: Always dear sister

They said their goodbyes and Ximena went into schools and they went to change in one of the rooms and then they went to the hall. She didn't even look around to see who was there because she was not expecting anyone. But other students were busy looking and waving at their loved ones as they walked to take their seats. The chancellor of the university stood up and started with the calling of people on stage giving them their degrees. More people were called until she was left alone, she

wondered what was going on.

Chancellor: Now that concludes our program for today it before we leave and go on with our days we have one more student. This student went and represented us in Italy it she didn't stay until the program was finished due to health issues but she managed to get this university a honorary award for producing the most intelligent and advanced students in the world. We didn't tell her this because were waiting for this day to come and give her all that belongs to her at once. Let me not waste anymore time and introduce you to Miss Ximena Diaz!! (people applauded and she stood up going to the stage at this point she was crying the driver was busy taking a video of the whole thing as Bukhosi asked him to. She got to the stages and looked around and spotted Martina, the major and all the shareholder of Parez eEnterprises. She smiled thinking that family is not only your blood relative but also those you choose for yourself and her second family was there for her)

Chancellor: This young lady here has taken this

school to new highs and earned us one of the most important awards in the world but not only that she also won herself a sum of \$1 million that was a prize in the competition she went to. (people were cheering and her partners were on their feet with proud smiles on their faces)

Not only that she has been a straight A student who kept to herself ever since she got here and she passed her degree and the extra honors modules we added to her course without informing her since she was going through her work like no ones business. Miss Diaz here didn't only complete her degree in these two years with us but her honors as well (the hall erupted with applause, cheers and whistles. Ximena didn't even know that she was doing extra as she only wanted to get her straight A's and not upset Rodrigo. She didn't pay attention to the fact that the work she has been doing was not why she was supposed to be doing. She was crying now, happy and proud of herself.)

Chancellor: It is with honor to present miss Diaz with first her degree in Marketing and honors in General

management.

Ximena: Thank you so much I didn't expect this.

Chancellor: That's not all Miss Diaz, the major of this town and some of the well know businessmen in Colombia have something for you as well. Major and the honorable businessman please come up and tell Miss Diaz what you have for her.(Martinas and the shareholders made their way to the stage and Martinas was the first to take the mic, the camera crew was behind him as they go everywhere with him to capture each event he goes to)

Martinas: Hey my lady ahah she's crying I don't think she will be able to greet back (the people laughed) my lady this your last day in Colombia, well not your last but you will be going home after two whole years of not seeing your family. I just wanted to say thank you for all that you have done for me. I know that some of you are asking yourself what am talking about, well let me tell you, this is the woman being Martinas the care giver and Martinas the good guy. This lady saw something in me that no one else saw and today am no longer Martinas the most

wanted man in all states but Martinas the ambassador of brands and that is because of this woman. She gave me life and no amount of money or gifts can ever repay her for what she did for me. Now my lady please accept this token of my appreciation.

Crowd: What is it!!!! (the crowd yelled)

Martinas: A brand new R8 good people, that's my gift to her (Ximena was a crying mess because she didn't know the impact she made on their lives. She went to Martinas and accepted her gift)

Ximena: Thank you so much this is my first car good people!! (the people cheered)

Major: My turn! Miss Diaz, for the contribution you made to this city by helping the officials catch the most dangerous criminal that had no name for year the city would like to show its gratitude by giving you a token of 500 000 peso bills. (the crowds went crazy with cheering and Ximena's tears were just falling)

Ximena: Thank you so much Mr Major.

Willie-shareholder: From us at the company we are saying thank you for consulting for us without charging us a cent. So for that we are offering you 40 percent shares in the company and here are the papers (Ximena knew the 40 percent shares were Rodrigo's shares in the business and the others all share 20 percent each of the remaining 60% meaning Rodrigo was a main share holder with his shares and those of his mother that he took and now Ximena was the main or major shareholder of that company and that was more than enough for her)

Ximena: All I can say is thank you.

Them: That is more than enough

The event was concluded and the people started leaving. She also gathered her stuff and went out, her business partners were waiting outside for her. They have her hugs and congratulated her.

Martinas: We are going to prison before you leave.

Ximena: That's where I was heading but I need to get

my bags so that I can go from there to the airport.

Driver: Your bags are in the car mam.

Ximena: Well then let's go. (they got into cars and the other partners went on their business while Martinas drive behind Ximena going to the prison)
They got to the prison and Ximena and Martinas made their way in and were given the wardens office to use.

Rodrigo:

The time is 11 Am and I don't know what the hold up is with my lawyer. Am hungry because I will never eat the food here like am one of them. They need to hurry up or I will die of hunger. (the guard came and stopped by their cell gate)

Guard: You have friends in high places to be having special meetings in the wardens office.

Rodrigo: As you can see, I don't belong here. Now open up I have to go home. (guard looked at him

and opened the gate and he stepped out. They made their way to the office and as soon as he saw Ximena he went to her and hugged her)

Rodrigo: Oh baby am sorry for missing your graduation but I swear I will make it up to you. But for now please tell me you have food, I didn't eat here since I got here.

Martinas: Of course we brought you your last meal (Rodrigo took the food and sat down and started eating fast and halfway through the meal he remembered something)

Rodrigo: Babe you been quiet and I don't like it. Listen I know you must be thinking that this ruined our plans but it didn't. The jet will be ready for us when we leave here today.

Ximena: Finish eating you look really hungry

Rodrigo: I am babe (he continued eating)

Rodrigo: What did you mean when you said my last meal?

Martinas: WOW I thought you will never ask, this is

your last meal here and...

Rodrigo: I know soon I will be sipping cocktails in some island enjoying the sun (he cut him off)

Martinas: You mean you will be pushing up soil with your chest because you will be six feet under being eaten by warms underground.

Rodrigo: hahah don't play like that man because this place already feels like that. Where is my lawyer anyway?

Ximena: Your lawyer won't be coming

Rodrigo: Oh my cleaver baby, you already got a way to get me out of here without going through the process. Now that's why I love you. (he smiled)

Ximena: Vusi you kidnapped me, did you think I will forget that I live happily ever after with you? I have a man which you took me from back home and a family. Today am going home and you will be dead by the time I step out of this place.

Rodrigo: All those people don't deserve you and you are too good to have me killed. I know what did

before hurt you but I will live the rest of my life making up for it.

Martinas: No she won't have you killed but I will. You broke the code and now you will pay for it (the guard came and escorted them out to the cell where Rodrigo was kept and it was empty.) they pushed him in and Fingers and his crew came in and the guys held Rodrigo.

Ximena: Greet Nosiyamcela for me and tell her I made it. Don't forget to tell her she was right about me being your downfall)

Rodrigo: Asithandle you can't do this to me

Ximena: Oh now you know my name? Get on with it guys (the guard brought a grinder and have it to Fingers)

Rodrigo: Please don't do it, I have money and shares I can give you whatever you want.

Finger: Oh the money you had is now all mine and the drug business you were running so am not sparing you for nothing.

Ximena: Oh and the shares? They are mine now!

Rodrigo: No! Baby no! Don't do this am sorry for all that I have done to you please spare me!

Martinas: Am tired of this remember clean cuts
Fingers we have people waiting for those organs and parts.

Fingers: With pleasure (Ximena walked out as
Fingers brought to light the grinder cutting his legs,
moving to his arms while Martinas watched taking a
video for Ximena)

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Insert 86

Colombia (not edited)

At the prison Ximena was sitting in the car doing breathing exercises because she was nervous about what was happening inside the prison. She didn't regret that Rodrigo was going to die, no but what made her mad and caused her to tremble is because of the fact that she endure so much from Rodrigo. At first he took her from her loved ones, secondly he made her feel like a prisoner for all these months and years. Then he made her feel terrorized and lived in fear because he threatened her and told her what he would do to her had she not get the straight A's or even try to contact anyone from back home. He monitored everything what she did, from checking her call log and statements Hell he even monitored her internet use and sites she would visit. He even scared her into pretending that she was happy with him and made her eat dinner with him like a normal couple. Changed her name and identity and basically took everything that she was and that made her the person that she is now. He turned her into the person that she is now, introduced her to the world of crime and killing. She had no choice but to toughen up and make the best of the situation which

lead her to this point. The more she thought about everything he did to her the angrier she got, the more she thought about the fact that Bathandwa might have moved made her even more mad. Bathandwa was the only love she knew and the only thing besides her family that made sense after everything she went through.

Inside the prison Martinas kept on taking the video of Rodrigo being cut into pieces, limb by limb and was loosing a lot of blood. Before he took his last breath he spoke looking at Martinas.

Rodrigo: Please tell Ximena am sorry for all that I have done to her. Tell her I still love her and am glad am in this position today because of her. Tell her to make something of herself with the money that she got. Tell her I will never forget her.

Martinas: You piece of shit! You make me so angry right now! You could have treated her better! Waited for her to notice you, but no you had to do it by force and now this! F\$#@k man you stupid. (by this time

Rodrigo was long dead but Martinas was angry at him for all that he did)

Martinas: Get the damn medics to come in and sort out those organs people are waiting for them! (he shouted and the medics who were in standby from his clinic came in running to salvage the organs while they were still viable to use, they took them and put them nicely in medical containers. From heart, kidneys, liver and all that was important. After that was done they took the limbs and pack them up then left immediately. Soon after the medical cleaning team came in and cleaned out the scene leaving it spotless) when Martinas saw that everything was done he transferred the people he was working with money and got out the prison.

He got to Ximena's car and knocked on the window and the driver rolled down the window.

Martinas: It's done my lady

Ximena: Thank you Martinas so much.

Martinas: Go home my lady, but please do come

back and make contact because you keep us sane and grounded.

Ximena: I will always keep in touch and I will come back here every month to check on things. You know now I have a business to make sure runs smoothly.

Martinas: Now you talking! Am glad that you haven't forgotten.

Ximena: No by a long shot. I found a friend in You Martinas! Something I never thought will happen but if did. For that I thank you.

Martinas: Let me accompany you to the airport the jet is ready before I start crying.

Ximena: Lead the way

Martinas: Thank you my lady (Martinas went to his car and his bodyguards went in with him and they drove out with Ximena and her trusted driver followed behind. They went to the airport and got in the private airplane side and parted. Indeed the jet was ready for her, she looked at it and remembered the last time she was on it. It was the time they left Italy in a rush and had to leave the seminar before it

ended.)

Martinas: It's over now my lady (she was brought back by Martinas who she didn't even notice was now standing next to her)

Ximena: It feels so unreal you know

Martinas: It will Alright my lady but on the plus side you now own a jet!

Ximena: What! Doesn't the jet belong to the company?

Martinas: No it belonged to Rodrigo, the man wanted to be known and respected and when he came here in a jet that was borrowed he vowed to buy one. I thought he was joking it after 6 months of you guys being here he bought it. Now it's yours.

Ximena: Wow, Okay then. But because it's mostly used for business and your campaigns all over the world I would like to leave it behind. It's not like I will need it in South Africa anyway, but I will call you when I want to come here then you can send it for me.

Martinas: Thank you my lady, you have been through so much yet you are still considerate.

Ximena: That's how I was raised. Let me leave and the jet will turn back in London so that you can have on Monday when you go to Japan.

Martinas: I will continue to make you and my son proud.

Ximena: That's all I need. Goodbye Martinas

Martinas: Goodbye my lady and you will get your car within a week.

Ximena: Oh wow I almost forgot I had new wheels (she smiled, they hugged and Ximena boarded the jet with the driver who made a call to Bukhosi telling him they are leaving Colombia)

The jet took off, Bukhosi was a nervous wreck waiting for his sister in London. He decided to go and get her a gift, he went to a jewelry store and bought her a necklace with a princess matching bracelet. He looked at them then smiled thinking of

his sister whom he last saw two years ago. He got sad thinking about the fact that he failed as a brother, not long after he found her she got kidnapped right under his nose. He failed her once again after he failed to go looking for her when she needed her the most. He got disturbed by the store attendant.

Lady: Sir are taking that one or you want me to show you other options?

Bukhosi: No this is perfect thank you. Please wrap it up for me while I pay.

Lady: Right away sir (the lady went away while while he paid. The lady came back and gave her the wrapped gift. He got out of the store then he decided to call his sisters) it rang twice and Ncebakazi picked up.

Convo:

Ncebakazi: Bhuti

Bukhosi: Sis how are you and everyone?

Them: We are all here! (the others said)

Bukhosi: Hahah why am I on speaker?

Zodwa: Haibo bhuti we want to know if you got our sister back.

Bukhosi: Okay then and my wife and mother where are they?

Nosakhele: Hayi man Bukhosi silapha sonke!
Khawuthethe ubujikeleza ngathi uzobulala umntu
(no man Bukhosi we are all here! Talking and stop going around in circles like you going to kill someone)

Bukhosi: ahaha ndiyaxolisa mama (am sorry mother)

Iminathi: Oh my God Bukhosi talk yhoo!

Bukhosi: Okay Okay! Now that my beautiful wife has spoken I will..

Them: Bukhosi/bhuti! (they shouted at the same time)

Bukhosi: Okay they are coming in fact they will be here any moment now.

Zodwa: You called us yet you didn't even see her?
(just then the jet landed and Bukhosi got lost

looking at it, the others were busy talking and calling his name but he didn't hear anything as he waited to see who comes out of the jet. His trusted man stepped out first to check the coast then Bukhosi smiled excitedly)

Bukhosi: My people, she's here! My sister is here.

Them: What?

Nosakhele: Is she okay? (Asithandile stepped out of the jet and looked around and her eyes met her brother and she ran down the mini stairs going down and ran to her brother. He opened his arms and he hurried towards her with his phone in the other hand. She got to him and hugged him)

Bukhosi: My little sister! Oh how much I have missed you!

Asithandile: I missed you too brother? How is everyone?

Bukhosi: Oh my God Am actually on the phone with them. Let me put it on speaker (he put it on speaker)

Asithandile: Hello

Them: Yhuuuuuu!!! (they all screamed In excitement)

Asithandile: Yhoo If everyone is this excited about hearing my voice then am not coming back.

Them: What!!

Ncebakazi: Suphambana wena (don't be cray!)Get here already!

Asithandile: Oh sis am coming! Let us stop talking so that we can be on our way.

Nosakhele: Come back child we are waiting for you.

Asithandile: Oh Makhulu (oh grandma!she cried)

Nosakhele: Sukhala kaloku mntanam umakhulu ukhona (don't cry my child your grand mother is here)

Asithandile: Ndiyavuya nje Makhulu (am just happy grandma)

Bukhosi: That's Enough now we are coming home everything else will be talked about there.

Them: Bye

They boarded Bukhosi's jet then made themselves comfortable.

Bukhosi: Are you Alright?

Asithandile: Am more than Alright brother am happy to finally be going home.

Bukhosi: I have missed you so much little sis and am sorry for failing you as a brother and someone who was supposed to be protecting you.

Asithandile: Don't apologies brother, all that has happened had to happen because if it didn't maybe I wouldn't be this strong now. It was meant to happen and don't feel back because we can't change faith.

Bukhosi: I promise to protect you from now on.

Asithandile: Well now I can protect myself because Colombia taught me a lot and I kind of have my own crew back there

Bukhosi: Look at you talking about crews and all that. Am proud of you sis really but I still want to play my part as a brother to you. If you let me.

Asithandile: Of course brother (she thought about

Bathandwa but she didn't know how to ask her brother about him)

Bukhosi: His fine and still waiting for you. Going crazy but fine.

Asithandile: What do you mean going crazy?
(Bukhosi saw the worry in her eyes and laughed a little)

Bukhosi: The Guys has been busy with school and work ever since you disappeared.

Asithandile: That's Good.

Bukhosi: Mmm

Asithandile: What?

Bukhosi: Nothing!

Asithandile: Does he know that am alive?

Bukhosi: No but you can call him and tell him. (he gave him his phone)

Asithandile: I don't know his number

Bukhosi: It's saved there by his name (she dialed his number while Bukhosi went to get something to

drink) Asithandile dialed the number with her hands shaking and sweating at the same time. It rang twice and he picked up.

Convo:

Bathandwa: Mr Langeni speaking

Asithandile: Hello (he was quiet for a while breathing)

Asithandile: Hello Bathandwa are you there?

Bathandwa: Listen here and listen good, if you called to play games with me then am afraid I don't have time for them.

Asithandile: Bathandwa it's me Asithandile

Bathandwa: The voice says you are her but I don't believe you.

Asithandile was now hurting thinking that Bathandwa will never believe it's her until he sees her.

Asithandile: Tell me what to do to make you believe me (she asked and wiped away tears that fell)

Bathandwa: Where did we meet? What is my mother's name and what does she do?

Asithandile: We met at the park not far from my brothers house. I just got to Mthatha and I wanted to get some air when I went to the park with my books and you came and joined me. Your mothers name is the renowned real estate agent and developer Nomthandazo Langeni.

Bathandwa: Babe is that really you?

Asithandile: It's me babe and am coming home with my brother.

Bathandwa: Oh Lord! (he was crying but Asithandile could only hear sniffing)

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Insert 87

Joburg (not edited)

The journey to South Africa from London was a long one for Asithandile because she couldn't wait to get home and see her family and Bathandwa. She and her brother have been catching up with him filling her in on what has been happening but leaving out the fact that they are more relaxed than they thought and that he knows her father. He told her about Nkomanzi, his new wife, the family and her grandmother. In turn she told him all about Colombia and how things were and how she managed to come up with a plan to destroy Vusi/Rodrigo and everything he had but ended up finding friends and changing her mind about the rest of the people and deal with the one she had a problem with. The flight landed in OR Tambo international and they began exiting the plane, she stepped out of the plane and inhaled the fresh air, well not so fresh since we all know how Joburg is. But to her it was the best thing that happened to her, she thought she will never set foot in this place again but here she is back in her

country. A place that bares so much heartache and happiness as well. She didn't even realize that she was crying until her brother wiped her tears.

Bukhosi: No need for tears dear sister, you are home now.

Asithandile: I never thought I will ever come back here.

Bukhosi: Don't think about that, you home now be happy. Besides that boy has been waiting for you and am sure he will start living again.

Asithandile: I must have been hurt by my disappearance.

Bukhosi: He was and he felt useless, we all did because that guy planned everything very well and made it difficult for us to find you.

Asithandile: I know you tried Brother, but that Vusi guy was smart and always a step ahead but I realized that I was his weakness and used it to my advantage.

Bukhosi: You did well, now let's go Jacob is waiting

for us.

Asithandile: Where is he taking us?

Bukhosi: To my friend's house because the jet to get to Mthatha will be here around 4 in the evening.

Asithandile: Okay then.

They went out and Jacob was waiting for them standing next to his car. He was amazed at how beautiful Asithandile was in person, yes he saw the pictures but now seeing her in person was different.

Bukhosi: Jacob my man! Meet my little and the light of the family Asithandile, baby sis this is my friend and colleague Jacob.

Jacob: A pleasure to finally meet you.

Asithandile: Pleasure is all mine.

Bukhosi: Shall we go Am tired.

Jacob: Sure and Sticks is waiting for you.

Bukhosi: No his not because if he wanted to see me he would have come himself.

Jacob: He doesn't want to leave his lady alone after everything that happened.

Bukhosi: Ey I heard about that, how is she anyway?

Jacob: She's fine now and recovering very well.

Bukhosi: That's Good man, I don't believe my boy is in love.

Jacob: Yeah and I think it's time we cash in on the deal.

Bukhosi: Oh I remember 4 years back, he said he will never fall in love gain.

Jacob: Yep and we made a bet and now it's time to pay up.

Bukhosi: You right and I will bring it up man.

Jacob: Sure, we have arrived.

Bukhosi: Oh I didn't feel the journey

Jacob: Because we have been talking ever since we left the airport and even forgot we are not alone.

Asithandile: Don't mind me (they laughed)

Jacob drove in and parked on his spot and they got out. Jacob led the way to the house with Bukhosi and Asithandile following behind. They got in and went to the lounge but Asithandile stop dead in her tracks seeing Lisa sitting on the couch facing Sticks.

Bukhosi: Hello boy! (Sticks stood up and bro hugged him)

Sticks: Sure Ntwana

Bukhosi: Unjani mfethu (how are you Brother?)

Sticks: Am good Ntwana (boy) and you?

Bukhosi: Good now that my sister is home. (he turned around because he wanted to introduce Asithandile to Sticks but saw that she was still standing by the doorway and followed her eyes to Lisa who was sitting on the couch with the same look Asithandile had)

Bukhosi: Little sis come let me introduce you to my friend and partner (Asithandile did budge as the events of the past played in her mind like it happened yesterday)

Sticks: What is going on (he whispered to Bukhosi)

Bukhosi: Remember when I brought her to you and told you that she was giving me problems? (he whispered back)

Sticks: Yeah I remember

Bukhosi: Well you girl said and did some terrible things to her and I guess she didn't expect to see her here.

Stick: Damn this is a mess.

Bukhosi: Tell me about it (Lisa spoke)

Lisa: Asithandile (she said in a low voice)

Asithandile: Lisakhanya (she moved to her brother and friend)

Bukhosi: This is my friend Sticks but his real name is Qhawe, Sticks this is my sister Asithandile.

Sticks: Finally I get to meet the sister I never had the pleasure of being introduced to by this big head friend of mine.

Bukhosi: Hey Watch it!

Sticks: You started it by using my real name, sis let me get a hug (Asithandile went and hugged him and Lisa's eye never left her since she came in)

Asithandile: A pleasure to meet you but I will see you properly after I eat, I miss South Africa food.

Lisa: I cooked so we can go through and eat.

Asithandile: I would rather eat bread and peanut butter then.

Sticks: Come on there is no need for that please.

Bukhosi: Yeah sis please try and out the past behind you.

Asithandile: Am sure Lisa wouldn't want to sit on the same table as a murderer now will she?

Lisa: Am sorry Asithandile I.. (she cut her short)

Asithandile: I didn't come here for that, I just got home after 2 years and I don't want to spoil my day talking about you or with you. Brother may we eat please?

Bukhosi: Of course (Bukhosi led the way to the dining room while Sticks remained with Lisa)

Sticks: Babe please try and understand where she is coming from. She doesn't know the Lisa I know she only knows the friend that turned her back on her. It's her first day home after so long, give her time and then you can talk to her.

Lisa: I understand babe am just disappointed in myself for all the things I did to her.

Sticks: That will happen but just give her time.

Lisa: Okay then let's go join them (they went and joined the others at the table. The help dished out for them and they started eating. Tension was so thick one could cut it with a knife)

Bukhosi: Sticks, can you call the pilot and find out how long his going to be? My sister is tired and the family can't wait to see her.

Sticks: His here but I just wanted us to spend sometime together and catch up but if that won't be possible then we can go because we are also going with you.

Asithandile: When you say we you mean you and who?

Sticks: Eish! Lisa, me and Lisa.

Asithandile: Brother you know we can hire a helicopter to take up right?

Bukhosi: I know that sis but please let us go together.

Lisa: Asithandile I know what I did to you was wrong and unforgivable. But I want you to know that I regret everything that I did.

Asithandile: And I said am not going to spend my first day back talking about you and what you did. My life doesn't revolve around you so please just try and leave me alone.

Bukhosi: Sis...

Asithandile: No brother I don't want to talk to Lisa she hurt me and I don't want to dwell on it but to move on and not have to see her or talk to her again. This woman is nothing to me and I would like her to please understand that.

Lisa: I understand I just want to say...

Asithandile: Jesus! Do you ever shut up? I said I don't want to talk! Don't you get that?

Sticks: Am sorry sis on her behalf am sorry, this is not how I wanted our first meeting to be like. Please sit down and I will go call the pilot to take you home and we will travel tomorrow morning.

Asithandile: Thank you (Sticks left and went to make a call. Asithandile finished her food the help came and took the plates away)

Sticks: His ready for you and Jacob with take you there.

Bukhosi: Sure man, we will talk.

Sticks: Sure (Asithandile and her brother left with Jacob driving them)

They are now on the air in their way to Mthatha, Asithandile has been quiet ever since they left.

Bukhosi: You know sooner or later you are going to have to talk to her. Even if you don't forgive her but give her a chance to apologize. Yes I know what she

did was terrible but I want you to suck it up and listen to what she has to say.

Asithandile: Why is this so important to you?

Bukhosi: Because She's my friend's girlfriend and he loves her. Also because you need that apology more than you are willing to admit and you are important to me. You need closure from all this or else it will consume you.

Asithandile: I hear you.

They arrived at Mthatha air field and a car was already waiting for them and drove them to Nosiyamcela's house with Asithandile looking around and thinking about the fact that she is home and safe. They arrived at the house and there were a few cars parked outside but she didn't pay attention to them and they went to the door and Bukhosi knocked and they opened the door and the moment they stepped in they shouted.

Them: Surprise!!!!

Ncebakazi: Oh my God Welcome home sis! God am so happy to see you again and now I can start planning my wedding because my sister is back! (she shouted and everyone cheered)

Asithandile: hahah and here am I thinking you have changed.

Ncebakazi: Oh hayi never my darling I will always be this way (they laughed)

Zodwa: Move Ncebakazi I also want to hug her

Ncebakazi: Mxm you just jealous because I hugged her first. (she said moving away, Zodwa hugged her and squeezed her tight like she was going to disappear again)

Asithandile: Am back home safe and you want to kill me with your hug.

Zodwa: Mxm wena! I missed you and am happy to have you back home!

Asithandile; Thank you sis, I missed you too so very much. Let me go greet grandma then we will catch up.

Zodwa; Don't be long I know how she can be.

Asithandile: Haha let my grandmother be sis. (she went to her grandmother who was looking at her with tears in her eyes and that triggered a Asithandile's tear as well and they start falling, she got to her and they hugged)

Nosakhele: Oh umtana womntanam! (oh my grandchild!)

Asithandile: Makhanda! (grandma!)

Nosakhele: Don't cru now child you are home.

Asithandile: Am just happy to see all of you grandma and to be home. I missed you and I thought I will never see you again)

Nosakhele: You are now dear, please me water I want to take my medication.

Asithandile stood up and went to the kitchen to get her grandmother water.

Voice: My wife (her heart skipped a bit at the voice she knows so well and tried her level best not to forget.) she turned around and their eyes locked.

- Oh my God Bathandwa has turned into a god. Ufafa olude, izwane lomfana, into emnyama ekhanya ngazi. Ungumfaba apha onesixhobo, irhwana enilentuma. Into enamehlo ngathi uyozela, oncumo lusulelayo.

Bathandwa went closer to her closing the gap between them. He looked at her dead in the eye and pulled her to him for a hug. This was no ordinary hug but one filled with longing.

Bathandwa: To the heart that yearns love, a body that is full of desires for the flesh, a mind that is in prisoned by the sins of those who hurt her. My light in the dark, my precious jewel. How I have missed you so.

Asithandile: And I you Mr Mooi

Bathandwa pulled her for yet another hug then pulled out and kissed the living day lights out of her.

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Insert 88

Mthatha

Warning 18SN (if you not into such please do not read the insert)

There is a saying that goes something like this ' home is where the heart is, no matter how big or small, when love lives in a home you are blessed from above' now this is how Asithandile felt when Bathandwa put his hands around her tiny waist and kissed her. She felt at home in his arms and his chest was her safe haven, yes she felt at home the moment she saw the happy faces of her family members and especially those of her grandmother and Brother she was worried that she would be dead from stress by the time she returned home. She felt at peace seeing everyone that mattered to her so happy and for her to be among them. But something was missing, her heart but here he is now kissing her

like his life depends on it and his not shy to do it in front of people and that makes her believe that he was still hers and she was his. He stopped kissing her and looked deep in her eyes as if he was searching for something. At that moment Asithandile saw love and happiness in his eyes. Like he was content with what he was seeing, he pulled her in for a hug and squeezed her a little tighter like he doesn't believe that it's her in his arms. He pulled out of the hug and looked at her once more.

Bathandwa: Am sorry I kissed you like that (he said looking in her eyes and disappointment flashed through her face) heck what am I saying? Am not sorry I kissed you! In fact I have been waiting to do that for the past two years and now I have finally done it and it feels good. All I want to know now is...(he stopped talking and looked at her once more) are you still mine? Do we still have a chance you and I? (he asked looking worried and not sure he wanted to hear what her answer would be)

Asithandile: I have been yours more than I have been anyone else's. I might be getting carried away here

when I say I love you and want to be with you. But if you will have me, I'd like to be yours once again (he looked at her like he didn't hear a word she was saying. Like he blocked out everything she said and got lost in her eyes. Eyes that are not so innocent anymore but still filled in with love and happiness. He finally opened his mouth to say something)

Bathandwa: I understand and I know it's been a long two years and I didn't expect you to be waiting for me. A lot happened in your life that I don't know about so I understand your decision. As much as it hurts I fully understand where you coming from. I wish your kidnapping didn't happen because you would still be mine. (he was rumbling and going on and on and Asithandile realized that he didn't hear what she said so she shut him up with yet another breath taking kiss. One filled with love and emotions. The kiss went on for a while until a moan escaped her mouth and he pulled out)

Asithandile: I said I would love to be yours again if you will have me.

Bathandwa: You said that?

Asithandile: Yes I said that

Bathandwa: How can you even ask me that? Of course I want you babe, I have been waiting for you all these years with my mother nagging me to move on and try to be happy but I couldn't do it. Not without feeling like I would be betraying you and our love. I waited for you babe and it was the most difficult two years of my life. Not knowing where you were or if you were safe, not being able to do anything was slowly killing me. So I decided to burry myself in books and work. Just so that I don't think too much, the first weeks we're doing the most to me, I couldn't sleep because every time I closed my eyes I saw you with that man, hurting you as a result I was put on medication for depression and at that moment I wanted to live for you and at least go to your funeral if you come back dead. I just needed closure before I could move on. I love you babe and am happy you still want to be mine. (by this time Asithandile was crying and kept wiping her tears with the back of her hands)

Asithandile: He didn't hurt me my love, in fact he put

me to school and respected me as a woman even though I was his prisoner, he worshipped the ground I walked on. He was obsessed with giving me everything I wanted because he believed I was his and he also never touched me because he said he wanted to do it after my graduation but he died before he could and am happy about that.

(Bathandwa has tears in his eyes when he heard that another man worshipped her like that. It hurt him knowing that another man treated her better than he could ever have done. He felt small and unimportant in her life after hearing that her kidnapper took her to school and made her the person she is today. He felt like he didn't deserve her and that he did because he has shown her more love than he was able to. Asithandile saw the sadness in his eyes and got close to him and wiped his tear that couldn't stop coming out. Ncebakazi came to the kitchen to get her grandmother the water she's been waiting from from Asithandile and saw the moment between the two)

Ncebakazi: Listen you two, I see that you still have a

lot to talk about so I suggest you two go now and find a quiet place to talk.

Asithandile: What about my brother and the rest of the family?

Ncebakazi: I will take care of them but right now you won't be able to enjoy anything if you don't go with him and sort things out.

Asithandile: It's my first day back sis and I don't want people worrying about me. (Zodwa also came in)

Zodwa: What would have everyone worried?

Ncebakazi: She has to go with Bathandwa, they have a lot to talk about and I think they should do it now. I mean look at them.

Zodwa: We will talk to our brother and grandma already went to bed anyway so you don't have anything to worry about just go.

Asithandile: Thank you sisters

Zodwa: Oh come here (the three of them hugged each other)

Asithandile: Okay I have to go now then.

Ncebakazi: Take all the time you need Okay

Zodwa: And I will talk to our sister in law to keep our Brother busy.

Asithandile; God Am such a terrible person, I didn't even get time to sit with her.

Ncebakazi: Don't worry you have all the time in the world to sit with all of us and talk.

Zodwa: Besides she's a good woman and she will understand.

Asithandile: Okay then let me go (she turned and looked at the man before her who has nothing but sadness in his eyes and they were red too. Her heart sank at that moment and she took his hand and led him outside using the kitchen door so that people don't see them)

Asithandile: Where to from here?

Bathandwa: My place (he said opening the door for her and went to his side and opened his and got in)

Asithandile: What about your mother?

Bathandwa: I have my own place now

Asithandile: Oh okay (there was silence as Bathandwa brought the engine to life and drove off. The drive was silent as Bathandwa was deep in his thoughts and with tears that kept running down his cheeks, but he didn't bother wiping them. Yes he looked weak at that moment but he didn't care. Asithandile Leo steals glances at him but he was focusing on the road.)

They got to Bathandwa's place and he pressed the remote for the garage. It opened and he drove in, he killed the engine and sat there for a while with no one saying anything. Then he opened his door. And went to open the garage door that leads to the house, then went back and opened Asithandile's door and they walked in.

Bathandwa: Welcome to my humble home, make yourself at home am coming. (he left her there and went up stairs, Asithandile looked around the house and If was beautiful, manly but beautiful, it had white

walls with a bit of red on the one side. The couches were red and with black pillows all over it, a tv and a black coffee table. The kitchen was back and shiny with a beautiful mumble stones it looked really nice for a man. She went to the lounge and switched on the tv and kept skipping channels nervous as hell.)

Bathandwa came in looking fresh wearing his sweat pants and vest with flip flops and laid on the couch with his feet behind her.

Bathandwa: Come lay on my chest, I want to feel you close to me (Asithandile didn't protect as she took off her shoes and went and slept on his chest listening to his heart beat. Bathandwa took the blanket and covered them)

Bathandwa: You know I never thought I would get the chance to do this with you.

Asithandile: You have all the time now that am back to do everything that you wanted to do with me.

Bathandwa: Am scared my heart (he said in whisper and Asithandile lifted her head to look at him) am scared of losing you again, am not sure if my heart

can take it. I love you so much that I waited for you, but after I heard you speak of that man like that am not so sure you are mine anymore or if am right for you anymore.

Asithandile: What are you talking about now?

Bathandwa: That man treated you better than I could ever have done, Yes he kidnapped you but he treated you like a queen, his queen for two years he did that for you and gave you everything. While I on the other hand only had a few months with you and in those months I only managed to make you cry, not once but twice he never did that in all of the two years you have been with him. You are more his than you are mine.

Asithandile: I get that you are afraid that you might lose me again but I promise you that you won't. My heart always belonged to you, he might have done all of those things to ease his conscious. He might have had two years with me and had me physically but my heart and soul were never his. Please believe me when I say you have and never had any competition with that man. I love you so much

Bathandwa and I think am more afraid of losing you than you are of losing me.

Bathandwa: Oh God I can't believe my heart is home! My wife is in my arms and is telling me she loves me and doesn't want to lose me. Me Bathandwa Langeni! Who would have thought.

Asithandile: Stop being silly

Bathandwa: For you I will be anything you want me to be. I love you my heart.

Asithandile: I love you more (they looked at each other and leaned over and kissed. It was a slow and passionate kiss, one filled emotions and hunger)

They kissed for a while and a moan escaped Asithandile's mouth and Bathandwa pulled out.

Bathandwa: Babe your moans are killing me.

Asithandile: Well I cant help it.

He kissed her once more and she moaned again and that made him want more of her. He kissed her for a while and Asithandile felt his member getting hard underneath her and she tensed up a bit and he felt it

and stopped immediately.

Asithandile: Why did you stop?

Bathandwa: You got tense and I don't want to make you feel uncomfortable (he said it looking at her)

Asithandile: Hey look at me (he did and his eyes were now even more sexy than they usually are, small and red) I only tended up because I felt you getting hard and I have never done this before so I think I got a little scared.

Bathandwa: Don't worry about that, we won't do anything, I can wait for you forever if that's what you want.

Asithandile: No I want to be yours fully, while I was kidnapped the only thing I could think of was losing my virginity to someone I don't love. Am done waiting now and I want you to take it, even if we don't workout I would know that my innocence was taken by someone I loved dearly.

Bathandwa: How did you imagine your first time to be like? Because I want to make it special for you.

Asithandile: I have always imagined it to be with someone I love, I never cared about the when and the how all I care about is being in the arms of the man I love when it happens.

Bathandwa: Do you mind us going to my room? It's kind of cold here now.

Asithandile: Okay let's go (she got off him and he stood up and carried her up the stairs to his room and put her on the bed)

He went to her kissed her while taking off her dress and unearth it revealed her matching under and her beautiful soft skin. Bathandwa got hard just by looking at her, she kneeled on the bed and took off his vest and got off the bed and took off his sweat pants and they were now felt with underwear and he picked her up and up on in bed and covers her and he went to his side and got in. They looked at each other and started kissing again, it go heated that Asithandile started moaning in his mouth, he took off his bra while sucking her neck and that was her weak spot. She felt herself getting wet and he went on admiring her breasts after taking off her bra. He

gently laid her on the pillow and paid attention to her breasts one by one. Sucking and kissing and squeezing. Asithandile was mess down there and her moans drove Bathandwa crazy as he was now rock hard. He went down on her and took off her underwear and looked at her. She suddenly felt shy and covered her face with her hands.

Bathandwa: Hey look at me (she removed her hands and looked at him) it's beautiful my heart and went. I love you.

Asithandile: I love you too (that was like an invitation for Bathandwa to devour her. He slowly took off her underwear one leg after another. He kissed her foot going all the way to her honey pot, then left that one and went to another and did the same and got between her legs and kissed her inner thighs. Asithandile shivered at the sensation she felt, he started kissing her honey pot and sucking it paying attention to her clit and she moaned as the foreign feeling consumed her. He kept sucking and kissing it and Asithandile moaning feeling the pleasure that comes with his tongue. She started

shaking at her orgasm build up

Asithandile: Baby I want to pee

Bathandwa: Let it go babe

Asithandile: Am serious babe I want to pee and I can't hold it aaah babe please stop or am going to pee all over you ooh lord! Bathandwa babe aaah!

Bathandwa: Let it go for my my heart (he sucked her even harder and she couldn't hold it anymore, she threw her head back as her eyes rolled to the back of her head and her toes curled)

Asithandile: Oooh! Aaaah Bathandwa aaah (she came all over his face as she started shaking and Bathandwa didn't stop sucking until she stopped shaking, he licked her clean and went up to her and looked at her. He eyes were still closed and breathing heavily)

Bathandwa: Look at me my heart (she opened her eyes and looked at him) there you are!

Asithandile: What was that?

Bathandwa: That My heart was your first orgasm.

Asithandile: I loved it

Bathandwa: Not as much as I did (he said and went in for a kissing) he kissed her so hard that she felt herself getting went all over again, he took of his underwear and got between her legs rubbing the tip of his man wood on her click and that drove her crazy. He did that for a while kissing her, he tried entering the first time and she jumped.

Bathandwa: Hey look into my eyes, don't close them just look at me okay (Asithandile nodded because she didn't trust herself to speak) do you still want this?

Asithandile: Yes

That was yet another invitation for him to go back to kissing her, a moan escaped her mouth and he tried again and she closed her eyes as he got in halfway

Bathandwa: Hey don't close your eyes, look at me my heart please (he pleased and Asithandile looked into his eye and saw love) he continued moving slowly in and out of her. At first she felt pain mixed with pleasure as he moved in and out of her. He

kissed her again and pleasure took over from her as she started enjoying herself.

Bathandwa: Oh fuck babe you so tight and warm.
(he groaned) I love you

Asithandile: I love you more

He went on as they both felt themselves getting closer to their destination with screens and groans from him. He pounded faster as he felt himself coming.

Bathandwa: Oh fuck my heart am coming, ooh man!
Fuck babe I love you so much (he pounced faster and faster and they both came at the same time) he was breathing heavily as he collapsed on top of her catching his breath.

Bathandwa: Thank you my heart for the gift and I love you so much.

Asithandile: I love you too but damn am sore!

Bathandwa: Am sorry for hurting you my heart. Wait here I will get you fixed up (he went to the bathroom and ran her a bath, added some bath salts and lit

scented candles put them all round the the bath. He went back and she was asleep. He went down stairs and got roses and a bottle of red wine. He put rose pedals in the water and poured the wine in a glad. He went back to the bedroom and picked her up and she woke up)

Asithandile: Hey where are you taking me?

Bathandwa: To Get you cleaned up (they got to the bathroom and he put her inside the bath tub)

Asithandile: The winter feels so good and soothing. Thank you babe.

Bathandwa: A pleasure is all mine my heart, bath am coming (he left her in the tub thinking about what just happened)

Asithandile: I never thought my first time would be like this, it exceeded my imagination and he made it extra special. I never got time to watch porn and talk sex but Bathandwa made me feel special. God I didn't know an orgasm feels so good, (she smiled to herself) and the way he ate me up boy! It was like I was going to pay him to do it. My heart is content,

Am home, my family is happy, am educated and on top of that I have a business and money. Not forgetting the love of my life. My life has now turned into a dream that I never thought possible growing up Encoko going to initiates celebrations and fetching firewood from the forest. Hahah I come so far and am I have made it. I wish my mother was here to see that I have made it and I have become the woman she wanted me to be.

Bathandwa: Are we losing our minds now my heart?

Asithandile: No why?

Bathandwa: You smiling alone looking at my ceiling like you seeing something fascinating.

Asithandile: Oh well am just happy that's all.

(Bathandwa sat on the bathroom mat that was close to the bath and took out a ring box)

Bathandwa: Am happy too my heart (he kissed her forehead) you see this ring, i brought is with my second pay from work last year because I saw it and thought of you. Back then I didn't know if you will ever come back or if you will want to be with me

when you do but I had hope. Every time I felt like giving up I would take it out and imagine you saying yes to me and me putting it on your finger. I guess what am trying to say is, Asithandile, my heart, will you do me the honor of becoming my wife? I lost you once and I don't want to lose you again. Please marry me and be by my side forever. (Asithandile was looking at him with tears in her eyes, it wasn't the most expensive ring but it was beautiful with a little diamond in the middle. It was simple yet elegant.)

Bathandwa waited for her answer with his breath held...

Stay tuned....

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Insert 89

Mthatha (not edited excuse the errors)

When one is facing problems it feels like the situation will never change, we tend to forget that in hardships there is always a lesson to be learnt. In every challenge you face it is there to make you stronger and it is there for you to appreciate the good times more when they come. But we all know that it's difficult to see the beyond your problems when they occur, but what choice do we have? None but to keep moving, one foot in front of the other. Asithandile has been through a lot in all her life but now things are going well for her she is reunited with her family and her love and on top of that she is educated with money in the bank. Something she never thought would happen when she was being beaten by Sakhumzi or when she was accused by the people of Encoko of being a murderer. The following morning Bathandwa drove her back home because Ncebakazi sent her a message saying her grandmother wants them to go to her village Encoko

to do what needs to be done for her and to ask for protection from the ancestors. She got home and bags were already packed, she didn't have to pack anything since she didn't unpack she just freshened up and Bukhosi and his wife arrived.

Bukhosi: Morning family, are you ready to go?

Nosakhele: Molo mntanam ewe sesilinde nje wena sambeni (morning child, we are ready just waiting for you so that we can go)

Bukhosi: Where are the sisters?

Ncebakazi: Right here (she said as they were coming down the stairs following each other)

Bukhosi: Okay let's go and am driving with mama and my wife.

Ncebakazi: And I will be driving with my sisters we have a lot to catch up on anyway.

Asithandile: Ww have to start in town and buy a few things because the house must be cleaned in a really bad cold condition now.

Bukhosi: You right so let's go so that we can get

there and do some cleaning and fix what needs to be fixed before the ceremony takes place.

Nosakhele: Nozobe nithetha into engapheliyo kenini nkqi uphuma emyango (you will keep talking non stop but you not going to the door)

Bukhosi: Alright mama masambeni (okay mother let's go, they went to the cars and they went to town)

Ncebakazi: So sister how did everything go last night?

Zodwa: Hey I don't care about what happened all I care about is the glow that she has going on.

Asithandile: Hey sisters! (she blushed) all I can say is that am happy

Ncebakazi: Oh my God! You popped the cherry didn't you?

Asithandile: I don't know what you are talking about (she's blushing)

Zodwa: Oh I think she's onto something because you have been blushing non stop.

Asithandile: Okay Okay! I did pop the cherry and (she showed then the ring)

Them: Aaaaah oh my God! Oh my God!

Zodwa: He didn't!

Ncebakazi: Oh yes he did! Oh my God!

Asithandile: Well he did and I said yes, I have been through a lot and I think it's time I be happy.

Zodwa: If it was before I would be telling you that you are rushing things but after watching that man grieving for you all these years I don't object.

Ncebakazi: Me too! Bathandwa loves you and you have been through a lot and if this is what you want then I will support you.

Asithandile: Thank you sisters, am just worried about grandma and our brother. They will think it's too soon.

Zodwa: Oh no! He better not say anything because he has a beautiful wife that keeps him warm at night and granny only wants you to be happy, we all do!

Ncebakazi: She right and we here (they got off and went to the shops and bought groceries and paint for the house, new sheets and bedding. Then they

went on their way to the village) as they got closer Asithandile was replaying the events of the past in her head. She went quiet all of a sudden and the sisters understood because they know what happened to her while she was here. They got there and parked in front of the yard and Bukhosi got out and opened the gate and then the door. The sisters went into the three bedroom house and changed then started dusting and changing bedding while their brother was painting outside and the grandmother was sitting outside under a tree.

Nokonwaba saw them when they came and she went there to help them clean. She got to the gate and went to greet the grandmother. The sister were laughing and talking in the house while cleaning.

Nokonwaba: Molweni mama ninjani? (morning mother how are you?)

Nosakhele: Molo makati siyaphila ninjani nina (morning daughter in law, I am well how are you?)

Nokonwaba: Am well Mother, I just saw you arriving and I thought I should come and land a hand.

Nosakhele: That is not a problem my daughter we appreciate it, the girls are inside ask them what you can do.

Nokonwaba: Alright Mother let me go in (she went and greeted Bukhosi outside and went inside)

Nokonwaba: Good morning princesses (she said with a smile)

Ncebakazi: Morning Mother how are you?

Nokonwaba: Am well thank you, I can to assist with the cleaning (Asithandile appeared from the room and saw her then went to her and hugged her)

Asithandile: Mother how are you?

Nokonwaba: Am well dear and am happy to see you again.

Asithandile: Am happy to be back mother.

Nokonwaba: You look beautiful my dear am glad you decided to visit home it's been a while.

Asithandile: Am not only visiting mah but I want to do a ceremony for my father because before I left he was giving me sleepless nights.

Nokonwaba: Oh I hear you my dear, let me got clean the yard while you finish here.

Asithandile: Okay mah thank you.(Nokonwaba went outside with a rake and a broom to sweep. She was deep in thoughts as she raked and swept the yard)

- This can't be happening, if this child does this then the ancestors will be angry and think she chose sides when she didn't know the truth. Her brother won't tell her because he too is a very about what my husband did but I will have to talk to the grandmother, surely she will understand.

She finished sweeping and went to join Nosakhele under the tree as the sun was now up and starting to get hot.

Nokonwaba: Ngathi lizawutshisa ke elilanga (it looks like it's going to be hot)

Nosakhele: Ewe liyavakalo (yes I can feel it)

Nokonwaba: Mama ndinombuzo apha andazi noba umama akazundibona njengomntu orongo nha xandithetha (Mother I have a question here and I don't know if mother will not see me as someone

who is wrong by talking)

Nosakhele: I know what you want to ask and no I will not let her do the ceremony until your husband comes here and tells her himself what is going on. Remember it's not our place to tell but his, the ceremony will be tomorrow so I suggest he comes here today before she makes the arrangements for a wrong ceremony because if that happens I will let her.

Nokonwaba: How can you let her mother when you know where she belongs?

Nosakhele: I will let her because of two reasons, one your husband has not done right by Nobuntu by coming to her home and honoring her and appease our ancestors for what he did to her. Secondly I will let her because I will not force her into the ancestors and a man she doesn't know.

Nokonwaba: You have a point mother, if mother will not mind I would like to go and have a talk with my husband so that he does right by her before it's too late.

Nosakhele: You do that child and we will be here waiting. I also suggest that your husband stays clear of my son if he still wants to live.

Nokonwaba: I will pass the warning along mother (she left. Nosakhele stood up and went to the corner of the yard where her daughter's grave was and started uprooting the weeds and grass)

Nosakhele: Oh my child! I hope you are happy where you are because your children are together and here at your home. Rest now my dear because all will be well now. Am here as well. (she walked back under the tree)

At the chiefs house Nokonwaba arrived looking bothered and her husband was sitting with the chief priest. He was the first one to see her.

Chief priest: The princess is home isn't she?

Nokonwaba: Yes wise one she is.

Mqwathi: When did that happen?

Nokonwaba: They arrived this morning and I went to

help them clean the house.

Mqwathi: When you say them, who else do you mean?

Chief: I feel the presence of a god, which means his here, I also feel the presence of the royal blood of Nkomanzi and old blood.

Nokonwaba: You are Right my chief, the prince is here with the princesses and the grandmother, they are here to do a ceremony for Sakhumzi because his been bothering Asithandile so she came to do what he asked.

Mqwathi: That will never happen! She is my daughter and she belongs here! She can't be doing ceremonies for a man that is not her father! (he said half shouting already on his feet)

Chief: Then go do something about it, it's about time anyway. And I ask that you leave that little anger at the gate and go there with a clear mind. Remember she doesn't know you as her father and you don't want to upset the gods.

Mqwathi: I hear you but am going now.

Chief: Go and I will prepare the ceremony to welcome her home and introduce her to her right ancestors.

Mqwathi: Very well then! Spare no expense (he left going down hill to Nobuntu's house. The sisters and their brother have now finished cleaning and painting. They were now sitting outside to let the paint smell subside before going in. They are eating finger foods)

Ncebakazi: This place is peaceful though

Zodwa: It's does but it needs something that will make it stand out.

Asithandile: It's is peaceful here but I hope the killings have stopped. I also want to open a lodge here so that tourist can stay here and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Ncebakazi: Some sort of an events garden will also be a good business, where people can host events and wedding here.

Zodwa: I can see it now that you are talking about it, the lodge would be there surrounded by trees then

the garden with beautiful wild flowers there by the river.

Asithandile: Yeah and roads will have to be improved just to make it more appealing.

Bukhosi: Okay I see it now, how about you little sis focus on the lodge, you big sis focus on the garden, Zodwa focus on the interior designs of the lodge and the flowers around the garden. While I focus on the Infrastructure, logistics and marketing of the business. We can have something that we all own together and maybe one day expand to other areas around the Eastern Cape.

Ncebakazi: Now that's a full business plan right there. Let's do it!

Zodwa: Let's talk about funds.

Asithandile: I say since we all can afford it we should go 50/50, we look at the costs and split them even among ourselves.

Ncebakazi: That's a great idea but where will you get the money? Because you speak as if we all can afford it yet you fresh out of school.

Asithandile: Oh sister! I forgot I only arrived yesterday so I didn't get the chance to tell you all about Colombia but for now all I can say is that am financially stable.

Zodwa: I can't wait for the story behind that (just then Mqwathi arrived and greeted, Bukhosi stood up and left him standing there and went to the house)

Mqwathi: Niyaphila mama? (how are you mother?)

Nosakhele: Am very well son, especially now that all my grand children are here and even thinking about the future. How are you?

Mqwathi: Am Well myself, princesses how are you doing (all this time his looking at Asithandile who is focused on the finger foods she's bubbling on)

Ncebakazi: We are well thank you for asking uncle (Asithandile heard the uncle part but brushed it off since Ncebakazi studied with white peoples so to her every old man is uncle or grandpa)

Mqwathi: Mother I would like to have a talk with Asithandile here but am not sure if this is a good time or even if I should speak in front of the

princesses here.

Nosakhele: They can go inside and we can talk here
(Ncebakazi and Zodwa stood up and left since they
already know what he wants to talk about)

Mqwathi: Eer Asithandile my child am glad you are
home and that you are well.

Asithandile: It's good to be home and I would like to
thank you for all that you did for me back then.

Mqwathi: That is not a problem my dear, eer What I
want to tell you will come as a shock to you but I ask
that you listen until I finish.

Asithandile: Am all ears.

Mqwathi: Well this is what happened....(he told her
everything and by this time Asithandile was silently
crying) so that mean my dear that you are my
daughter and you can't do the ceremony because
that would mean you are disowning your real
ancestors and accepting those of Sakhumzi as your
own. I can here to tell you that and to ask you to let
me Welcome and introduce you to your rightful
ancestors.

Asithandile: Am sorry but I can't even look at you right now, what you did to my mother was hurtful and cruel. You watched me suffer knowing that you could have stopped it but you didn't because of your own selfish reasons. Right now I don't want to see you and I need time to process this. (she left and went to the forest where she used to run to when she was beating beaten by Sakhumzi, she picked leaves from that tree she used to pick leaves on and made a bed out of them and sat down)

- Mother Am sorry for all that you went through, you might not have known that it even happened but am sorry none the less. But am happy that you didn't know because you might have resented me for the man who calls himself my father's deeds. Right now I don't know if I should accept the fact that am his and do the ceremony or to forget he exists and do what I care here to do m.

Mthunzi: Asithandile is that you? (he said from behind her and she stood up and wiped her tears before turning around to face him)

Asithandile: Ewe tata ndim, unjani kodwa (yes father

it's me, how are you?)

Mthunzi: Oh child am well and am happy to see you alive and well.

Asithandile: Am Okay Father and happy to be here.

Mthunzi: I know you are happy and I also know that you might be reliving the bad memories of this place but I ask that you put everything behind you and move on.

Asithandile: I hear you father and thank you for the wise words.

Mthunzi: It's Alright! Let me go we are expecting Lisa this evening she called saying she coming home. I just hope she has changed from what she was.

Asithandile: Wait until you see her then you will have your answers.

Mthunzi: It was good to see you daughter and I hope you went to school and studied.

Asithandile: I did father

Mthunzi: Good because no one can take your education away from you. (he walked away with a

smile on his face)

Back at the chiefs place, Mqwathi arrived looking defeated and the chief priest saw him and went to him.

Chief: You better go back there and make sure that the princess agrees to do this ceremony or you will pay with your blood. The ancestors are already restless because she set foot here but she is not in her palace.

Mqwathi: I can't force her to do something she doesn't want to do. The ancestors can take me I don't care because I have also taken many lives than I can count.

Chief: Whether you pay with your life or not the gods will never be happy until she is here and has accepted them. Be a man for once and do the right thing! The gods want her here and the people are ready for their leader.

Mqwathi: What do you mean their leader?

Chief: She is the one who will take the throne! (he said and left him standing there trying to process what he had been told)

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Insert 90

Encoko village not edited)

Asithandile sat in the bushes for a while thinking about everything that she went through in the past and the days she had to spend in the forest because she had no one to run to or nowhere to run to. When she got tired she went and sat by the river listening to the sound of the birds and water moving from the river. The place was really peaceful and it gave her time to think about what she was told and her so

called father, everything made sense now that Sakhumzi didn't treat her well but it was not always like that. There were good times but after her mother died he changed, maybe because he didn't have to pretend anymore, but now she had no way of getting those answers. She may have spent a lot of time in Colombia but that didn't change her beliefs and culture. She knew that ancestors were important and if she doesn't do the ceremony the chief asked her to do then worse things might happen to her. Worse than being kidnapped and she didn't want to go back there, because this time she might even lose her life. She only stood up from there when the sun was about to set and made her way back home. When she got there she saw her brother first looking worried talking to Sticks and she knew that Lisa was also back home, by the look of things they just got here.

Asithandile: Evening, it's good to see you again. (she greeted Sticks with a smile)

Sticks: You haven't greeted me until you give me a hug (Asithandile smile and went and hugged him)

Sticks: It's good to see you too sis.

Asithandile: Let me leave you to it then am starving.

Bukhosi: Not so fast, where have you been?

Asithandile: I was just by the river? I needed time alone to process everything.

Bukhosi: You has me worried sis

Asithandile: Don't worry nothing will happen to me again.

Sticks: Spoken like a true member of this family, strong and connected.

Asithandile: You know is too well.

Sticks: Okay I was just saying that but now I think what I said was true.

Bukhosi: Yeah give us a brief and we will find out the rest.

Asithandile: A brief you say?

Them: Yes

Asithandile: Okay here goes, I own and multi billion

company well companies back in Colombia but operating all over. Brothers can you organize for my car to be brought here from the ports of Durban?

Sticks: When is it arriving?

Asithandile: In two days.

Sticks: Consider it done

Asithandile: Thank you brothers.

Bukhosi: You are welcome (she went inside leaving the two shocked)

Sticks: I need to verify this information

Bukhosi: All I can think about is a partnership, do you know how long we wanted Colombia and now my sister runs it.

Sticks: Yeah but won't she think we want her money if we propose partnership?

Bukhosi: Sticks how much are our legal businesses worth?

Sticks: The 4 that we own together are worth about 9,4 billion combined.

Bukhosi: And the not so legal ones?

Sticks: Last I checked plus the diamonds over 45 million.

Bukhosi: So then why would she think we want her money?

Sticks: What do you propose?

Bukhosi: Well if she agrees to partner with us then that would mean expanding the legal ones because I will die first before I let my sister be involved in shady businesses.

Sticks: It seems like our sister is well know for good things in Colombia, they call her my lady and it is said that the former drug lord and now ambassador or huge brands Martinas himself is her partner.

Bukhosi: Where do you get all that?

Sticks: What do you think I have been doing on my phone?

Bukhosi: Talking to the girl next door! Hahah literally haha

Sticks: Mxm let me get going Mthatha is still far, give

me your keys.

Bukhosi: Now Why would you come all the way from Joburg without booking accommodation?

Sticks: Because my brother has properties here I can use, now keys.

Bukhosi: Let me go get them (he went inside)

In the house the ladies were having dinner, the house now looked more presentable, they outdid themselves indeed in making it what it is now.

Asithandile: I can't believe I grew until here.

Ncebakazi: Well believe it, this is your home, but I can't wait till you come to Nkomanzi with us.

Zodwa: Oh yes me too! When are we going again?

Ncebakazi: Why are you so excited?

Zodwa: Haibo it's home nje

Asithandile: She's right it's home and she should be excited.

Ncebakazi: You day that because you don't know half of it.

Asithandile: Out with it!

Zodwa: No! Ncebakazi don't you dare!

Ncebakazi: Mxm this one has the hots for a certain prince but the prince is shy so he hasn't said anything. All he does is look at her intensely and smile. He never misses any of the ceremonies at the palace ever since he saw her, the guy makes it a point to come with something for her.

Asithandile: Mmm look at her blushing, he must just put you out of your misery sister.

Zodwa: He better or I will do it for him if his too slow.

Asithandile: Hahah you go girl! (their grandmother was laying down resting in the room while the three went on and on. There was a knock and they shouted a come in, Bukhosi has left with Sticks and promised to come back with us early in the morning)

Iminathi: I am still not used to being called princess and getting so much respect even from elders it's

too much. Sometimes I feel back about it that I tell them to stop and address me by my name.

Asithandile: You will get used to it sister don't worry. Now didn't someone knock?

Ncebakazi: Yes But they are not coming in.

Zodwa: What if it's the woman of the house and she came to visit her daughter

Iminathi: Yhoo ndingafa nma shame ndiligwala yhoo (yhoo id die am a coward when it comes to that)

Asithandile: Let me go check (she stood up and went to the door and opened the chief priest was there with African incense burning and moving around the yard while Mqwathi was by the door. She looked at them until the chief priest turned and saw her then went and bowed before her)

Chief: The chosen one (she was taken back by that but decided to not question him so he moved aside and let them in)

Mqwathi: Where are the elders?

Asithandile: My grandma is resting and my brother

left, his coming back on the morning. (she answered taking chairs from the dining table and have to them)

Chief: May we speak to her please?

Zodwa: I will go get her (Zodwa went to the room where Nosakhele was resting and told her that she has visitors. She got out of bed and went to the front)

Nosakhele: Haibo nasifikela ngenjikalange kwenzenjani? (you visit us at sunset What is the problem?)

Chief: We are here in matters of the gods, matters that know no time.

Nosakhele: Okay What is the matter?

Chief: I would like the princess to be here

Nosakhele: Princesses! (she called and the three came, Ncebakazi, Zodwa and Iminathi)

Chief: There one we want is the one that is missing but they can stay because this is not a sensitive matter.

Nosakhele: Asithandile! (she called for her and she came) all of you sit down. (the two sat down with

their heads bowed)

Chief: I will get straight to the point, I know that the young maiden here just heard about Mqwathi here being her father but the gods have waited long enough as a result we had to perform a ceremony in her absence to protect her.

Nosakhele: Go ahead we are listening.

Chief: The young maiden has to be welcomed home and soon after be crowned queen of this kingdom.

Nosakhele: But I thought this was a village.

Chief: Villages have chiefs not kings and queens. Encoko has been called a village for far too long because the one the ancestors wanted was not yet ready to take over this little village and make it her kingdom.

Nosakhele: This is all too much to take in but I heard you. So you can direct this to her because at the end of the day she is the one who will be doing this.

Asithandile: This is my second day back in the country yet I am being bombarded with all of this,

first my father is not my father, then the welcoming, as if that is not enough now am supposed to be queen?

Chief: The gods don't make mistakes my dear, it's time.

Asithandile: Lets day I agree to this what will happen?

Chief: You will be welcomed then crowned and from there the gods will chose a king for you to rule by your side but you will be in charge of the kingdom.

Asithandile: Well I guess am only doing the welcoming because I already have a fiancé who has been waiting for me for two years and am not about to leave him.

Chief: The gods will have to chose your king.

Asithandile: Then let the Chief right here continue being chief because am not going to change my whole life for a man who didn't care for me all these years and a village that crucified me for nothing.

Chief: You do not argue with the god dear maiden, it will not end well.

Asithandile: Well then Chief, it will be a cold day in hell before I accept those conditions, if I do this I do it my way and that is the man I want to marry agrees to leave everything his worked for to come here and be king.

Chief: And if the gods agree to this and he doesn't, What then?

Asithandile: I will choose that man over and over again. I will never choose this village after everything they have don't to me, they beating me up almost killing me. Had they succeeded who would have been queen?

Chief: I do not know of the matters of the past, I am just a messenger of the gods and my message has been delivered. You also need to consider the fact that they let all those things happen to you so that you can be strong and ready to deal with anything when the time comes. Being queen is no child's play and the gods didn't want a weak queen.

Asithandile: A weak queen you say? Well they

wanted a strong queen and this is what they got. One that wants to choose her own husband and many other things. Now tell me why is this man here if he is just going to sit there and not say anything.

Mqwathi: What do you want me to say? Tell me and I will say it.

Asithandile: Unbelievable! You knew I was yours all these years but you did nothing, you watched your people crucify me and you didn't do anything, you watched the man I knew as my father treat me like a murderer and you did nothing. Yet today you sit there and ask me to tell you what you must say?

Mqwathi: First of all, I don't have children and I never thought I will ever have them because of problems my wife has. So I don't know what to say to you to make this right. I did a lot of things from a distance trying to protect you and I have been doing that since I realized you were mine.

Asithandile: No you did nothing for me, you violated my mother because you were paid to, you killed because you wanted to continue getting the money

they were giving you. That was not for me because it didn't benefit me in anyway.

Mqwathi: How Do you know about that?

Asithandile: I guess am my father's daughter! Is that the reason they want to strip you off the crown?

Mqwathi: Yes And I am not complaining, they reasoning is just and am content with it.

Asithandile: I will do the welcoming tomorrow but I want you to do right by my mother and my fa.. the man that raised me. His not letting me rest and I think you owe them a proper apology and a thank you for raising me while struggling to make ends meet yet you have everything. I don't resent you or hate you but am disappointed because I used to look up to you.

Mqwathi: Am glad you doing the ceremony and I will like to make amends if you would allow me.

Asithandile: I will allow you when the time I right but not now. We are all tired and tomorrow will be yet another long and tiring day.

Chief: We will see you at the palace bright and early tomorrow morning. With regards to the other matter I will consult with the gods and give you feedback but you must understand that they might not agree to this as it is not their way. I will take my leave now. (he stood up and bit farewell and so did Mqwathi and they left)

Ncebakazi: I won't even get into it with, let's wash the dishes and go to bed.

Zodwa: I second that.

They went to the kitchen and cleaning up then then they retired to bed, with Asithandile's mind occupied and overall by all this.

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Insert 91

Encoko village (not edited)

A large bell that is heard throughout the kingdom was rang indicating that there is a gathering in the royal house. Now the custom here is that when a royal dies the bell is rang in the evening and when there is a ceremony it is rang in the early hours of the morning and the people wake up to it. They would rush to do their chores so that by the time it hits 8 they are done and making their way to the royal house to help out with whatever is needed. The same thing happened this day, when the bell rang the women woke up to clean around their houses while young teenage girls were to fetch fresh water from the river, walking in groups. The city girls had no care in the world as they slept in, their grandmother woke up and boiled water for her bath and bathed then made herself soft porridge and ate. When she was done she went and checked the girls in their room and they were snoring softly as they enjoyed the morning sleep.

Nosakhele: I feel sorry for the men and the in laws you all will marry into. (she went back and went to her daughter's grave and sat there for a while just thinking of the good times they had together but none came to mind. All she could remember about her daughter was before she went to Mthatha, she was beautiful and respectful young girl who had a promising future but from there she knows nothing about her daughter and that hurt her.)

Nosakhele: You know it hurt to realize that I don't know my only child, I don't know you as an adult only when you were a child and in your early teens.

Nobuntu my child what did I do that made you leave and not look back. I know Mbuzeni as you called him payed a part in you not coming home but he didn't have to know you were his mother only that you were his sister. But you chose to stay away, I asked you many times when we used to call each to come home but you always dismissed me. Now! Now I can't even get the answers I want from you, worry not though your children are fine and am glad that you gave me these two. I was never blessed with

many children or a son for that matter but you have me two beautiful children which am grateful for. Now I know you were through a lot and I hate that not once did you tell me what you were going through. But that is okay one day we will meet again. Rest now little one, you mother loves you.

She got up and left going back to the house and met the four busy bathing and Asithandile making coffee.

Asithandile: Good morning grandma.

Nosakhele: More like good afternoon

Asithandile: I know we woke us a bit late but we were tired after all the work we did yesterday.

Nosakhele: In my day, we would wake up 4Am and go fetch water from the river, when we come back we make fire and put a size 10 three legged pot and boil water for the elders to bath, while they are bathing we would be making soft porridge for them. We would leave after eating and putting a big pot of damp on the fire and head to the forest to pick firewood and by 8 we would be back from the forest

and going to the river to do washing.

Ncebakazi: Yhoo Makhulu that was slave mos

Iminathi: She's right because I used to do the same because I grew up in the village.

Asithandile: Well the only thing I did was fetch water and firewood mama would do the washing herself.

Zodwa: I think I would have loved to do all that andbbe carefree.

Nosakhele: You would have enjoyed it even though it's tiring. But we would catch on so much nonsense.

Ncebakazi: I can imagine

Iminathi: Mah what should I make you for breakfast?

Nosakhele: I have already eaten child don't worry about me. Make something for yourselves.

Ncebakazi: I just came from outside and the people are already looking clean and presentable going to the homestead.

Asithandile: Hayi shame bazondilinda mna. Ngoba andimbi apha ngaphandle kobhuti (no they will wait

for me because am not leaving here without my brother)

Zodwa: Ngaphandle kuka bhuti or I Bathandwa?
(without our brother or Bathandwa?)

Iminathi: Hayi you know the answer to that yhoo
(they all laughed as Asithandile couldn't stop blushing at the mention of Bathandwa)

Imianthi: Well fix the table while I dish up so that we can finish and make ourselves decent for the day ahead (there was knock and they shouted a come in and Nokonwaba got in and greeted)

Nokonwaba: Ninjani kodwa mama namhlanje? (how are you today mother)

Nosakhele: Siyaphila makoti akhonto wethu nivukile nani? (we are well daughter in law how are you?)

Nokonwaba: Soyaphila Nathi mama akhonto (we are also well mother) mother I was sent here to tell you that you should all be at the palace so that the ceremony can start as the people are starting to arrive.

Nosakhele: I have done preparing but you know these youngsters will take time to get ready.

Nokonwaba: Asithandile hurry up child the people are waiting on you.

Asithandile: What people mah?

Nokonwaba: The people of the village, the bell was rang early in the morning and now it's after 8 and everything should have started already.

Asithandile: Yhoo this is going to be difficult for me because I also waited for the people of this village to rescue me but they never did. This is my ceremony and I will arrive when I am well and prepared not when the people of this village are ready and waiting to gossip.

Nokonwaba: I didn't mean to offend you child I was just saying since you know how things are done in this village but I understand where you coming from.

Asithandile: I wish everyone would understand the fact that i didn't come here for this but to do a ceremony for the man that raised me and I would appreciate it if everyone understood that am not

excited about this because this is not my life or what I came here to do.

Nosakhele: Am sure everyone understands that since you made it clear to everyone, now get done with what you all are doing and let's go and get this over and done with. I would also appreciate it if you don't accept the leadership of this village if you still resent its people so much.

Asithandile: Am sorry if I offended you grandma by my words but I also don't want to lead people who have no heart, people who take action without knowing all the details.

Nokonwaba: As hard as it is to hear you say that I understand where you coming from.

Just then two cars stopped in front of the yard and Lisa went running to Sticks arms as soon as he stepped out. Bathandwa and Bukhosi followed each other to the house and greeted.

Bukhosi: We didn't have time to eat and I would appreciate breakfast.

Iminathi: Let me make something for you two. (she went to the kitchen to make breakfast for her husband and Bathandwa)

Nosakhele: Are you the man that wants to marry my granddaughter?

Bathandwa: Yes mah that is me

Nosakhele: You seem like a good man, but why the rush? Because she just got back and already you want to marry her as soon as possible.

Bathandwa: The time she disappeared made me realize that life is too short to put things off. Mama I waited for her for two years to come back to me and now that she has no matter how short of a time we might have left, I want to spent every minute of it with her. She is everything to me and the past two years showed me just how much I need her. She is my better half and my missing rib.

Nokuthula: Am sorry to intrude in your conversation but young man, in this day and age I have never in my life heard a young man like you wait for a woman for so long and remain faithful. I wish you both

nothing but happiness all the days of your lives.

Bathandwa: They say like sand through the hour glass so are the days of our lives, our hour glasses run out at different time and when mine does I want it to be by the side of the woman I love.

Nosakhele: Hayi no need to be a poet am already convicted yhoo. (the others laughed)

Bathandwa and Bukhosi ate breakfast and his grandmother filled him in on what was going on and asked him to be on his best behavior just for Asithandile. They went to the car and drove to the palace which Asithandile driving with Bathandwa. Ncebakazi with Zodwa and Bukhosi with his wife and grandmother. Sticks followed behind with Lisa. They got to the palace and the people stopped working and admired the cars they were driving. Mqwathi has a wide smile on his face while Asithandile was annoyed by it but didn't say anything. The first people to get out were Zodwa and Ncebakazi, then Bukhosi, Iminathi And Nosakhele,

Lisa and Sticks then Bathandwa and Asithandile, they were shown to the other house to use as Asithandile was taken to the chief priest to perform the necessary ceremony for her. They did everything and a goat for introduction was slaughtered and a cow to tell the ancestors that the queen is home. When everything was said and done it was time to go and introduce her to the people who were anxiously waiting to hear what is going on. Mqwathi stood up and addressed his people.

Mqwathi: Greetings my people, I know you have been anxiously waiting to hear what exactly is going on here and am here to tel you exactly that. Not so long ago I stood before you and confessed my sins and today I come before you still to tell you that today we are gathered her to welcome my daughter, the princess and soon to be queen of this land. Asithandile, (there were whispers in the crowd, some asking how can Asithandile be princess when Encoko is just a village and not a kingdom. Others were asking what he meant by saying 'soon to be queen because Encoko never had a queen)

Mqwathi: I know you must have a lot of questions but I will give the chief priest to be the to answer them. (he stepped down and everyone waited for the chief priest who was still busy with the matters of the gods, people waited for about 30 minutes before he can holding a side plate with incense burning.

Chief: I sense the presence of the chosen on here (he said groaning and making sounds) but I will not get into it now because you are all waiting for an explanation. The gods chose a queen and a king for this village, the revelation came to me while I was at the mountains, I know you must wondering why would a small village like Encoko have a king and queen, well Encoko is no longer going to be a village but a kingdom and the people who will transform it into that are the chosen king and queen of the land. (someone from the crowd stood up)

Man: Am sorry Wise one for standing up after you but I have to ask as I know that all of us have the same question, I heard the Chief say that Asithandle is going to be queen, now my question is, what more

or what difference can a mere child do that the chief who has been leading this village for years couldn't achieve? (it was like Asithandile was pushed to the front and when she realized where she was Bathandwa was by her side in a second and held her hand. Again Asithandile opened her mouth and words started coming out like someone else was saying them not her.)

Asithandile: You Chief couldn't build your children school and couldn't build you proper houses or even get you clean water and create jobs for all of you. The queen of this land is to bring these changes and take Encoko to greater highs. People of Encoko now to your queen and ask forgiveness for all that you have put her through. Lastly never question the ways of the gods for one understands them. (She then got back to her senses and the people were all looking at her surprised and shock at what just happened. She looked around and saw that everything was quiet and not saying anything, she looked at Bathandwa with pleading eyes and he took her away and into the car and they drove off.)

She didn't ask where they were doing she just sat back and tried to remember what happened but nothing made sense. Everything that took place didn't make sense to her and she needed answers and fast. But the only person who can give her those answers is back at the palace and she was driving to nowhere. She looked out and saw that the road was headed to Mthatha and she still didn't say anything. The speed Bathandwa was driving at was very high, he was angry and it was visible. His jaw was clenched and his grip on the steering wheel was tight. He was focusing on the road and not even looking at Asithandile.

Asithandile: My love talk to me (she pleaded)

Bathandwa: We will talk when we get home (he answered not even looking at her) they drove for another 30 minutes and arrived in Mthatha, usually the drive takes 1 and Half hours but it took

Bathandwa 45 minutes to get there. He drove to his house and didn't even bother opening the garage he just parked in front of the house and got out of the

car, he took out the house keys and opened the door then went to his whiskey cabinet and took a bottle out and a glass and poured one for himself and gulps it down, Asithandile got in when he was drinking his second glass. She stood there looking at him but he didn't say anything instead he poured himself another glass.

Asithandile: Baby talk to me

Bathandwa: What should I say Asithandile huh?

Asithandile: Get whatever is bothering you out of your chest.

Bathandwa: What am I supposed to say when am losing you again Asithandile?

Asithandile: You not losing me my love I promise.

Bathandwa: You can't promise me that, Asithandile you are royalty and am not. You are expected to be queen and from what I saw you have no choice but to accept your faith. And I know how royalty works. Soon they will be bringing you a man with royal blood to be your husband and where will that leave me? I love you Asithandile so much and losing you

will be the death of me. But what choice do I have?

Asithandile: Baby you won't lose me, I told them yesterday that I will not marry someone else but you. So relax we are safe.

Bathandwa: I wish I could believe that, Asithandile even if you do decide to marry me, you will never be happy, nothing of ours will go well and that will lead to you resenting me. You said it yourself that no one must question the ways of the god for they work in mysterious ways. I stood there and listened to you going on and on and I felt like am losing you baby. With each word I knew that you are not going to be mine for long. It hurts knowing that, it hurts so bad because i don't know how not to love you. Damn it woman I loved you even when I didn't know if you are alive or dead. Women tried to woo me but my heart was with you. You had my heart from the first day I saw you and you have been keeping it all this time. How can I live without my heart? (he was crying, snot and all he didn't care he was hurting. Asithandile was also a crying mess looking at how hurt he was and she couldn't take it, it broke her

heart seeing him like that.)

Asithandile: Baby you have my heart too, how do you expect me to live without mine? You have my heart and I have yours. I would rather suffer by your side than without you. I love you Bathandwa Langeni so much it hurts seeing you like this. Now I don't know what happened back there and I myself need answers because that was not me. How can I stand in front of those people and tell them I will lead them after everything they did to me. Baby I choose you and I will choose you every day.

They held each other crying, after a while they wiped each other's tears and started kissing and taking off each other's clothes in a hurry. When they were done Bathandwa stepped back and looked at her for a while and a tear fell from his eye.

Bathandwa: This might be the last time I get to feel you close to me and see you like and I want this picture to last forever in my head and heart.

Asithandile: Please don't talk like that because I am

not leaving you.

Bathandwa: I love you so much

Asithandile: I love you more, now please make love to me.

Bathandwa: I would do anything for you and you know that. (he kissed her again then picked her up and went upstairs with her in his arms. He laid her gently on the bed and took his time admiring her body, he went to bed and started kissing her and worshiping her every inch of her body. He made sweet, gentle and passionate love to her. Their souls connected at that moment and it was filled with love and passion. This whole time Bathandwa was crying and his tears kept falling on her body and with each one that fell on her, her heart broke but she didn't dare stop him because she wanted to be close to him and somehow convince him that she not going anywhere and that they will be together forever.

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Insert 92

Encoko village

It was already late when Bathandwa and Asithandile made their way back to the village. The journey was a silent one with Bathandwa holding Asithandile's hand like she's going to disappear while driving with the other. All he could think of was what his going to do now That Asithandile will no longer be his, in just two days of finding her and yet his losing her again. It was a sad reality for him and one he didn't want to imagine. Asithandile on the other side wanted answers for what happened back at the village and on top of that she wanted to make it clear to those people that she's not leaving the love of her life. When they entered Encoko Asithandile switched on her phone and messages came through mostly from her sisters asking if she was Alright and one from Martinas informing her that they have gotten

sponsorship to build another hospital as this one is doing well. She replied to the message with a simple ' congratulations to us we doing well, send me the numbers for this week I want to update the books, might be coming to Colombia sooner than I thought if we going on this rate. Miss you' Bathandwa caught a glimpse of the last part of the message and let go of her hand.

Bathandwa: Did you have a boyfriend in Colombia?

Asithandile: No babe, that is business partner Martinas.

Bathandwa: Here am I thinking you were kidnapped. (he said with sarcasm)

Asithandile: We already here and I would like time with you just so that I can tell you all about Colombia, I don't want you to ever feel like this again.

Bathandwa: Like What?

Asithandile: Jealous

Bathandwa: Am not jealous

Asithandile: If you say so my love

Bathandwa: Don't do that! Am allowed to be jealous you have been gone for a long time and you come back like nothing happened and on top of that you royalty and you leaving me.

Asithandile: Let this be the last time I hear you speak this way! Am not going anywhere, royalty or not you are mine! You were mine when you decided to wait for me, when you took my innocence and when you loved me like no man ever will. I love you damn it and am not losing you! Not again.

Bathandwa: I love you too Mrs Langeni

Asithandile: Now let us go in there and hear what is going on.

They looked around but couldn't see the cars of Bukhosi and Ncebakazi so they didn't bother going into the palace as they drove to her home and the cars were there. They got out on the car and Bukhosi came out of the house and went to them.

Bukhosi: Evening dear queen (he smiled)

Asithandile: Bhuti please don't start

Bukhosi: But you basically made it clear to those people that you won't take their shit even though they bowed after you left, I think it was the shock.

Bathandwa: So it's settled?

Bukhosi: Don't worry man, I will be damned if I let them marry her to someone she doesn't love, she maybe royalty but her happiness comes first to me (Asithandile threw herself into her brother's arms)

Asithandile: Thank you so much brother

Bukhosi: I am your big brother after all and it's my duty to protect you.

Asithandile: Thank you, how is mah taking this?

Bukhosi: Mother wants to see you happy little one.

Asithandile: Let go in

Bukhosi: Go on I need time with you fiancé who didn't bother to ask me for your hand (Asithandile's eye widen) leave now sis (she went to the house and greeted everyone while Bukhosi was busy having a talk with Bathandwa)

Bukhosi: Look man, I know how much you love her

and I have seen it. You don't have to convince me of that but at this time I want you to man up and be by her side because if she has to marry someone else there is nothing you or me can do about it. Our ancestors are powerful and they choose who we marry royalty or not.

Bathandwa: But I thought you don't have the same father, so how can your ancestors be the same besides your mothers side?

Bukhosi: Her father and mine are cousins which makes our blood and ancestors the same through and through both on our mothers side and our fathers. Listen man I also had my issues with this royalty thing and the gift that comes with it which I just saw that my sister has one of her own and in order for her to be happy and lead a normal life without problems she will have to accept her faith.

Bathandwa: That means me losing her at some point. (he said running his hand through his face in frustration)

Bukhosi: As I said before, I will do everything in my

power to make sure you two end up together.

Bathandwa: I hope it works man because I don't know what I'd do if I lose your sister.

Bukhosi: Lets hope it won't come to that, now let's go In it's cold out here (they went inside and Bathandwa greeted everyone)

Nosakhele: So you are the one who stole my granddaughter's heart

Asithandile: Mah! (Ncebakazi and Zodwa giggled)

Nosakhele: Uthi mah ntoni wena ngoba Andithethi nawe mna (you say mah for what when not talking to you?)

Bathandwa: Yes Mother it's me

Nosakhele: Oh so what are your intentions for her?

Bathandwa: As I have already asked for her hand in marriage mother I would think that made my intentions clear, I was also hoping to send my people to you but the new development has made me put a hold on that until I know what will happen.

Nosakhele: You did good child, but you right we

must first hear what will happen before anything else.

Bathandwa: Thank you Mother, I will take my leave now.

Nosakhele: So late! It's not safe son, Bukhosi where are you and your friend going to sleep?

Bukhosi: We are driving back to Mthatha mah and we will come back early in the morning.

Nosakhele: Okay then take one car so that you can all be together.

Bukhosi: Yes mother

Ncebakazi: Drive safe Brother we are going to sleep now.

Bukhosi: Goodnight sis, wifey please walk me out

Iminathi: Of couse

Asithandile: Am also walking you out

Nosakhele: I wasn't born yesterday nana
(Asithandile laughed and they went out)

Outside Sticks came out of Lisa's house apparently he was meeting the parents. He come with Lisa following him but Asithandile didn't even notice them as she was buried on her mans chest.

Asithandile: I love you Okay

Bathandwa: I love you more baby

Sticks: You can't go on like this baby, go and talk to her, she's not a bad person.

Lisa: Asithandile was never a bad person babe I was and now I don't even know how am going to apologize her be because she won't give me the time of day.

Sticks: That only happened once after she came back, now things are different.

Lisa: Okay let me go try my luck (Sticks kissed her forehead and she made her way to where she was standing next to Bathandwa's car)

Lisa: Hey (Asithandile turned and looked at her)

Asithandile: Hey

Lisa: Can we talk

Asithandile: Please make it quick

Bathandwa: Babe What is going on?

Asithandile: My love this is Lisa the friend I told you about.

Bathandwa: The one that turned on you?

Asithandile: Yes that's the one

Bathandwa: Okay let me give you some space.

Asithandile: Dont go please

Bathandwa: No you need this (he walked away going to Sticks as Bukhosi was busy with his wife.)

Lisa: Look I know you want nothing to do with me and I fully understand that but before you shut me out of your life please let me apologize. I was dumb and obsessed Asithandile and am sorry.

Asithandile: Correction! Your obsession came after you had turned your back on me when my mother was killed.

Lisa: Yes I know, everything was just so convincing and pointing back to you. I know I was wrong to just

turn my back on you when we grew up together. I should have known better because I know you better than anyone but somehow I stopped being a friend and forgot the kind of person you are.

Asithandile: What do you think I would gain by killing my mother?

Lisa: Honestly I don't know, my behavior was both childish and cruel at the same time. I did you wrong and I have no excuse for it, I apologize for that, I don't know what came over me and am really sorry for everything that I did.

Asithandile: It's okay am over that now but please keep your distance.

Lisa: I wouldn't dare be in the presence of the queen without asking for permission.

Asithandile: I don't know if that is sarcasm but whatever it is it's not funny and I don't appreciate it.

Lisa: I was joking

Asithandile: I don't have time to joke with you (she left her standing there and went to Bathandwa and

kiss his cheek then went to the house)

Bathandwa: How Do you think it went?

Sticks: Man these are women, you can never know what they thinking but am hoping for the best, I want to be able to hang out with you guys without having to make my sister uncomfortable.

Bathandwa: I get you man, let's get going it's already late.

Sticks: Sure

The guys said their goodbyes to their loved ones and made their way to Mthatha to rest for the night as they were coming back in the morning. In the bedroom the girls were talking.

Ncebakazi: How Do you feel about being the queen of this place?

Asithandile: Honestly That is not what I came here for and I don't feel a thing for the people of this place.

Zodwa: I know they have wronged you nana but what

can you do when the ancestors want you to lead them.

Iminathi: I think what happened was for this reason, had your mother not been killed and your father including the people of this treated you badly you might have not found your brother and grandmother.

Asithandile: And I would have been kidnapped and taken to Colombia

Ncebakazi: And you wouldn't have studied in a good university.

Asithandile: Guys Do you understand that I studied there as Ximena?

Them: What?

Asithandile: Vusi changed our identities and I was Ximena Diaz while he was Rodrigo. My qualifications have Ximena on them not Asithandile.

Ncebakazi: How Do you feel about that?

Asithandile: Don't care about the name on a piece of paper I care about the fact that it wasn't bought and that I was the one who worked hard to obtain them.

Iminathi: That makes sense and am proud of how you handled yourself through all this.

Zodwa: I don't think she had much of a choice in the matter.

Asithandile: I just made the best of a bad situation. Let's sleep now I don't know what tomorrow will bring.

Them: Yeah.

They all slept but back in Mthatha Bathandwa couldn't sleep, he was thinking about the fact that I'm just a few hours his life will change, either for the best of the worst. He dropped to his knees by his bed, he talks to Jesus and thank him for all the joy in his life even if it might be short lived. He begs his own ancestors for the impossible and that is for them to help him find favor in the eyes of he royal gods and let him be the one to marry his love. He got up and went to sleep it was not long when he had a dream but not really a dream, more like a memory of him helping an old woman in the park, he was crying

that day because Asithandile left crying after Lisa has told him and his mother that she was a murderer. The old woman came and told him that his love with Asithandile was pure and not of this world. He said the one with the purest of hearts will win the battle. He woke up after that and thought of the battle that woman was talking about, he thought maybe it was the battle of having to wait for Asithandile after she was kidnapped and he waited for her. But he wished for more which he didn't know what exactly. He tried falling asleep at around 3Am in the morning as they were going back at 5Am.

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Insert 93

Encoko village

You know when you wish for the time to stop moving so that you can live a certain moment for a while longer? Well that is how Bathandwa was feeling, he wanted to stop the time and keep things the way they are. With Asithandile as his and nothing to change but unfortunately no one can stop time, one can stop the clock by taking out the battery in it but that is not what determines the time. The sun will still raise with or without your clock so it is just useless. People say time is the enemy and today Bathandwa finally understood what that meant. They were already on the road to Encoko the time was around 6AM in a cold morning, clouds were gathering and it looked like it was going to rain any moment. The drive was a silent one with each of the guys thinking and minding their own business. Sticks was thinking about Lisa and how her past messed up the relationship she had with her father and friend. Her mother was the only one who seemed really happy to see her but her father one could see that he still had reservations when it comes to Lisa, he didn't trust his own daughter and that is not a good thing. Bathandwa was thinking

about what to do next when it's finally confirmed that his love will no longer be his. He thought that going away to another city will do him good just so he can try and forget but then again contradicted himself when the question remained. How was he going to be able to forget her when he couldn't do it for the past two years. Bukhosi was thinking about the fact that the gods might have not chosen Bathandwa and that will break both him and his sister. She might refuse to marry whoever they choose for her but the results of her rebellious behavior will have bad consequences. They got to the village at exactly 7:30 AM and the others were already awake making breakfast. They sat in the car for a while with no one talking until Sticks decided it was enough.

Sticks: Guys I need advice

Bukhosi: Matters if the heart?

Sticks: Yeah

Bathandwa: Leave me out of it because am drowning as it is.

Sticks: No man I need you both.

Bathandwa: Okay then out with it.

Sticks: Lisa's father and their relationship plus my sister and her.

Bukhosi: What about her and her father?

Sticks: Well when Lisa left she was not in her right state of mind and she did things that upset her father to a point that he kicked her out of the house. When we were there one could see that the mother was the happiest but the father was just relieved that his daughter is alive but he doesn't trust her. What makes matters worse Lisa didn't apologize to her parents she just went with the flow since they didn't give her a hard time when she arrived.

Bathandwa: What kind of person is your girlfriend? No offense but what kind of a person wrongs her presents and not apologize after?

Sticks: Am not offended but I just want advice on how to handle this because when I pay lobola I don't want her father to say she can do what she wants like his given up on her.

Bukhosi: I have only one solution for you Brother, when we leave to go to the palace you ask Lisa to meet with her family for breakfast and then ask her to apologize to her parents for all that she's done.

Bathandwa: That could work and that way she won't have time to make excuses.

Sticks: I think you right, now what about her and my sister?

Bathandwa: I thought she forgave her?

Sticks: Then Lisa went and said something stupid to upset her again.

Bukhosi: Hayi nawe lomntu wakho yingxaki Yhooo!
Uxolelwa ngoku aphinde amoshe ngoku hayi maan!
(oh no this girlfriend of yours is trouble yhoo! She gets forgiven now then do something else no man!)

Bathandwa: Hahah she's a handful that one but on a serious note she has to apologize and mean it. She also has to stop with the silly jokes like they are still friends or else no forgiveness for her. I will talk to Asithandile and ask her to give her another chance.

Sticks: That's all I need.

Bukhosi: Lets go in and eat because by the look of things the moment of truth is about to come to pass

Bathandwa: What are you talking about man?

Bukhosi: Look there (they turned and looked up the hill a bit and saw the chief driving towards the house)

Bathandwa: I don't think I can stomach anything right now.

Sticks: Eat and keep calm.

Bukhosi: There is always calm before the storm.
(they went inside and had breakfast with no one talking, there was a knock and Nosakhele invited the person in and Mqwathi and the chief priest got in)

Mqwathi: Good morning everyone

Them: Morning.

Chief: We don't have time to waste, at the palace we have visitors from Nkomanzi as well as Amabjaca kingdom.

Nosakhele: Haibo Bukhosi did you tell your father

about this?

Bukhosi: No mother I didn't but you know how the Chief priest is am sure he told him.

Nosakhele: You right but what about Amabhaca?

Mqwathi: That is what we have to find out, today will only be us the family and them.

Asithandile stood up and cleared the table then went inside and took her sling bag with phone and wallet then went out.

Asithandile: Lets get this over and done with. (she said leading the way outside and the others followed. All roads lead to the palace and as soon as they were over the hill they could see from the cars, guards and maidens that there are visitors in the palace.)

They got into the yard with the gate being opened by a guard. Asithandile saw that the guards and maidens that were moving around were wearing their kingdoms attires while the ones from Encoko

were in their normal clothes which bothered her and thought that a lot needed to change in the village and she will make sure that all the changes take place. They got out the cars and made their way into the palace and Nokonwaba told them that the others were all waiting for them in the throne room and they made their way there. They got in and greeted everyone. In there were was king Nkosibuthe of Nkomanzi accompanied by the chief priest, then an old man they assumed was the king of Amabhaca, a young man they assumed was his son because of the resemblance, a woman who they assumed was the queen and two elders.

Chief: Well since we are all here we can start by introductions so that we know each other before moving on to other matters.

Nkosibuthe: I am king Nkosibuthe Mbanga of Nkomanzi kingdom am here to support my cousin.

Bukhosi: Am I prince Bhukhosi Mbanga of Nkomanzi kingdom (the other young man looked at him with a disgusted face)

Ncebakazi: Princess Ncebakazi Mbanga of Nkomanzi kingdom.

Zodwa: Princess Ntombizodwa Mbanga of Nkomanzi kingdom.

Mqwathi: Chief Vuyani Mbanga of Encoko village.

Nokonwaba: Mother Nokonwaba Mbanga of Encoko village.

The king of Amabhaca stood up.

King: I am king Vul'izizwe Nyandeni of Amabhaca kingdom, on my right is my queen Nkazimlo Nyandeni, over there is my son, prince and the heir to the throne of Amabhaca Khulani Nyandeni and those are my elders.

Bathandwa: Bathandwa Konyana- Langeni am a commoner (Asithandile's heart sank)

Asithandile: I am Asithandile Mavaleliso am a nobody.

Chief: Now! Now my children let's not get ahead of ourselves. The matter at hand is to officially change

your name dear daughter and give you one that the gods have chosen.

NkomanziChief: The Chief is right, I will only say what I need when the chief of the land finishes.

Chief: Thank you wise one, now before we continue let's hear from our guests what they are here for.

King: Our chief priest who unfortunately couldn't make it had a revelation from the gods last night telling us to be here this morning because this is where we will find our queen (he said and took his seat by this time Bathandwa's hope was out the window, if it was up to him he would get the hell out of there but that was not an option)

Chief: We hear you and acknowledge what you say. The gods have shown us two things, let me not say us but me and the other chief will say his part since we both serve the same gods and they decide who to show what and when. For starters my child the gods have chosen you as the queen of this land and gave you a new name, Khanyisa, they said that you will bring bright light to your kingdom even though it is still

a village but they have faith that you will make it work. Now I want you to inhale the incense and say I accept to accept the name you were given.

(Asithandile/ Khanyisa moves forward still on her knees and she opened her mouth to say I don't not accept but the words come out different)

Asithandile/Khanyisa: I accept (oh God! What the hell is this? What am I saying now because that is not what I wanted to say) she asked herself in her mind and the chief priest smiled.

Chief: It is done the name has been accepted. The second thing the gods showed me was the king that will rule by your side because we all know that there is no queen without a king so the gods chose u Cirha, uNcibane, uNojaholo to be your king. (they all looked at each other wondering who this Cirha is, Bathandwa has long blacked what was being said and done the moment he heard that king say their queen is here and he knew that the prince of Amabhaca is the one that will take his love)

Mqwathi: I think we are all confused wise one, who is our king? Because it seems like no one here

knows him.

Chief: That is because he is only here by body but far away with his mind.

Nkosibuthe: Wise one, point him out at least name him as we have all introduced ourselves.

Chief: No chief priest is allowed to call their king by his name, when the king introduced himself he said he was a commoner not knowing that the gods chose him way before he come here. (the others looked at Bathandwa who didn't even hear what was being said as he was busy thinking about opening a branch of his company in Cape Town and stay there to get it off the ground, his been thinking of doing this for a while and this was the right time to do it as he has nothing holding him back anymore. Bukhosi nudged him bringing him back to his senses and he looked around and saw that everyone was looking at him and he cleared his throat.)

Bathandwa: Elders am sorry I didn't hear what was being said because my mind is occupied. If the elders don't mind repeating what they said I'd

appreciate it.

Nkosibuthe: ichutyiwe lentwana (his smart)

Chief priest went to him with the incense and bowed before him and Bathandwa was confused.

Chief: Cirha, Ncibane, Nojaholo, My king do you accept to stand by our queen and rule by her side in this kingdom just as the gods wish?

Bathandwa: Wait what?

Nosakhele: You are the chosen king you fool just say you accept (as confused as he was he said he accepts and Asithandile smiled at him)

Chief: My part here is done, over to you wise one.

NkomanziChief: Elders, kings and queens the gods only gave me two messages to pass through and I would like to do that without interruptions. The new Kings name given by the gods is Mphicothi my king do you accept? (still confused Bathandwa said he accepts) very well then It is done. The second message the gods gave me was to inform you that the prince of Amabhaca is the second chosen king

of Encoko village and soon to be kingdom, the queen will have two kings until...

Everyone: What?....

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Insert 94

Encoko village

NkomanziChief: Elders, kings and queens the gods only gave me two messages to pass through and I would like to do that without interruptions. The new Kings name given by the gods is Mphicothi my king

do you accept? (still confused Bathandwa said he accepts) very well then It is done. The second message the gods gave me was to inform you that the prince of Amabhaca is the second chosen king of Encoko village and soon to be kingdom, the queen will have two kings until...

Everyone: What?....(everyone was shocked by this and a confused Bathandwa stood up and went out the throne room leaving others still shocked with their mouths hung open) Bathandwa went and stood by the kraal of Encoko and looked at the mountains trying to process what had just happened.

- Gods of this land, last night I prayed to everything and everyone that can listen to help me end up with my heart and I thank you that you chose me to be with her. Now the question is, How do I share her with another? She's my life and sharing her with another will break me. I don't know why you chose two King's for her and I will not question you for doing so for I don't not understand your ways. I am a mere mortal, a commoner with no title yet I found favor in your eyes and for that I thank you. I have

accepted that you gave me the name Mophicothi (meaning Analyst) I don't know what you want me to analyze and figure out from this situation but am willing to open my mind, eyes and ears to hear your teachings because on my own am useless. As you know I never believed in gods but since you chose me to lead by your queen's side I am willing to be open and learn. I will not lie and say I am not hurt or confused by this whole thing but for my heart am willing to do anything.

As his thoughts trail off and talking in his mind he felt a hand on his arm and turned to look who it was and he couldn't believe his eyes.

Bathandwa/Mphicothi: Makhulu! (grandma)

Oldwoman: Mphicothi my child, remember what I said, the one with the pure heart will win the battle. The battle has began and now we want you to fight, for both our queen and this kingdom.

Bathandwa/Mphicothi: How grandma when I don't know what is going on?

Oldwoman: Fight Mphicothi, fight! (said the old

woman and disappeared leaving him both shocked and shaken a bit because it just hit him that his been talking to a ghost)

Bathandwa/Mphicothi: Whatever is happening here am going to need strength and courage. A lot of it!

Back inside the throne room the chief priest looked at everyone in the room with an intimidating look.

NkomanziChief: I said do not interrupt me until I have finished! You might be royals but you are not above the gods! You depend on them for everything and the least you can do is respect them!

Nkosibuthe: Apologies eye of the gods, the shock of the news took us all by surprise and we deeply apologize for our rudeness.

NkomanziChief: I hear you my king, now as I was saying, the gods chose two king's for the queen but that is until the true king who will lead by the side of the queen proves himself to the gods and the people of this Village. The gods want to see who will be a better fit but they didn't want to do that on their own

but let the matter be a fair one. The queen of Encoko has the same gods as those of Nkomanzi and back there the gods can choose anyone even a commoner to be king or queen which is why Mphicothi was chosen by the gods of Nkomanzi. The gods of Encoko the gods that fell on this soil chose the prince of Amabhaca to be king and since the gods were joined when the queen accepted all of them as her own. So all their choices and advices will be taken into consideration. I will stop here.

Asithandile/Khanyisa: I hear you wise one but I have never heard of a queen having two kings. How is that even going to work? What is expected of me? Of them?

NkomanziChief: This is the first time it has happened my queen but the gods want it this way. How it will work will depend on you the your kings, what is expected of you is for you to build this village and make it into a kingdom during the process the gods will decide which king you remain with. They are expected to help you build this kingdom, be by your side through it all. But remember the one that

will remain king after it all will be the one the gods see fit to sit on the throne next to you. Your crowning will take place after the whole thing.

Mqwathi: I think it is clear

Prince: May I have a word with my queen please?

NkomanziChief: Certainly My prince (everyone left the room some still with questions and some trying the process everything that happened)

Prince: Now my queen tell me how do you feel about this?

Asithandile: I don't feel anything and besides I don't want to be queen because nothing in my upbringing indicated that I was royalty.

Prince: So you are just a queen by pick.

Asithandile: What is a queen by pick?

Prince: Someone who was just picked by the gods like they had no other choice but to do it for the sake of the throne remaining in the family.

- The nerve of this guy! He hasn't been here for that long and yet he insults me? Wow!

Asithandile: I guess they didn't have choice then.

Prince: Clearly! What makes you special anyway?

Asithandile: I don't follow

Prince: Wow she's even slow (he said that under his breath but Asithandile heard him) I mean what makes you so special that the gods decided to give you two kings while other royal maidens more befitting to be queen are single and looking out there?

- This man has more than just a nerve his brave too I give him that.

Asithandile: That question dear prince is directed to the wrong person. The people you should be asking that to are the gods that chose you to be my husband not me.

Prince: Listen here and listen good. Amabhaca is a big kingdom not a village like your and am the heir apparent to its throne, I will be damned if I stay here and build your kingdom for you and I will be damned if a rule by the side of a woman when I have a kingdom to rule.

Asithandile: I did not ask you to leave your kingdom and as for you helping me build my kingdom, I didn't expect you to and if you refuse to do this it's fine by me. I actually don't need you but the gods saw it fit to involve you so deal with them not me.

Prince: Am glad we understand each other and another thing, I have a queen that has been groomed from birth to be better prepared for this role. I mean a pure blue blood born of royalty not a hand picked and that is who is going to be by my side when I take my throne.

Asithandile: That is very good to hear because I have no intentions of being with you in an intimate level.

Prince: Yeah I saw that because your kind is way beneath me. (he said with a disgusted look)

- This arrogant piece of dirt is trying my patience.

Asithandile: What is my king then according to you?

Prince: You roll around with commoners, dirty blooded commoners! How can you even stand to be in the presence of one?

Bathandwa: Because she loves this commoner as much as he loves her (said coming in and went to Asithandile and kissed her cheek) are you okay babe?

Asithandile: Yes my love am fine but I still need to have a word with the chief priests before we leave.

Bathandwa: That's Alright we need answers before we proceed.

Prince: Commoners have no respect for royalty whatsoever in these parts of the world! (he said disgusted looking at Bathandwa and he laughed)

Asithandile: That's because we treat all people the same in these parts of the world.

Bathandwa: And this commoner has found favor in the eyes of the gods, so I think that pretty much makes me be in the same level as you.

Prince: Not even in your dreams will you be in my level. Now how do we pretend to do this because I have a kingdom to get to?

Asithandile: Oh we won't be pretending, I don't know about you but we will be doing what needs to be

done.

Prince: Right! Tell me when you need anything and am sure it's going to be money because this village doesn't seem to have much of it. (Asithandile and Bathandwa looked at each other and laughed and walked out while Asithandile went to find the chief priest and Bathandwa went to join Bukhosi by the kraal.

Bukhosi: Oh my king! (he bowed his head mocking him)

Bathandwa: Hahah don't play like that man.

Bukhosi: What? Okay now tell me seriously, how do you feel about all this?

Bathandwa: Overwhelmed and confused. It's a lot to take in and I don't know if am going to be able to make it through.

Bukhosi: I hear you my man but believe me when I say you will get used to it. I was also skeptical about my position but I got used to it in time.

BaKoena: At least you didn't have two wives and your wife didn't have two husbands.

Bukhosi: Hahah as serious as this is I can't help but laugh, I don't know what mockery the gods are making of my sister.

Bathandwa: And me.

Bukhosi: And you my man and you hahah.

In the living room the king Nkosibuthe, the Chief Mqwathi, his wife Nokonwaba, Nosakhele and the two chiefs were talking and discussing the matter at hand when Asithandile came in.

Asithandile: Elders

Nkosibuthe: Khanyisa, how can we help you dear queen?

Asithandile: I was hoping to have a word with the chief priests.

NkomanziChief: You want to know what is happening to you?

Asithandile/Khanyisa: Yes Chief

Chief: Take a seat (Asithandile went and took a sit)

NkomanziChief: Well you have the spirit of a fallen queen within you, the great queen Khanyisile mother of your father here. She is the one who awoke inside you the moment you accepted your real gods as your own. When the goat was slaughtered you also released her spirit within you.

Asithandile: So the name Khanyisa comes from her? She gave me her name.

Chief: Yes she gave you her name because she lives within you.

Asithandile: When does she come out?

Chief: She will only come out now after your crowning but it maybe before that it depends on her.

Asithandile: Thank you my chief, one more thing, how do I control her?

Chief: You do not control her she controls you but only when she's awake.

Asithandile: Thank you.

She left going to her sisters still not really sure she understands what is going on but was willing to learn and make Encoko the best kingdom ever existed.

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Insert 95

KwaBhaca kingdom (not edited)

There is always a calm before the storm, that saying must be meant for certain people because for Asithandile, it has been one storm after the other as a result she's even worried that Bathandwa will get tired of it and leave her. I mean she told the chief priest and the chief that she doesn't to be queen if it

means them marrying her off to someone she doesn't know. But no! The gods had to interfere and now she is left with two men who are supposed to be her husband. What man in his right mind would agree to that? It doesn't help that the prince is a proud man who puts status first before people. There is always calm before the storm but what more can one take? Because more is coming her way and she has to be prepared. For what nobody knows. The people of Nkomanzi and the prince of Amabhaca left the following day with his guards and maidens since his father left already. He arrived home late in the afternoon and the king was waiting for him outside. He stepped out of the car and was grateful he was back home, his comfortable home, unlike the village his coming from.

King: Am waiting for you!

Prince: Father can't this wait until am rested? That place is far and I need to shower and get off me, I don't even want to smell like that place.

King: Arrogance has always been your weakness but am not on that, I need to talk to you (he turned and

walked to the throne room and the prince had no choice but to follow him) they got in and took their seats with the king sitting on his royal chair.

King: What is this I hear about you insulting the queen?

Prince: Father what did I say about you letting your things spy on me? I don't want them and I never will do please stop making them follow me around am not a child.

King: Only a child would say that and they are not things they are my people and they help me and this kingdom. So you better respect them.

Now the king of Amabhaca was known, well not known but there had been some rumors that the king had a snake and (othikoloshe/ ditokosi), the people believe that the king got them when the kingdom wasn't doing well and ever since he got them the kingdom prospered. Random people and children die every 3 months and it is believed that the king and his "people" are responsible for it. They believe that he feeds them blood and human flesh

because out of all the people who died their loved ones would only find their bones and the only thing they don't eat is the face, so everything would be bone except the the face and that's how their loved one are able to identify them.

King: Now tell me what would you go and jeopardize the plan I have for us here?

Prince: I have told you before and I will tell you again I don't want these things.

King: That's not what I called you here for! Now why would you insult her like that? You do know that she's your your queen.

Prince: I don't want a half blood as the queen of this land father! That will damage the soil.

King: This just shows how wet you are behind the ears! Listen to me! My people tell me that Encoko is not only going to be a kingdom but is will be more of a fortress of power, they will have more power and riches than you can ever imagine and you as the king guarantees us safety and security for generations to to come.

Prince: Hetata abathikoloshe bakho bakubonise yonke lento? (father did your lapricons show you all this?)

King: Yes they did, I got rich in this kingdom because of them but we have nothing on Encoko.

Prince: Why is that? I mean we have all these forces why can't we be as rich as they are?

King: Because they have two gods protecting them, one is the prince of Nkomanzi who is god living in a human body and he is his grand father the great wolf and the most feared god of life and destruction and Encoko has this half blood you are talking about but that is just a cover for this world. Her mother was chosen from birth to give birth to these gods, her children were never hers but the spirits of the gods. A king that left this world without fulfilling his destiny and a queen who wanted to do right by her son. The queen of Encoko has the spirit of the queen mother of Mqwathi the chief of Encoko and together they will not only rule Mthatha or Africa but abroad too where the queen has been for the past two years. She already came back rich and now she going to be

richer because every thing she will touch will turn to gold.

Prince: Then it's time to make nice with my chosen wife.

King: Don't be fooled my people tell me that the gods know your heart and if you even try to fake it know that you are not dealing with mere humans.

Prince: What do I do then father?

King: Help her build Encoko without looking for something in return, I will give you unlimited budget to do whatever you need to do.

Prince: Right let me rest and go back there again, I can't miss out on so much when I have already been told how much is at stake.

King: Rest and go do me proud son!

The prince left his father and went to rest while his father made Nice his "his people so he calls his lapricorn or thikoloshe or tokolosi. He fed them breast milk from a woman who has just given birth

like they are children. Don't ask how he gets the milk from these women because his people are also responsible for that. Back at Encoko the plans to build the village were already underway. Bukhosi and Ncebakazi were continuing with the original plan of building a lodge in the village, Sticks took it upon himself to build a world class hospital. Asithandile focused on the building and renovation of the royal palace. Bathandwa focused on infrastructure development. Each one had their own team that they work with and all the budding material was there as well as all the construction materials, vans and trucks. Asithandile also contacted Martinas and told him to get her a sponsor to build better houses for the people of Encoko and he said" consider it done my lady" her car finally arrived and Sticks people brought by but it remained in Mthatha since the roads were not so good to drive it. For now she hired a van and got a driver to drive her around. Everything was happening so fast that no one had time to interact, they just works and sleep wherever they can. Mqwathi was standing by the kraal watching as trees kept falling from the forest with worry written

all over his face. His wife came to him.

Nokonwaba: You last ok troubled, What seems to be the matter?

Mqwathi: Don't you see what am seeing?

Nokonwaba: What are you seeing?

Mqwathi: They are destroying this village, look at the trees falling, look at this homestead looking like no one lives in it, where will the farmers do their farming? Where will the hunters hunt?

Nokonwaba: You are looking at this the wrong way, did you see them going anywhere near the farms?

Mqwathi: No!

Nokonwaba: Exactly! Your daughter said she wants this place modern but still looking the same with nature surrounding it. So why would she destroy the farms and all the trees? The hunters don't need to hunt anymore because everyone in this village has and will always have a jobs even when the development is done.

Mqwathi: What will they do after the development?

Nokonwaba: Who do you think will work in all these places they are building?

Mqwathi: Fine I get your point but look at the homestead, we only have our room to sleep in, my daughter sleeps wherever and it's not healthy at all. To make matters worse I can't afford all this.

Nokonwaba: Did they ask you for any money?

Mqwathi: No!

Nokonwaba: That means they have more than enough to do this, be proud of your daughter and stop being negative.

Mqwathi: I will try.

The day passed and everything was still going according to plan. The prince of Amabhaca arrived later the following day and asked what he needed to do but no one answered him because all the people he could talk to were busy and Mqwathi didn't know much about who was doing what. So the prince decided he will be responsible for making sure that

everyone who is working on the project has breakfast in the morning, lunch during the day and dinner at night. He organized a catering company that will do that for everyone. The way Encoko was small he only had to feed 700 people including the workers and the people of the village because he want to do nice with them too. He also organized temporary toilets and tents to shower in and to sleep in for those who are working deep in the forest and that was Bukhosi and Ncebakazi's team. Zodwa was responsible for all the designs from the lodge, the royal house, the hospital and the campsite. Later that night he prince went to his tent and took a shower then called his father.

Convo:

King: Son!

Prince: Father

King: How is everything going?

Prince: The whole place is chaotic and we are loosing a lot of money providing food for these people.

King: Be glad it's only food and nothing that will leave us bankrupt, remember why we are doing this and don't not worry about the money what you used didn't even dent our account.

Prince: I know father I just hate spending on commoners who don't want to work for what they have.

King: It's funny you say that when you never worked a day in your life.

Prince: That is because you promised to take care of me if I let you go and get those things you call people in exchange for moms...(he cut him short)

King: Alright I understand

Prince: Better not forget it Father, I sacrificed the woman who gave birth to me for you to have those things and whatever riches come with them will have to sustain me too.

King: I said I understand! Now change your attitude and do this with a open heart and a smile on your face. Open your eyes and mind and see people for who they are. Maybe you will learn a thing or two.

Prince: I have learnt enough in Detroit I don't need more. I need to sleep now talk some other time.

King: Alright be nice to the people if not I will know.

Prince: Tell those things to get out of my way and we will get along. (he said and dropped the call. Little did he know that Bathandwa heard everything he was saying but couldn't understand much of it because it was confusing without hearing what the other person is saying. He went to find Asithandile and found her sleeping in her tent and joined her)

Asithandile: God you cold!

Bathandwa: Sorry babe I have been standing outside for too long.

Asithandile: Get close to me so that you can get warm faster. (he moved closer to her and cuddled)

Bathandwa: Babe

Asithandile: mmm

Bathandwa: I don't trust that prince

Asithandile: Me too

Bathandwa: Don't Get me wrong am not saying that because I want you all to myself but I don't trust him because my gut tells me his up to something.

Asithandile: I know his up to something it I don't know what, and don't worry I don't trust him either.

Bathandwa: Am glad, goodnight babe

Asithandile: Goodnight

There was a lot of work to be done at the village and little time to watch what the prince does.

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Insert 96

Encoko village.

8 months later (not edited)

There is always light at the end of the tunnel they say, don't give up hope they say, it rains before the sunshine they say, even the day must give way to the night they say. But when challenges and hardships come your way you feel like you drowning, like they will never go away, like you trapped and there is no way out. That's how Asithandile felt when she was living at Encoko when the man she thought was her father physically abused her, she felt like there was no way out, she left like she was alone in the world. Things changed when her brother came looking for her and took her with him. She started being happy again, she found love and she was content but the bad times were not over, Vusi came along and kidnapped her and took her to a foreign country where she didn't even know the spoken language and she realized that she spoke too soon when she said she was happy because it didn't last. As if that was not enough, she came back home after being away for two years only to find out that her father

was the chief and she was the queen of the soil that crucified her, as if that was not enough she almost lost the love of her life in all that, as if that again was not enough she finds out that she had a spirit god living inside her and to top it off she had two husbands chosen for her. That alone killed her but she kept a brave face because that how Rodrigo made her to be, strong and not show emotions to the enemy. The prince was arrogant and self centered but that was the least of her worries. The most important thing her was to build Encoko into a kingdom as the gods wish so that she can be able to live her life. For 8 months she, her siblings and the man she loves worked hard day in and day out to make Encoko into what it is today.

Today was the day of the grand introduction and opening of Encoko kingdom. Mqwathi invited the kingdoms he knows and Nkosibuthe did the same. Bukhosi and Ncebakazi invited business people and Martinas was there as well with his media crew. He came through for her and the houses in the village

were renovated and made modern. He only got the sponsor because the company wanted to expand to Africa and saw it as a good idea to first do something for the people in Africa to gain support when they finally expand here. That was not a problem as long as they got what they wanted and Asithandile got what she wanted. Everyone was dressed kill this evening as the reporters stood outside interviewing the guests that kept coming in their royal attires. It was fascinating for them as they have never been to such or seen so many royal families all in one place. The broadcast was live and aired all over the world since they got the coverage. Martinas was more than proud of his partner and the work she has done in her villages.

Martinas: Am so proud of you my lady, the place is out of this world.

Asithandile: Thank you and am glad you here.

Martinas: Anything for you my lady, Ximena you deserve this and more and am happy that you are finally living your life.

Asithandile: Am happy too you know

Martinas: Now Tell me, who is that gentleman that can't keep his eyes off you?

Asithandile: Well That is the love of my life Bathandwa.

Martinas: The glow my lady says it all, now can I be formally introduced to the main man?

Asithandile: Of course (they walked to where Bathandwa was standing)

Asithandile: Babe this my business partner and friend Martinas from Colombia and Martinas this is my love Bathandwa.

Bathandwa: A pleasure to finally meet you.

Martinas: Pleasure is all mine, you know that you were the reason she never gave up fighting while she was back in Colombia.

Bathandwa: I didn't know that but am glad she fought, I can't imagine my life without her. The past two years were hard for the both of us but am glad we are back together again.

Martinas: Man you are lucky to have her.

Bathandwa: That I know very well.

The prince of Amabhaca with his father were standing not so far from where Asithandile and Bathandwa were.

King: Do you see that she is only acknowledging that commoner more than you?

Prince: What more can you expect from a half blood?

King: It's time for you to act now, I will send my people to go and check which of these rooms is hers here, we have to make sure that she and the gods chose you as the king.

Prince: Do you think your things can pull that off?

King: Have faith in them, do you see how this place looks? She didn't this without asking for a cent from us, look at the business people she's associated with, we have never had such in our kingdom and I will be damned if that commoner gets to be king without a fight. We deserve this.

Prince: Send your people already because am not losing these riches. To think I was willing to walk away but after seeing all this luxury am not willing to walk away anymore. The gods have to choose me or we can bling the chief priest on the day of the crowing.

King: Now you beginning to think like me son! These people are rich and they must have spent a lot on this.

Prince: They even built houses for the commoners, what a waste.

King: You can say that again.

Nkosibuthe and Nobukhosi were standing together talking and admiring the work that has been done at Encoko.

Nobukhosi: Your kids have done a wonderful job here, this place is exquisite.

Nkosibuthe: Am proud of them for doing all this, but enough about that now woman, how long are you

planning on making me wait?

Nobukhosi: Wait for what?

Nkosibuthe: For you to agree to be my wife.

Nobukhosi: Well am not making you wait any longer, I told my father about you but he didn't believe me. He said he will believe that I actually want to her married the day your people come to our kingdom to ask for my hand in marriage.

Nkosibuthe: Well that's all I needed to hear, my kingdom has been without a Queen for far too long, this weekend my people will be there to get me my queen.

Nobukhosi: Have you spoken to the children yet?

Nkosibuthe: They all want me to be happy and you are my happiness.

Nobukhosi: Well in that case my people will be waiting for yours.

Nkosibuthe: They will be there, did I tell you how beautiful you look tonight?

Nobukhosi: Well you did but I don't mind hearing it

again.

Nkosibuthe: Well you are beautiful my queen and I love you.

Nobukhosi: Oh wow, I never thought I would hear those words being directed at me. But am happy you the one saying them because I love you too and I can't wait to be your wife.

Nkosibuthe: I can't wait to be your husband. (they smiled at each other)

The evening went on and now it was time for the Chief Mqwathi to give a speech and address the people m. He took the stand with his wife by his side.

Mqwathi: Good evening, I would like to firstly thank all of you for being here today. I am the chief of this kingdom and besides me is my beautiful wife. Today is the official opening of the kingdom of Encoko and very pleased to announce that from now on Encoko will no longer be called a village but a kingdom. Especial thanks to the soon to be queen of this kingdom my daughter Asithandile and I believe

others know her as Ximena. To you my dear daughter and you siblings I thank you for the work that you have done and this shows that you will make a great queen for this kingdom and you will lead your people to greatness. To my cousin the king of Nkomanzi and his children I thank you for all the work you have done in helping out here and support me and my family through all of it..

While the speech was on going and people focusing on it the king of Amabhaca and his “people” together with his son went to the room that is used by Asithandile and placed a bowl under the bed right where the head will be when she sleeps. The bowl had a big frog inside of it sitting in green water, they placed in there and left to join the party like nothing had happened. Bukhosi senses that there was danger but his wife kept him calm and reminded him that this was his sisters day and that he should not ruin it by scaring the people away. She also reminded him of the media that was there and he kept calm but Power was restless wanting to come

out.

The night went on without a glitch even though Bukhosi was no longer himself anymore.

#loveadmin

Insert 97

Encoko kingdom (not edited)

Evil is not paid by more evil they say, two wrongs don't make a right they say. You don't take justice into your own hands they say. But what happens when the justice system is not doing what it's supposed to be doing? I mean look at how Vusi got away with kidnapping Asithandle in broad daylight, what did the people do? What did the police do? Nothing! And when she got to Colombia the most corrupt country in the world ruled mostly by criminals, for her there was no turning back. What

about the time her father was beating her to a pulp? Did anyone call the police? No! Did anyone intervene? No! So where is the justice for those deserving? Nowhere! Do you honestly think if Asithandile wasn't smart enough to play Rodrigo she would have come home? No! Do you think her brother would have found her? Maybe. But evil never stops in the world, you get rid of one enemy and another surfaces and it's the same thing over and over again.

Not only with Asithandile but look at the society you live in, we are all sick whether we acknowledge it or not but we are sick and the deadliest disease we suffer from is the "what will the people say" disease and the "I want them to see me" disease, no body does something for themselves anymore but to please people. When was the last time you did what you wanted without worrying about what the people will say? When was the last time you dressed up and looked good without you saying I want to walk out there and I want them to see me. Why should they see you to begin with? Are you living for them or

yourself? You can't date certain guys because what will the people say? Let me tell you this Sigula sonke qha sishiyana ngaxesha (we are all sick but the difference is the time as to when one gets sick) abanye bagula ebusuku abalali then emini bahlebe abagula emini, abagula emini ebusuku bayalala wena uhleli bubomi sana wonke umntu unesgula sakhe and I folders azifani ngaphakathi (some are sick during the night, they don't sleep and gossip about those who are sick during the day. Those who are sick during the day sleep at night while you lay awake because your time as has come. Everyone is sick and that is life)

The king of Amabhaca was sick in his own way and his sickness is driven by greed. Greed that led him to take the easy way out and seek supernatural powers to be able to get the riches he longed for. His son! Well his father made him sick the moment he saw him putting a smile in the bed so that it sucks the soul out of his mother. He was spoilt and when his father told him that he could get him everything he

wanted if he kept quiet about what he saw, the woman that carried him for 9 months, feeling all the pains that come with pregnancy, the sleepless nights when he was born, her protection and love didn't matter anymore. He watched her die right in front of him and he didn't tell a soul about it, he never even shed a tear for her but Xhosa people say inyambezi zomzali aziweli phantsi meaning tears of a parent don't fall on dry ground.

The play had been made and the night night came to and end. The guest went to their designated rooms, some used the lodge, some the royal palace and some the camp site. There was more than enough room for everyone and the guards and maidens showed the people to their rooms so that they can rest for the night.

Bathandwa: Babe am tired let me go to your room and ran you a bath while you finish up with your guests.

Asithandile: I would love that, am really tired and the

shoes are killing me.

Bathandwa: Let me go then (Bathandwa went to her room and when he got in he took off his jacket and went to the bathroom, he filled the tub with water and added bath salts and the works. He then took a shower and got out after a few minutes) he was sitting on the bed after he put on his shorts and vest but while sitting there he couldn't keep his eyes open. He wanted to wait for Asithandile but his head was too heavy. He later down on the pillow and immediately drifted off.

In his sleep it was like he was here at Encoko by the river where the campsite was. He was looking at Asithandile swimming in the river but she was drowning. He took off his shoes and dived into the water to try and save her. He got into the water and took her in his arms but when he pulled her out from under the water it was not Asithandile that he was holding. He was shocked but in a split second a nail was being hammered into his forehead and he fell in the water and started drowning. He got to the depths

of the river but instead of there being rocks and all there houses, with Skulls hanging around and animal skin all over. The place was scary but something made him move further in until he got into the rondavel that was there and he was shocked at who he saw.

Asithandile came to into the room and saw him sleeping there and he thought he must have been really tired for him not to wait for her. She went back into the bathroom and smiled seeing the bubbles. She went back into the room and took off her clothes then went back and relaxed into the tub letting the water take away the exhaustion. She closed her eyes and relaxed enjoying the water. After a while she got out and went to the room and lotion, she took her sleep wear and went bed and shook Bathandwa so that he can get under blankets since he slept on top of them but his whole body moved. He was cold and she moved him again calling his name but nothing happened. She turned him around and was shocked to see a nail on his forehead with a

little blood coming out. She quickly took her phone and dialed her brother and he picked up immediately.

Convo:

Bukhosi: Please don't tell me there are people who don't have places to sleep (he said in a tired voice)

Asithandile: Please come to my room now! And bring the chief priest with you.

Bukhosi: What is going on Asithandile!

Asithandile: I said now Brother please! (she shouted and dropped the call)

She was now pacing up and down in the room not knowing what to do. She kept checking on Bathandwa and couldn't believe what she was seeing, moments later Bukhosi knocked and she shouted a come in and pushed the door open followed by both priest behind. The priests and Bukhosi went closer and looked at Bathandwa.

NkomanziChief: Oh dear gods of Nkomanzi! (he exclaimed)

Chief: I was afraid of this!

Bukhosi: I left it coming but I didn't stop it! (he said with sad voice)

Asithandile: What is going on here? What does he have a nail on his forehead?

NkomanziChief: Uthwetyulwe (he was taken)

Chief: His as good as dead

Asithandile: No!!! (she shouted and went to Bathandwa and held him in her arms while sobbing) baby please come back to me, you can't be the one to leave me now Bathandwa wake up! Okay okay am sorry for shouting but please come back to me, I can't do this alone please come back!

NkomanziChief: We have to consult the gods (he said the two of them left)

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Insert 98

Encoko kingdom (not edited)

They say when it rains it pours but when does it stop though? I mean it's one thing after the other and there is no rest for any of them. Bathandwa waited two years to be with his love but when he finally got to be with her, she was promised to another and him at the same time. Yes she didn't change towards him which assuredly him that she love him. Then they had to build Encoko from ground up and that took a lot of time apart and when it was finally done, he was taken away from her. Now how fair is that on one person? Asithandile on the other side never left him, she asked her brother to help her out him nicely under covers and she joined him and slept on his chest, he was breathing but he was cold like he was slowly fading away. With tears in her eyes falling on his chest she spoke to him.

Asithandile/Khanyisa: My love, I miss your beautiful

smile and your happy laughter that attracted to you. But your caring and loving heart is the reason I want to spend the rest of my life with you. They say every love story is beautiful but ours is my favorite, you make my world beautiful Bathandwa and I want you to fight and come back to me. You can do it my love just like I did when they took me away from you, do it for us and for the children we will have. For my sanity because if I lose you I will lose my mind and in turn this newly formed kingdom will perish.

All this time while she spoke her tears never stopped flowing from her beautiful eyes. On the other side the king of Amabhaca and his son were busy talking about the events of the day.

Prince: Oh father I am so happy about all this, we have finally eliminated the competition.

King: You can Thank my people for that, now you have to starting believing in them and acknowledge their presence.

Prince: I was worried that the queen will be the one

to fall on this trap.

King: Am not stupid, the trap was set for one person only and that is...(he cut him short)

Prince: The wanna be king of a commoner, now am sure wherever he is he is regretting messing with big dogs.

King: Yes but am worried though because his not where he was supposed to be.

Prince: What do you mean?

King: Well when we took him he was supposed to go and join the others in a safe place where I keep them but he is not there. My people tell me he never made it there and that worries me.

Prince: You worry too much father because by the look of things, wherever he is his not coming back and that is what we wanted. So now there is no competition with a commoner.

King: You right about that. I just hope nothing gets in the way of this, I don't care if he comes back after you are crowned king if it so happens that he does.

Prince: Will he be normal if he does come back?

King: No he will be a mad man and no kingdom will want to have a man man as their king.

Prince: You right father.

On the other side Bukhosi was going mad, he kept on trying to keep power at bay but it wasn't working. Iminathi tried but her husband told her straight that if she didn't stop him none of this would have happened so she gave up. He was in the room while his wife was sitting in front trying to distract herself with tv but it wasn't working because the tv was watching her. She heard a noise coming from the bedroom and immediately she knew that Power was out to play so she decided to go and relax outside by the pool. Bukhosi got of the house and by now he was no longer himself but Power, he went to the hut where the chief priest were consulting. He got inside with out knocking and they turned to look at him and when they saw him they bowed down and started chanting his clan names.

Power: Go to the queens room and remove whatever is under her bed, do it now or it will kill him wherever he is.

NkomanziChief: Will he come back if when remove it?

Power: The god will bring him back when the time is right. Now go to as I ask. (the chief priests didn't have the time to argue with a god so they got up and went to Asithandile's room. She was asleep when they got there and they decided not to wake her up. The chief of Encoko was the first one to look under the bed and saw the calabash, he signaled the other chief and he also looked. They went out of the house and back into the hut. They took some muti and applied it on their hands then they went back to the room and took the calabash. They walked back to the hut where Power was already standing by the the small wooden table, the chiefs came in and out the calabash on top of the table and Power smelled it then groaned scaring the two chief priests in the process.

Power: Some one is trying very hard to kind the gods but the spell has already been broken judging by the

fact that the king is not where they wanted him to be.

Chief: Where is he?

Power: Only the gods know that but he will return when the time is right.

Bathandwa was shocked to see the old woman coming out of the scary hut. She came to him.

Oldwoman: Son don't just stand there go inside the hut so that you can keep warm.

Bathandwa: How did I get here?

Oldwoman: They took you, now go in there and get warm or else your body will give up on the other side and you will die. (Bathandwa didn't ask anymore questions as he went into the hut, when he got there, there was a fire in the middle of the hut making it warm. The moment he started getting warm his eyes got heavy and he fell asleep.

It's short but I will finish the last inserts off tomorrow.

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Insert 99

Encoko village (Excuse the errors)

While the others were busy worried about what happened to Bathandwa Zodwa was busy with the shy prince. He came to the opening since he knew that Zodwa will be there so now they are sitting in one of Zodwa's favorite places in the kingdom. The tree house, it's not big or small either, it has a fire place a wooden couch like everything is wooden including the laminated floors.

Xola: Now my princess, how are you enjoying spending time with me so far?

Zodwa: Not bad my prince.

Xola: You know am tired of this game now and it has to stop.

Zodwa: What game are you talking about?

Xola: Zodwa am old enough to be married with kids but I never had a chance to find a wife because I was busy working hard assisting my father build our kingdom. It took a lot of my time as a result even my friends started falling off because I didn't fit in with them anymore. They decided to start dating but I didn't have time for that, they got married and I remained single because my kingdom was not yet at a place where I could bring in someone's daughter to suffer. They had kids and by then I was long left out, what am saying to you is that I will be sending my people to Nkomanzi to ask for your hand in marriage.

Zodwa: But Xola it's too soon and we haven't even dated yet.

Xola: Dating is for guys who don't know what they want but marriage is for grown men like me who know what they want in life.

Zodwa: We don't know each other that well.

Xola: We have a life time to get to know each other and no! I won't try to change you or control you or run for the hills when I get to know the real you. Your imperfections are just that and as you husband I will have to love you with them just like I expect you to love me with mine.

Zodwa: I don't know Xola, I have been hurt and disappointed a lot by men and I don't want to go through that again.

Xola: I am not here to right a wrong someone else created, neither am I here to heal the wounds someone else caused. Am here for my own part and I want you to start recognizing that and stop comparing me to the people you have been with.

Zodwa: I think I liked you better when you were shy and sending gifts.

Xola: This is me baby, all of me and am telling that by the end of this week you will be my wife if you will have me.

Zodwa: I don't know what to say.

Xola: Lets make a deal here, if you have doubts

about my intentions for you then you can deny my people when they get there and you won't have to marry me. But if you feel that I can love and take care of you then I want to see you coming back home with them on that day because I am not willing to spend another minute without you.

Zodwa: Fair enough! But how would you feel if I deny you.

Xola: Honestly I will hurt and disappointed. To a point where I will ask my father to find me a wife because I would have failed doing so myself.

Zodwa: Would you really do that?

Xola: As I said, am old and not getting any younger, I want to have my kids while I can still play with them. I want to travel the world with my wife because I never got to do that but now I do. Please allow me to make you happy. (he begged)

Zodwa: Oh what the hell, send your people! I have also not traveled, well at least not like my sister and it's now or never. If we work out or not I will cross that bridge when I get to it.

Xola: Thank the gods! You don't know how happy you have made me.

Sticks was talking to Lisa's father, after he made Lisa apologize to her parents they have become close.

Mthunzi: You know I never thought Encoko would be this beautiful and let alone the job creation. People now have proper jobs and families are fed. Children go to a proper school and there is access to proper healthcare. What more can we ask for?

Sticks: Well for someone like me who grew up with no mother figure I have found myself a family in the royal palace. The prince of Nkomanzi my friend became a brother I never had, the soon to be queen of Encoko has become my sister. What am trying to say to you is that those are good people, they don't define family by blood but by loyalty. This kingdom was never loyal to my sister but it's gods chose her to lead these people. As much as she didn't want to do it, she sacrificed everything and her own money

and did it. That's because she loves this place, she grew up here, the people of this place don't only owe her gratitude but an apology and respect as well.

Mthunzi: I think your brain is another reason I like you for my daughter, you have been treating her well so far and I hope you will continue to do so. Lisa is stubborn and irritating most of the time but she also has a soft and fragile side to her.

Sticks: Thank you for your blessings and for trusting me with your daughter (Lisa came to them as they were sitting outside)

Lisa: Tata (father) can I borrow him for a minute?

Mthunzi: Oo Lisa bajola phambi kwethu ngoku hayi ilizwe lonakele (Lisa is in a relationship and wants to talk to boys in front of me, the world is ruined. He said and walked to the house)

Stick got close to her and kissed her forehead.

Sticks: My love

Lisa: Baby I missed you.

Sticks: But am right here

Lisa: Not miss you like that but miss you like being alone cuddling miss you.

Sticks: Are you sure that's all you want? (he asked with a smile on his face)

Lisa: Well Whatever you are thinking is what I want.

Sticks: Mmm Lets go to be then, oh before in forget, your father gave us his blessings.

Lisa: Blessings for what?

Sticks: To get married and oh! Your mother thinks you are pregnant and you know old people never lie about these things.

Lisa: What? Me pregnant? No it's can't be I mean I am not he pill.

Sticks: And the medication you were taking cleaned all that out.

Lisa: No man it really can't be.

Sticks: Well I guess we will find out when we see a doctor then.

Lisa: Am not going to any doctor because am not

sick.

Sticks: You don't have to be sick when you pregnant dear but you are going to the doctor and that is final.

Lisa: Fine can we go to bed now?

Sticks: Yes Mrs Me.

Bukhosi was sitting in the hut while the chief priests went to the mountains to try and find answers to the the whole thing and ways to bring back king Mphicothi. He sat there alone analyzing the liquid and he was now getting irritated because his been doing it for hours now. He fell asleep on the grass mat but it wasn't long before a dream came to him, more like a vision than a dream. He saw himself getting up from the grass mat and steering the calabash and it showed Bathandwa but the vision was vague as there was a fire was blocking him from seeing clearly where he was. He woke up from the dream and looked for a stick around the house but couldn't find it, he then went outside and found it then went to the calabash and did exactly what he

did on the dream or vision. He liquid in the calabash changed and showed Bathandwa's dream when he saw Asithandile drowning and when he tried to save her. The moment he realized it was not Asithandile and when they hammered a nail on his forehead. The liquid changed back to its normal color.

- oh man, my sister is your down fall and the wise used that against you. Look at you now, we don't know if you will ever come back but even if I die today I will die a happy man knowing that my sister has a protector in you and true love.

The king and his prince sneaked into Asithandile's room to check on their handy work. Asithandile was in deep sleep on Bathandwa's chest.

Prince: I never thought it will be like this but we did it
Father (the queens woke Asithandile up)

Queenspirit: Open your ears and listen my queen and don't open your eyes just listen (Asithandile wake up but didn't open her heart eyes)

King: I told you my people work, now there is nothing

standing between you and that throne. Not forgetting the riches it comes with it.

Prince: Thank you father again for looking out for me. Eliminating this commoner was the best decision you have ever made and am proud to be called your son.

Prince: Lets go then so that nobody finds us here.

King: Yes you right and don't forget to act surprised when they tell you about this.

Prince: Oh trust me when I say they won't be coming. (they went out and Asithandile opened her eyes and sat on the bed not knowing what to do with the information.

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Encoko kingdom (not edited)

The chief priests came back the night before and ordered the maidens to start preparing for the crowning ceremony as the gods wish it to be the following day. The maidens didn't waste time as they woke up in the wee hours of the morning around 3AM to prepare for the ceremony, they all knew exactly what was needed for the ceremony so they started with it right away. The royal house always has traditional beer brewed for events like this that just happened unplanned. Live stock enough to feed all the guests was slaughtered and the young men skinned it and took it to the maidens to prepare. Others were busy cleaning making sure the place is ready for the ceremony while the others cooked the meal that will be served at lunch after the ceremony, they were using the big kitchen in the royal while the others where using the 3 small kitchens to prepare breakfast for everyone, while the others prepare cutlery and for ready to go deliver the breakfast room to room. At exactly 6 in the morning

the bell rang indicating that there was an even at the royal palace. People of the kingdom are used to this so they woke up like they used to and prepared to get to the palace, the women finish early so that they can go and assist with the duties of the day.

At exactly 7 AM the maidens started delivering breakfast to the rooms and the people were already awake, in each breakfast trolley there was muffins, coffee, tea, pan cakes, yogurt, eggs, bread, fruits the works. Each maiden would deliver the trolley and go back for another. They were done with all the rooms at 9 and they started eating as well, as soon as they were done they were to get the trolleys from the rooms. It was busy like that. The people and the chief priests were awake preparing for the ceremony while the guests from far went around the kingdom for sightseeing as they didn't get a chance the previous day.

Lisa and Sticks arrived as well and Sticks went to look for his brother while Lisa went to join the women in the kitchen. He found Bukhosi outside his

room drinking coffee.

Sticks: I never thought I will see the day.

Bukhosi: What day?

Sticks: You drinking coffee

Bukhosi: Marriage does that to you my man you should try it.

Sticks: But I already drink coffee in the mornings

Bukhosi: But not one prepared by your wife.

Sticks: Then I might as well get married then.

Bukhosi: Good! Did you see Martinas here?

Sticks: Man when I saw him I thought that maybe our guys fucked up and entered his territory. Man I had my phone on standby to call for back up.

Bukhosi: That man is dangerous but apparently his business partners with our sister.

Sticks: No way! That can't be true! Tell me our sister is not involved in the drug business man because I won't survive it. She too fragile for that!

Bukhosi: No she's not, apparently she is the one the change the mighty dogs image and made him what he is today. Yes she's fragile but what she's been through taught her to be tough.

Sticks: You mean his no longer wanted or into drugs?
(asked Sticks clearly shocked by the news)

Bukhosi: According to my intel my sister made sure to change the whole organization. These people are now legal my man and my sister is their partner.

Sticks: You mean our little angel now rules Mexico and Colombia?

Bukhosi: That's Exactly What am saying.

Sticks: WOW! Okay what is going on here today? I thought people would be preparing to leave.

Bukhosi: The gods want the crowning to be today man!

Sticks: So that means my sister will have to marry that guy?

Bukhosi: If the gods chose him then yes

Sticks: Can you not choose him so that I can have an

excuse to kill him?

Bukhosi: Why would you ask me not to choose him like it's up to me?

Sticks: You are one of the gods are you not?

Bukhosi: No am just human.

Sticks: You wish you were human my man but you not. So what are we supposed to wear in an event like this?

Bukhosi: For you my brother I have just the attire.

Sticks: Now you talking

They went into his room and started looking at the attire they will be wearing for the ceremony.

In Asithandile's room she woke up disoriented and went to the bathroom to take a shower. She came back and saw the breakfast trolley but she had no appetite, she got dressed and a maiden came in.

Maiden: Good morning my princess

Asithandile: Good morning, what is going on out

there?

Maiden: We are preparing for the crowning ceremony my princess.

Asithandile: Is it today?

Maiden: Yes my princess.

Asithandile: Okay you can clean (Then was walking to the bathroom when it finally registers to her that she didn't see Bathandwa in bed when she woke up, she quickly turn back and hurried to the bed and she wasn't there)

Asithandile: Go call my brother now! (she shouted and the maiden went out running to go look for Bukhosi, leaving Asithandile going crazy looking for Bathandwa in every corner of the room even under the bed but he was nowhere to be found. Bukhosi came in running followed by Sticks)

Sticks: What happened?

Asithandile: Brothers, his gone (she said In a breaking voice)

Bukhosi: What do you mean his gone?

Asithandile: I woke up and I did notice anything but when I finally did he was not here. Bathandwa is gone and there is no sign of him.

Sticks: What? How can someone in the condition just disappear?

Bukhosi: Let me find out (he went to the bed and smelled the sheets and blankets then stood up) the gods have taken him, his with them now sis am sorry.

Asithandile: Please don't tell me his not coming Bukhosi because I won't survive it please Brother.

Sticks: He will come back sis I promise you he will (Bukhosi looked at Sticks with questioning eyes but he wasn't budging)

Bukhosi: Yeah umh

Sticks: Get yourself ready for the crowning because today you are going to be queen with your king by your side. Please don't embarrass me by looking like a mess because I would hate to call you my sister if you do.

Asithandile: hahah I woundnt dream of it.

Sticks: Now please make yourself beautiful we are going to make sure that everything is fit for a queen. So by the time you get out of here you will walk with your head held high like the queen you are.

Asithandile: You right now go! I need time to make sure I look my best.

Sticks: Jeez no need to chase us out we are going. (he took a disoriented Bukhosi's hand and walked out and when they were far enough Bukhosi stopped)

Bukhosi: How can you promise her he will be back man? We don't know that!

Sticks: Do you want this ceremony to go o or what? Or do you want her to die right in front of us because she couldn't take the news of her fiancé not coming back to her?

Bukhosi: I get all that man but you promised her that he will be by her side when she's crowned and we don't know if that is true or not.

Sticks: Then you better go and consult with your

fellow gods and make sure his here or I swear to God Bukhosi I will kill you if his not here. (he said with his eyes cold as ice)

Bukhosi: But you are the one who promised her (he defended)

Sticks: Yes I am and you are going to turn all god and make sure I don't break my promise to my sister or I swear Bathandwa will not be the only one to disappear today. (he said going to his room)

Bukhosi: Well my fellow gods you heard the man, I don't know how the hell did he think of making promises he can't keep and now I have to perform miracles like Am Jesus to bring back the dead. Well you heard him threatening us so you better come through for me or am joining you in the land of the dead because he doesn't play like that. (he left also going to his room)

On the other side the prince and his father were enjoying breakfast looking at the beautiful view from the balcony of the room they were using. Smiles on

their faces and happiness from their eyes could not be missed.

King: My people say the commoner is gone.

Prince: What do you mean his gone?

King: Gone as in there is not even a bone left of him in this kingdom. His remains disappeared and am happy.

Prince: Which means that I am king and no one is going to stand in my way. (he said with a smile on his face)

King: Who could stand in your way when you have your father and powerful forces behind you?

Prince: No one, now let's prepare to get me crowned with the most expensive crown no king has ever seen.

King: Mmm buy me a better one when you rolling in cash.

Prince: Don't worry I will have it specially designed for you.

King: Now you talking, let's get ready time is not on

out side. (they went inside and into their rooms to get ready)

Somewhere in the land of the gods Bathandwa was still in his deep sleep when the oldwoman come in with 4 other men following her behind. They all looked at Bathandwa for a while before one spoke.

Elder1: His heart is as pure as mine so he will wear my crown.

Elder2: No I was not the one that chased you away from home so my heart is pure and he will wear my crown.

Elder3: You people forget who had the biggest kingdom and reign so he will wear my crown.

Elder4: I don't know what you guys are fighting about because we all know who is the eldest here so he will wear my crown.

Oldwoman: Would you all just shut up! I will decide who's crown he wears for now we are all here to wake him up because it's time for him to go back,

his been here long enough and if he doesn't go back now his never going back.

Elder1: Lets join hands (they all joined hands surrounded Bathandwa and started reciting their clan names and those of Bathandwa, this went on for about an hour before Bathandwa opened his eyes and looked around but didn't recognize anyone besides the old woman)

Oldwoman: It is done, son get up and your father's will dress you so that you can go.

Bathandwa: Where am I?

Oldwoman: No time to ask questions now get up and when I come back you must be done. (the eldest of the 4 gave him his shoes to wear, the second gave him pants, the third gave him his royal vest with beads on it and the last one gave him his royal necklace, bracket and a beaded headband. He got dressed and when he was done the old woman came back and did his face with something while making the markings of both Encoko and Nkomanzi on his face. When she was done she took a sack and

opened it then took out a crown and placed it on his head)

Oldwoman: Now you look like a true king and crowned by the gods that will forever protect you.

Elder1: His wearing my crown (he said excited)

Elder2: And mine (he was also excited)

Elder4: It's a combination of both your crowns you morons.

Elder2: Will you ever stop calling us morons? I mean you used to call us that in the land of the living and even here you still call us that.

Elder3: He will never stop forget it

Oldwoman: It's time (they all surrounded Bathandwa once again)

At the royal palace speeches were made and now it was time for the crowning of the king and queen of the kingdom, Sticks was looking at Bukhosi dead in the eye but he avoided eye contact with him.

Asithandile sat there with a smile on her face and

Martinas camera crew was going crazy with the pictures and videotaping the whole event. The chief priest each held a crown in their hands, one for the queen and one for the king. The prince was not sitting far from the stage so that he can go up when they call for him to be crowned.

Chief: In my hands I hold the crown of the chosen queen of this land, if the queen would please stand up so I can do have I was sent to do. (Asithandile stood up gracefully and walked towards him and bowed her head)

With the crown given to me by the gods of this kingdom I will crown their chosen queen (he placed the crown on her head)

My people I now give to you queen Khanyisa of Encoko kingdom, men started whistling and women hulumulating it was joy all the way but Asithandile couldn't pretend anymore, she kept looking at Sticks who kept on giving her a reassuring smile and stare at Bukhosi with deadly eyes. The cheering died down and the second chief priest came forward.

Chief: The gods are the ones who had the duty of choosing a king for this kingdom, at first they chose two people to be king and that would be the prince of Amabhaca and Mphicothi. Now I have the crown that is supposed to be placed on the chosen King's head but I don't know who it is between the two men the gods have chosen. So I ask that you all stop what you are doing, sit still and keep quiet the gods will show us a sign as to who they want to be king. (the whole palace went dead quiet, the prince of Amabhaca kept on looking at his father and smile, his father did the same) after 5 minutes of silence wind started blowing hard and drops of rain started falling at least the place was covered with a tent so everyone remained on their seats silently, Bukhosi groaned like a wounded animal and that gave Sticks some hope, people turned heads and looked at his direction but there was no controlling it as he went up the stage that was set up and fully transformed right in front of the people, as scared as they were they didn't move an inch, after fully transforming he kept on going around in circle until mist appeared in the circle he was making and he stop with his head

bowed down Bathandwa appeared fully dressed as king and the mist died down showing him to the people, Asithandile's lips formed into a wide smile as she looked at his love looking like a true king in front of his people.

Nkosibuthe: That is my father's crown (that came out as a whisper)

Mqwathi: And mine too (that also came out as a whisper and they looked at each other)

Nkosibuthe: Look at grand father Menzi's beaded vest.

Mqwathi: The one he wore on that picture in your palace and great grand father Nkazimlo's Shoes, and my father's pants.

Nkosibuthe: My father's Royal beads.

Mqwathi: His the chosen king.

Nkosibuthe: And they crowned him.

Mqwathi: He has the markings of Encoko on his face.

Nkosibuthe: And those of Nkomanzi

Them: His chosen by both gods. (after realizing what is going on the prince of Amabhaca stood up)

Prince: His a ghost! His dead! (he shouted and the people looked at him mumbling among themselves)

Asithandile took the mic.

Asithandile: My people, if you will give me a moment I would like to talk to the prince in private, his not taking the news well and I will not be happy leaving things as they are. If you will excuse me (the people nodded and she went off the stage and took the princes hand and lead him to the nearest room got in and closed the door)

Asithandile: You think I didn't hear you and your father when you spoke of killing my king.

Prince: His a commoner and am your king.

(Asithandile spotted a tray with a knife and a fork and moved the prince closer to that trolley as if she wanted to kiss him. He closed his eyes waiting and Asithandile took the knife and hugged the prince the whispered in his ear.)

Asithandile: Nobody tries to kill my love and get

away with it (the prince opened his eyes the same time Asithandile drove a knife of his back twisting it as the prince went down until he fell. Bathandwa budged in followed by Bukhosi and Sticks. They looked at her and then the prince)

Bathandwa: Umbulele (you killed him)

Asithandile: And I will do it again if he dare messes with what's mine. They did this to you. Him and his father did it and I heard them.

Bathandwa: Wash your hands so that we can go out there and finish this (Asithandile went to he bathroom and washed her hand then dried them and went out. Bathandwa took her hand and led her to the door but she turned and looked at her brothers)

Sticks: We will take care of this now go (the mouthed a thank you and left the room with Bathandwa. The King's people already told him what had happened)

Chief: Since hey are back I think we can continue, the gods have chosen their king and even crowned him. All I can give to you now is your king Mphicothi and

queen Khanyisa of Encoko kingdom.

People started cheering once again and music started and the festivities start and the maidens started bring in food. After a while Bathandwa and Asithandile went out and into their room where they found Bukhosi and Sticks looking drained. The king followed them and stood outside for a moment.

Asithandile: Brothers Thank you for everything but am flying out to Colombia with Martinas and Bathandwa, we need the break before we start our duties as king and queen of this land.

Bukhosi: No need to explain we understand.

Sticks: Have fun there, you gave us a scare man

Bathandwa: The gods saved me and am here to stay now and tell my father in law, Zodwa, Ncebakazi that when we come back we want everything to be ready for our weddings because we are doing it the same day.

Sticks: Can I also join in?

Bukhosi: Are you sure you want to get married?

Sticks: If my sister allows it Yes I am.

Asithandile: Does she make you happy?

Sticks: Yes

Asithandile: Does she love you as much as you love her?

Sticks: Yes

Asithandile: Do you trust her with your life?

Sticks: Yes

Asithandile: Well I guess in a month we are having 5 weddings, congratulations Brother (Sticks stretched her with a hug)

Sticks: Thank you sister, you don't know how much this means to be. I have never had a family but with you and this god of a Brother I found my self a family.

Asithandile: We love you Brother

Sticks: I love you sis

King: Isn't this nice? (he said coming in) where is my son queen.

Asithandile: I don't know what you are talking about.

King: You know very well what you did to my son, where is he.

Asithandile: I said I don't know what you are talking about.

King: Uyaxoka Umbulele (you lie, you killed him) and am going out there to tell everyone what you did. (he went for the door as the maiden was coming to deliver food but the king didn't make it to the door as Bathandwa stabbed him with the spear he was holding and the maiden screamed and Sticks pulled her into the room)

Maiden: You killed him my king.

Bathandwa: No I didn't

Maiden: Uyaxoka Umbulele kumkani i saw you! (she shouted)

Asithandile: Brothers can you take care of this we have to leave.

Them: Sure (Asithandile and Bathandwa went to the door and got out but before they could close the

door the maiden shouted behind them)

Maiden: Uyaxoka Umbulele kumkani! (the door closed)

The end

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