



THE PRIME PRESENTS

Yours Truly

*"You can't tame a wild animal... It will always go
back to the wilderness ..."*

FEZ MATSIKITI

Yours Truly

#1

In Shakawe, the wind blew cold air, winter season had ended but it was still as cold. Rethabile could barely feel her fingers as she sat on the bench at the hospital with her younger brother staring at the pictures on the walls.

She had seen them more than she could count, had read every letter, even read the words backwards. Though after all the times she had sat on the same bench, stared at the dirty white walls that always stayed dirty, stared at those pictures with folded corners, she never got used to the fear.

It always made her weak. It wasn't her everyday fear of being picked on by other kids because she was thick and had stretch marks, definitely not the fear of being harassed by her Guidance and Counseling teacher... but rather it was the fear of losing her mother. It scared her so much, it made tears burn her eyes.

The cold breeze blew past them as they sat on the cold metal benches still in their school uniforms. Rethabile's stomach growled, she swallowed and looked at Batang as he fiddled with his fingers. He turned to her feeling her eyes and smiled showing his two missing teeth. She could the fear too... The both knew... She smiled and touched his cheek. At least he had his jersey.

“Are you cold?”

He shook his head then opened his mouth. “Tha-Tha-Tha-

Thabile... m-mama is sick?"

He stammered, sometimes she wished she were the one stammering not him. She would take the struggle from him any day.

"She will be fine. The doctor is giving her medicine."

He nodded, she knew he was hungry though he would just keep quiet. Tears burnt her eyes as she sat there. A tear rolled down, she turned wiping it away with the back of her hand. She took a deep breath and turned to her ten year old brother.

"Are you hungry?"

He shook his head.

"We will pass by Elang's house before we go home. She said she will steal some food for us today."

He nodded again and continued fiddling with his fingers. Rethabile took a deep breath waiting. A nurse walked over to them. Rethabile stood up quickly.

"Is mama ok?"

The nurse sadly looked at her. "She will be fine my girl."

"Can we see her?"

"Yes. We gave her something for the pain."

"Eemma, thank you." Rethabile turned to Bateng. "Let's go."

Bateng got up and walked with his sister to their mother's ward. Rethabile looked at her, it seemed she was losing weight with

each day, she could barely recognize her anymore. She could see her mother's bones. Bateng rushed over.

"M-mama.."

Mmagwe Rethabile smiled weakly. "My boy.."

"I-I..." He closed his eyes briefly. "I dr-drew y-y-you."

She smiled and touched his cheek. "Show me.."

He opened his bag and showed her. Rethabile silently watched as they spoke, she sniffed wiping her tears with the back of her hand. Her mother turned to her and smiled.

"Thabi... come..."

Her voice was so weak, she took moments in between each word. Rethabile slowly walked over. Mmagwe Rethabile looked at her kids then smiled.

"Thabi... don't cry... Why are you crying?"

Rethabile looked at her mother then put her hands on her face crying.

"I am scared..."

Her mother pulled her closer and hugged them both. She closed her eyes as her own tears filled her eyes.

"There is no need to be scared Thabi... I am here."

Rethabile cried more holding on to her mother. Mmagwe Rethabile held her breath holding it together then she smiled wiping Rethabile's tears.

"It's ok Thabi... it's ok. Don't cry... I am here with you. I will never leave your side..."

She looked at both her kids and smiled.

"I always going to be there. I promise... I am coming home...tomorrow."

Rethabile looked at her tearfully. "You are coming home?"

Mmagwe Rethabile nodded. "Yes. When are you finishing your exams?"

"Next week."

"What are you left with writing?"

"English, Biology, and Setswana."

"The last papers right?"

"Yes."

"I know you have passed. You are brilliant, my little Doctor.."

Rethabile smiled wiping away her tears.

"You are going to be a very successful doctor. You are going to save lives.."

"I am going to help you. I will do every surgery so that you never have cancer ever again."

Her mother smiled. "I want you to go home and clean the house. Clean everything. Fold my clothes nicely... you know that dress that you like? The red one? The one I wore at the church

anniversary?”

Rethabile nodded. “Yes. I love that dress.”

“Take it and put it with your things in your room, keep it for me ok?”

“Yes.”

Her mother chuckled. “Also those heels I bought that time when we went to Gaborone together. They go well with that dress. Take them and keep them for me.”

“Yes mama. But I make sure no one enters your room.”

“I know sweetie... but I will be happy if you are with them. You see my jewelry box. There is this set of earrings, a bracelet and a necklace... Also keep them. And my favorite perfume.”

Confused, Rethabile nodded. “Ok.”

“I am coming home tomorrow. Don’t come here after school. Take your brother home. I will be there waiting for you.”

“Ok. You feel better.”

“Yes. Way better. I love you Thabi. Never let anyone separate you and Batang. You will stay together. Aunty Keemi is your mother ok?”

“Yes mama.”

“Batang, I love you my boy... tomorrow after school, go home with Thabi. Ok?”

“O-o-ok.”

“Thabi... under the bed, there is a box. A big box. It has the important documents. In that box, there is money. Take it, keep it safe. I don’t want it stolen by thieves. The house... Our house. It was my father’s house. He gave it to me. I extended it. From me, it goes to you and your brother.”

She laid down catching her breath, eyes closed. She opened them and smiled

“I love you. So much. I will see you tomorrow.”

Rethabile nodded smiling. She felt relieved. Good thing she had cleaned the previous night.

“Bye...”

The kids turned and walked out smiling. Mmagwe Rethabile put her hand over her mouth crying. The other patient who had been watching sadly stood up from her bed and hugged her.

“It will be fine.”

“My kids... my kids are still young... God help me... modimo nthuse... they are young... God please..”

“Shhhh....”

“They need me... my kids need me...”

She cried so much as pain continued sucking out her soul.

Rethabile walked home with Batang, She took a turn going to her best friend's house. She looked at the big castle house where Elang stayed. Sometimes she was envious of her friend who got a P20 note every single day for lunch at school. It had to be nice staying in that big house.

Rethabile looked at the sun setting and stood across the house under a tree with Batang. Minutes later, Elang walked out. Rethabile smiled as her friend rushed over holding her touch screen phone and a lunch box.

"You were supposed to be here twenty minutes ago."

"Sorry thamma, the doctor took time with mama but tomorrow she is coming home."

Elang smiled also as relieved. "See? I told you not to worry. She is going to be fine. Take.."

Elang handed Rethabile the lunch box with the food. Rethabile quickly opened it and swallowed staring at the chicken. She took a piece and handed it to Batang.

Elang smiled as he quickly ate it. "I put a lot of food ke direla le kamoso mapakela."

"Thank you."

"By the way, your boyfriend sent a message."

Elang handed Rethabile the phone. She looked at the message from Atang, her Facebook boyfriend. They always talked through Elang's phone since she didn't have one.

Rethabile opened the message, her heart pounding. She slowly sat down by the rock and read the message.

Atang: Hey babe, where exactly did you say you stay in Shakawe? Are you back from work?

Rethabile smiled. Elang put her hand on her waist.

“Thabile, are you smiling? This guy is asking about where you stay. I think he wants to come and visit. Kana he does not know that there is no Lorraine, that actually Lorraine is just a Facebook picture we bumped into and now an 18 year old high school schooler is using it.”

Rethabile sighed. “Atang wouldn’t come this side. He is in South Africa, he flew there earlier. He is will be back in two days.”

“Mma this is getting out of hand. I am getting scared. We should have never created that Lorraine account. It was just meant to be a joke but now you are deep in a relationship with an old an old man you barely know?”

Rethabile sighed staring at Elang. “I just want to be happy. This is the only person who makes me happy Elang.”

Elang sat beside her friend.” I want you safe. This guy seems way older, gape hela we are lying to him. What if he comes here? Nna kea tsaba.”

“Atie is not that old. He is just tall. I wonder how his voice sounds like...”

The girls looked at each other and laughed.

“Me too. Mme o lebega a le bogale.”

“Atie is not like that. O soft motho o.”

Elang shook her head. “You would never on the phone. Thabile, I am serious. You should end this. I know you really like him but ng ng... gape those tattoos mma, he looks dangerous. He looks scary.”

“Atie is not dangerous. You are judging him way too early.”

“Thabi, even if he’s not dangerous but he is going to slap you for lying to him, making him believe you are a thirty year old american who’s a doctor. O tsile go re nyedisa, nna mma kea tsaba. Have you seen his hand? Motho o ta go clapa was wela Gaborone ka back flip. I don’t want to see.”

“I will do it next week. This is my first relationship. I am sure he wouldn’t e even look at me if he saw me in real life.”

“Right now no one would look at us, we are dark because of the sun, we probably don’t know how to bath properly, re leswe nyana. Wait till we go to University of Botswana wena girl! Heeeei ga gonna murr!!!”

Rethabile laughed then looked at the phone realizing be was online and replied.

‘Lorraine’: I stay near the senior school but I am going to Kasane tomorrow morning on a business trip.

Atang started typing. Rethabile stared at the phone waiting

Atang: What time are you going there?”

'Lorraine': at 9 a m. Are you still in SA?

Atang: Yes, I am stuck this side, it's raining so all flights have been cancelled due to bad weather.

Lorraine: Sorry motho wame

Atang: Who taught you that?

Lorraine: I have been learning. I have tswana friends.

Atang: So where did you say you are from in America again?

Lorraine: Texas Houston.

Atang; Ok. We will talk, I have to go.

The green dot on his name disappeared. Rethabile sighed sadly then gave Elang her phone.

"Thank you."

Elang sighed staring at her friend. "Next week you break up with this guy. I think it's enough now. Four months is enough Thabile."

"I will break up with him."

Rethabile stood up. "Let me go home. I will see you tomorrow."

"Bye."

Rethabile walked away with her younger brother. Elang stared at Rethabile's chat with Atang. She went to his profile again and looked at his profile picture, the tattoos on his arms scared her so much she looked at the phone for a while contemplating just breaking up with him then deleting the profile all together.

She took a deep breath and typed.

Lorraine: Hi, I cnt do dis enimo. Its nt wkng n Im gng bck 2 Txs srr n so I tnk its bst if we jst prt wys. I wsh u nthn bt hppnss, pls no its nt u, bt mi. U dsv bttr. By.

She quickly went to the settings and deactivated the account. She sighed satisfied and walked to their gate.

Headed to Shakawe, Headed to Shakawe in his 4x4 pitch black Amarok, Atang fixed his cap driving with one hand.

His twin brother laughed. "She is cat fishing you?"

"Yeah, if I didn't show Nayang the picture, I would not have known. Gatwe that picture is some Zambian lady who stays in America.*

Agang laughed more. "I told you... kana dilo tsa Facebook ke maaka hela."

"I know but I was already in Maun so I might as well go to Shakawe and see what's up."

"I can't believe Yaya hurt you so much to a point you date Facebook girls."

"Don't start with me."

"Girls who catfish are ugly...I am just saying. If I were you I would just leave this girl alone."

“Good thing I am not you, I am going to get to the bottom of this.”

“Sharp mister. Please keep your hands to yourself when you get there.”

Atang dropped the call with a sigh. His heart skipped as he looked ahead staring at the elephant in the middle of the road with a C180. It blew its trunk stamping on the ground angrily. Atang hooted as it begun pushing the Benz. He brightened his lights hooting.

The angry elephant looked over, Atang continued hooting. The elephant blew its trunk moving back and went to the big tree besides he road. Atang stepped on the accelerator a d drove to Benz rolling down his window. The lady in the Benz stepped out crying.

Atang looked at her. “Let’s go!”

She hurried over holding her handbag and jumped in the Amarok. Atang looked at the elephant getting a big brunch and drove off. The lady looked at the rearview mirror watching the elephant destroy the car. She put her hand over her mouth, tears rolling down her cheeks.

“I am still paying the loan... God”

Atang looked at her in shock. “You could have died! Is your loan the only thing you can think about?”

She looked at him and burst into a loud cry, her face uglifying as her lips curved down.

Yours Truly

#2

Atang drove for a while as the lady cried. He looked at the time as rain droplets heavily fell on the car accompanied by hale.

He slowed down rolling down his window slightly. The cold air blew in the car making the woman shiver while she sniffed.

Atang stole a glance at her. "What's your name?"

She looked at him. "Zaza."

"Where were you going?"

"I..." She closed her eyes, a tear rolling down. She sniffed.

"Shakawe..."

"What are you doing in Shakawe?"

"I am going to see my mother's sister. She is not well, my mother is sick so she couldn't come.."

Zaza sniffed. "I just got that car 6 months back. I bought it with a loan."

Atang looked at the Shakawe board and sighed. "What happened?"

"I thought it was passing so I stopped. I didn't realize it was angry."

"I am sorry about your car but that thing was going to kill you."

When it gets angry, there is no stopping it. I promise you, if you didn't get out of that car, they were going to find you dead tomorrow."

"Thank you.. for saving me."

Atang's phone rang. He reached for it and picked the unsaved number.

"Hello?"

"So you decided to rob my house Atang?" Yaone yelled on the other end.

"What?"

"You decided to rob my house? You are so childish Atang."

"Why would I rob you? Are you trying to have a conversation with me or what? O seka wa bata go ntena, o ta swaba Yaone. Did you see me robbing you?"

"So if it's not you, who is it?"

"Botsa rrago o mae, la ntester lona nxla. I am going to come there. I want you to accuse me of bullshit face to face."

"I was just asking because someone robbed me."

"And you assume it's me. Ke tsile go go thuba ka clapa. Ke eta ko."

She hung up. Zaza swallowed and took a deep breath staring ahead while he drove.

"Where are you going? The police or to your aunt?"

“Can I please start at the police...?”

“Ok. Do you know where it is?”

“Yes. You can take your next left turn.”

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At the police station, Atang remained in the car as Zaza jumped out then inside while it rained heavily. He reached for his phone and logged in on Facebook. A message pinged on his messenger. He clicked on it and opened Lorraine’s message.

He frowned trying to read what was written but he couldn’t understand anything. Matter of fact, it didn’t sound like the person he usually spoke to. That one had the perfect English.

He laughed wondering if maybe he were dealing with kids. It didn’t look it was a grown person who had written that.

He replied.

Atang: Huh?

He stared at his phone for a while. He went on Facebook and searched for her account. He sighed not finding it then he went to his contacts and called his friend.

“Atang..”

“Phefo, did you get anything?”

“Yeah, I tried to call but your phone wasn’t going through. I hacked the account. I got the number.”

“Send it to me.”

“Don’t do anything stupid there. You are not the first person to get catfished. You won’t be the last. At least she never asked for your money.”

“Send the number o tswe mo tseo.”

“I am sending. Mr. G called. You refused to fly him to Kasane?”

“It’s raining cat and dogs and the wind is too much. I am not taking chances with my life. I am a pilot yes but I am not about to die in the name of money. Re nkapa ra lesa hela.”

“Let me go, my real life girlfriend is here.”

Atang laughed. “Voetsek!”

Phefo laughed more. “Sharp Atang. I sent the number.”

Phefo hung up as Zaza walked out of the police station. She ran over and got in the car shivering, her clothes slightly wet.

“What did they say?”

“Nothing. They are not saying anything intelligent.”

She wiped her tears with her hands. Atang started the car.

“Should I now take you to aunt’s house?”

“Yes.”

Atang started the Amarok and reversed from the police station.

“Go straight till you see a school.”

He joined the road and drove while she directed him. He finally parked the car in front of the gate, his bright lights made him see the house properly. A curtain moved.

Zaza sighed. “Let me go and knock. Maybe they moved. I last saw them when I was 20.”

“I will drive in. It’s ok. It’s too muddy, if you run you will fall..”

He opened the door and quickly jumped out and opened the gate. He got back in his car wet, his t-shirt clung on to his skin even more.

He drove in and parked right the veranda. Zaza She stepped out and knocked on the door.

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Rethabile’s heart pounded so much as knock persisted. She went to the kitchen and took the kitchen knife.

Someone yelled outside.

“Aunty! It’s Zacharia! Aunty!”

Rethabile put away the knife and hurried to the door then opened. She looked at Aunty Keemi’s daughter..

“Thabile!”

Rethabile smiled and unlocked the burglar bar. Zaza hugged her tightly. Rethabile remained in her arms holding on to her.

Zaza stepped back. "How is aunty?"

Rethabile smiled. "She is feeling way better. She is coming home tomorrow."

"She is coming? I thought her cancer had progressed to other parts of the body.."

"She is getting better. She is getting discharged tomorrow."

Batang walked over and stood besides his sister in his shorts. Zaza looked at him and smiled. Rethabile looked at the double cab guessing it was probably her boyfriend who had brought her. The door opened and a man stepped out.

He handed Zaza her handbag. "Your phone is ringing."

"Thanks, uh these are my cousins. That's Rethabile and that's uh... what's his name?"

Rethabile put her hand on her brother. "Batang."

The boyfriend turned and looked at them fixing his baseball his cap. Rethabile's heart skipped as she staggered back, knees weak. Her throat immediately dried as her heart pounded. He looked at her.

"Hi, I am Atang."

Batang smiled. "Y-y-your name i-i-i-is like mine. I a-a-am also ca.. called Atang."

Atang smiled. Zaza looked at him as he moved from her.

“I know right? I think you and I can be great friends.”

Batang nodded smiling. “Twins!”

Atang laughed. “I like that, how old are you?”

“I an te-te-ten bu-but you are old.”

“It doesn’t matter. We can still be twins. Here is something for you..” Atang put his hand in his back pocket and took out a hundred pula note. He handed it to him.

Batang looked at his older sister.

“Thabi ca-can I... ta-ta-take the money?”

Rethabile looked at him and slightly shook her head. Batang looked at him.

“I-“

Zaza laughed. “You can take it Batang... take the money..”

He shook his head and hugged his sister’s leg. Zaza’s phone started ringing again. She took it from her handbag then walked inside the house picking.

Atang looked at her, Rethabile kept her head down, her heart racing. She could feel his eyes on her and she wondered if maybe he was staring at how fat she was.

“Hi..”

Rethabile kept her head down, her hands shaking. He touched her

chin and tilted her head. A chill ran down her spine as her entire body froze at his touch. He looked in her eyes, unable to keep eye contact, she looked down.

He put the money in her doek and smiled. "Keep it for him ok?"

She nodded.

"Huh?"

"Eerra."

He stepped back as Zaza walked over.

Atang looked at her. "Are you staying here?"

"Yes. Thank you."

"Sharp."

He turned and walked back to his car. Rethabile watched as he got in his car and reversed out, her heart still pounding. He stepped out in the rain and closed the gate. He looked over then got in his car and drove off.

Zaza sighed. "Let's get in. It's getting cold."

Atang drove to a lodge then parked his car and called the number he had gotten.

The phone started ringing.

“Hello?”

A female voice picked.

“Good evening, we are calling from Post Office, there is a package that is getting delivered to you. Who am I speaking with?”

“You are speaking to Elang Lelang.”

“How old are you Ms. Lelang?”

“I am 18 years old. Where is the package from?”

“It is coming from Texas Houston.”

“Texas? In America?”

“Yes. May we please have your directions.”

Elang quickly directed him.

“Thank you. Your package will arrive tomorrow.”

“Thank you but I don’t know anyone from Texas.”

“You will have your package tomorrow.”

Atang hung up and stepped out of the car.

The following morning, Zaza sat in the sitting room making phone calls. Rethabile walked out of her room with her younger brother in their uniforms.

She looked at Rethabile's school dress that hugged her thick body, her eyes went up to her soft hair that was combed in an afro then her face. She was beautiful, very beautiful. It was that kind of beauty that was unique and rare. Her thick body and tiny waist made her envious, she hated her thin body. She had tried everything, from protein shakes to the pills even the injections.

Zaza smiled. "I am going to go to the hospital and see aunty. Mama couldn't come. She was at the hospital, her blood pressure is high but she is coming."

"Ok. But mama is coming home, she is better now."

"That's good."

Rethabile smiled. "That guy from yesterday... is he your boyfriend?"

Zaza laughed. "No hun. I don't even know his name. I was attacked by an elephant last night. He saved me. I left my car there."

"I am sorry."

"It's ok. Someone just called me after seeing my things in the car. She sent pictures. It's not that bad. It can be fixed. My insurance company will take care of it "

"Oh ok. We will see you later."

"Ok sweetie. Bye Batang."

Batang waved. Zaza watched as they walked out then sighed pressing her phone.

That same morning, Atang parked under a tree opposite the house Elang had directed him yesterday.

The gate opened and a school walked out. Atang called her number again staring at her. Elang stopped then took out her phone and answered.

“Hello?”

Atang chuckled in disbelief. He started the car hanging up then drove to her. He stepped out while she stared at his car. Elang heart skipping as she came face to face with him.

“Hi, I am looking for Lorraine Warren, she stays where you just came from. Do you know her?”

“I.. I-“

“Lie to me and I am going to bury you alive.”

Pee ran down her dress as she stared at him.

“It wasn’t me. It was Rethabile! I told her to stop. It was Rethabile!”

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We have officially started. I hope you have tagged that friend.
Those who were still trying to adjust, yesterday was your day. Ya
duma ya tsamaya!

Yours Truly

#3

“It’s Rethabile! It wasn’t me. I told her to stop...”

Atang stared at her then her pee. “Get in the car.”

“It wasn’t me. She was using my phone because she doesn’t have a phone. I swear..”

“Get in the car, you are taking me to Rethabile. Get in.”

Elang looked around, she looked at the gate.

“I will catch you. You can’t outrun me. You are going to take me to Rethabile. You think I am here for games huh? Maybe you are the culprit-“

Elang started crying. “It wasn’t me. I swear it wasn’t me. It was Thabile. I don’t want to die. I will take you to Thabile. She is waiting for me to give her and her brother food.”

“Get in the car.”

She looked at the pitch black AmaroK with big wheels then his tinted windows. His tattoos scared her so much more tears rolled down. He was so tall, he’d probably bury her alive.

“You are wasting my time. I am not going to tell you again.”

She slowly got in the car and sat at the edge of the leather seat. Atang jumped in his car and drove off.

“Go straight, she is waiting by the big Morula tree.”

Atang looked at her at the backseat. It was actually funny that he had been played high school kids. What had attracted him to that profile again?

“There she is...”

She pointed at the big tree where Rethabile was standing laughing with her younger brother. She raised her head and looked at his car. Elang opened the door to step out.

“Where are you going? Tswala lebati leo.”

She slowly closed the door sniffing. Atang stepped out of the car and walked over to Rethabile. She held her brother’s hand and moved back, her heart racing.

Batang smiled recognizing him. Atang got closer. Rethabile put her arms around her sibling.

“Tha-Thabi tha-th-that’s A-Atang, he-“

“Shhh..”

Batang closed his mouth and smiled at Atang who smiled back.

“Hey buddy... big up...”

They bumped fists smiling. Atang turned to Rethabile still smiling.

“Hi Lorraine.”

She swallowed, her heart skipping a beat. A wave of dizziness slammed her.

“Kana kereng Ms Warren?”

Fear weakened her as she stood before him, it crippled every part of her that she just stood there staring at him as if he were a ghost.

“I must say, your project is going really well. Don’t you miss Texas Houston? Do you even know where that is?”

Rethabile swallowed a huge lump on her throat.

“Ms Lorraine Warren... are you the original or the substitute was go kwala enimo?”

“I am sorry.” Her voice was barely audible.

“I traveled all the way for Ms Lorraine. Where is she?”

“I am sorry. Please don’t me. I never asked for anything from you. I am sorry I lied. I was going to stop. My brother has one but me.”

“So who is going to take the punishment for being a liar? Your friend?”

Elang opened the door. “No! Rethabile. She did this. It wasn’t me. She was the one! She should get punished alone. She was the one cat fishing you. I didn’t do anything. Punish her! Not me.”

Rethabile looked at Elang sadly, tears filling her eyes.

“Elang you are the one who said I should reply him.”

“O maaka Rethabile. She is the one. I didn’t do anything I promise. She is the mastermind. Punish her alone.”

Batang stood in front of her sister protectively then dropped his

school bag and picked a stone ready to attack.

At the hospital, the doctor looked at the time standing by mmagwe Rethabile's bed where her body laid. He had seen countless people die but the hope he had seen in those children's eyes haunted him. It would crush them. He wished he had just told them...

"Time of death 07:10 a.m."

The nurse sighed tearfully. She sniffed thinking of the kids. She couldn't imagine her dying and leaving her kids all alone.

The doctor covered the body with a sheet and walked out leaving the body to be taken to the morgue.

The nurse followed after the doctor then seconds later, another nurse walked in. She uncovered the dead body and took a picture. She covered the body again and walked out posting on her fake Facebook account that had over 3k friends with a caption.

' Geu ijo bathong. Dirisang di condom ija, bonang gompieno, kana yone ya bolaya. Condomise'

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[Yours Truly

#4

Rethabile tried to pull Batang back but he stubbornly stood in front of her as if he could actually do something. Rethabile tearfully looked at him.

“I catfished you. I am sorry. I am not Lorraine Warren. I created the account with my friend. I am sorry for dragging you all the way here for nothing. Elang did nothing wrong. It was all me.” She sniffed. “I am sorry. I have an exam at 0830, my brother needs to be at school on time so that the teacher doesn’t pick on him. Please let us go.”

Atang looked at her and sighed, was he really dealing with kids right now? He even felt like a pedophile just standing there with them. He had expected something different, not two teenagers.

“Get in, I will drop off at school. Never do that again. You will meet different people and not all will be lenient on you. O kile wa clapiwa? (Have you ever been slapped?)”

Rethabile shook her head.

“One you will get slapped for playing with people. Focus on school or something. Get in. I won’t hurt you.”

He looked at Batang and laughed. “Get in buddy... I won’t hurt you.”

Rethabile slowly walked to the car and opened the back door.

Batang got in. Atang looked at Rethabile.

“Tsena ko pele. (Get in at the front seat.)”

Rethabile closed the back door and got in at the front seat. Her thickness covered the whole seat as her dress rolled over exposing her thick thighs. She put her school bag on her lap then looked at Elang who was staring at her.

Atang looked at Elang.

“Do you want to change?”

“No. I have another dress at school. It’s fine.”

Rethabile looked out through the window as he drove, she sighed thinking of her dream. She had left earlier to pass by the hospital before going to school.

Elang took out a lunch box from her bag. “Thabi take. I know you don’t have food at home and that you didn’t eat. I cooked for you and Batang. You can leave some for your mother later on.”

Rethabile turned and took the lunch box.

“Thank you.”

She looked at Atang. “You can drop us off on the next turn, we will walk from there.”

Elang looked at Rethabile. “My dress is wet. I can’t walk to school. People will see. I don’t want to be laughed at.”

“Where is his school?”

Elang quickly answered. “Take the next turn right then left.”

"It's far with a car. And I want to go to the hospital and see my mother. You can drop Elang at school."

Atang ignored her and drove to the primary school. He parked by the gate. Rethabile sighed then got off with her brother.

"Ignore the kids who bully you ok? I will wait for you outside, you will find me here. Listen to teacher and do what she says. Ok?"

"O-o-ok. Tha-Thabi?"

"Yes..."

"That man..." He pointed at the Amarok. "He-he- he i-is a bad person?"

She shook her head. "I lied to him but I apologized." She hugged him then smiled. "Bye.."

He smiled then waved walking inside the school. Rethabile waited watching him walk to his class till he got in.

She turned to the car. "Thank you for dropping us off. I am going to the hospital. I am sorry for what happened. I will never do it again."

"Rethabile, get in. I will take you there."

"I don't want to keep burdening-"

"I will tell you if you are burdening me. Get in."

She looked at him then got in. He reversed while Elang pressed her phone.

Atang looked at her and chuckled. "So where exactly do you stay

in Houston?”

She looked at him and found him smiling. “I am sorry.”

“If I had asked, what were you going to say?”

She looked down embarrassed. “I don’t know.”

“You are a good liar. I actually believed most of your lies, even the fact that you have one child. I should have suspected when you told me how much you earn. Kene ke setse kere ke kopa two hundred nyana, I thought I had hit jackpot lenna ke ikutwise go kopa madi.”

Rethabile laughed. He smiled. “Mxm o ndisapointile wena.”

“Sorry.”

“You said you are doctor... o seka wa thola o tsamekela mo bagolong Rethabile. (Never play like that with elders.) You are a child. Bona gompiano e kare ke pedophile mo banneng. O ta re dirisa di phoso. (Look now I look like a pedophile. You will make us make mistakes.)

“Take your right.”

He turned right and looked at her, his eyes going to her neck rolls. He looked away with a sigh. Minutes later he parked his car in front of the hospital.

At the backseat, Elang’s heart stopped as she came across the trending woman who had died of HIV.

She opened the original post and looked at the caption.

“ Geu ijo bathong. Dirisang di condom ija, bonang gompiano, kana yone ya bolaya. Condomise’ (HIV guys! Use condoms, look today, HIV kills.)

Her heart beat so fast as she read the comments that were below the picture of Rethabile’s dead mother’s body.

Her throat immediately dried up. She looked at Rethabile who was smiling with Atang.

“I just want to make sure she slept properly. I am coming.”

She got off leaving her bag behind then hurried inside the gate.

“Thabile’s mother is dead.”

Atang turned to her. “What?”

Tears filled Elang’s eyes. “They have posted her. She is dead. She had breast cancer. The doctor said it was too late for anything..”

Elang got off the car and ran after her friend.

“Thabi!”

Rethabile turned as she approached the entrance.

“Huh?”

“Katso sent a message. Ma Motshegwa is doing revisions right now with them. Let’s go and do too. You will see your mom after the exam. Let’s go.”

“It won’t take long. Her ward-“

“Thabi, you will come later. Let’s go please. Gape I don’t think we

should be delaying that scary man after we played him. Let's go."

"You can go. I want to see my mother. I am not leaving without seeing her."

Tears filled Elang's eyes. "Thamma please... let's go and write the exam first."

"It won't take long. I am not going to talk to her. Just see her. Go to school. I will catch with you gape I read all night. I am fine."

Rethabile walked inside the hospital then hurried to her mother's ward. Elang followed after her. Rethabile smiled staring at the empty bed.

"I think they discharged her already. She must have went home."

Her mother's nurse walked over then looked at the two girls.

"Girls, shouldn't you be at school?"

Elang held Rethabile's hand tightly. Another nurse walked over.

"Uhu, this is the girl who's mother died? I thought she had only one daughter. I am sorry girls. Eish, go thata but it shall be well. It's not the end of world. Life shall go on. Cancer is a deadly disease. The doctor did everything he could. Sorry akere."

Rethabile looked at her in confusion while the other nurse pinched her.

"Ma?"

Her mother's nurse looked at Rethabile. "Go to school."

Rethabile looked at her. "Please never talk about my mother like

that, she got discharged. She feels better. She is at home.”

Elang sniffed as a tear rolled down. Her mother’s nurse looked at her then sighed. “So sorry my girl. Just go to school and leave all this.”

“Eemma. Did mama take everything?”

“Just go to school. I will check. Go and write your exam.”

Rethabile smiled. “Thank you.”

The girls walked out. Rethabile smiled so much, Elang had last seen that smile months back. Rethabile looked at her happily. “I am happy mama was discharged. I can’t wait to go home.”

Elang nodded forcing a smile. They got in the car. Atang looked at both of them.

Rethabile smiled. “She was discharged already.”

Elang sat at the backseat and sniffed. She rubbed her eyes and looked at the post again.

Atang started the engine and drove the girls to school. He parked meters before the school. Rethabile looked at him smiling. “Thank you and I am sorry.”

“It’s ok.”

They stepped out of the car and walked to the school gate. Elang noticed other students staring at them, she put her arm over Rethabile giving them a look.

Atang sat in his car for a while then started his car. He honestly wasn't about to get himself involved with kids. He joined the road and drove off.

His phone started ringing. He looked at Agang calling then picked.

"Hello?"

"Did you find her?"

"It was an 18 year old school kid."

Agang laughed. "O bata thupa. Ele gore how ugly is she that she is not dating her age mates."

"She is actually not ugly... just innocent and plain. I am on my way back."

"Ok. I hope you didn't touch her in any way."

"Mxm, o ta nyela Agang. I just said she is a kid. Do I look like a pedophile to you?"

"Isn't she 18? Those people are already fucking. 15 year olds have sex."

"Who sleeps with a 15 year old? Who gets erection from that?"

"I am just saying. But once she is over 18, she is fine. Ke mosadi hela o heletsing."

"I am not touching a child. Our age difference is too much. She

can't handle me either way. She is too soft."

"She is the rightful one. At least you know she won't cheat or leave you for the man she called friend. She is innocent. You mark your territory, o mo nnela dick, you custom design her for yourself. If she is that innocent, maybe ke virgin. Imagine knowing you are the only who's ever been in there..." he whistled. "Imagine..."

Atang laughed. "Something is wrong with you. You are full of shit. I am listening to that nonsense."

"I was just saying. Don't do it. I don't do that kegale. I am good with Didi."

"That woman is married."

"Ga a nyalwa thata thata akere. No, ga moteng teng... o on top hela, ga go bad. Ga deep mo marriage. Gape who said we can't hit it because you married her? Mister, gatwe sharing is caring. I am helping him."

"You are going to get beaten one day."

"Nxla, a ka nyela. I am doing him a favor here. Mister, go sharp."

He hung up. Atang looked at his father calling him immediately. He bit his lower lip.

"Eish.."

He sighed then picked. "Papa!"

"Atang, what is going on? Gatwe Yaone married another man? Didn't we pay magadi for that girl? What's going on?"

“Rra?”

“O nkutule boy!”

“Hello? Papa? Hello?”

“Atang Daniels!”

“Helloo? Papa? He-“

He hung up and switched off his phone.

In Kasane, Rragwe Atang angrily called him again while his wife watched.

“He switched off his phone! Can you believe this boy?”

“Papa, calm down. I think-“

“Calm down? That boy made us gather here and go to that girl’s house! What nonsense is this?”

“He won’t explain properly if you are yelling at him like that.”

“The problem is you babied these boys too much. Today look! God what kind of punishment is this... Out of anything God could have blessed me with, it had to be these boys. I could have taken a donkey in place of them. A donkey would have been much better. What is this? This boy wants to kill me.”

“Don’t talk about my children like that-“

“I sill talk about them however I want Margaret!” Ge yelled angrily.
He put his hand on his chest feeling it tightening.

“If I could sell them... I would sell them for free!”

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Yours Truly

#5

Rethabile walked out of the examination hall then picked her bag where the other bags were. Elang also walked out then picked her bag.

“How was it?”

Rethabile smiled. “It was fine. I am going home.”

“You are not staying to study?”

“Ng ng, I want to see mama. You can stay.”

“It’s fine. Let’s go together.”

They walked out of the school premises. Elang looked at her friend and swallowed. They walked silently headed home. Elang passed the turn to her house and went straight with Rethabile. From afar she could see cars parked in front of the gate.

Rethabile frowned. “There are people at our house.”

Elang held Rethabile’s hand as they approached. Rethabile’s heart raced as they walked through the gate. Zaza walked out of the house and looked at them.

“Hey Thabi...”

“Who’s cars are these? Is mama here? She was discharged in the morning.”

Aunty Keemi walked out. She looked at her daughter.

“Zaza, go and help in the house.”

Rethabile looked at her mother’s older sister, her heart pounding. Zaza turned and walked inside the house. Aunty Keemi smiled.

“You are so big Thabi...”

“Where is mama?”

She walked over and hugged her holding her tightly. “I missed you Thabi...”

“Where is mama?”

“I am sorry my girl... I am sorry..”

“Aunty where is mama?”

“I am sorry..”

“Is she sleeping?”

“She is gone.”

Thabi moved back and looked at her. “Gone where? She said she is coming home.”

“She didn’t make it. The pain was too much. God has laid her to rest.”

Thabi shook her head. “Ng ng... she got discharged. She is fine. She was much better yesterday. She is fine.”

“She died in the morning.”

Elang sniffed as tears rolled down. Thabi shook her head as her aunt tried to touch her.

“Mama is fine...”

“I am sorry Thabi But she put up a great fight. She was strong.”

She laughed then stopped and looked at Elang.

“I am sorry Thabi...”

“I spoke to mama last night... I went to the hospital in the morning. She had been discharged.”

Her aunt shook her head. “She had passed on when you arrived.”

She dropped her bag then turned and ran out.

“Rethabile! Thabile! Thabi!”

Her aunt hurried out of the gate.

“Thabile!”

Elang put her bag down. “I will go after her.”

“Ok, bring her back...”

Elang walked out.

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At the hospital, Rethabile walked towards her mother’s nurse.

“I want to see mama.”

The nurse looked at her and swallowed. “Rethabile...”

“I want to see my mother. Take me to where my mother is.”

“Come and sit with me. Come...”

She took her hand and led her to the benches.

“Your mother’s cancer had spread out. There was nothing anyone could possibly do. The chemotherapy was too much on her, she had asked us to stop the treatment because either way... it was just too late. She has been in a lot of pain. It slowly killed her. She left this for you...”

The nurse took out the letter from her pocket.

“She said it’s for you...”

Rethabile took the letter and opened it, her hands shaking.

‘Dear Rethabile

I remember when I gave birth to you... I had been in labor for 8 hours or so. My mother didn’t know I was pregnant, I was scared but I knew I was keeping you. Only Keemi knew. She watched me push you out and when I held you in my hands, I knew my joy had come. My happiness. I loved you way before I gave birth to you. You were so beautiful. Right there I knew I would do anything for you. I later gave you a beautiful brother and I love you both so

much.

I have fought but the time has come. When you read this, I will be gone but only physically because I will forever be in your heart. I am now resting. I am no longer in pain. You have been nothing a beautiful soul... don't change that. Remain as my Thabi... the Thabi I know.

Your brother now only has you. Don't leave him Thabile. He's all you have. You only have each other. Love and protect one another. I know it's going to be hard without mama but life goes on. You are going to have to be strong and lead your brother.

I wish I could live to see you make it in life but this is life and we can't always have it our way. Don't let anyone take the house. It's yours, rightfully so. It's your brother's house.

I have spoken to your aunty and begged her to take you and Batang. She won't have to stay with you full time because soon you are going to UB. Batang is the only one she will stay with her till you can take him under you. Don't agree to be separated. Stick together. Don't agree to be taken in by your uncle. He wants the house. He has been wanting it since mama passed on. He was angry that mama gave the house to me and not to him.

Mama had a farm. I never told you about it, she never told anyone about it. It was her father's farm. The documents of that farm are in that box under my bed. It's now yours. I long changed ownership of it to you and your brother.

The money in the box, keep it till you really need it. I spoke to Lovemore, that talented Zimbabwean man who makes coffins. I already paid him. Go and see him so you can choose a nice one for me. Let me be buried in my church uniform. I want to be buried beside my mother.

From my clothes, let Batang choose something he wants before other relatives take anything. The rest, let them take. I love you so much Rethabile. I will forever love you. It's ok to cry... you can cry. It's fine to cry. Mama loves you so much, tell Batang I love him so so much. Let me rest now my baby...

Mama..'

Rethabile's tears fell on the letter. She looked at the nurse and let out a loud cry screaming.

"Mama!"

Later that day, Elang sat with Batang in the house while their aunt paced up and down worriedly.

Zaza looked at her mother. "Mama, your blood pressure high. Please sit down. Let her be."

"Zacharia, my sister is dead. Her daughter is no where to be found. What she is trying to take her life wherever she is? Don't ever open your mouth if you have nothing intelligent to say!"

Elang went on Facebook and posted a picture of Thabile again.

'Please help us find my best friend. She was last seen at the hospital in her uniform. Please share... her name is Rethabile Kaisara.'

Elang sighed and put her arms around Batang who was still in confusion. Her phone vibrated. She swallowed staring at Atang's number then she stood up and walked outside picking the call.

"Hello?"

"I just saw your WhatsApp status, what happened?"

His voice was so deep and husky, Elang took a deep breath. "Her aunt told her about her mother when we came back home. She ran out going to the hospital. When I got there, she had already left. Now we can't find her. We have looked everywhere."

"And her brother?"

“He is with me.”

“Ok. Sharp.”

He hung up. Elang looked around hoping to see her walking over but there was no one. Just darkness. Tears stung her eyes. She sniffed as her mother called.

“Mama...”

“Has she been found?”

“Ng ng, I am scared mama...”

“She is fine. She probably just needs some time. You know she loves her brother so much. She would never leave him. Are you going to sleep there? I can come so you can sleep in the car.”

“I am with Batang, it’s fine. I will wait for Thabi here. She hasn’t eaten the whole day, maybe you can bring some food.”

“Ok.”

Elang wiped her tears and walked inside the house. Some relatives had started singing some church songs.

Elang sat down and pulled Batang closer still in her school uniform.

Atang jumped in his car at the lodge and sat still for seconds. He

wasn't even sure why he had decided to stay and not leave. He started the engine and reversed out of the lodge.

Atang reached for his phone then went to their Facebook conversations, he scrolled up till he got to the message she had told him about the one place she liked to go sometimes.

He slowed down rolling down his window then asked for directions from a hawker on the side of the road. He listened carefully and drove off.

He joined the gravel road and drove for a while looking for the Baobab tree. He took a turn seeing it on the side of the road and parked under it then jumped out. He looked at the river from a distance and walked over wondering if she had thrown herself inside.

His phone vibrated in his pocket, he took it out and looked at his mother calling. He put the phone on silent and looked around.

Atang sighed seeing her seated on a rock a distance from him. He slowly walked over, she looked at him then turned to the river in silence

"I am sorry about your mom. Don't you want to go home?"

"I want to go to my mother."

Atang crouched before her. "Your younger brother needs you."

Rethabile looked at him tearfully. "She said she was getting discharged... she said she was going home." Tears rolled down. "I didn't say I love you back... I just left. I want to die too. I want to

die too..."

Atang stood up and helped her up. He wrapped his tattooed veined arm around her as she started crying for her loss. Her pain could be heard from her cries. Atang bended and picked her up. He walked to his car and put her at the backseat. Rethabile cried so much it actually hurt.

He held her confused on what to even do to make her pain stop.

"I want mama..."

He swallowed then leaned over and baby kissed her. Atang touched her chin and french kissed her salty soft lips. She cried between the kiss, he kissed her harder, his hand on her thick thigh. He dick jerked in his pants waking up from it's sleep.

His hand went under her school dress till he touched her panty. Atang moved his lips down to her jaw then her neck while gently pushing her down to lie on her back. He kissed her neck, and then her lips while her tears fell on the car seat. Her skin was so soft, he unzipped her dress on the side then took it off while she cried. He unbuttoned her shirt and took it off followed by her bra. Atang touched her firm big breast, his heart racing as his dick got even harder. He unzipped his pants giving it room.

He leaned over and kissed her nipple then opened his mouth and gently sucked. She let out a moan in-between her cries. Atang sucked her harder squeezing her other breast. He moved to the other one and sucked on it while his other hand went inside her panty. He touched her thick kuku.

Atang dropped kisses down her belly button then hooked her panties with his thumb and pulled them out. He looked at her thick kuku and parted her kuku lips. He swallowed staring at her flaps.

Rethabile looked at him, her mind slowly taking in what was happening.

“Atang...”

Atang leaned over and started muffing her. He slid his tongue down her slit tasting her juices and sucked her pussy. Rethabile moaned at the unmatched pleasure, she held her breath, her toe curling.

“Atie...”

She raised her head and looked at his head, her entire body stiffened as the pleasure burnt her like wild fire. She closed her eyes and opened them wildly spasming. Her juices gushed out as she moaned loudly, her body vibrating.

Atang got up and kissed her lips letting her taste herself. He pulled down his briefs then it sprung out all in it's glory, pre-cum already oozing out. He rubbed himself on her wetness, she was so wet and ready.

He moved his waist sliding up and down her slit while grunted in her ear, his hands touching her everywhere. She moaned softly underneath his chest, he kissed her pushing at her entrance.

He rubbed himself on her and pushed even more at her tiny kuku hole.

Rethabile frowned at the pressure, Atang put his hands underneath her butt holding her and #removed.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/809549596663175/?ref=share_group_link

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Read the removed scene at the group under announcement.

[READ THE CHAPTER AT THE PAGE]

Yours Truly

#5

#removed

-pushed harder. Her tiny hole slowly stretched over as that tip pushed in.

Sharp pain struck her, she put her hand on his chest. Atang kissed her pushing even harder, she bit his lower lip as the tip popped in. Atang let out a growl.

“Atang.. go bothoko... (it’s painful.)”

He looked in her eyes and kissed her again.

“I am sorry... look at me...”

She looked at him, he slowly pushed in, his dick stretching her beyond as it slid in her tight warmth. Rethabile pushed him.

“Atang-“

He gently thrust with only quarter his dick. She looked at him panting as the sun set. He kissed her tapping her with only quarter his weapon, her pussy slowly adjusted to the intrusion. Atang kissed her neck feeling her body relax. He moved his waist pushing bit by bit of his length inside.

Rethabile received another kiss moaning softly. He grunted on top of her as her pussy hugged him pulling him back in whenever her eased out. It felt so good, the pleasure seemed to be tipping him with each thrust. Her pussy massaged his weapon squeezing him. He squeezed her breast gently thrusting into her.

Rethabile moaned out his name as he tapped her g-spot. He took off his shirt and gently drilled her. She touched his chest, her hand going to his bumpy abs. She closed her eyes moaning.

Atang put her leg on his arm and pushed his entire dick inside her. Rethabile screamed, her entire body freezing at the pain mixed with pleasure.

Atang groaned holding her tightly taking a moment deep in that pussy. Her pussy clamped him so much he could just explode. His heart pounded so much at the insane pleasure.

He slid out then pushed back in again. Tears rolled down Rethabile's cheeks. Atang kissed her thrusting with his entire dick. She scratched his back as his whole dick filled her up.

"Atang!"

"Relax babe... relax for me.."

He moved his waist tapping her at different angles. He tapped on something sweet every single time he pushed back in. Her whitish juices covered his dick as he continuously eased in and out, his waist moving as he was playing some rumba music. His dick jerked inside her, his balls twitching. Her kuku continued narrowing down on him.

She moved underneath him wanting more. Atang increased his speed losing control now fucking her. The 4x4 Amarok shook as he pounded into her. Rethabile threw her head back with a scream exploding as her orgasm sent her into cloud 9.

Atang thrust into a couple of times then stilled filling her up with his fertile seeds grunting.

She moaned softly feeling him spurt out his warm seeds inside her while they held each other tightly.

He kissed her and remained on top of her catching his breath. Rethabile slowly fell asleep underneath him. Atang kissed her lips and slowly slid out. He closed the door then picked her up getting underneath her so she could lie on top of him. He yawned then closed his eyes.

Yours Truly

#6

In Atang's car, Rethabile slowly opened her eyes. Her heart skipped as she felt him slightly move underneath her. She swallowed as everything played in her head. Tears filled her eyes, she got off him bumping her head on the car's rooftop.

"Ishii..." She touched her head then put her hands on her breast as he woke up. He sat upright and switched on the light.

He looked at her tears rolling down her cheeks.

"Hey-"

"Ke bata goya lapeng. *(I want to go home.)"

"Ok, are you ok?"

"Ke siame. Ke bata goya lapeng. (I am fine. I want to go home.)"

He tried to touch her but she moved back wiping her tears with the back of her hand. Rethabile picked her bra and put it on as her tears continued rolling down.

"I can walk if you can't drop me off. It's close. I know a short cut."

"I will drop you off." He put his hands on her waist and looked at her. "Ke ta go isa lapeng. (I will take you home.) Don't cry."

She nodded then picked her school shirt with the Shakawe Senior School emblem imprinted on it. She put it her waist covering her leaking kuku. He reached for the t-shirt and helped her put it on.

He quickly buttoned it up then picked her dress and helped her put it on. He pulled up the zip then picked her mini mouse full panty.

“Your panty is nice.”

She looked down silently. He lifted her leg and put it through the hole followed by the other leg. She lifted herself up slightly as he pulled it up.

“Are you in pain?”

“No. I want to go home.”

“Go to the front. Just jump over.”

“I should step on the car seats?”

“Yeah. Jump over. I am going to take a leak.”

He opened the door and stepped out of the car. Rethabile jumped over and tried to seat but her pussy was so sore it felt like someone had burnt her. She moved to the side slightly so she could sit with one butt. Atang opened the driver’s door and got in the car then started the engine.

“Do you want Panado?”

“Rra?”

He looked at her and smiled. “Do you want a painkiller?”

“Nyaa rra.”

“Lorraine...”

She looked down. He turned her face to him and looked at her lips.

He licked his lower lip and leaned over then kissed her.

“Are you in pain? Look at me.”

She looked in his eyes and nodded.

“Ok.”

He opened the compact and took out a sachet of painkillers. He handed them to her.”

“I will get water at a supermarket.”

“Eerra.”

She looked out through the window as he drove off. He parked his car at a supermarket then quickly got out. She watched him as he walked inside, a few minutes later he walked back holding a plastic.

“The pharmacy was closed. I will get you the emergency pills tomorrow. Take...”

He handed her the plastic. Rethabile opened and took out water then drank the pills as Atang drove her home. 20 minutes later he parked across the house, she looked over and looked at the people gathered in her mother’s yard. Minutes passed as she stared, she could see others crying while others just sat.

Tears itched her eyes, she sniffed. “Thank you.”

“It’s ok. I am sorry...”

“Mama is alive, I am going to wait for her. She said she is coming home so I am going to wait for her.”

She opened the door and stepped out then put the plastic on the car seat.

“Take it, it’s yours.”

She looked at it then took it. Atang watched her as she walked towards the gate then put his hands on his face, guilty weighing him down.

Rethabile walked past the crowd as they stared at her. She walked inside the house and looked at the full house. They had pushed her mother’s sofas against the wall. Other people were seated on the floor. Her aunt raised her head from the mattress she was sitting on with Batang.

“Thabi!” She stood up and hugged her. “Thank you God.”

Rethabile looked at her brother who seemed lost.

“I am fine aunty...”

“Where were you?”

“I was at the river. Mama doesn’t like her sofas like that. I cleaned the house. I don’t want her to find them like that. She doesn’t like it.”

Her aunt nodded. “Ok... we will push them back.”

“I am tired. I am going to sleep. Batang, come...”

Batang stood up and looked at his older sister. "Tha-Tha-Thabi, m-m-mama is dead?"

Rethabile shook her head. "No. She said she is coming home. We are going to wait for her. She is coming."

Her aunt sniffed. "Thabi... she is gone."

"Aunty, ke kopa o seka wa rialo. (Please don't say that.) It's bad luck to say such things. Mama said she is coming home. They made a mistake at the hospital. Mama is coming home. She is coming. Please stop crying... why are you crying?" Tears filled her eyes as her voice shook. "Why are you crying? She is coming home. Batang and I will wait for her here."

Aunty Keemi let her tears fall unable to remain strong anymore. She looked at her sister's children and started crying. She slowly knelt crying. She cried so much, even those who were not crying began crying silently.

"Lelomo come back! What am I supposed to do? God bring her back! This pain is too much... These kids are too young God... Ke ta simola ha kae? (Where am I supposed to start?) Lelomo come back.."

Rethabile took her brother's hand and led him to their room. She got in with him and sat on the bed. Batang tearfully looked at his sister.

"Thabi... m-m-mama..."

Rethabile a tear that had fallen down his cheek. "She is coming. Don't cry."

“Thabi...”

She wrapped her arms around him. The door slowly opened then Elang walked in. She closed the door and walked over then put her arms around both of them.

“I was so scared. Where were you? I saw that you came in Atang’s car. Is he the one that found you?”

“Yes.”

“Where were you?”

“At the river.”

Elang sniffed the strong male scent.

“You smell like him.”

“I was in his car.”

“I was in his car too that day.” Elang let go and looked at her. “Did he hug you?”

“Ng...”

“Do you like him? He doesn’t look like a good man. He has tattoos and he is scary. I don’t think we should be talking to him. Gape hela I am sure he has his type ko Gaborone, I don’t think he dates girls like you. He was only with you because you had lied to him. And you are too young. Men like him like big woman who work, eseng rona yaana. He doesn’t even like you.”

Rethabile looked at her. Elang held her hand. “I think we should stay away from that man. He looks like a devil worshipper. He is

not good. People are different on the phone. He looks like he beats women too. Did you see how big his hand is? Even his voice is scary. Nna kea mo tshaba. (I am scared of him.)”

“Ok.”

Elang looked at her and sneezed. “Mma, how long did he even hug you? Waitse you smell like he was rubbing his body on him.”

“Not long.”

“You shouldn’t have let him even touch you.”

“Ng...”

“Ebile I am blocking him. We don’t need such in our lives. I thought he was going to beat us.”

Rethabile sat in silence staring at the wall slowly zoning out. She stood up a while later and laid Batang down. Elang yawned then frowned staring at a wet stain on Rethabile’s butt.

“Something is on your butt.”

Rethabile touched her butt. “I think I sat on something wet.”

She took off her dress. Elang looked at the hickeys on her neck and her chest.

“What happened to your neck?”

Rethabile turned to the mirror and looked at the hickeys.

“Uh... I-”

“Heela, what did this man do to you?”

“Ng?”

“Did he touch you? What did he do?”

“Nothing.”

“Thabi... I thought we were best friends...”

“We are.”

“So we keep secrets now? Ijo! After I stayed with your brother the whole day, waitse this friendship is one sided. It’s like I am forcing myself on you waitse Thabile.”

“But nothing-“

“Ebile o maaka this days! People change.”

“He kissed me. And put it in. I don’t know how it happened. It just...” She rubbed her eyes. “He just did it.”

“Did what? Sex?”

Thabile nodded. Elang put her hand over her mouth. “He raped you?”

“I don’t know, I-“

“He did! That’s rape. We need to report this man. I long saw it. How can he take advantage of your pain?”

Aunty Keemi opened the door and walked in. Elang looked at her.

“A man raped her when she was at the river.”

“What? Thabile?”

Thabile looked at her aunt. "Ma?"

"Who is he? Do you know him?"

Elang nodded. "She knows him on Facebook. He raped her, she was a virgin."

Aunty Keemi looked at her niece. "Put on your uniform. We are going to the police station right now!"

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Merry Christmas everyone , hope you blessed ones. Yet another Christmas we are together, I am more than just grateful for your support and love. I hope we have more Christmases together. I love you all, I wouldn't be here without you.

Yours... Fez

[02/14, 18:23] Ntsiki: Yours Truly

#7

At the police station, Rethabile stepped out of her aunt's car together with her aunt. Her looked over at her.

"Don't worry, they will catch him. He is going to jail. I believe you."

Rethabile swallowed. "People are going to talk about me."

"It doesn't matter. I will stand with you."

“They are going to talk about me ko skolong calling me more names than they already call me. He didn’t rape me.”

“Thabi, it’s ok my girl. I know you are scared. It’s normal to be scared. What you went through is traumati-“

“He didn’t rape me. It wasn’t rape.”

“Thabile-“

“He didn’t rape me aunty...”

Her aunt looked at her tears. “Thabi, there is no need to be scared. I am here. I am here to protect you. No one will talk about you.”

“He didn’t rape me. I want to go home.”

“If he didn’t rape you, what did he do?”

Rethabile looked at her shaking. “He hugged me. And kissed me.”

“That’s all? Huh?”

“He didn’t rape me. He found me at the river and brought me back home.”

“You are scared... wait in the car. I will talk to the police. It’s ok my girl. Sit in the car.”

Rethabile got in the car sniffing then took out Elang’s ringing phone from her back. Elang had given it to her so she would show Atang’s picture to the police.

She looked at ‘Atang Danger’ calling then picked and put the phone on her ear.

“Hi, let me speak to Rethabile.”

She took a deep breath. “Hello...”

His voice softened. “Hey, did you drink the painkillers?”

“No. Not yet. I will drink them.”

“Ok. I just got a work call. They need me at work tomorrow. I should have gone back today morning... I am going now. Will you be ok?”

“Eerra.”

“I will come back in a couple of days. But I want to give you money for the emergency pill. Should I come by or do an ewallet?”

“I still have that P100 you gave Batang. I can buy with that money.”

“Ng ng, that’s his money. Not yours. I will give you yours. Kete?”

“You can send it. It’s still fine.”

“Ok. But I want to see you. Are people still awake?”

“Yes.”

“Ok, then you can sneak out. I will come in an hour. That should be fine.”

“Eerra.”

“Please drink the painkillers.”

“Ok.”

“You need your own phone.”

“I will buy one when I get my allowance. I am going to buy a nice phone.”

Atang chuckled. “That’s months from now. You need a temporary one till you can afford yourself one.”

“I don’t have money.”

“I will give you.”

“You don’t have to.”

“I am going to.”

“But you are still paying loans. You said your finances are tight.”

He laughed. “I can’t believe I was so honest with you thinking I am telling a 26 year old woman and yet I got one big lie from an 18 year old girl... now woman.”

“I am sorry.”

“It’s in the past. Let’s leave it. I know I am under tight budget but I can afford a P500 phone. I will just drink water.”

“Don’t forget to add sugar in the water. It makes it better.”

He laughed. “I will do that. I heard your friend earlier, there is no food at home?”

“Since mama has been at the hospital, she hasn’t been working. I work a bit on weekends but it hasn’t been enough. Elang have been helping us.”

“Where did she work?”

“She makes baskets. Nice beautiful baskets and she sews traditional clothes. We had a little shop but we had to close it but we normally sell to tourists. I make jewelry along side with her.”

“You are also a tailor?”

Rethabile smiled. “Yes, but I am not as good as mama but I have been doing her orders.”

“So you depend on your friend for food?”

“Sometimes.”

“I don’t want you doing that anymore. If there is no food, you tell me. I don’t like her.”

“You don’t know her well. She is a good person. She has stood by me. We have been friends form 1. She is my only friend.”

“I know. I am not saying stop being friends with her. I just don’t like her. That’s all. If you want something. Tell me. Ok?”

“Eerra.”

Her aunt walked out of the police station with a female police officer.

“I have to go. Bye.”

She quickly dropped the call. Her aunt opened the door for her.

“Come Thabi... you can talk to her.”

Rethabile looked at the police officer shaking. The police officer

sighed.

“Come, mme, let me talk to her alone.”

“Ok.”

They walked inside the police station and to get office.

“Sit down.”

Rethabile sat down and looked at her.

“How old are you?”

“18 years old.”

“You have a boyfriend right?”

“He-“

“You do. No need to explain yourself. You two had sex tonight akere?”

Rethabile nodded looking down.

“Did he do it with force? Was he forcing you?”

“No.”

“Did you like it? Was it nice?”

Rethabile silently looked down.

“Rethabile, look at me. Your aunt wants to report rape. Rape is a serious matter. If you report rape, it means he will go there jail because we are going to take you to be examined and since I am hearing you were a virgin, it means he broke your hymen. You are

probably bruised and swollen right now no wonder you are walking the way you are walking. It won't look good for him if you report. Is that what you want? Was it nice?"

"Yes."

"Do you want to report him to save yourself from the backlash you are going to get for opening your kegs to a man you probably love and let him be jailed so you can live in regret or you want to do the right thing?"

"It wasn't rape."

"Ok. Then there is no case. Tell your aunt he is your boyfriend and you let him because you did akere? You could have said no Rethabile. You could have said stop. Did you say any of those words?"

"No."

"Go and tell your aunt about your man. I am sorry about your mom."

Rethabile stood up and walked out to the car. She got in and looked at her aunt.

"Did they open the case?"

"I don't want to report and have people gossip me. Everyone will know and forever talk about me. God will punish him. I just want to go home and wait for mama. Please take me home Aunty."

Her aunt sighed sadly. "Did he use a condom?"

She nodded. "Yes."

"I am sorry. I should have done better. I should have looked for you more. I am sorry my girl. Lelomo must be weeping wherever she is."

She hugged her. Rethabile sighed wrapping her arms around her too.

At home, Rethabile walked in her room and found Elang seated on the bed.

"What did the police say?"

"I didn't report."

"Why?"

"He didn't rape me Elang."

"So you willingly opened your legs for a man you don't even know?"

"I know him."

"From Facebook? Are you listening to yourself?"

"I just want to sleep."

"I can't believe you opened your legs for a man you just met. I was worried sick about you while you were busy opening your legs for men!"

“I am sleeping.”

“Bring my phone. I am going home.”

Rethabile unlocked the phone then texted him.

Rethabile: I am giving back the phone. Don't text or call on this number anymore.

He quickly replied.

Atang: Cool. I am coming now. Will be here in ten minutes. I will park where I dropped you off.

Rethabile deleted the messages then his number as gave back the phone. Elang snatched it and angrily walked out.

Rethabile closed the door and laid on the bed besides her brother counting in her head. Minutes later she got up and slid her feet in her flip flops. She opened her window thankful it had no burglar bars then jumped out and closed it slightly. She grabbed the bucket at the back of the house then stepped on it and jumped over the fence.

Her heart pounded as she hurried where he had dropped her, he flashed his lights once then she walked to the car. Atang leaned over and opened the door for her. Rethabile got in and closed the door then turned to him.

Atang leaned over and kissed her.

“I am going. I will be back before the burial.”

“My mother is not dead. She is going to come home.”

He looked at her and nodded. "Ok. Call me when you need anything. I will send the money to your friend's number."

"Ok."

"Go and get a nice phone. I will give you more if it's not enough. From there you can get the emergency pill. And food if needed. Get a sim card and call me immediately. Ok?"

"Ok."

He kissed her again. "Go and sleep."

She got off the car and hurried back home. Atang started his car and drove off ewalletting the money.

At Elang's house, Elang's phone vibrated from under her pillow. She took it and opened the message.

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FEW DAYS LATER...

Yours Truly

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FEW DAYS LATER...

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- .

Yours Truly

#8

A FEW DAYS LATER...

Rethabile looked at the coffins early morning. Lovemore looked at her sadly.

“You can choose between those three.”

Her lips trembled as she stared at the coffins. Batang pointed at one.

“Thi-This one.”

Lovemore walked over and opened the brown coffin.

“This one?”

“Y-yes.”

He looked at Rethabile. “Thabi?”

Pain chocked her as she stared at it. She pressed her lips together holding it in and nodded.

“Ok. I am sorry for your loss Thabi. I know what you are going through. I have been there. I know the pain. The denial. I know the hope. I know the sleepless nights. I know it all. It won't get better... not now. After all the relatives are gone... the funeral will start then. I am sorry Thabi.”

She looked down crying silently. He walked over and hugged her. "But time will pass. The wound will heal. And you will forever have the memories."

She sniffed crying. Lovemore moved back as Rethabile wiped away her tears.

"Your mother has already paid so it's ok. Do you want transport to the hospital?"

"No. My uncle brought his van. He will carry it. Thank you Lovemore."

He smiled. "My name is actually not Lovemore. My brother is Lovemore. We do this together, I am the younger brother. Farai."

"Sorry."

"It's ok.."

"I will go and call my uncle."

Rethabile walked out to her aunt who was parked behind her older brother.

"We have chosen."

"Ok my girl. Let me tell your uncle."

Rethabile's phone rang from her jacket's pocket. She took it out and stepped back answering Atang's call.

"Hello?"

"Hey, I am passing Gumare. I will be there in less than two hours. Did you choose the coffin?"

“Yes. We are going to take her from the hospital and bring her home.” Her voice shook.

“I will be there, ke eta.”

“Ok.”

Rethabile watched as her uncle stepped out of the truck with two men.

“I have to go.”

“Ok. I will be there in less than two hours.”

“Ok.”

She hung up and slid the new phone back in her pocket.

Just after Gumare, Atang picked his mother’s call driving with one hand.

“Hello?”

“Atie... how are you my baby?”

“Mama, you realize I am a grown man akere?”

“You will always be my baby. God blessed me with two kids... only two. How are you?”

“I am fine.”

“Your father is not happy.”

“I know.”

“What happened?”

He sighed wondering what to tell her. “She was cheating on me with her colleague at work. I decided to end the relationship.”

“And why did you not tell us? Atang, kana we paid magadi for that girl. We had claimed her as ours. Her father demanded 12k. We gave that money thinking we are building a union.”

“I didn’t want to stress you.”

“Stress me? Atang, I am your mother. It’s my duty. You have to come home and explain to the family what happened. From there, we are going to that family. They need to explain themselves and we are going to cancel whatever we had agreed on. That’s how things are done.”

“I am sorry.”

She sighed. “It’s ok. So when did this happen?”

“It’s been four months.”

She took a deep breath. “I told you. When you first brought that girl to me. You had just met her. Two years back. This is what I meant. But it’s fine. Where are you?”

“I am going to Shakawe to see a friend who’s lost a mother.”

“Oh, so sorry to hear this, it must be hard on him.”

“Yes.”

“Ke mang? Prince? O tswa Shakawe akere?”

“No mama, Prince’s mother is fine. You don’t know him. It’s a work mate. Bye.”

“It’s a woman? I don’t trust Balete. Ng ng... your father once had an affair-“

“Mama, let me drive. It’s not a woman.”

“You are my son Atang. I know it when you or Agang is lying. It’s a woman. I hope she-“

He dropped the call and looked at the woman on the side of the road standing beside her car, her bonnet open.

Atang looked at the time then looked at her. She flagged down his car desperately, he got closer and recognized her. He stopped the car besides her.

Zaza smiled opening the car door. “Hi... oh Jesus thank you. I thought no one would ever find me. I...”

“Eita, what’s up?”

“I borrowed a friend’s car. It just started slowing down then it stopped. I don’t know what’s wrong with it. I am going to my aunt’s funeral.”

“I would jump start you but I don’t have jumpers with me. I can give you a ride.”

“Ok. Let me lock it. I will see it when I come back.”

“Yah.”

Zaza rushed over and closed the bonnet then took her handbag. She locked the car and jumped in the Amarok.

“Thank you. You are always saving me.”

“It’s ok.”

He stepped on the accelerator speeding off. She looked at his arm then his watch and his hands. She took a deep breath and smiled.

“Where are you going?”

“I am going to see my girl.”

Her heart sank. Ok... he obviously had a girlfriend. Such men were never single. It didn’t make sense for a man like him to even be single unless something was wrong with him. He was tall, buff and had that voice that would drive any woman crazy.

Zaza smiled. “She is lucky to have you going up and down like this. I forgot to take your number that time so I can thank you properly for saving me from death.”

“It’s ok. You thanked me enough. It could have been anyone.”

“You risked your life. It could have attacked you. Thank you.”

“Sure.”

Zaza took out her phone and texted her friend.

Zaza: Mma! I bumped into that hunk again!!

Friend : You lie!

Zaza; I telling you. Bathong waitse this man... mma waitse some man are just the it.

Friend: o simolotse Zaza

Zaza: I am telling you. He is hot hot! He is He deserves to be in the Men's magazine. He is the type that deserves every good thing. He deserves peace and good sex every time he demands it.

Friend: I want to see him!

Zaza: Wait..

Zaza adjusted her seat and sat at an angle. She took him a side picture and sent it to her friend.

Friend: HEY!!!"

Zaza: told you.

Friend: what's his name again?

Zaza: I don't know. I am going to ask today. He has a girlfriend but ion kheeee!

Friend: Who cares anymore mma? Waitse those tattoos... ekare Lance Gross in Shamaar Moor.

Zaza smiled and continued chatting to her friend while Atang drove in silence.

In Shakawe, everyone gathered at the graveyard later that morning while singing.

Rethabile stood with her brother staring at her mother's coffin. Her church members sang beautifully, everyone joining in. Tears rolled as she looked at her mother's portrait on top of the coffin. It was an old picture that had been taken before the cancer.

She remembered that day so well. She looked at the smile remembering exactly what she had been smiling about.

Her aunt stood besides her. They slowly begun lowering the coffin singing. The pastor said a prayer as they threw a handful of soil inside. Rethabile looked at the box then she looked at the men.

"Take her out.... Take her out!"

Her aunt pulled her back as they started filling the grave with soil. Rethabile fought from her grip crying.

"Stop! Take her out. Mama! Take her out! Mama!"

Her uncle's wife walked over and helped pull her back. She screamed crying. "Mama! You are killing her! Stop!"

Batang silently cried watching his sister.

"Mama! Stop! Take her out! Mama!"

Other relatives looked down crying too as she cried.

"Leave me! Mama!"

The men filled the grave. Rethabile's aunt let her go. She dropped the ground crying and crawled to the heap of soil. She started

digging out with her hands.

“Mama! Mama!”

Elang tearfully watched her friend together with some classmates. A tear rolled down. She looked down and silently cried.

Light droplets of rain started falling on them. Rethabile continued trying to dig out the soil.

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Yours Truly

#9

Her aunt tearfully walked over.

“Thabi, she is gone my girl...”

“She is suffocating aunty... let’s get her out.”

“Thabi...”

“Help me... she is going to die.”

The rain droplets got heavier.

“Thabi, let’s go.”

“I am not going without mama.”

“Rethabile, let’s go!”

“I am not going.”

A relative walked over.

“Keemi. Let her be.”

“It’s raining...”

“Let her be. Let her cry for her mother.”

Aunt Keemi got up slowly and took Batang’s hand. He pulled his hand back and walked over to her sister.

“Th-Th-thabi... let’s g-g-go.”

Rethabile cried even more. “Mama!”

Keemi walked over and picked her sister’s son with every strength she had.

“She will come.. let’s go.”

She walked away together with everyone else as some hurried to their cars and others hurried back to the house on foot.

Elang looked at her friend then turned and walked away escaping from the rain. A minute later there was no one, just her. Rethabile stopped digging and laid on top of the grave as the rain poured on her.

Atang parked outside the gate. Zaza smiled.

“Thank you so much. What’s your name again?”

“Atang. It’s ok.”

“I think I should take your number for the future. You have helped me do much.”

“It’s all good.” He reached for his brother’s business card and handed it to her.

Zaza looked at his name. “Agang... I thought you said Atang.”

“Ng ng... it’s Agang. You misheard. You can call me there.”

Zaza looked at his business card again smiling.

Agang Daniel

Physiotherapist

She smiled. “I will call. Thank you.”

“Has your aunt been buried already?”

“Uh let me ask.”

She rolled down the window and asked a woman holding an umbrella over head walking through the gate.

“Dumelang, is the burial done?”

“Yes. Everyone has left the graveyard except Rethabile.”

“In the rain?”

“Yes. She is hurting.”

“Thank you.”

Zazs looked at Atang. “Yes, it’s done.”

“Where is the graveyard?”

“Oh... you see that road where people are coming from. Straight you go, you take your second left then go straight. You will see it. Why?”

“Just asking. I have to go.”

Zaza smiled. “Thank you.”

She stepped out and hurried to the house while it rained. Atang drove off headed to the graveyard. He parked his car inside and looked around. His eyes fell on her, he quickly stepped out. He shuddered as the cold rain fell on him. He took off his leather jacket and threw it in the car then walked over wearing his boots. He crouched before her and touched her.

“Thabi...”

She remained still on top of the grave.

“Thabi... let’s go.”

She looked at him. “Please help me dig her out...”

“Babe she is gone. She is resting now.”

She shook her head. “She is dying inside there.”

“Thabi... you know your mom loved you. She is now resting. She is not in pain anymore. She is not crying anymore. Let her rest... she is gone.”

“We need to dig her out. You don’t understand.”

Atang picked her up and walked with her to the car. She screamed crying.

“Mama! Put me down!”

Atang put her in the car. She tried to push him off crying. He grabbed her hands.

“Stop! Your mom is dead. As much as it is hard to come into terms with, that’s reality. That’s your reality going forward now. I am not going to tell you how to feel because I have never been in your shoes, but I am sure that the way you are feeling is the same way Batang is feeling. For him it’s probably worse. He needs you as much as you need him. I don’t know your mother but I know she wouldn’t want you in the rain like this. I don’t want you in the rain like this.”

She looked at him shaking. “It’s too much...”

He hugged her tightly. She broke down on his chest. He held her for minutes till she stopped crying. He laid her down on the car seat and covered her with his jacket. Atang closed the door and jumped on the driver’s seat wet. He looked at her fighting with her hiccups while sniffing.

“I am taking you home to Batang.”

She stared into nothing sniffing. Atang started the car and drove her home. He parked by the gate then stepped out and picked her up from the backseat. He knocked on the door holding her in his arms.

A lady opened the door.

“Dumelang...”

The lady looked at Rethabile then at the man. “Thank you my son. Come inside with her.”

Atang walked inside the full house with probably guests. The lady led him to the bathroom.

“Put her in the bathtub so I can bath her.”

Atang gently put her in the tub. The lady walked out. Atang rubbed her cheek.

“I will call you later. I am sorry I came late.”

The lady walked back in again.

“Thank you so much son.”

“It’s ok.”

Atang walked out and got in his car. He started the engine and drove off. His phone rang, he looked at his brother calling.

“Yah?”

“Is Zaza pretty?”

“O siame hela. She is Thabi’s cousin.”

“Out of ten, how do you rate her? I don’t want ugly girls.”

“She is beautiful. She is an 8. I just don’t want her.”

“Ok, so you went to Shakawe?”

“Sharp mister.”

Agang laughed. “I thought you were not into kids. What happened to you?”

“Voetsek Agang!”

“You are already going up and down for this girl. Gaborone to Shakawe is more than a thousand kilometers away... you want her?”

“She just lost her mother. I am just being supportive. What’s wrong with that?”

“Why are you getting defensive? Mister calm down. As long as she is not underage, you are good.”

Atang clicked his tongue and hung up. He thoughtfully looked at his phone about to call her but then sighed. He would wait a bit longer.

At Rethabile’s home, Keemi dressed up her niece in worn clothes and sighed.

“Come and join us. We are about to discuss a way forward.”

She stood up and walked out. She took out her phone walking to the bathroom. She locked herself inside calling her husband.

“Keemi...”

“Did you think about it?”

“I told you, only one will stay with us. We are not going to take all your sister’s burdens. We also have lives. Only one child can come. You choose who will come. I have already spoken and that’s it!”

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Yours Truly

#10

At the funeral after eating, Rethabile sat on the couch with her brother. Her mother's older uncle stood up holding his walking stick.

"Bagaetsho, it's been a very difficult week for all of us. Today we have buried my brother's daughter. As a parent, I have never imagined one day I would have to cry and burry Lelomo but we are here. Lelomo leaves behind two children. From here I know people are going to their homes and go on with their lives but not for her children. They have lost their mother. They have no father and now all they have is us. She had two kids, Rethabile who is 18 years old and at the moment, she is writing her form 5 examinations. She also had Batang, Rethabile's younger brother. He is ten years old and he doing standard 4. They need a guardian, someone to take the responsibly of their mother. I would take them but with my health, I won't give them the care they need. I couldn't even come to see their mother as she fought for her life. Bagaetsho, these children are our children. But don't feel pressured to take them because if no one can't... I will take them with my sickness. I am saying this because I don't want you feeling pressured to take them then later abuse them."

Keemi swallowed. "Lelomo had begged me to take them both but unfortunately I cannot take them all. My husband and I are dealing with financial problems. I can only take one at the moment."

Rethabile pulled her brother closer. Their uncle nodded.

“Lelomo was my sister. I would never let her kids suffer when I am there. If Keemi can only take one, I will take the other one.”

The uncle’s wife looked at her husband. “Uh.. Rragwe Thato...-”

The uncle looked at her. “We can take one. My sister can only take one, we will take the other. These children are our sister’s children. We will not let them suffer while we are there.”

Their uncle nodded. “Ok. So Keemi, which one are you taking?”

“I can take Thabi. Modiri can take Batang in the meantime.”

“Why Rethabile? You should take Batang. He needs you more. He is still young.”

Keemi looked at her brother. “Why do you want Rethabile so much at your house? I am taking Rethabile, I already said I am taking her.”

“Batang is young Keemi. He needs you more.”

“They are both young. Rethabile will be staying with me till she goes to UB so she can be a doctor, when she goes, I am taking Batang.”

“If you can’t take them both now, then you won’t take them both in the future. You want your husband to harass my sister’s daughter huh?”

“Harass who? You don’t know my husband wena!”

“I know that good for nothing thing you call husband. What kind of

man stays at home the whole day and can't put food on the table? He is abusive, you want him to take out his frustrations on my niece?"

Keemi angrily looked at him. "My husband works! You think we all don't know why you want to stay with Rethabile. You will never get this house selo ke wena!"

"Selo ke wena ke mang? Ke ta go raga Keemi!" He stood up angrily. Keemi stood up too.

"O raga mang? You are not getting this house!"

"I don't want this house! That was ages back. Why would I take away the only thing these children have? I brought my own house! I am fine, my son is working. I don't need anything from anyone. I will take both gape if I should. I loved Lelomo! I know she thought I was after her house but I was after it ten years back. Give me a break!"

"You are not getting Rethabile."

"Enough!"

They both stared at their uncle.

"How old are you? Are you kids?"

Keemi slowly sat down.

"You have embarrassed me today! What behavior is this? In front of the people? Huh? Rethabile, who will you stay with my daughter?"

"Mama said we should not be separated."

Keemi sighed. "It's temporary Thabi."

"Mama said we should not be separated."

"Rethabile my girl, I know what your mother wanted. Please try to understand my girl..."

"I will stay here with him."

"And what will you eat? Batang needs to eat too. Who will maintain this house?"

"I am not separating from my brother."

"It's only for a couple of months." Keemi stood up and sat beside her. "It's only for a couple of months then I will take your brother in."

Rethabile looked at her tearfully. "Mama said we should not separate from each other. I am not leaving my brother."

Keemi tears rolled down her cheeks. "Rethabile please... please my child. I would take you both but I cannot. I don't want you or him to suffer. Please understand... I know what your mother said. I know but you are not getting separated forever. Your brother will stay with your uncle but only till you go to UB then I will take him."

"Mama said we should not separate."

The uncle's wife stared in annoyance. She looked at her husband then folded her arms.

"Keemi, if their mother told them not to get separated then I don't think you should separate them. The whole family is here, they can all help contributing something per month to help assist you

with the children.”

Keemi looked at her sister-in-law. “I can’t take them both at the moment. I can only take one. I can only take him once Thabi goes to university.”

“I will take Batang.” Modiri spoke. “It’s fine. You can take Rethabile.”

His wife looked at him angrily. “Why are you separating these kids? Rethabile doesn’t want to be separated from her brother.”

Keemi looked at Rethabile. “Thabi-“

“I am not leaving Batang.”

“Do you want to starve to death? You are not working. This is only temporary. You are not getting separated for good. I am sure your mother would understand. You can’t remain here alone. Batang is going to need food. He is going to need proper care.”

“I am not leaving my brother.”

Keemi sighed. “I will take him next month, in the meantime I can take you with so I can find a bigger house to stay. Your uncle can take him for this month while I look for a bigger house then I will take him. I promise. Just one month so look for another house. One month.”

“I am not leaving my brother. You will find us here after one month. I am not going anywhere without my brother.”

Keemi stood up and walked out defeated. Rethabile looked at the relatives that were staring at her and leaned back on her mother’s

couch holding her brother's hand.

Later that day, after most people had left, Keemi walked inside Rethabile's room where she was seated on the bed while Batang slept. She sat beside her.

"Thabi, I loved your mother so much. I loved her more than anything. God has stolen from me. I am hurting. I wish I had done more. I wish I had been here. My sister called me the morning she died and begged me to take you both. I was going to but the situation at my house cannot allow me to take you and your brother at the same time. I know she didn't want her children to be separated, I know that more than anyone. I know what she wanted but I can't do it now. I can only take one child. Either you or Batang. I had opted for you because I knew soon you will be going to university then I would take your brother. Please understand... I can't leave you here. My sister would turn in her grave. I am sure she is already turning wherever she is because I am already failing to do one thing she's ever asked me to do. Kea go kopa ngwanaka..."

"I am sorry aunty but I am not leaving Batang. It's either you take us both or you leave us. I understand your situation but I am not going to leave my brother when he only has me. Mama said we should not be separated."

Zaza walked in and looked at her mother. "Mama.."

"Please talk to your cousin Zaza... please make her understand."

Zaza looked at her then at Rethabile. "Ok, please go and drink your pills."

Keemi stood up and walked out. Zaza looked at Rethabile.

"Refuse. Don't agree to going with her. Her husband is a rapist. He is a monster. Stay here with your brother. She won't believe you. He is a pervert. I like your strong will. I heard you can sew and make baskets, now that you are done with school, you can focus on it. And also... you are an orphan now. You will get money from the government. Also the condolences money is there. Don't allow them to convince you otherwise."

Rethabile looked at her. Zaza hugged her. Rethabile sniffed.

Zaza stepped back. Rethabile's phone rang from the bed, Zaza looked over at the brand new Samsung as Atang called. Rethabile reached for the phone and picked.

"Hello?"

"Hey, ke kontle. Ta kwano. O busy? (I am outside. Come here. Are you busy?"

"No."

"Ta kwano. (Come here.)"

"Eerra."

He hung up. Rethabile stood up.

“My friend is here to see me.”

“Ok.”

Zaza walked out with her. Rethabile looked at the black Amarak across their house. Zaza chuckled in disbelief staring at it too.

“Let me go and say hi to my person. He’s here for me. He wants me.”

Rethabile stared as Zaza confidently walked over. Her phone started ringing as Zaza walked out through the gate.

“Hello?”

“What are you standing there for? Ta kwano.”

“Zaza said you want her, I don’t want to-”

“Rethabile, kare ta kwano. Your cousin is forward, who said I want her? Am I not here for you? Bring Batang re tsamaye. (Bring Batang so we can go.)”

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Yours Truly

#11

Zaza walked towards the door smiling. She tried to open the door but it was locked. Atang rolled down the window and looked at her holding his phone.

Zaza smiled. "Hi... what are you doing here?"

Atang looked at the house and stared at her. "Are you coming?"

"Everyone is leaving. If I leave, people might steal. Zaza is my cousin, she met you first. I don't want her to think that-"

"Who cares what she thinks?"

"They are my relatives. My mother is not here anymore."

Zaza stared at him as he spoke on his phone, his tone soft.

"Ok, I will wait here."

"It might take long."

"It's ok. I will wait."

He hung up. Zaza smiled.

"What are you doing here? Are you already going back?"

"No."

"Well I am going now."

"Sharp."

“I know you are here for me, what happened to your person?”

“Who said I am here for you?”

Zaza smiled. “Who do you know here Agang?”

“That’s not your business but it’s not you. Safe journey.”

He rolled up his window pressing his phone. Zaza waited for him to laugh it out unlocking the door but he carried on pressing his phone as if he wasn’t seeing her.

She knocked on the window. “Agang!”

She walked round the car and knocked on his window. He rolled down his window and looked at her.

She sighed. “Who are you here to see? You don’t know anyone here expect me.”

He leaned back fixing his cap then smiled briefly looking down on his phone. He looked at her again. Zaza looked at his smile and smiled back.

“What? Who do you know expect me? I brought you here.”

“You are going to make my girlfriend think I actually want you when I really don’t.”

Zaza laughed. “She is not here akere?”

“She stays somewhere here, ke emetsi ene.”

Rethabile walked out of the with a black plastic and started picking litter around the yard in a long dress.

“Then we can meet ko Gaborone. What she doesn’t know won’t kill her. When are you leaving? Kana you never know the future, I may be your type.”

“No, you are not.”

Her smile disappeared then she laughed. “I was joking, I mean as friends.”

“I don’t do female besties because I don’t expect my girl to have one. Ke dilo tsa masepa hela.” He took out his wallet and handed her a P100 note.

“Can you please help her pick litter?”

Zaza looked at the money and smiled. “She is my cousin. You met her last time. I will help her, you don’t have to pay me.”

“Ok, sharp.”

Embarrassed, she turned and walked back in the yard. She wasn’t even sure what had just happened. Rethabile looked at the Amarok then at Zaza who started helping her pick litter.

“Thabi, have you seen that car before? I mean before I came with him.”

“Ng ng...”

“Ok.”

“Is he waiting for you?”

“Not exactly. He is here to see someone. I think it’s business.”

“Ok.”

They continued picking litter as more people left. Almost an hour later, Rethabile finished cleaning the house while Zaza put away the plates. She looked over at the gate, his car was still parked at the same spot. Her mother walked in the kitchen.

“We have to go. Your father is all alone.”

“Your husband?”

“Zachariah...”

“Ma? I am just saying. Isn’t it too early to leave her alone?”

“Even if I stay, she is not changing her mind. I have to go home. I know soon she will be calling crying for help. This won’t last. Rethabile will have to understand that she can’t always have it her way. She should appreciate we are even trying to support her and her brother.”

Zaza sighed. “We can go.”

They walked out. Rethabile stood by the door watching them get in the car and reverse out. She looked at where cars and people had been, it was empty. Even the neighbors had left. She watched her aunt’s car drive off. Her eyes fell on the muddy ground. Tears filled her eyes.

She walked inside the house and looked at her mother’s picture frame on the wall. She blinked as she wondered which step to take now. She took out the ringing phone and looked at him calling.

“Hello?”

“Please come here.”

“Batang o robetsi. (Batang is sleeping.)”

“Should I come and carry him?”

She rubbed her eyes, her voice shaking. “No. He is going to cry again. I don’t know what to tell him.” She sniffed holding her cry. “I don’t want to wake him up...”

“Thabi...”

“I want to cry... it hurts. My heart hurts. I want to wake up. I am scared.” Her voice shook even more.

“Come to me. Come.”

“People are going to look.”

“Pretend they are not there.”

She walked outside and went to his car then got in. His tinted windows protected her from the stares. Atang adjusted his seat then pulled her over so she would straddle him. He wrapped his arms around her holding her tightly. Rethabile closed her eyes, her head on his chest. Her silent tears slowly wet his t-shirt. Atang kissed her forehead holding her warm body. Time slowly went by as he held her. He wasn’t sure what exactly he was doing but he actually didn’t regret being with her. He rubbed her back.

“Thabile..”

She raised her head and looked at her, her eyes reddish. She was beautiful.

“Rra?”

He wiped away her tears then kissed her. He caressed her cheek baby kissing her.

“Did you get the emergency pill.”

“No. I was scared to go in and buy. You can go and buy. I don’t want people knowing that I now do things.”

His heart skipped a beat. “What?”

“I was scared.”

“So you didn’t buy the pill?”

She shook her head staring at him. “I can still get it akere?”

“Fuck! What the fuck Rethabile?! What did I tell you to do?”

“Kene ke tshaba... (I was scared.)”

“But you were not scared to buy a phone, why?”

She kept quiet. He put his hands on his face cursing underneath his breath.

“My period had ended the day before. It was my safe period. I am sorry I didn’t get it but I have the money..”

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Yours Truly

#12

Atang parked the car at the pharmacy and stepped out of the car leaving her behind. Minutes later he walked over with the pills.

He grabbed a bottom of water from the backseat and handed it to her.

“Drink.”

He watched her drink then sighed. “If it doesn’t work, you are going to be a mom.”

“I don’t want to be a parent yet.”

“Then maybe you should bought that pill Rethabile. You didn’t mind people talking about you after you bought the phone akere?”

“Maybe you should not have taken my virginity at the back of your car with no condom.”

He looked at her and smiled. “Are you hungry?”

“No.”

“Is a relative taking you guys?”

“No. I am done with my exams. We are going to remain at home. Mama said we should not be separated. My brother and I are package. There is no taking one and leaving the other.”

“Makes sense. But you are not working.”

“I am going to sew and make baskets full time. If it doesn’t pan out, I will look for a job.”

He started the car and drove her back home.

“Go and take Batang. I want to take you guys somewhere. What do you think we should call our child?”

“I am not pregnant!”

She stepped out of the car while he laughed. Rethabile walked in through the gate. She looked at Elang who was seated by the Veranda. Elang stood up and looked at the car then at her friend.

“What is he doing here?”

“He was here for the funeral..”

Elang looked at the car. “And already you are letting him drive you around. Where is Batang?”

Rethabile unlocked the door and walked in. She walked to her room while Elang followed behind her.

“Thabi, this man is not good. Soon around people will be saying you have sugar daddy.”

“You don’t know him Elang. He is a good man. Tattoos don’t define him. He is a pilot and he is good at his job. O kile a tswa mo daily news.”

“Then why is he after you not his age mates?”

“I like him.”

“Soon you will be pregnant and he will leave you. That’s what men

like him do! They will have sex with you then leave you. You won't go to UB and you will remain here mothering a fatherless child."

Rethabile bit her lower lip and lifted Batang who was sleeping. She walked out with him as he slowly woke up. Atang stepped out of the car then took him from her arms and put him at the backseat. Rethabile walked back to the house and locked the door. She turned to Elang.

"Atang is not a bad person Elang. I know he scares you but he is not a bad person."

"Your mother just passed on and already you are you going out with men?"

Rethabile looked at her and sighed. "We will talk later."

She walked to the Amarok. Atang opened the door for her then she got in while Elang watched standing by the gate in shock. He jumped in and kissed her before driving off. She shook her head in disbelief and clapped once.

She took out her phone and started typing.

Elang: You are going through regret this Rethabile. Don't say I didn't warn you. What makes you think that this man can actually want you after you catfished him? He is playing with you because he has seen that you are easy one. Watch out moghel, nna next year I am going through varsity. I don't know about you, you will be nursing a baby while I am in Gabs. You just buried your mother, you should be mourning not chasing after dicks.

She sent the message and walked home.

Zaza leaned back in her mother's car holding her phone. She thoughtfully tapped his number and called him.

His phone rang a couple of times then he picked.

"Hey..."

"Hi, I hope I didn't cause problems for you. I didn't know your girlfriend stays around there."

"It's ok. She didn't see anything."

"Ok, bye."

"Are you ok?"

"Yes. Bye."

She hung up and leaned back deleting the number accepting the loss.

In Gaborone, Agang sat in his car and called his brother.

"Yah?"

"What did you do to Zaza?"

“Nothing. Mister I have someone with me go sharp.”

Agang laughed. “I can’t wait to meet this one.”

Atang hung up. Agang started the car texting Zaza. His phone vibrated, he picked the call.

“Hey babe...”

“Hi, he left for his trip. I am coming home.”

“Ok.”

“I am telling you so you know that I am coming. I don’t want to fight with your dirty girls because I know you bring them to that house.”

“Babe, there is no one.”

“I am just saying.”

“Says the married woman. Can you stop this? Wa mbora ebile. If you are looking for a fight, don’t come to my house. I am not dealing with stupid insecurities tonight. You knew what you were getting yourself into when we first met. I fuck whoever I want when I want, same way you let your old man ride you. Don’t come with an attitude to my house. I will fuck you so hard you will hate me.”

She kept quiet and sniffed.

“Are you still coming?”

“Yes.” Her voice was now quieter.

“Sharp.”

“I love you.”

“Sharp.”

He hung up annoyed.

In Shakawe, Atang helped Rethabile in the speed boat he had hired. She looked at Batang who was now awake and all smiles.

Atang looked at her. “Are you good?”

She nodded sitting down smiling. Batang stood by the steering wheel happily. Atang smiled at him.

“Are you ready?”

“Y-Y-Yes!”

He smiled then turned the key. Rethabile took a deep breath as the boat gently moved from where the other boats were parked.

She took a deep breath as he piloted the speedboat with Batang while chatting. She looked at the waters around them and slowly relaxed as the wind brushed her skin.

Atang turned to her. “Come...”

She stood up and walked over. Atang put her in front of him and hugged her from behind.

“Hold the steering wheel.”

She touched it while Batang watched excitedly. Rethabile giggled gently navigating the boat. Atang kissed her neck.

“You are good at this.”

She laughed. “Don’t leave me.”

“I won’t. I am right here, I promise...”

SIX MONTHS LATER....

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Yours Truly

#13

SIX MONTHS LATER...

In Shakawe, besides the road, Rethabile smiled talking to a white lady.

“This sling bag is made with only beads. I use different kinds of beads also different colors to create the design.”

The white lady smiled holding up the bag. “This is gorgeous. How long does it take you to create such?”

“A day.”

“This is beautiful. How much again?”

“P350.00.”

“Uh I don’t have pulas but you can take this...” The lady took out \$100. Rethabile smiled happily.

“Thank you so much.”

“You deserve more for this. It’s beautiful. Thank you.”

The white lady got back in her car as Rethabile put the money in her purse. Another car stopped. Two ladies stepped out and walked over.

“Hi.. ke bokae? (How much is it?)”

Rethabile pointed at her embroidery bead necklaces. "That's P250 each. The bags are P350 each. The beaded tops are P350 each too."

The other lady picked the top. "Nyaa mma, P350 is too much for just this."

Her friend looked over. "At least P200."

"Kana mme I only have P150."

Rethabile looked at them. "It's P350."

"That's a lot. I know someone on Facebook who sells these for P100. She gets them from Thailand."

"I make mine with my own hands. It's P350."

"No one will buy these at such high prices. You price looking at your competitors prices. This can't be P350."

Rethabile's phone rang. She took it out and picked.

"Hello?*

"Hi, I just saw your page on Facebook. Your things are beautiful. Do you do deliveries?"

"Not at the moment."

"Ok, please send me directions to where you are selling from. I want the beaded too, the bag and I saw you make German Print clothes."

"Eemma but for those I work on order."

“Ok, I am coming. I am getting married.”

“Ler me send you the directions.”

“Ok. Thank you.*

Rethabile hung up and looked at the two ladies.

“Thank you for stopping by Thabi Designs..”

The other one out down the top. What you are doing is theft.”

The lady who sold traditional food besides Rethabile laughed as they walked to their car. Rethabile laughed too.

“Fear someone who can’t afford something. They will say all the gibberish. Don’t they know people actually buy with no complaints?

Rethabile laughed. “I am used to such.”

“Nna mma I can’t keep quiet. We are all trying to make money. I would not have kept quiet thamma. I won’t be insulted by a woman who wears dirty wigs ebile o kare o lebetsi go thapa. “

Rethabile laughed. “Thata mma!”

“I am telling you. I have a child Thabi and I stand in the sun the whole day to put food on the table. I won’t let someone with yellow pimples insult me because o rekile Honda fit ya second hand.”

Rethabile forwarded the directions to a customer. She put away her phone smiling as Elang walked over with an umbrella over her head.

She stood besides Thabile eating her spicy biltong. Saliva filled

Rethabile's mouth as she salivated the biltong.

"Can I please have... it smells nice."

Elang gave the entire packet to her. "Nna mma I won't be able to stand in the sun the whole like this. I'd rather die shem."

Rethabile smiled eating. "I am saving enough to take Batang with when I go to varsity."

"Why should he stay with you when your aunt is alive? She will stay with him. Your aunt is in Gaborone akere?"

"Ng ng, she stays in Molepolole."

"He will stay with her. Why should you take him? Gaborone life is expensive. He is going to need a nanny, gape kids in Gaborone carry snacks to school. Gaborone life is expensive. You can't stay with a child when you are also new there. Kids get kidnapped too."

Rethabile sighed. "You don't understand Elang..."

"I understand Thabi but you can't let him suffer when you can get help. I understand that you want to stay with him now but imagine when you are fighting to complete assignments and other things. He needs a proper guardian."

Rethabile sighed finishing the biltong. Elang looked at Rethabile's chubby cheek then her neck rolls.

"You are so fat these days."

Rethabile paused chewing and looked at her. "Ng?"

"You are so fat. You look way older than your age. You need to

exercise. Imagine going to UB like this. You need to drop eating too much.”

“I have always been like this.”

“Yes but you need to lose wait Thabi. You look like a hippo. You can’t be fat in high school and also at University.”

That’s looked over. “She is not fat. She is thick and beautiful. Why should she lose weight?”

Elang looked at her. “I was not talking to you, I was talking to my friend-“

“I don’t care, I am talking to you. What kind of a friend are you?”

Rethabile looked at Thata. “Thata-“

Elang laughed. “Don’t you have a child to think about? Thamma know your target market. A high school dropout is not in my league.”

“You are a toxic friend. For me it’s the fact that you think you are all that but you are nothing. Don’t brag too loud about UB babe because don’t forget you are the one here going with average grades. I may have dropped out two years back but I passed with all B’s, Thabi is going with straight A’s and wena was di D and C’s stand here to look down on me because I have a child? Don’t let the fact that I have a child get into your head so much that you think you can talk target market with me sweetie, you are all face and no brains. Don’t try me, I am not that type you walk over, I will mop the floor with your black butt.”

Rethabile's phone rang, she stepped back picking.

"Hello?"

"Hey, it's Farai. I am bringing a customer to you who was a bag. Are you home or by the road?"

"I am at the road."

"Ok, I am coming."

Rethabile looked at Elang. "Thabi, are you going to let her talk to me like that?"

"I am sorry."

"You know what, it's ok. Clearly I am not wanted here. Sharp mma."

She angrily walked away. Rethabile sadly looked at her as she walked away. Thata sighed.

"I am sorry but I can't stand your friend."

"People misunderstand her. Elang is not a bad friend. She is just like that."

"She likes attention. She won't get it from me. By the way, you look beautiful. I like your dress."

"I made it."

"It's pretty. I wish I could sew so I can make boy some clothes."

"I can do it. I have some material."

"Thamma really?"

“Yes.”

A car stopped. Rethabile smiled as she walked over.

“Hi, we spoke just now. My name is Yaone.”

Rethabile smiled. “Rethabile...”

“Uh I want the bag, the top and the necklace. I also want a dress I will wear for my traditional wedding. I saw your other pictures on your Facebook page.” Yaone unlocked her screen and showed her. “See what you made here... I want mine slightly different. I want mine with lace arms and also it should be a fit and flare type of dress.”

“I can do that. I can do a sketch and send it to you. For now let me just take the measurements.”

“Ok.”

Rethabile took her measurements then wrote them down before picking out the things she wanted.

“There..”

Yaone paid. “Thank you so much Thabi. Please send the sketch. I am leaving Shakawe tomorrow with my man. We were here visiting.”

“Eemma, I will send.”

Yaone smiled then walked to the car. She got in and drove off just as Farai parked his brother’s single cab Isuzu. He stepped out with a lady then walked to Thabile smiling.

“Hey... I brought you a customer.”

Thabile smiled. “Dumelang...”

“Hi, your things are beautiful. Can I have the bag please..”

“Yes, ke P350.”

She sold the bag. The lady smiled then looked at Farai. “Thank you. Bye...”

“Bye.*”

She walked away. Farai looked at her. “Hey... how is business?”

“Good.”

“I can see, money is making you look good.”

Rethabile laughed. “The sun is making me darker.”

“Actually no. You still look beautiful.”

“You are lying!”

Farai laughed. “I am telling you. Are you still selling?”

“Ng ng, I was waiting for that lady. I have to go home now.”

“Let me help you. I will drop you off.”

“Thank you.”

Farai helped her pack while they laughed chatting. He put everything in the car then opened the door for her. Rethabile turned and waved at Thata.

“Bye...”

“Bye Thabi.”

Thabi got in the car that looked like it was older than her. He lifted the door slightly up and pushed it to close making a loud sound. He walked round the car and jumped in. He reversed the manual car and joined the road.

Farai stole glances at her as he drove her home. He stopped the car by a tuckshop.

“I am coming.”

He jumped out. Seconds later he got back in holding a packet of Simba chips and coke.

“Take... you probably had a long day.”

Rethabile smiled. “Thank you.”

“It’s ok.”

Rethabile opened the Simba chips and started eating. He changed the gears and drove her home. Farai parked the car in front of the house just as Rethabile opened the coke.

“Where is Batang?”

“In the house. I told him to stay in the house once he comes back from school. He doesn’t open for anyone who is not me.”

She sipped her coke. Farai looked at her, she was so beautiful, her presence always made him nervous. Rethabile turned to him and smiled making him smile back.

“I am going to Maun tomorrow. I am delivering two coffins. There

is a movie that just came out, I was wondering if maybe you can come with me, we will watch it in the afternoon then come back. Just to celebrate how far you have come.”

“I have never been in a cinema.”

Farai smiled. “Me too. But I am sure it will be nice. Please say yes.”

Rethabile smiled. “I would like that.”

Farai smiled wildly. “You won’t regret it. I promise. They said it’s a nice movie. I will be here early morning.”

“Ok.”

“Let me help you with your things.”

He got out of the car and carried her things to the Veranda. He walked and opened the door for her. Rethabile got off.

“Thank you.”

Farai nodded. She smiled then walked to the door. She knocked on the door.

“Batang! Batang!”

Batang unlocked the door and the burglar. Rethabile turned and waved at Farai who smiled waved back. She carried her things inside and locked the door.

Farai drove off smiling alone. He parked at the house he shared with his brother and jumped out of the car. He walked inside, his brother looked at him.

“And then?”

“She said yes.”

“I heard her boyfriend drives an Amarok. I hope you are not setting yourself for a heartbreak. I like Rethabile, she is a good girl but she sees you like a friend. Don't hurt yourself.”

“I will see all that when I get there. I am taking her with tomorrow. That guy is not married to her. She is not married.”

The older brother looked at him and sighed cooking pap on the paraffin stove.

Farai laid on the couch, a smile still on his face.

Later that evening just after midnight, Rethabile's phone rang waking her up from her sleep.

“Hello?”

“Hey...”

Her eyes snapped open as he spoke. She looked at the caller ID

and smiled.

“Attie...”

“Open the door. I am outside.”

She got off bed and walked to the door. She unlocked it the door then the burglar bar and looked at him in his work uniform. She had never seen him in his work uniform but he looked so good. It fit him perfectly like it just made for him.

He opened his arms, Rethabile took a step hugging him tightly. Atang wrapped arms around her kissing her neck. He stepped back slightly and kissed her.

“I missed you...”

She smiled shyly still in his arms. “I missed you too. I thought I was going to see you next week.”

“I know... I couldn't fly out again without seeing you.”

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Yours Truly

#14

Rethabile smiled. The last time she had seen him had been over three weeks back. Atang looked inside the house, his eyes falling on her mother's picture frame. He baby kissed her squeezing her breast.

"Let's go to the car. Lock the door."

She took the keys from inside the house then locked and walked with him to the car. He opened the door for her and watched as she approached. She climbed in then he joined her and closed the door staring at her.

He smiled and picked her up then placed her on his lap. Her night dress rode over. Atang looked at her big breasts and touched them. He gently massaged on top of her night dress then he pulled it down.

Atang leaned over and kissed her neck. She closed her eyes as her panties got damp. Atang kissed lips and smiled. "How is work?"

Rethabile smiled. "People love the beadwork, especially white people, they even pay extra for the pieces."

He smiled back. "That's good babe. You are nailing this."

"I saw he money you sent to me. Thank you."

Atang continued playing with her breasts then laid her down and

took off the night dress. He looked at her cartoon drawn underwear.

“Babe, do you actually go to the shops and buy these panties?”

She shook her head. “I make them. Why?”

He looked at the cartoon character on it. “They are nice.”

She smiled. He pulled it out and got on top of her kissing her while touching her. Rethabile took a deep breath as he unzipped his pants. He rubbed himself on her wet . Rethabile moaned softly moving her waist underneath him. She unbuttoned his shirt then helped him take it off followed by his white vest.

He kissed her and pushed his dick inside. Her kuku slowly stretched out for him.

Rethabile put her hand on his chest flinching. Atang rubbed himself on her and held her waist as he pushed in again.

“Awww... Atang...”

Her little kuku hugged him tightly. He grunted in her ear squeezing her body.

“Ahh shit!”

He pushed in half of it kissing her neck then he slowly begun thrusting with only half his dick. Her kuku massaged his weapon making him grunt and quiver on top of her. She felt soo good or was it the fact that it had been three weeks though whenever he made love to her, she felt even tighter.

She slowly moved her hands from his chest moaning. Atang

kissed her lips and pushed the rest of his length deep inside with a single thrust. She pinched him closing her eyes, he felt more than just deep.

“Atang!”

He kissed her enjoying the tightness and warmth, it always felt good deep inside her. He slowly eased out then pushed himself back inside again. Rethabile tried to move back but there was no space to move back to with her head against the door.

He kissed her while moving his waist tapping all her corners. She got even wetter the more he sank in. Her body relaxed adjusting to his dick. He put her legs on his shoulders and gently drilled filling her with his dick.

Rethabile moaned at the pleasure, she looked at him then closed her eyes as the pleasure doubled up. He increased his pace groaning. His phone rang from the front seat as she closed her eyes spasming.

Atang slammed himself inside a couples more times then stilled releasing his seeds inside.

She looked at him breathing heavily. He got off her then reached for his phone and picked.

“Yeah... you found someone? Ok, how long will she it take? ... Ok, ask her... I will send the money to you, how much do you need?... Ok, me too.” He dropped the call. Rethabile looked at him.

“Who was that?”

“No one important.”

“What were you saying me too to?”

Atang looked at her and smiled. “What’s going on?”

“What were you saying me too to?”

“Babe... don’t do this. Can we not go down that road?”

She looked at him and sat upright picking her nightdress. Atang sighed and handed her his phone. She looked at the last caller which was his mother. She gave birth his phone.

“I was just asking who you were talking to. If I am not supposed to ask, say so.”

Atang kissed her. “Or maybe you just have to trust me. Why would I cheat on you in front of you?”

She looked down slightly embarrassed. Atang tilted her chin and kissed her taking the night dress from her.

Meanwhile, Rethabile’s neighbor who was standing by the window stared at the car parked in front of the house with Rethabile inside. She couldn’t see anything though she knew something was happening in that car. She clapped her hands and walked to her daughter’s room.

“Mavis, Rethabile’s rich old man is here. I can’t believe this child. Her mother’s body is still warm and already she brings men in the yard.”

Mavis looked at her mother. “Mama, go and sleep. You are disturbing me. Let Rethabile be.”

“Its very disrespectful. I am going to tell her tomorrow. I can’t watch this behavior go on.”

Mavis closed her eyes and turned the other direction ignoring her mother.

The following morning, Farai parked the Isuzu by the gate then looked at the black Amarok parked in the yard. He took a deep breath and stepped out of his car then he walked over to the door passing the car.

He knocked on the door and waited.

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Inside the Amarok, Rethabile woke up as Farai called her name. Atang woke up too and looked at her.

“Who’s that?”

“My friend.”

“What friend?”

Rethabile picked her night dress and put it on. “The one that made my mother’s coffin. Farai. I had agreed to go to Maun with him so

we can go to the Cinema.”

“You agreed to what?”

She looked at him. “He-“

“I don’t have female friends. I don’t believe in such friendships and I don’t like such friendships.”

“Farai is-“

“I don’t give a fuck. He can be Jesus for all I care. I don’t like it. I will be your friend if you want a friend. You are not going to have make male friends as far as you are with me. Stay here, I will talk to him.”

“Atang-“

He put on his pants and stepped out of the car shirtless. Farai took a deep breath as he walked over.

“Sure laitaka...”

“Eita..”

Atang looked over at Isuzu parked at the gate then whistled. “My father still has that.”

Farai smiled. “The car is a legend.”

“Tell me about it. Atang...”

“Farai.”

“Farai laitaka, I am going to be straight with you, whatever friendship thing you have going on with my girl I don’t like it. And I

want it to stop. Unless you are her relative which I am sure you not so I want it to stop. Re majita and I am sure you understand where I am coming from. I know you probably like her, I don't blame you, she is a pretty thing. But the problem is that she is mine and I don't like predators around my person."

Farai took a deep breath. "I understand."

"Sure laitaka.." They bumped shoulders. Farai turned and walked to his car and drove off.

Atang got back in the car. Rethabile looked at him.

"What did you say to him?"

"I ended the friendship. I am not going to entertain bo he's just my friend. It doesn't work like that with me."

"I am not your ex."

Atang kissed her. "I know but I just don't like it. That's just me babe. Same way you have a problem with me saying me too."

She smiled. "I just wanted to know who were talking to. That's all. Atang...?"

"Yeah?"

"Why don't you ever sleep in the house?"

He looked at her. "I don't want to disrespect your mother like that. It feels like she is looking at me."

"Is it her picture frame in the sitting room? I can move it."

"It's not her picture frame babe, keep it. The day I marry you, I will

sleep in the house. I promise.”

His phone started ringing again, Rethabile looked at the Caller ID as Yaone called.

He answered. “Hi, I will talk to you later.... I said I will talk to you later... I will call you... ok.” He hung up then kissed her holding her in his arms.

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Yours Truly

#15

Atang squeezed Rethabile's breast, she flinched pushing his hand off.

"It's painful."

He smiled and kissed her. "Sorry."

He moved his hand to her belly and rubbed it gently while smiling.

"I got you those big umbrellas so that you are not under the sun the whole day at the road since you refused a proper shop."

"I didn't refuse. I just wanted somewhere where I can get the exposure I need."

"I want you to learn how to drive. You should get a driver's license. You can start at the driving school, how many months do you have till you start at UB?"

"Three months."

"Is there a driving school around here?"

"Yes."

"Ok, we are going to register you today, if you are a fast learner, you would be driving before you start school. I am going to pay him extra to make sure you get the best.

Rethabile smiled. "Thank you."

“By the way, where does your uncle live?”

“He stays in Orapa. My mother’s uncle is the one that stays in Maun.”

“Maun where?”

Rethabile looked at him. Atang kissed her.

“I just want to know.”

She looked at him and told him. Atang nodded.

“I want to take you out for shopping today. Maybe you can also do your hair though I had sent you money for that.”

She shyly smiled. “Batang needed new school shoes and a new bag. I bought him a school shirt then I bought him a bike so that he won’t have to beg other children for their bikes. The money got finished.”

“Why didn’t you say anything?”

“I don’t want to finish your money. The one you are left with after the bank takes the one for the loan.”

Atang looked at her and smiled. “I will just drink water. As long as you are good. I want to tell you something.”

“What!”

“Remember my ex? The one that cheated on me?”

Rethabile’s heart skipped. “Yes.”

“When we broke up I had already paid magadi. We were going to

get married.”

“Ok.”

“I caught her with her colleague who was introduced to me as a gay guy that’s why I just never had a problem with it. He didn’t appear gay to me but I didn’t read much into it because I had been with this woman for 3 years and we were happy. I had flown out to SA and I was going through come back the following day but there was a change of plans, I had to fly the president to Maun so I had to come back.”

“The President?”

He looked at her. “I am a pilot babe but just not your ordinary pilot. I am a military pilot. I told you when you were still faking identity.”

“You are a soldier?”

“I was a pilot first. I studied abroad. I couldn’t find job so I went into military. That was for two years. They liked me enough so I joined the S.W.A.T team but I am only called if necessary.”

She looked at him confused. “What?”

“With connections and all, I got a job as a military pilot but sometimes I am also just your ordinary pilot. I fly the president sometimes too. Sometimes I am part of his security, that’s if necessary.”

“So what are you?”

“I am a hustling . That’s all you need to know.”

“Do you even have bank loans? You probably make a lot of

money.”

He looked in her eyes. “No I don’t have loans.”

“Is that why you can just randomly send me 1k per week?”

“I want you to have everything you need. I am a provider. That’s the kind of man I am. You need to get used to that.”

“Why don’t to invest that money?”

Atang smiled and kissed her. “Listen... I had to fly back the same day I had flown out because the following day early morning I was going through fly the president to Maun. I thought it would be a great surprise to my ex and that’s when I walked in on her with her gay colleague fucking in my house. I lost it and stabbed them both though they didn’t die. She convinced her boyfriend to say something else so that in return I let them continue with their relationship in peace.”

Rethabile swallowed listening.

“She called me last week, it seems her boyfriend was involved in some shady dealings and he was arrested so she was asking for some money to help bail him out.”

“You still talk to her?”

“No. She called me.”

“And what will you be getting in return?”

“Nothing. She said she will pay it back.”

“Why are you telling me all this? Do what you want want your

money.”

Rethabile reached for her night dress and put it on.

“I am telling you because you are my girlfriend and I believe in transparency. I want you to be on the same page as I am. You just don’t get upset because I am telling you what happened. I am just going honest. If you don’t like something, you say it.”

“I don’t like that you still talk to your ex girlfriends. I also don’t like how you come here to fuck me in your car like I am a prostitute. I don’t like it. It makes me feel cheap. If we can’t do it like normal people then let’s not do it at all. It’s uncomfortable in the car. You are the only man I have been with but I don’t think it’s supposed to be like this. Why do you even do that?”

“I will change. I am sorry. I didn’t realize but now I know. I will book us into a lodge. I won’t talk to her anymore. I promise. Is there anything else I should change?”

“No.”

He put her on his lap then lifted her dress and rubbed her clit.

“Ok. I don’t like your panties. They are nice but I don’t like them on you. It makes me feel as if I am having sex with a ten year old. The panties are nice but someone who can ride a dick, I don’t think you should wear those.”

He kissed her and moved her up slightly. Rethabile looked at him feeling it at her entrance. He slowly lowered her down on it.

He looked in her eyes. “I love how you are good at your hustle. I

am impressed. I love how you are focused and determined. I love how you love your brother and always include him in everything you do. I love just how much you are beautiful and soft and thick. You are so beautiful. And I love you. I also love this.... Look at yourself.”

Rethabile looked at his dick sliding in. She took a deep breath and looked at him, her lips slightly parted.

Atang kissed her and took off the dress.

“I don’t like being pushed or limited when I want it. I want to enjoy you without having to beg for anything. Physical touch is my first love language. I just don’t love this but I need it to think properly, to distress. I like celebrating with this. If I am sad, trust me... sex will make me happy. If I am mad, sex will calm me down. If I am already happy, it will make me happier.”

He gently moved underneath her. He kissed her slowly moving underneath her.

“It will take you a while to really know me every part of me but I need you to know this... for me, sex is important in the relationship. It’s up there with faithfulness, honesty and loyalty. Sex doesn’t bore me. I am telling you this so you know babe. In the future, you should still know I think about sex a lot and I love to have sex. Ok?”

She nodded moaning as he gave her slow deep strokes.

“Talk to me...”

“I understand.”

He smiled and kissed her serving her slowly. He squeezed her and sucked her nipple gently. Rethabile rubbed his head moaning as she got even wetter.

“I also value faithfulness babe. If you cheat on me after I have given you everything, I will kill you. I am not joking and it’s not a habit that I say this to people. At a certain level, I understand why my ex would have cheated but this time around I have vowed to do things differently.”

Rethabile leaned over and #removed.

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Yours Truly

#15

#removed

Rethabile leaned over and kissed him adjusting her position. She moved up and down riding it. She closed her eyes as it rubbed her walls tapping something sweet pushing her to edge. Atang put her hands on her waist grunting.

“Fuck babe... slow down..”

She shook her head riding it like her life depended on it. Her breast shook as she moved even faster. Atang squeezed her waist losing it as his cum came rushing through.

Her thick kuku twitched followed by her body stiffening gripping his dick. She threw her head back and exploded with a loud moan.

She rode the wave as he offloaded. She finally stopped and laid her head on his chest breathing heavily.

Seconds later she got off him and opened the car door then stepped out.

“My brother is awake. Don’t ever threaten to kill me again, I will report you to the police. I am not your ex.”

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She finally stopped and laid her head on his chest breathing heavily.

Seconds later she got off him and opened the car door then stepped out.

“My brother is awake. Don’t ever threaten to kill me again, I will report you to the police. I am not your ex.”

She closed the door and walked to the door just as mmagwe Mavis walked out of her house holding a cup.

She smiled. “Thabile, how are you?”

Rethabile looked over. “I am fine.”

“That’s good.”

Rethabile unlocked the door and walked in the house.

Later that day, Elang opened Rethabile’s statuses. She looked at the new hairstyle and what seemed like a new dress and new heels.

She opened more of her statuses, no picture showed Atang. Obviously, it made sense that she wouldn’t want people to see her boyfriend who was older than her.

She zoomed in one of the pictures and stared at the weave in Rethabile’s head that looked like her real hair especially with the

edges laid down. She touched her braids bored with them knowing that weave would look better on her. Even the dress..

She sighed then went to her Facebook and searched for Atang.

His account was privatized. She sent him a friend request and sighed going to her Facebook messages that she never replied.

In a presidential suite at a river lodge in Shakawe, Atang stood by the balcony staring at the waters while Rethabile and Batang wore their new clothes.

He called his father holding a can of beer.

“Atang...”

“Did malome call you?”

“He did minutes back. Your mother is not happy. She says that girl is a chick but I saw her picture and I like her. Young and fresh. Not stressful. Now to you will train her and make her yours. I don’t support impregnating people’s daughter’s but I am happy you are taking responsibility for your actions.”

Atang smiled. “So when will it happen?”

“We were thinking next weekend. What is she saying?”

“She doesn’t know yet.”

“She needs to know.”

“She is going to cry.”

“She will keep quiet. Who cries forever? I am finally having a grandchild. God is good. I thought you would give me nothing but stress and disappointments till I die.”

Atang laughed. “I am my father’s son.”

“Boy, I was nothing like you!”

Atang laughed and hung up then walked in the room. He looked at her staring at herself on the mirror smiling.

“You look beautiful.”

She smiled turning to him. “Thank you for the clothes.”

Atang sipped his beer and kissed her. “Have you had your period this month?”

She opened her mouth to answer with a yes then paused.

“No. It hasn’t come yet. Why?”

“I was just asking.”

“It’s coming.”

“Ok. And the one for last month?”

She thought of last month then looked at him. “It came, why?”

“I want you to use contraceptives so they need you to face ruled out pregnancy.”

She swallowed staring at him. "I am not pregnant."

"Ok, but what if you were?"

"I wouldn't be. I am not going through bring a child when I am only a child too. I am not going to get UB with a baby. I would abort it."

"You what?"

Rethabile sighed. "Attie can we not talk about pregnancy and kids? I am not going to have kids till I have a degree and working and also married. I want to establish myself first. Now I am just a child."

"So you would abort my child because you don't have all that?"

"I am not pregnant so no. I am not aborting anything."

"What if you were?"

"I would also go and pick a million while at it. Please stop. Do you like my dress?"

He sipped his beer and nodded sitting down. "Yah."

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Another bonus coming up

Yours Truly

#16

That same evening Yaone sat in the guest house then called Atang. It rang a couple of times then he answered.

“Yah?”

“Hi, therra have you thought about it? I will give you the money back as soon as my loan gets approved.”

“I am not giving you money to bail out the man you were cheating on me with.”

“Atang the wedding is in two days. I am going to be a laughing stock.”

“At least now you will know how that feels. And you need to stop calling me. It’s no longer funny. You must be taking my silence for something else. Don’t annoy me.”

He hung up, Yaone looked at her phone disappointed. She thoughtfully called her sister.

“Yaya...”

“I am having second thoughts about Kago.”

“Why?”

“Ahh mma this relationship is already boring me I don’t think I still want to get married.”

“Is it because he lost his job?”

“He doesn’t want to look for another one gape I don’t think I loved him. I don’t think I ever did waitse. It was just excitement of something new.”

“You messed up, you see now?”

Yaone sighed. “I wanted to hurt him back.”

The sister sighed. “Ahh mma, what happened has already happened. Can you just move on? Kago loves you. It shouldn’t be about the money but I about the love.”

“Atang used to spoil. I lacked nothing with that man. I loved him. Sometimes I wonder what I did to Amantle. I saw her and Kago talking some time back. Later that week, I found her earring in my house. It was just like that time at Atang’s house.”

“Yaya... are you sure it was hers? Kana that time, Atang said it had been yours and I could believe him because I had bought you and Mantle the same earrings by mistake.”

“I am not stupid Tsitsi. I know he slept with her. He can deny it all he wants.”

“Your problem Yaone is you don’t listen to reason my sister. I don’t think Amantle slept with Atang, she didn’t have a reason to. Just because she slept with that one boyfriend of yours who was already cheating on you doesn’t mean she now goes around sleeping with your man. You need to let go, how many relationship will you destroy just because you think Amantle slept with the man you would be dating? See what happened with Atang, now

you are regretting. You need to see someone. You are not a bad person, I know but you have to forgive and heal. This is no longer health.”

“I love Atang. I don’t want to get married.”

“Forget Atang Yaone. That shit sank. You hurt that man to an extent that even after everything he still came to you begging for you guys to fix things. You broke him. I feel sorry for the next woman in line, he will probably hurt her because of what you did.”

Yaone sniffed. “I don’t want to get married anymore.”

“Sleep. We will talk tomorrow.”

“No. I don’t want to get married anymore Tsitsi. I am not doing that to Kago. He deserves better and that’s not me. I don’t love him.. I want to cancel the wedding.”

“Yaone-“

“I am not getting married anymore. I am going to stay here for the rest of my leave.”

“Yaone, magadi was paid-“

“We will refund the money.”

“Do you think this is a joke Yaone? You just don’t wake up and say you don’t want to get married because you can clearly see that the future is blurry. This is not how it’s done. You can’t say you wanted to hurt Atang, it’s not about that because even before the incident with Amantle happened, you already wanted Kago. You fell in love with him. Now that he’s lost his job you realize you

don't love him?

"I don't care how it will be done but I am not getting married."

The following day, early morning, Atang stared at Rethabile while she slept then he touched her belly. He smiled alone, he leaned over and gently kissed her. Rethabile slightly moved in her sleep, Atang looked at her face then took his phone and took her pictures while she slept like he usually did.

He put away his phone then leaned over and kissed her. Rethabile turned her head and scratched her thigh in her sleep. Atang lifted the sheet turning her to her side. He rubbed himself between her legs and slowly pushed the tip. Rethabile moved in her sleep and pulled the sheet to cover herself. He stroked himself and slowly pushed in. He paused enjoying her warmth. He slid in the entire dick waking her up. Atang pushed her so she could lie on her stomach with dick plugged in.

He reached for a pillow raising her up slightly putting it on stomach. He pushed her thick thighs together and started drilling in and out kissing her back.

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Rethabile pulled the sheets moaning into the pillow while convulsing. He remained inside for a couple of seconds and

finally slid out.

He turned her around and kissed her. Rethabile looked at him exhausted while her pussy burnt.

“Hey... I have to go.”

She frowned. “Now?”

“Yeah... I am flying out tomorrow morning. I will see you properly next week. I am going to come and get you so you can see my house in Gabs.”

Rethabile smiled. “You are taking me to Gaborone?”

“Yes. You are starting at the driving school tomorrow today right?”

“Yes.”

“If you get your license before you start school, I am going to get you a car.”

“A car?”

“Yes.”

Rethabile put her hands on her face screaming. “A car?”

“Yes. That’s if you get it before you start at UB.”

Rethabile hugged him laughing. “A car? A real car?”

“Yes.”

Tears filled her eyes. “Attie... are you serious? You will buy me a car?”

“Yes.”

She put her hands on her face laughing. Her laugh slowly turned into a cry. Atang hugged her kissing her forehead.

“I have never had anyone buy me anything.”

“This will be your first.”

“I am going to driving school today.”

He kissed her lips. “I have to go.”

He got off her and put on his sweatpants then walked to the bathroom. His phone started ringing just as he opened the shower.

She reached for it and looked at an unsaved number calling. She got off bed then picked his t-shirt and put it in. She walked to the bathroom and knocked on the door.

“Attie... your phone.”

“Tsena..”

She opened the door and walked in. She looked at his muscles, now him being in military explained that buffed body and his height, also that aura around him.

She looked at his haircut then his beard. Her went down to his chest. He his tattoo started on his right breast going to his right hand. His left hand also had on which extended to his back. These were the kind of men her mother disliked. She associated tattoos with evilness.

“Who is it?”

“Ng ng, unsaved number.”

“Answer.”

Rethabile answered and put the phone on speaker.

“So you blocked me Attie? I am not asking for money anymore. It's ok.”

Rethabile looked at him. He pulled her closer with his wet hands and kissed her neck.

“I blocked you because I want to cut off all communication with you.”

“I know you probably hate me but can we talk? I am no longer getting married and I want to explain myself. I hurt you because of what happened with my sister. It doesn't excuse anything but it wasn't because I didn't love you anymore because I did. I still do and if there is a chance, I want to fix things.”

“You are talking bullshit right now. There is no chance of us fixing things ever. And I have moved on. I found someone who I really love and I respect her and our relationship. I am telling you for the last time .. don't call me again. I hope you heard me.”

Rethabile hung up and smiled. “Let me go and check if Batang is awake.”

“Don't you want to bath?”

“Ng ng ...”

She quickly walked out then put his phone down and picked hers. She sat down thoughtfully then went on the internet connected to the lodge's WiFi. She couldn't remember when last she had seen her period though she once saw blood some time backm

She took a deep breath and typed in on the search bar.

'how do you know you are pregnant'

She took a deep breath and waited for the results.

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Yours Truly

#17

Atang parked the car at the gate. Batang smiled.

"I-I-I miss y-y-you already."

Atang smiled. "I miss you too. I am coming next week to take you to my house."

Batang's eyes when widened. "We-We are g-g-g-..." He closed his eyes trying to make up the word. Rethabile looked at him and smiled encouragingly.

"Going to stay with you?"

Atang smiled. "Yes."

"Yes!"

He laughed. "I will come and take you." They bumped fists. Atang look at Rethabile and pushed her hair back.

"Hey... are you ok?*"

Rethabile nodded. "Yes."

"Something is off. Talk to me."

She shook her head. "I am fine."

"I love you. I love you so much. I know our relationship has just started and I know you are young but I will never limit you from reaching the sky. I will be your number one fan. You are a hard

worker, you are smart and determined, nothing can stop you. I love that about you. I need you to know I also want nothing but the best for you and that's why I am here to assist you in any way. You are not alone."

She slowly smiled. "I am scared."

"Of what?"

"I..." She closed her eyes and took a deep breath then looked at him.

"Nothing. I will be fine."

"Talk to me. It's not nothing."

"I love you so much, it scares me. I have never been so happy I can't help but think it's temporary."

"It's not."

"You have just away from a long term relationship. The reason you were even talking to me on my Facebook is because you were trying to distract yourself. I am scared I am a rebound and that you are only with me because you also felt sorry for me. I get scared when I think of being without you. I get scared for my brother. He loves you much"

"I am not going anywhere. I love you, you are no rebound. I love you. I love you so much." He leaned back over and kissed her. Batang giggled and put his hands on her face.

She laughed then stepped out getting their shopping bags. Atang got the rest of them and put them in the house where the rest of

the bags were. He kissed her while Batang ran to the back of the house with his toy.

“I love you. Don’t forget that.”

She got another kiss then he walked out going to his car. She stared standing by the door, he jumped in his car and drove off flashing his lights once

Rethabile walked back in the house and took her phone and called Elang.

“Elang, did to get my message?”

“Yes, I am here.”

The door opened then Elang walked in the house.

“I got it. What happened?”

“Let me have it.”

Elang took out the home pregnancy test from her pocket and handed it to her.

“It means mama used her other one. This is the only one left. Go and pee on it.”

“Thanks.”

“Doesn’t he use condoms?”

“No but he buys me emergency pills so now he wants me to use contraceptives and pregnancy should be ruled out. I haven’t seen my period in a while. I am scared.”

“It might be stress because of your mom’s passing. I am sure it’s nothing. Where is Batang?”

“Atang bought him a toy. I think he’s at the back of the house with it.”

“He took you guys out for shopping?”

“Yes..”

“Your hair is nice.”

Rethabile smiled walking to the bathroom. Elang followed behind her and stood by the door while Rethabile peed in the stick.

She walked out with it and put it on the bed then sat down on the floor. Elang sat down beside her.

“What if you are?”

Rethabile remained quiet staring at her bed. Time seemed to be moving so slowly. She sat there thinking of that night she had lost her mother.

Elang stood up then took it. She turned to Rethabile and showed her.

Tears filled Rethabile’s eyes as she stared at the two lines. They rolled down her cheeks going down to her neck.

“You need to abort it. You can’t go to UB pregnant Thabi. You also have Batang in your plate. How will you manage all of that? How will you even study abroad if you have a baby, I am sure they will look into that. Your aunt told you she can’t take you and Batang at the same time, when you go overseas, do you think she will take

your brother and your baby together?”

More tears rolled down her cheek.

“Unless you tell him so that he can dump you. Men like him are happy till you get pregnant. He is going to deny it.”

“Atang is not like that. He is the only man I have been sleeping with. He won't deny his baby. I am going to tell him.”

“Then what happens when you tell him? You keep it then he dumps you and now you are a single mother who's also a mother to her brother. Anyways, that's not my problem. I told you it will end in tears. There, you have been getting fucked without a condom. I told you and you refused to listen to me. We don't know! Now it makes sense why you are so fat. You look like a hippo. Imagine going to UB looking 40 when you are just 19. Forget being a doctor, maybe a nurse because waaii, you have just fucked up your chance of being a doctor.”

“Stop calling me a hippo. I don't like it.”

“But that's how you look.”

“I said don't call me a hippo. You always find something negative to say about me yet we are friends.” Rethabile stood up. “I don't like it.”

“So you want me to lie to you? Chile have you looked at yourself on the mirror? Your neck sweats babes. Look at yourself! If you want me to lie to you, it won't happen here. You look fat. Ebile that's why some of those clothes you got won't look good on you because they are for people with certain bodies.”

“I have had it with your negativity. You always want to be better than me in everything. It must be putting you on pressure seeing what Atang does for me and now you want to destroy my self esteem. Please leave. I don’t think this friendship is working anymore.”

“You know what, you are right. Lenna I want to distance myself from girls who do nothing but open legs for older men then get pregnant. People might start thinking ke lebelete lenna.”

“A whore? You are an empty enjoy vessel who copies in exams. Pity you couldn’t do that in the final. Imagine an A student dropping to D’s and how many are those C’s which saved you?”

“They only need 6 subjects, the rest don’t matter. I made it to 36 points, doesn’t matter if I have D’s or C’s, oskalayo, I am going to university and not pregnant like other people I know who are sleeping with ancestral spirits. At least I am an empty vessel which doesn’t sleep around getting fucked for new clothes. Poverty is dangerous, it will turn people into prostitutes.”

Rethabile angrily slapped her. Elang slapped her back, Rethabile grabbed her too and punched her so hard that she fell.

“Get out!”

Elang slowly got up. “I am going to report you to the police then tell everyone that you are pregnant! Stupid ugly fat bitch! I hope you give birth to an ugly baby like yourself. You look like my mother’s age. Nxla!”

She walked out. Rethabile tearfully picked the pregnancy test that

had two lines and put her hands on her face crying.

She got under blankets and covered her head crying. A while later she sniffed pressing her phone on Facebook searching for abortion pills. She came across a number then called the person sitting upright.

“Hello?”

“Dumelang, do you still have the abortion pills?”

“Yes. Cytotec. Do you want?”

“Yes. But I am in Shakawe.”

“I am in Maun, I can get a morning bus to there. It’s P850 plus delivery.”

“I will take it.”

“See you tomorrow.”

Atang looked at the time driving then called his brother.

“Atang...”

“I want a small car. That friend of yours... does he still sell cars?”

“No. He long stopped. Which car do you want?”

“I don’t know, maybe a Polo vivo or Golf.”

“You want a Golf for what?”

“For Thabi. I don’t want her to struggle. She is carrying my child. Soon enough she will be staying in Gabs full time as a mom and a student. I want to things easier for her by all means. I want a house too. A three beds. Something big but not too big, it should just have enough space and it should be nice. She will be coming with her brother.”

“I really like this Thabi girl but a car? Can’t you just get her someone to drop her off and pick her?”

“No. A car is a better option. Go and check for a Golf 7. I want it in white. I will show it to her next week. She is going to love it.”

The following morning Rethabile waited by the bus stop where she was meeting the man. A cab stopped then a thin short man stepped out.

Rethabile stood up as he walked over then he handed her the pharmacy paper bag while wearing a cap that covered half his face.

“They are two inside. One you drink and the other you put it in your vagina.”

Rethabile opened the paper bag and looked at the pills. She sighed then took out money from her pocket and handed him.

He quickly counted and smiled. "Ok. Remain at home after drinking them. The process is painful and you will bleed but not too much."

"Ok."

"Bye."

He got in his cab while she walked home.

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At home, Rethabile sat in her room glad Batang was at school then she drank one. She took off her panties and laid on the bed then pushed it in her vagina with her middle finger.

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Apologies family, I had the worst headache of all time.

Yours Truly

#17

That same morning Atang sat on top of his bonnet staring at the A45. His friend walked out of the house in his uniform.

“Laitaka!”

Atang jumped down and bumped shoulders with Prince.

“Sell me this car.”

Prince laughed. “I just bought this Atang.”

“You will buy another one. I think mmagwe Sarona.”

Prince smiled. “What if it’s a boy?”

“It’s a girl. I can feel it. Her name is Sarona.”

“I am proud of you boy! You are a big boy now but I am not selling my car to you. Go to Naledi Motors. They have it.”

Prince’s girlfriend walked out of the house in shirts and a top that showed her nipples. Atang took out his phone while Prince attended to her. She walked back in the house.

Atang sighed. “How are things?”

“We are good. We are happy. I have been thinking if marrying her.”

“You want to marry her?”

“I know you don’t like her Atang but I love her. I have never been

happier.”

“Don’t take this the wrong way but that girl is not the type you marry. We had a threesome with this girl.”

“That’s in the past. I love her. I can’t switch off my feelings.”

Atang shook his head. “I am warning you.”

“Akere you won’t sleep with her?”

“When have I ever slept with someone you are seeing? I am just saying she is not the type you marry.”

“Because of what she was doing? It was due to circumstances. Lone is a good person. She was just looking for money then. This is life Atang. You never know the future. The truth is that maybe your girl is not what you are seeing right now because of circumstances. I mean she’s limited at the moment. You said she wants to be a doctor. What if then age just realizes she’s for the streets. It happens. People change, not that I am saying she will change but same as Lone. She has changed for the better.”

“Rethabile is already herself.”

“She is only 19, let’s talk when she is 25 years old. Right now she’s still a baby.”

“What are you trying to say?”

Prince smiled then unlocked his car. “Nothing. You better marry her quickly before they take her and make her see the fun stuff in the world.”

“Tsek!”

Prince laughed in his uniform, Atang smiled recalling the days he were a soldier too.

“I am going through work. Legadima o nkemetsi. You know how he is.”

Atang got in his car and reversed then drove off headed to Naledi Motors. He looked at the tiny, he still had two hours before flying out.

Zaza sat in her office at third floor staring at the parking lot lost in her thoughts. Her phone started ringing startling her.

She slowly picked it and look at Agang calling. She stared at it for a while then picked.

“What do your want?”

“Hey, can you come over tonight?”

“To fuck?”

“What’s going on?”

“Agang, what exactly are we doing? Is this a relationship or it’s just sex? I am confused.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Us. Whenever I need you, you are not there. You only call me to

make sex appointments when you are bored.”

“It’s not like that. Can we talk tonight about this?”

“I feel like I am wasting my time. You only want me for sex.”

“Babe...”

Zaza sighed staring at the wall.

“Babe, I love you. Ok?”

Zaza smiled.

“I know I have been a shitty boyfriend. I know and I am sorry. I will change. Let’s talk tonight when you come.”

She blushed. “Ok.”

“I love you.”

“I love you too.”

Agang hung up. Zaza smiled opening her laptop.

Later that day in Shakawe, Rethabile grunted in pain on her bed. She pulled the sheets as the pain slashed her abdomen in half. She curled her body into a ball crying as the pain increased. An urge to push came again, she got off bed looking at the blood all over the bed and on herself.

She squatted pushing but nothing came out just more blood. She slowly laid on the floor crying, her pink dress had turned red.

The pain got so extreme as she laid on the floor. She slowly got up feeling weak while blood leaked. She reached for her phone and called Elang. The phone rang twice then she dropped the call. She dialed Atang.

“This is a free announcement from mascom, the number you have dialed is not available at the moment. Please try again later. Thank you.”

She went to WhatsApp and did a VN crying.

“Atang help me.... My stomach aiiiiii!”

She dropped the phone sliding to the ground crying.

In the sitting room, Batang laid on the couch asleep with the bottle of his juice on the floor while SpongeBob SquarePants played on the TV.

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Yours Truly

#18

(THIS INSERT CONTAINS SENSITIVE CONTENT THAT OTHER READERS MAY FIND DISTURBING. READER'S DESCRIPTION ADVISED.)

In South Africa, Joburg, Atang switched on his phone walking inside the room. He sat down connecting himself to the wifi and waited for his messages to report in.

His father's WhatsApp message came through.

Paps: Your uncle went to see the Kaisara uncle and asked if we could come next week. They have agreed. By the way, Gase gore rentse gotlhe le magadi? I like this girl gape o fit. You seem to love her. If it's only damages they are going to charge you lots of money. Better o ntse magadi.

Atang smiled, seems baby girl had won the old man's heart by just looks.

Atang; She is only 19, I want her there grow a little so she understands our relationship fully. Right now if I marry her, I will be more of her father rather than her man.

He sent the message then scrolled down and opened Rethabile's.

He opened her VN.

"Atang help me.... My stomach aiiiiii!"

He sat upright and played the VN again listening to her crying. His heart pounded so much as he called her. It rang unanswered then he called her again

He swallowed then searched for Elang on his contacts. He frowned realizing he had long deleted her number. He called Prince getting up.

“Hello?”

“Themonna do you remember the time I asked you to get me Rethabile’s number when she was still catfishing me?”

“Yeah...”

“Send me that number again. I deleted it.”

“Ok. Why?”

“Just send the number.”

“Ok.”

Atang paced if something had happened to the baby. She sounded like she was in so much pain. He looked at the time wondering if he could get a bus back home then maybe call in for a favor... he thoughtfully looked at his phone. Prince sent the number again.

Atang tapped it and called her. It rang thrice before she picked.

“Hello?”

“Hi, ke Atang. Are you with Thabi?”

“No. I am at home.”

"When last did you see her?"

"Uh in the morning."

"Can you please go and check up on her... I will get you a drink."

"Uh ok. Is everything ok?"

"I don't think so. How long will it take you to get there?"

"Five minutes."

"Make it three for two drinks."

"Ok, I am going now."

"I will call you."

"Ok."

He hung up and made another call.

"Atang..."

"Raps, I need a favor. I am in SA and something is going on with my girl. She is in Shakawe. Thuto can fly alone, I am thinking of driving to Gabs then flying from Gabs to Shakawe. I need a chopper."

"Yeah, I got you but what's wrong with her? You know woman overexaggerate. Maybe it's nothing big, she probably just wants attention"

"She sent a VN. It's not nothing. It's something."

"The chopper will be ready for you when you get there."

“Sure. I owe you.”

“Don’t worry about it.”

At Rethabile’s house, Elang walked through the gate with her dog breathing heavily from all the running. She knocked on the door.

“Thabi! Thabi!”

She knocked again banging the door. “Thabi, ke Atang!”

She is waited then walked to the window. She frowned at the open window then moved the curtain to one side. She looked at Batang sleeping on the couch.

“Batang! Batang!”

He woke up falling off the couch, his little heart racing.

“Open the door.”

He rubbed his eyes then walked to the door. Elang walked over and got in the house.

“Why is the TV on? Where is Thabi?”

He yawned staggering sleepy. “S-sleeping.”

He got back on the couch and closed his eyes. Elang closed the door and walked to Thabi’s room. She opened the door as her phone rang. She picked.

“I am here, let me wake her up.”

“Ok, then let me speak to her.”

“Ok.”

Elang walked in. Her phone fell from her hands as she screamed in horror. She looked at the blood on the bed then on the floor and on Thabile.

“Thabi!”

She hurried over and knelt down before her.

“Thabile!”

She turned her around and looked at her face.

“Thabi!”

She pulled her hand on her lap crying. “Thabi... Thabile! Thabi wake up!”

She shook her but she remained still. The door opened then Batang walked in. He froze staring at his sister then at the blood.

“Batang, go and wake up Rragwe Moja! Tell him we need a car to take Thabi to the hospital. Run! Run fast!”

He ran out. Elang put Thabile’s head down and started with chest compressions. She looked at the blood.

“Thabi!”

She stopped then got her phone.

“Hello?”

“What the fuck is going on?!”

“There is blood all over... she is covered on blood. She is not moving. She won't wake up.”

“Fuck! Fuck!”

“There is a lot of blood. On the bed and on the floor.”

The door opened then Rragwe Moja hurried in. He looked at the situation, his heart skipping a beat.

“Help me carry her.”

Elang hung up then walked over and picked her friends legs while the old man lifted the hands. With his painful back, he walked out carrying her to his old Corolla parked by the door. They put her heavy body inside. He got in his car praying.

“God they just lost their mother... have mercy on them. They are only children.”

Elang locked the door then got in the car with Batang on her lap. He started his car and drove off headed to the clinic.

Atang got in the rental car over thirty minutes later and it took off headed to the border. He dialed Elang looking at the time.

“Hello?”

“What’s happening, talk to me.”

She sniffed. “The doctors are with her.. There... There was blood. It was a lot... all over the floor and on the bed. On her dress and on her legs. There was blood... there was a... a...” She started crying talking. “She wasn’t moving.”

“I am coming.”

“I am scared.”

Atang bit his lower lip holding the steering wheel.

“I am coming. Where is Batang?”

“Here with me.”

“Ok. I will be there tomorrow morning.”

“Ok.”

“I will call you in twenty minutes.”

She sniffed. “Ok.”

He hung up and took a deep breath trying to calm down but he couldn’t seem to be able of thinking anything but her... the VN. Maybe if he had seen it earlier... fuck! He should have just told her..

He took another deep breath feeling the earth closing up on him. The VN played in his head... fuck Atang.

He stepped on the accelerator over tracking two long trucks. He got back in his lane missing the oncoming lorry by an inch. His hands sweated while shaking. He looked at the time calling her again.

“Hello?”

“Anything yet?”

“Ng ng...”

“Ok... I will call you back.”

“Ok.”

He hung up staring at the road. He found himself wanting to pray but he wasn't even sure where to start. He reached for his phone and called his mother speeding.

“Heellooo?”

“Mama..”

“Attie... how are you? It's late. Is everything ok?”

“I think Thabi has lost the baby. Her friend found her in a pool of blood. She had sent me a VN crying in pain. She didn't know she was pregnant. I think losing her mother and all... she wasn't aware. The pregnancy was a mistake. I didn't plan it, it just happened. Please pray for her and our baby. I am scared.”

“Mara Atang, how could impregnate a child? Better yet, you could have told her. What if she found out then panicked. Stress causes miscarriage.”

“Mama I might lose her, this is not the time for that!”

“I am just telling you. Calm down. I know you are scared but have faith.”

“Can you pray for her?”

“Yes... father, we come before you as your children... we come to you asking for your mercy Lord. We have come to you because if not to you, we have nowhere else to turn to. We only have you. Father I bring you Rethabile, Lord I don't know her or what happened but Lord I cover her with the blood of Jesus...” She continued praying while he drove.

In Shakawe, the doctor walked over. Elang quickly stood up.

“Is Thabi ok?”

“I would like to speak to someone older.”

Rragwe Moja stood up. “I am here, I am their neighbor. They stay alone.”

He sighed sadly staring at them.

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Yours Truly

#19

“Is there a family member here?”

Elang tearfully looked at him. “No, just her younger brother. Is she ok?”

“She’s getting transferred to Marina in Gaborone. I don’t have all the details as yet but she consumed something very poisonous, I am suspecting in attempts to do an abortion. She lost a lot of blood and had a heart attack caused by extensive internal blood loss together with intense pain. She is still bleeding, we are transferring her to Gaborone.”

Elang looked at the doctor and swallowed.. “Abortion?”

“If you have a relative’s number, we’d like it please.”

Elang shook her head. “I don’t have any.”

Her phone started ringing. She looked at Atang calling, she looked at the phone for a while and finally picked.

“Hello?”

“Is she ok?”

“They are transferring her to Gaborone, Marina. She’s bleeding internally.”

“They are transferring her with what?”

“Ambulance.”

“That will take long. Let me organize something.”

“Ok.”

“Let me speak to the doctor.”

Elang looked at the doctor and took a deep breath. She walked to the doctor and whispered.

“Her boyfriend. Please don’t say it was an abortion. He is not mentally well.”

She handed him the phone and sighed stepping back. Batang tearfully looked at Elang.

“I-i-is Thabi dying?”

“No.. no. She is just not well but she will be fine. She is just... a little sick. But she will be fine.”

He sat down on the bench wiping away his tears as fear weakened him. This was the same hospital his mother had come to and never returned. He wiped his tears with the back of his hand, the thought of his sister not returning broke his heart further.

The doctor gave the phone back to Elang and walked away. Elang put the phone on her ear.

“Hello?”

“A chopper is coming to collect her. Batang is going with.”

“Ok, I can comry with too.”

“Does your mother know? I don’t want unnecessary drama.”

“She will understand.”

“I don’t unnecessary drama. But thanks for going over. I will send the money for your drinks.”

“Wait-“

He hung up before she could say anything else. She swallowed then slowly sat down with Batang.

In Gaborone, Agang sipped his beer calling his brother.

“Agang...”

“What’s going on?”

“Thabi had a miscarriage. I am on my way back.”

“What?”

“She must have found out and panicked. She’s bleeding.. I should have told her.”

“I am sorry. I know you were excited.”

“She might die. The baby is least of my worries right now.”

“Is there anything I can do to help?”

“She is going to arrive before me, she has a little brother. He will

be all alone. Can you get him for me.”

“Yeah. I was with Prince and Phefo.”

“Ok. I will tell you when they land.”

“Ok.”

He hung up. Agang walked to the guys..

“Thabi had a miscarriage.”

Phefo looked at him whistling. “Shit!”

“Yeah...”

“When he asked for her number who knew she would be his person today?”

Prince sighed. “Who knew? He had me looking for it too. Eish... how is she?”

“She is being transferred to Gabs.”

Phefo lit his cigarette. “She is beautiful and thick. O ka tswa a le monate waitse. Kana these chubby ones tend to have it thick and juicy.”

Prince laughed. “Phefo weeh!”

Phefo laughed. “I am just saying. This girl had my boy doing up and downs for her, she must be sweet and tight. Ke hot plate.”

“Is this how you talk about our women?”

Phefo looked at Agang. “I am just saying.. It’s a general statement. I have never seen Atang like this for a woman. Not even Yaone

got this. It's either he really loves her or he just loves the fact that she is innocent and pregnant."

"I know my brother.. he loves her. Let me go, her brother is coming too."

"Sure boy!"

Agang walked to his car and jumped in. His phone rang as he reversed his car.

"Hello?"

"Hey babe, are you coming?"

"Not now. I have an emergency."

"Agang-"

"We will talk when I get there. Sharp."

He hung up before she could say anything. The married woman called him. He sighed.

"Yah?"

"Hey babe, I am coming."

"I have someone. Come tomorrow."

"Agang..."

"I will see you tomorrow."

Her voice broke. "Agang..."

"We will talk tomorrow."

She broke down crying. He hung up and drove off.

In Shakawe, the paramedics got Rethabile in the plane together with her brother. Elang stood over.

“I am the babysitter.”

The pilot looked at him.. “There is no space, sorry. Someone has been arranged for the kid.”

“Rethabile is my friend. I am going with her. Her brother is scared of people. He needs someone he knows.”

“There is no space.”

“I will sit at the back. I don’t take much space. I swear.”

“Sorry.”

“Please... I have to go with her.”

“Sorry but we can’t take you. Step back.”

The pilot got in. Elang’s heart raced as she looked at the space in the chopper.

“I can sit there!” She pointed.

She moved back as the helicopter’s blades spun. It slowly lifted itself going up. She sadly watched it as it went away. Tears filled her eyes. She wiped one that had rolled down her cheek then she

walked to the parking lot where Rragwe Moja was waiting. She rubbed her eyes as the pain of watching the helicopter leave without her after all she had done choked her.

She sniffed wiping away another tear. Rragwe Moja looked at him then drove her home in silence.

In Gaborone, over two hours later, Agang talked to his brother walking inside the hospital.

"I am going in."

"I have just passed Zeerust. I am almost there."

"Ok."

"Sharp."

He hung up just as Zaza started calling. He dropped the call walking towards the reception. He smiled.

"Hey..."

She looked at him and smiled staring at him. She swallowed fixing her dress.

"Someone just came through. A 19 year old girl from Shakawe."

"Oh... the bleeding one?"

"Yes. Where can I see her?"

“She’s about to go into surgery.”

“Great but can I quickly see her?”

“Who are you to her?”

“Her brother. She came with her brother. Where is he?”

“Uh a male nurse took him to bathroom. He wanted to pee. He’s coming.”

“Can’t I quickly rush to see my sister then I will come and take him. Where is she again?”

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In Rethabile’s room, Agang walked in staring at the bed. He looked at her connected to machines and got closer. He looked at her face then the machines.

She moved then slowly opened her eyes under heavy medication. Tears rolled down as she stared at him. Agang moved the oxygen mask from her face.

“Atang...” She closed her eyes crying.

Agang touched her hand. “Its ok..”

“I am dying...”

“Shhh... no one is dying. You are not dying..not when I am here. I won’t let that happen. I got you...”

“Don’t leave me...”

Her voice got fainter. He put back the oxygen mask and squeezed her hand. She squeezed his lightly before her hand dropped followed by the machines beeping uncontrollably.

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Happy new year evvveeerybody! Love and light

Yours Truly

#20

At the South African border gate, Atang stood inside the offices pleading with the immigration officer.

“I know it’s past 12 but I am begging you.”

The elderly woman continued packing her things. “The border is closed. It’s 00:15. They should have not even let you in. We are not in Botswana here, I am going home to my family. Please drive out and wait outside the gate. We open tomorrow at 6. Someone will help you then.”

“Please... my girlfriend just had a miscarriage and she is alone. Please...”

“I am not going to-“

Atang took out his wallet and took out some money.

“P600.”

She looked at him. “It was busy today. I am tired. I am exhausted.. I can’t feel my feet. They are swollen. I am hungry and thirsty. I want to knock off. You can’t come here at this time holding six hundred rand or whatever it is, ngikhathele!”

“Please... please.”

She looked at the money then took it and sat down.

She processed all his documents. She looked at him.

“Next time come on time because okwenzeke namuhla ngeke kuphinde kwenzeke. Kufanele wenze isiqiniseko sokuthi uyafika ngaphambi kokuthi sivale. Nathi siyakhathala lapha. Asiwona amarobhothi.”

Atang smiled. “Thank you. You have a good heart. You are going to heaven.”

She shook her head getting up. “Unenhlanhla namuhla. Angiyena umuntu onzima. Vele ufike ngesikhathi.”

“Ngiyabonga sithandwa. Lala kahle ntokazi enhle. Ufana noBeyonce, bake bakutshela lokho?”

The lady smiled.. “Hamba!”

“Banomona.”

“Hamba Atang!”

Atang hurried out laughing then jumped in his car headed to the Tlokweng border gate where someone was already waiting for him.

In less than ten minutes he drove off headed to GPH. He drove through a red traffic light taking a deep breath.

At GPH, Agang sat with Batang who was asleep, his head on Agang’s lap. Agang pressed his phone wondering what could be

taking too long. He looked up and sighed staring at Zaza walking over.

She looked at Batang and frowned confused.

“What’s my cousin doing here?”

Agang looked at her. “You are yelling, why are talking as if I am standing at the road?”

“Agang this is my cousin! My aunt’s son.”

“Ok, then?”

Zaza looked at him, bet heart racing. “Agang... who did this child come with?”

“Sit down.”

She slowly sat down staring at him waiting for an explanation.

“This is your cousin’s brother, Rethabile.. Rethabile is Atang’s girlfriend.”

Zaza laughed. “Nice joke. Babe what’s my cousin doing here? Where is his-“

“Thabi is Atang’s girlfriend. The girlfriend he visits in Shakawe.”

“Noo!”

“They came here together.”

“No... you said your brother’s girlfriend just lost the baby?”

“Yes.”

“Rethabile is only 19! What do you mean?”

Atang hurried over

He looked at Zaza then at Agang.

“Where is she?”

“The doctor is still with her. They are doing a surgery.”

“Ok.”

Zaza looked at him in shock. “Thabi is.... God! I need to tell mama...”

Agang sighed. “Can you just wait till we the doctor talks to us. We will be take it from to there.”

Atang sat down.. hands on his face. Zaza stared at him as he sat opposite them. She couldn't even understand how they had started the relationship. Now it made sense why Rethabile had refused to come with.

Time slowly passed as they waited. Over thirty minutes later, Atang stared at the doctor waiting for an explanation.

“What happened to her?”

The doctor looked at him. “We have stopped the bleeding. We found mifepristone and misoprostol in her blood. Abortion pills. Mifepristone ends the pregnancy. It works by blocking the hormone progesterone. Without progesterone, the lining of the uterus breaks down and the pregnancy cannot continue.

Misoprostol makes the womb contract causing cramping, bleeding and loss of the pregnancy similar to a miscarriage. This

usually works perfectly for pregnancy below 12 weeks. After 12 weeks, we recommend rather a surgical abortion. Your girlfriend was around 23-25 weeks. She had what we call an incomplete abortion. She lost a lot of blood and the baby boy wouldn't have survived anyway. We found her blood from the blood tank. Good thing the heart attack wasn't severe. She will be fine."

Atang frowned. "No. She didn't know she was pregnant. There is no way she would have aborted."

The doctor sighed. "Atang, at this stage you can think whatever you want to think about what could have possibly happened but an abortion took place. You called me to come and help your girl... I did just that and I am telling you what happened. It was a failed abortion.. one that could have killed her. Abortion can kill. She lost the girl."

He shook his head tearfully. "Someone gave her something. She didn't know."

"You can go and talk to her. If she didn't know, I will also take it she didn't know she was losing the baby. She's going to need you."

In Rethabile's room, Atang stood by her side holding her hand. They had taken off her weave. He leaned over and kissed her lips then caressed her cheek.

She opened her eyes and looked at him. Tears filled her eyes. Atang kissed her.

“It’s ok. It’s ok.”

Her tears fell to the pillow as she cried. Atang hugged her, Rethabile put her arms around him crying loudly. Atang blinked holding her. He kissed her neck then her lips.

“I am sorry. I should have told you. I didn’t know how, it’s that time you didn’t buy the pill. But I should have been responsible enough to buy it for you. I should have been responsible enough to have used a condom. I am sorry.”

She put her hands on her face crying. Atang hugged her again then sniffed blinking.. He let her go a while later and wiped her face.

“The doctor said you are going to be ok. But we lost our baby. He says it was an abortion. An incomplete abortion. Did anyone give you anything? I know you didn’t know you were pregnant. And I will find who did this to our child.”

She looked at him in silence then opened her mouth. “You wanted a baby?”

“Not the way Sasa was conceived but one day I did. I was going to take responsibility, I had already alerted my family and I was going to pay damages. I am still going to because you were carrying my child. Was it Elang?”

Tears filled her eyes once again. “But I am young for a baby... I wasn’t going to manage.”

“I was going to be with you and help you. You were not going to be alone. I was not going to abandon my baby. Or you. I was going to take responsibility. I love you. You were never going to be alone. Was it Elang?”

She looked at him unsure of what to say.

“Talk to me babe..”

“I...”

“Its ok. You can tell me. Talk to me.. was it her?”

“I... I...”

Atang looked at her. Rethabile sat upright.

“I wasn’t ready. I am sorry. I bought them from some guy on Facebook. I didn’t know it would be that painful or there would be do much blood. It was me. I was scared. I still have school.. I am not even working. I was scared.”

Atang paused. “What?”

“I can see you wanted the baby. I am sorry.”

“You aborted the baby?”

Tears rolled down her cheeks. “I was scared.”

“You aborted the baby Thabi?”

She looked at him, pain and confusion mixed with hope reflecting back.

“I am sorry.”

He looked at her then chuckled. "You killed my child?"

She slowly got off bed. "I wasn't ready Atang. I found out when you left. I just lost my mother. I can't afford a baby."

"Did you make yourself pregnant? Did I say I wasn't going to take care of the baby that you decided to abort..?"

"No... I was just scared. I... thought you would leave."

"That's just nonsense and you know it!" He yelled. "If I had wanted to leave you, I would have long done that when I realized you had a brother that depended on you. What was is it that made you think I would leave you? O bua masepa!"

"I was scared Atang... I didn't know what to do..."

"You were not scared. If you were scared you could have told so we figure it out together. You were always going to abort her. You had made that clear."

"Atang-"

"Why were you calling me crying? You knew what you were doing akere? I drove all the way from Joburg for you. When you sent that VN you should have just said the entire truth."

"I am sorry. Babe I am sorry."

Atang sighed. "You could have died but it's ok. I am going to take blame for it all. If I had used a condom, you would not have gotten pregnant and thought I would leave you then decide to abort. It's my fault. I am sorry. I am sorry for the pain you went through today. I will have you returned home tomorrow. Batang is also

here, I am sure he witnessed all that. I am sorry. I am actually realizing me coming into your life is causing more harm than good.”

She shook her head crying. “No... it was me. I should have told you. I should have not listened to Elang. Don’t say that please...”

“It’s not about Elang. You deserve better. I love you but if you can think I can leave you because you are carrying my blood then I think you deserve better.”

She cried even more. “No... I love you. I want you. I was just scared Atang... can we try again Attie...please.. I won’t abort it again I swear... I will keep it. Don’t leave me.”

The door opened then Agang walked in with Batang. Batang ran over to his sister and hugged her. Rethabile wiped her tears with the back of her hand and hugged him.

He cried holding his sister tightly. Atang looked at her.

“I will wait for him outside. This is my twin brother I told you about. Agang will bring Batang in the morning.”

Rethabile looked at his twin. They looked so identical... Agang took off his jacket smiling.

“I don’t have tattoos. He has.”

Atang turned to the door.

“Attie... please.”

Atang sighed disappointed. “Bye.”

He opened the door and walked out.

“Atang!”

He closed the door and walked out.

“Atang!”

Agang looked at her. “He is just upset. He will calm down. Don’t worry. He loves you.”

Rethabile tearfully looked at him. “He is leaving me.”

“No. He loves you. He will be here tomorrow. He is also tired from all the driving. He will see you tomorrow.”

At the parking lot, Agang opened the door for Batang who jumped in at the backseat. He closed the door and walked to his brother who was seated on top of the bonnet.

“She aborted?”

“Yes.”

“I am sorry. But she is still young.”

Atang looked at him. “Exactly. She did what was best for her. I don’t even blame her. I need space or she needs space to grow. She doesn’t deserve to be dealing with all this bullshit. She deserves better. I don’t even have the right to be mad at her.

Thanks for today.”

Atang got in the car and looked over at Batang.

“Hey buddy!”

“Are y-y-you l-leaving us?”

Atang sighed then turned to him. “I will never leave you. Are you hungry?”

He nodded smiling reassured. Atang started the car and drove off fighting his pain. He rolled down his window driving.

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Yours Truly

#21

Atang parked the car and walked inside his house with Batang who looked at his huge TV in amazement.

“Y-y-your TV is big!”

Atang smiled. “Yes, you can see everything on it.”

Batang looked around smiling with amazement.

“C-c-can I stay h-here with y-y-you? Forever.”

Atang laughed. “What about Thabi?”

“She- she will stay h-h-h-here too!”

“That sounds like a plan. Come...”

Atang led him to the other room then opened the door. Batang gasped staring at the big bed.”

“It’s huge!”

“You are going to sleep here tonight. You are tired right?”

“No. I- I w-w-was in a plane!”

“A helicopter. Did you like it?”

“Yes! I s-s-saw everything!”

“That’s good buddy. Come and sit...”

Atang walked to the bed and sat down. Batang got on the bed smiling. He looked at Atang smiling so much Atang sighed not sure of what to tell him.

"I want to tell you something. I want you to listen."

Batang nodded still smiling.

"I am going to go away with work for a while and you won't be seeing me anymore. I will try to come and see you but it won't be the same like I see you now."

Batang's smile dropped. "Y-y-you are go- going?"

"Not forever."

Tears filled his eyes and rolled down his cheeks. "B-But I... love you."

"I know, I love you too but I have to go."

"I-I w-w-want to go wi-with you."

Atang hugged him as he cried. He took a deep breath rubbing his back.

"I am sorry buddy."

"D-don't go."

Batang cried so much till he fell asleep. Atang picked him up and gently laid him down on the bed before walking out.

He walked inside his bedroom taking off his clothes physically and emotionally exhausted. He walked inside his bathroom and stood under the cold water for a while then later walked out to his

phone ringing.

He took it out and picked.

“Rethabile, I am tired, I want to sleep.”

“I know you are angry. I am sorry..”

“I am not angry to at you. You did nothing wrong, stop apologizing for doing what’s best for you. I am angry at myself for thinking this was it. I expected this to go a certain way. You need space or so do I. We will talk then.”

“You are breaking up with me. I love you. Please...”

“I love you too but this is for the best.”

“Atang... kea go kopa... don’t leave me. I was just scared. Please don’t leave me.”

“It’s not going to work. Not now at least. Please sleep.”

“What am I going to tell Batang? He loves you.”

“And I love him too but he will understand as time goes on.”

She started crying. He sighed closing his eyes sitting.

“I am sorry.”

“Can’t we try again?”

“Weren’t you the one who said you are too young for a baby? You are right. Focus on getting to UB and actually getting your degree. You will find someone who will love you right and he won’t put you under any sort of pressure. Look, sleep. Batang will be with you in

the morning. You are flying back home. I will send you some money in case you need anything.”

He hung up and switched off his phone.

The following morning, Rethabile waited in her room already dressed. Her heart skipping as the door opened then Agang walked in.

“Hi...”

Rethabile looked behind him. “Where is he?”

“He had to go. He flew a minister early morning.”

“When is he coming back?”

“I am not really sure.”

“Do you have the keys to his house?”

“Yes-no. No. I don’t have. The chopper is already waiting.”

“Ok. Take me to his house. I will wait for him there.”

“Uh Rethabile-“

“Let’s go. I have been discharged.”

She took her brother’s hand and walked out with him. Agang followed behind.

“Thabi, I don’t think that’s a good idea. He is still upset. I think you should give him some time to process everything.”

“Take me to Atang’s house and focus on Zaza.”

“I know my brother-“

“And I know my man. Will you take me there or I have to find my way there?”

Agang unlocked his car. Rethabile walked over and got in. Batang jumped in at the back. Agang got in and drove off. He parked the car besides the Amarok a while later.

Rethabile looked at his house stepping out. Agang knocked on the door.

“Atang!”

Minutes later Atang opened the door holding a can of beer in his hand. He looked at Rethabile.

“Shouldn’t you be on your way home?”

Rethabile looked at Agang. “Thank you.”

Atang looked at Agang, Batang smiled and hugged him tightly. Agang turned and got in his car then drove out.

“Are you going to let me in or should I just sit here?”

“You can sit there.”

She nodded then sat down on the veranda, her feet on the pavement.

“When you want me to come in, you will come and take me in.”

Batang looked at his sister then at Atang.

“Are we-we-we sitting outside?”

“Your sister wants to sit outside.. let’s go in.”

Rethabile looked at Atang and looked at her feet remaining seated as he walked in his house.

In Shakawe, Elang called Rethabile after cleaning Thabi’s room and washing her blankets.

“What do you want?”

“Thank God you are ok. I was so scared. I didn’t sleep last night. How are you feeling?”

“I want nothing to do with you. You are a poisonous plant in my life and I have been letting you grow not knowing I am poisoning myself. I want you to stay far away from me, this friendship can go to hell for all I care. I am fine alone, I don’t need you, I never did. I want you far from me. Never call me ever again! From here I am blocking you!”

“Thabi, is this because of our fight? This is not the first time we fight, I am sorry for the things I said, I-“

“Go to hell with your apology! Stay away from me selfish dumb

bitch, nyla.”

“Thabi-“

“Don’t call me ever again. Go and look for your next victim because I am done!”

She hung up. Elang looked at the phone sadly. She finished off cleaning the rest of the house then walked out and took Rethabile’s dry sheets in the house. She put them on the bed then walked out and locked the door.

She put the keys where Rethabile always kept and walked out. A tear rolled down, she quickly wiped it and continued walking home.

Farai drove past her then reversed. “Hi...”

Elang looked over. “Hi.”

“Is Thabi home?”

“Ng ng.”

“I have been trying to call her but her phone is not going through.”

“She went to Gaborone with her boyfriend. I don’t know when she will be back.”

Farai sighed sadly. “Thanks.”

He took a U-turn while Elang walked. He drove besides her.

“Can I give you a lift?”

Elang smiled. “I am almost home. It’s ok.”

“Jump in. I will drop you off.”

“Thank you.”

Elang got in then he drove to her house. Elang smiled. “Thank you.”

“You are welcome.”

She smiled then stepped out while he drove away.

In Gaborone, Keemi held her phone talking to her uncle.

“What do you mean pregnant.”

“They want to pay damages. I have said yes and told them to come next weekend.”

“Rethabile is a child! What man slept with a child and decided to impregnate her? It must be the man who raped her. I will not allow it! Not ever!”

“Raped her?”

“Yes. If it’s him, we are reporting him.”

“Keemi what are you talking about? You are all over the place. The family I am talking about are a very organized family and they are very rich. Their son impregnated our child and he is taking responsibility for it, he is not denying the baby and that’s what matters. If she is pregnant then there is nothing we can do than accept the situation.”

“She is just a child. That’s why I wanted to stay with her. I am taking her under my wing.”

“Are you taking her brother too?”

“No. My brother will take him and that’s final. I am going to Shakawe.”

“The damages are still going to be paid. I am not sure of their plans, they might also pay magadi “

“Over my dead body! That will not happen! Not when I am alive!”

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Yours Truly

#22

Atang gave Batang his plate of food just as someone knocked on the door. He sighed and walked over, he looked at his helper's daughter.

She smiled. "Mr. Daniel.."

"Hi... uh?"

She smiled. "Kelebogile. Uh mama had to back home for my cousin's wedding. I am here to clean and wash your clothes."

"Kelly right?"

Kelly smiled. "Yes."

"Come in."

He moved from the door then Kelly walked in. Atang looked at Rethabile who was sleeping still sitting on the veranda.

"Thabi!"

She remained still. He walked over and shook her.

"Rethabile!"

She slowly woke up. He sighed.

"Come in."

She bit her lower lip and stood up still a bit drowsy from her

medication. Atang looked at the blood stain on her dress. Rethabile turned and looked at her dress realizing he was staring. She swallowed staring at the blood stain. She looked at where she had been sitting.

“I will clean it.”

“I will do it. Go and take a bath.”

She tearfully looked at him. “I am sorry.”

“Go down the passage, the last door to your left. There is an ensuite in the room. Use my things.”

She tried to touch him but he moved back.

“You will find something to wear in the wardrobe.”

She walked inside the house then looked at the woman inside the house. She turned and looked at Atang.

“Who’s she?”

“Go and bath.”

A tear rolled down then she walked to his room. She closed the door sniffing and put her hands on her face crying silently. She cried for a while then walked to the bathroom and took off her clothes. She stood under the shower and opened the water.

Cold water sprayed all her body that she tensed but she remained still then slowly sat down on the tiled floor, her head between her legs. She stared at the blood get washed away going down the drain.

Pain choked her, she broke down crying in his bathroom, the shower swallowing her cries.

Atang mopped the blood stain then walked in his house and looked at Kelly.

“You know where everything is right?”

She turned to him, he looked like the whole world was sitting on top of his head. She could tell he wasn't alright or maybe it was just her. He often looked scary to her but not today. She nodded.

“Yes.”

“Ok.”

He walked to his bedroom holding his can of beer. She looked at the kid who was staring at her, Kelly smiled and waved.

He smiled back and waved. Kelly walked to the guest room and put her bag on the bed. Her phone rang, she quickly took it out.

“Mama..”

“Kelly, are you there yet? It's 8 o'clock.”

“Yes mama.”

“Ok. Please clean properly. Clean every corner of the house. Make sure his clothes are clean. Check if there is still food in the fridge,

if there is any, it's ruined. Throw it out and cook something fresh. You have been to that house with me a lot, you know what he likes."

"Ok."

"Thank you."

"Eemma."

Kelly put away her phone then took out the cleaning uniform. She took off dress and put on the uniform then started cleaning.

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Atang looked at his father calling while seated on his bed. He picked the phone.

"Hello.."

"Atie... your mother has just told me. I am sorry, I know how excited you were."

"It's fine. It happens."

"What are you thinking we do now?"

"Let's just go ahead and pay the damages. She was carrying my daughter either way so it's only right that I do."

"Ok. How is she?"

"She is fine."

"I am sorry."

"Sure pops."

He hung up and looked at the ensuite door. He got up and walked inside. He looked at her then walked over.

"Rethabile..."

Atang closed the tap and took a towel. He wrapped it around her and picked her up. He put her on the bed and walked over to his wardrobe. He looked at his clothes and took out his tracksuit and an oversized t-shirt.

Rethabile stared at him as he dried her then applied lotion on her body before dressing her up.

"I will get you pads. Do you need anything else?"

"Ng ng..."

"I will be back."

"Do you hate me?"

"Why should I hate you?"

Tears itched her eyes. "I was scared. I was so scared. I can't even take care of Batang properly. I am only learning. The thought of being a mother scared me. I was also scared of what people would say about me. I feared for my dreams... I am sorry Atang. I am scared that I am losing you. I don't know what I am supposed to do without you. I am so scared I want to hold on to you forever. I know I hurt you. I can see you are hurting. I wish I knew how to make the pain the same way you did for my brother and I. I want

to make you happy. Please tell me what I should do... I will do it. But if there is nothing, it's ok. I will go. I don't want you to hate me because I love you. Do you still love me?"

"I love you but I need space. And so you. I don't hate you. I can never hate you but I need to space."

She bit her lower lip trying to hold on. She nodded.

"Ok. There is an evening bus to Shakawe. Batang and I can take that one."

"Ok. Do you need anything else from the mall?"

"Batang needs some clothes."

"Let's go together. I will wait in the car. He can stay behind with Kelly. He wants to watch TV."

She nodded wiping her tears holding her cry. He looked at her. She pressed her lips together with her other hand on her mouth.

"I am not breaking up with you. I just need space. That's all. I want to deal with this on my own."

She nodded. "Ok."

He walked out. Rethabile wiped her tears and stood up in the oversized tracksuit. She folded the waistband of his sweatpants a couple of times then also the bottoms of the pants. She put on the shoes she had gotten at the hospital and walked out holding her phone. She looked at Batang who seemed happy in front of the TV.

"Batang... I am coming. We are going to get you some clothes."

When we come back, we are going home ok?"

He looked at her and sadly nodded. Rethabile sighed and walked out to his car. She got in then he reversed and drove off.

Her phone rang in her hands.

"Aunty..."

"Rethabile, where are you?"

She swallowed. "Ma?"

"Where are you?"

"I am at home."

"So you have now become a liar huh? Busy sleeping with grown men and getting pregnant? Your mother is turning in her grave! You have embarrassed this family Rethabile! Now I see why you didn't want to come with me, it was so you can do all your nonsense in my sister's house disrespecting her. This is why you lost that baby! I am coming to that man's house and we are going home! Your uncle will be taking Batang and that's that!"

"No one will separate my brother and I. I am Batang's legal guardian and I will decide what happens with him. I am sorry you feel I have embarrassed this family but no one is taking Batang from me. I am not going anywhere with you so don't bother yourself."

"Rethabile-"

"Good bye Aunty. Don't scream so much, you have high blood pressure. We don't want you dying on us."

Yours Truly

#23

At Game City Mall, Atang pushed the trolley behind Rethabile while she walked in front.. she stopped then took some jeans, she looked at them and searched for Batang's size. She checked the price tag and quickly put them back. She continued walking.

Atang pushed the trolley and picked the pants then put them in the trolley. Rethabile picked some shorts, she looked at the price then took Batang's size and turned to the trolley. She frowned at the pants she had left behind.

"That's too expensive, I will get this instead."

"It's ok. He will like the trouser."

"But it's too expensive."

"It's ok. I am paying. He needs two t-shirts."

She took a deep breath and put the shorts inside before turning and continuing walking. She picked two t-shirts and threw them in the trolley. Atang took an Iron man t-shirt and put it inside with white sneakers.

He looked at her. "Do you want something?"

Rethabile shook her head. "No. You got me enough. Let's go and pay."

She led him to the cashier. He took out his card. The cashier

looked at him.

“P634.55.”

“I am swiping.”

The male cashier looked at Rethabile. Atang looked at the cashier.

“O bata go njela mmabo laitaka? (Do you want my woman?)”

The cashier laughed uncomfortably. “Nyaa. (No.)”

“Yaanong keng o mo leba nkare o bata go mo tsaya ne mister? (Then why are you looking at her as if you want her?)”

“I am sorry. I was just...”

“O seka wa tola o leba banyana barona yalo. O ta kgobala. (Don’t ever look at our woman like that. You will get hurt.)”

The man behind Atang laughed. “Bafana ba ba nyatsa batho mme ene mmabo o montle gore. O mo tsware ka matsetseleko. (These guys underestimate people your woman is too beautiful. Treat her well.)”

Rethabile looked down shyly as Atang punched his password. He turned to the man smiling.

“Nna mo motho wame o ka swa. (When it comes to my woman you will die.)”

The man laughed. “Don’t sorry sir. Re utule. (We heard.)”

Atang smiled getting the plastic with Batang’s clothes, he put his arm around Rethabile’s waist and walked out with her.

“Are you sure you don’t want anything?”

“I am fine. Thank you.”

“Don’t you want to plait your hair?”

“I will find someone at home to do my hair. You don’t have to.”

“I will send you the money for your hair.”

He walked out with her then opened the door for her. She got in the Amarak. He closed the door and put the plastic at the backseat.

“I am coming. Two minutes.”

Rethabile watched him walk back in the mall. The man from the clothing shop approached and knocked on her window.

She rolled it down and looked at him. “Dumelang.”

“Hi, what’s your name?”

“Rethabile.”

“Who’s that guy to you? Your baby daddy?”

“My boyfriend.”

“Cool guy, really cool guy. Can I get your number?”

“I have a boyfriend.”

“Yeah I know. But you are not married. You never know who your soulmate is.”

He took Rethabile’s phone from her hands and swiped the screen

unlocking it then paged himself. He smiled giving back the phone.

“I am Natefo but call me Tefo. We will talk.”

He smiled and walked to his car. Rethabile watched in shock as he got inside his car and drove off. She looked at her phone and swallowed.

Her phone vibrated. She opened the message.

Unsaved number: You are really pretty.

Rethabile quickly deleted the message and number then sighed waiting. Atang walked over minutes later. He got in the car holding a cone of ice cream. He handed the ice cream to her.

“This is yours.”

Rethabile smiled. “Thank you.”

“I got you this. I just thought you might like them.”

Rethabile took the shopping bag and took out a box. She opened it and looked at the sparkling heels. She gasped.

“Attie...!”

“You like them?”

She smiled. “They are beautiful. I love them... I love you.”

Her phone vibrated again. She opened the message from Tefo and blocked his number then deleted the message.

Rethabile put away her phone and put the shoes at the backseat. She leaned over and kissed him. He hesitantly kissed her back

and quickly pulled away.

“Put on your seatbelt.”

Rethabile put on the seatbelt and leaked her ice cream as he started the car and drove back home. Rethabile walked inside the house finishing her ice cream. She looked around wondering where her brother was.

She relaxed listening to him laugh from the other room. Atang walked inside the house.

“Ta kwano. (Come here.)”

He walked to his bedroom. She followed behind and looked at him. Atang pulled her closer and kissed her squeezing her breast while pushing her against the wall.

She flinched as he squeezed her sore breast. He took off the hoodie and T-shirt. He stared at her thick breast then took off the bra.

He squeezed them again, Rethabile screamed at the pain.

“Atang!”

“You are making noise. O bata Batang a utwa? (You want Batang to hear?)”

She looked at him her heart pounding. He kissed her again, this time roughly while squeezing her thick butt. He took off his t-shirt staring at her fearful eyes.

“Kneel...”

She knelt down. Atang unzipped his pants and took out his dick. He rubbed himself on her lips.

“Open.”

She opened her mouth, Atang pushed his dick in her warm mouth. Her stomach lifted as he pushed way deeper inside, she gagged moving backwards.

“I am going to fuck your mouth since it can't be your pussy. If you try fighting me, I will fuck your ass. Keep your hands on your thighs.”

She swallowed staring at him, there was just something about the way he was staring at her, it wasn't the usual and it made her scared.

Atang held her head and – #removed.

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Rethabile's turned as she failed to breathe with his dick deep inside her mouth. Tears rolled down while he continued fucking her mouth, she gagged pinching her thick thighs. He grunted shooting his load in her mouth. He pushed deeper releasing in her mouth. She pushed him back, her stomach content coming right out. Atang moved back watching her vomit on the floor.

She down breathing heavily. Atang sighed relieved then he helped her up feeling a bit guilty. He touched her breast and kissed her forehead.

“I am sorry. Come...”

He took her to the bathroom. Rethabile leaned down by the sink washing her mouth. He turned to him, he kissed her lips and picked her up. He walked with her to the bedroom and laid her down then laid beside her pulling her in his arms.

He held her tightly. Rethabile put her arm around him snuggling even closer.

Outside, Keemi drove through Atang's gate and parked beside him while Zaza sat on the passenger seat.

"Mama, I think we should-"

Keemi stepped out of her car and marched inside the house angrily while yelling.

"Rethabile! Rethabile come out now! Rethabile!"

Zaza walked in. "Mama-"

"Rethabile!"

Atang walked from the bedroom shirtless.

"Hey! Stop yelling in my house. Are you smoking?"

"Atang this is my mother and you won't talk to her like-"

"Hey Voetsek wena! Who asked you? Get the fuck out of my house. La ntwaela lona!"

Keemi's heart raced as she stared at him.

"I said get going kana ga ke utwale?"

Keemi walked out taking out her phone and called the police. Atang closed the door. Zaza put her hand on her chest while her heart beat way faster than normal.

Her mother spoke on the phone. "Hello? My niece has been kidnapped. I need your help."

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Yours Truly

#24

Rethabile finished cleaning the floor then walked towards the door just as Atang walked in.

“Your aunt is outside. She is here for you.”

“I will talk to her.”

“Ok.”

She walked outside and looked at Zaza then her aunt. Keemi looked at her then ran over and wrapped her arms around her.

Rethabile looked at Zaza knowing it was all her doing, not that it mattered anyway.

“Aunty..”

“I am taking you home.”

Rethabile sighed. “I am going to my mother’s house. I am not staying here nor am I going with you. I appreciate the fact that you care about me so much but I am going home.”

“Thabi-“

“Batang is coming with me.”

“Rethabile, your mother wanted you to stay with me.”

“My mother wanted you to take my brother and I together. You couldn’t do it. You want to take one and leave the other, that is not

going to happen. I will never let that happen. I respect you. I don't want to be disrespectful."

"Rethabile, I am trying to help you here."

"I know but I don't need your help at the moment. I am fine at the moment. I will tell you when I need help."

"You know what ngwananyana, I am sick and tired of chasing after you like a headless chicken. You are ungrateful but let's see where your ungratefulness will land you. You think life is easy akere? I am going, if you don't come with me then you are dead to me."

"Drive safely."

Zaza looked at Rethabile in shock. "This is going to end in tears I am telling you and you will have no one to turn to than my mother."

"What ended in tears was you wanting my man then going after his twin brother thinking you will get the same results. I am not disrespectful. Don't push me. Your mother is about to fall, please take her home. I won't turn to your mother who let her husband rape you."

Keemi gasped then looked at Zaza as Rethabile walked back in the house closing the door behind her. She thoughtfully walked to Atang's bedroom. She picked her phone from the bed while he showered then went on Facebook and posted pictures of her work on her page.

She smiled as someone liked the post immediately. Her phone

vibrated as someone sent her a WhatsApp message. She opened the message.

Customer: Hi dear, just saw your post on Facebook. I have a wedding coming up in two weeks, my designer o ndisapointile. I need a dress for myself and my girls. We are 7 in total.

The person sent the type of dressed she wanted for her bridesmaids then herself. Rethabile zoomed in the pictures then replied.

Rethabile: Hi, I can do that but since you are only giving me two weeks, I am going to charge you more.

Customer: Money is not a problem. Ke bokae deposit?

Rethabile; Your dress is P3000. The ones for your girls is P1800 each.

Custom: Perfect. How much is the deposit?"

Rethabile's heart pounded as she typed.

Rethabile: 7k.

Customer: please forward your bank details. I will make payment then send you all our measurements.

Rethabile: ok.

She forwarded her orange money details as Atang walked out of the bathroom. He looked at her.

"Are they gone?"

"Yes. What time does our bus leave?"

"I will call someone and ask."

"Ok."

His phone started ringing beside her. Rethabile picked it and looked at Elang's number. She stared at his phone for a while then handed him his phone.

"Elang is calling. You talk to Elang?"

"I spoke to her when I wanted her to check up on you. I was worried."

"So what are you discussing now? Akere she knows I am here with you."

"I don't know why she is calling Rethabile."

"Answer her. I also want to hear what you two talk about."

"I am not going to answer her because I have nothing to discuss with her."

"I want to hear what she has to say. You should answer her."

"Rethabile-"

"I am going to get my brother ready."

Atang answered and put her on loud speaker. "Yah?"

"Hi. Is Thabi with you?"

"Yes."

"Can I please speak to her?"

Atang gave her the phone then dressed up.

“Hello?”

“Hi, o mbokile?”

“Yes.”

“Aoo mma, over such a small issue? I am sorry. I know I hurt you but you know I didn’t mean it. Thamma wena I will wash your clothes for two months. Unblock me, I have news to tell you.”

“I don’t like your behavior sometimes. Ke bone gore o twaetsi gore ke didimetsi but I am tired of it. I am going to unblock you but if you try me again I am going to cut you off for good. I mean it. Ga ke lelope.”

“Loud and clear. Unblock me fast so I can I tell you.”

“And let this be the last time you call Atang. Gaketsi gore le discussa eng mme ga ke rate.”

“Sorry.”

“Bye.”

Elang hung up. Rethabile looked at him as he finished up dressing.

“Please block Elang.”

“OK.”

“Where are you going?”

“I am going to see a friend. I will see you later.”

“If you ever go and impregnate someone outside this relationship

because I aborted the baby, I will never forgive you e bile I will dump you.”

“You see that mouth of yours-“

“I am telling you what’s going to happen. I am saying it today Atang so that you know. Go and try it. I am forgiving person but I will never forgive you for that and I will leave you and never take you back. If I do it won’t be out of love.”

He looked at her silently. “Emma, ke utule. Ke tsamaye?”

“You can go.”

She took her phone and opened the message from Orange money. She smiled happily then went on WhatsApp. She looked at two more messages from different customers and replied to them while he stared at her.

He walked out and chuckled driving out.

Keemi parked the car at Zaza’s workplace.

“So you have going around telling people that you were having an affair with my husband?”

“You mean that your husband was raping me. Somehow I am glad she refused to go with you. It would be a shame if you took her to your husband so he can have his way with her since you can’t.”

“Zachariah!”

“Truth hurts. Bye.”

Zaza stepped out and walked inside the building picking Agang’s call.

“Hi.”

“I think we should call it quits. I don’t like a woman who can’t mind her own business.”

“What?”

“I am beginning to think that you probably still want my brother and I really don’t care but I am one with you.”

“So you were using me?”

“No. You wanted this as much. Don’t be dramatic. If you didn’t want this then you should have said so.”

“You and your brother-“

Agang hung up. Zaza stared at her phone in disbelief.

Later that day, Rethabile got in the bus with Batang and sat by the window. Atang looked at her.

“I will call you.”

“Ok.”

“Go for the driving school lessons. When you move this side, you are taking your license.”

“Eerra.”

“I love you.”

She smiled blushing. “I love you too.”

He leaned over and baby kissed her then turned to Batang.

“Bye Buddy..”

“Bye.”

The bumped fists. Atang smiled at Rethabile and got off the bus while she stared with a smile.

The bus slowly drove out of bus rank as she looked at her man walking towards his car.

THREE MONTHS LATER...

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Afternoon. I am sorry I am late. First day back at work was hectic. The morning insert is coming up.

Yours Truly

#25

Three Months Later...

At UB, Rethabile walked out of the premises holding her student ID card and her time table in her hands. She got to the bus stop where Batang was waiting with their bags.

Rethabile put the time table and student Identity card in Batang's school bag then dialed Atang again.

"This is a free announcement from-"

She hung up worriedly looking at the time. Tears filled her eyes as she sat down waiting for Elang. Minutes passed then Elang walked over.

"Hey, did you get hold of him?"

Rethabile shook her head. "No."

"Kana nna I got accommodation and I am sharing so I can't take you and Batang to the room because I am not sure who I am sharing with."

"We won't be there for long. I am sure he is traveling that's why his phone is off."

"Thabi mma I don't want to be kicked out of the room. I don't have a rich boyfriend to give me money and I won't have anywhere to

go when things turn south for me. Why can't you just find a house? Akere you have money."

"It's ok. I will find something."

"Let me help you look on Facebook. All you need is a room."

"I know. I had found something but..." Rethabile sighed then pressed her phone while Elang sat down and opened her Facebook then started searching for a room to rent near UB.

Rethabile called the number she had saved days back. It rang twice.

"Hello?" A female voice answered.

"Dumelang. My name is Rethabile. I saw your house on Facebook days back. Is it still available?"

"Not really. I am waiting for someone who just called me to make payment. He had called in the morning but if you can beat him to it, you can take it."

"Can I come and see it? I have cash ready."

"Yes. Hurry."

"Eemma, thank you. How do I get there?"

Rethabile listened as the woman directed her then hung up.

"I found a room. I am going to see it then pay."

"How much is it?"

"950."

“Fair. I don’t understand, why didn’t you leave Batang with your mother’s uncle?”

“Elang-“

“I am just saying, now besides your school, you have to worry about him. What’s going to happen to him when you go wherever you want to study abroad. Will you take him with? You are only a student Thabi. As much as you want to honor your mother’s wishes, keep in mind that you are also a child and you need help with Batang.”

“I don’t mind staying with my brother. It makes me feel better knowing I am with him and that he is safe.”

“What are you going to do when you go overseas?”

“I will cross that bridge when I get to it.”

“What will happen when you have evening classes? This is not Shakawe where you can just lock him inside the house. This is Gaborone. Children get kidnapped in Gaborone. A lot of things happen in Gaborone. I am not trying to be negative but I trying to make you see. He is going to need clothes. Uniform. Ngwana was tura Thabi.”

“So you wanted me to leave him? I will never leave my brother as long as I can take care of him. He is my child. Let me worry about his future. You can’t relate to me because you don’t have siblings. Maybe if you did you would understand me. Until I go abroad, I will stay with him. I am going.”

“You are never going to enjoy varsity life because you are now a

mother.”

Thabile got her bag and stopped a cab.

“Special...”

“Lets go.”

The cab driver stepped out and put the bags in the boot.

“Batang let’s go.”

They got in car while Elang watched. The cab drove off, Elang walked back inside the school premises in her short dress and went to her room. Her roommate had arrived. She turned from her mirror holding her makeup brush and looked at Elang smiling.

“Hi, I am Koketso.”

Elang smiled back looking at the colored girl. “Hi. I am Elang.”

Koketso giggled. “I thought I was going to have weirdo as a roommate. I am going to a party ko block 5. Let’s go together.”

“Uh, I don’t know anyone.”

Koketso laughed rolling her eyes. “You don’t have to know anyone to attend a party. You just look cute and sexy.”

Elang sat on the bed watching as Koketso ran a red lipstick on her lips.

“Some rich Nigerian guy threw a party. If you want free money, you will come with me. Where are you from?”

“Shakawe.”

“Heelang! So far. Have you ever been in Gaborone?”

“Yes but to just visit.”

“You know what? You are coming with me. I am going to teach you Gabs life moghel. You are going to enjoy yourself.”

Elang smiled excitedly. Her phone started ringing, she looked at Farai calling then put it on silent staring at Koketso.

In Block 8, Rethabile paid the cab then stepped out. The cab driver got her bags staring at the body trapped in her body hugging dress that hugged her thickness. With her braids tied in a bun, he could see her round face clearly. She smiled.

“Thank you.”

“You are welcome.”

She opened the gate then pushed her big suitcase inside while Batang followed behind her. She walked to the big house and knocked on the door.

She looked at her brother, he was unusually quiet. The door opened then a lady smiled her hand over her pregnant belly.

“Hi...”

Rethabile stepped back smiling back. “My name is Rethabile. We just spoke.”

The lady smiled. "I am Angela but call me mmagwe Palesa. The other guy just called begging me not to give anyone the house. Come and see, is that your son?"

"He is my brother."

"Ok. My name is Angela. My husband is not yet home, he's still at work. You will meet him later. When is your furniture coming?"

Rethabile followed behind. "I don't have any. I am student."

Mmagwe Palesa turned and looked at Rethabile. "You are a student? You look older."

She opened the door to the servants quarters. "This is it. It's relatively big and there is no geyser."

Rethabile walked in the tiny room passing the sink just outside the room and smiled. "It's fine. It will be my brother and I."

"Ok. You have your own electricity. Your water is included in the rent. Your sink is outside."

"Ok."

"There is no ceiling or fitted wardrobe. That's why the room is P800. I understand you are a student so I will need my money every third day of each month."

"Eemma."

Mmagwe Palesa smiled. "That's all. If you need anything else, I will be at the main house but you can also call me. My husband and I are not noisy people and we don't like noisy people or party people. Our house is not a shebeen."

“Eemma.”

“I know you probably have friends but your friends should know when to come. We don’t want strangers doing back and forth here. I have a daughter and valuables in my house. Some people are thieves. Do you have a boyfriend?”

“Yes.”

“Ok. Then it means you will be using the back gate. There is a small gate behind your house. I think it’s best that way.”

“He has a car.”

“Ke sugar daddy?”

“Ma?”

Mmagwe Palesa looked at her body. “I hope you are not one of those girls mma who date older men for money.”

“He is not an old man.”

“I hope so because if not I would have to ask you to leave. Anyways, welcome. Do you have the money?”

“Yes.”

Rethabile took out the purse and handed Angie the money. She counted it and smiled.

“Ok. You can settle in. We will talk later.”

“Eemma thank you.”

She walked out. Rethabile sighed then looked around. She opened

the suitcase and took out a blanket then sat down with Batang staring at the ceiling.

She picked her phone, her heart skipped as Atang called back.

“Hello?”

“Hey, I just landed. Are you still at UB?”

She took a deep breath listening to him, his voice deep and husky. She blinked tearfully.

“No. I found a small room. I am with Batang.”

“Ke eta. Pack your things we are going home.”

“I thought you blocked me. You have not been talking to me.”

“I said I needed space to heal. Send me your location.”

“I had already paid rent.”

“You will get your money back. I am coming.”

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Yours Truly

#26

Atang drove in the yard talking on the phone then parked in front of the servant's quarter. Rethabile got up and looked at him through the window as he stepped out of his car putting on his cap with his phone on his ear.

Rethabile turned to Batang who was now sleeping. He didn't seem that excited about the move though she knew him seeing Atang would set the mood right.

She turned to him and smiled as he continued talking on his phone. She opened the door and walked out.

Atang turned and looked at her as she stood by the door. He walked over.

"We will talk. Let me attend to something."

He looked at her, she was thicker and the dress hugged every part of her body. He wrapped his arms around her pulling her closer. She closed her eyes hugging him breathing in his cologne.

"We will talk. I will call you. Sure."

He hung up and slid his phone in his pocket. He held her tightly. Tears filled her eyes. She closed her eyes as a tear rolled down her cheek.

He kissed her neck squeezing her body. Mmagwe Palesa walked over pushing her big belly forward while holding the lease

agreement.

She passed the black Amarok with the big tires. She carefully looked at it then walked over to the door. She paused staring at Rethabile hugging a man. She took a deep breath approaching.

“Rethabile...”

Rethabile moved back and looked at her. Atang looked at her too.

“I brought the lease agreement.”

“She won’t be staying here.”

Mmagwe Palesa looked up at him. “What?”

“She won’t be staying here. I am taking her with.”

“Uh but-“

“Akere nothing was signed as yet? She has changed her mind.”

Mmagwe Palesa looked at Rethabile. “If you knew your boyfriend was going to-“

Atang shook his head. “Talk to me if you have an issue. I think I was loud enough.”

Rethabile looked at him. There was something about the way he spoke especially when his mind had already been made. He didn’t raise his voice, he remained calm but firm.

Rethabile looked at him smiling as he took control of the situation. Mmagwe Palesa blinked then sighed.

“I will get her money.”

She turned and walked away. Atang turned to Rethabile and stared at her chubby cheeks. He leaned over and kissed her. Rethabile closed her eyes standing on her toes kissing him back. His hands went down to her butt. He squeezed thick behind. Rethabile put her hands on his chest feeling his erection on her stomach.

Rethabile looked down. "Batang is going to be happy to see you. He thought you had left for good."

Atang bit her lower lip smiling. "You look beautiful."

She smiled. "I am fat."

"Who told you that? You are beautiful.. I love you like this."

He caressed her cheek then walked inside the house. She took a deep breath and followed him inside. He looked at her bag.

"That's all you got?"

Batang quickly woke up hearing his voice. He raised his head and looked at Atang, a smile covering his face..

He leaped and jumped in his arms hugging him. Atang smiled.

"Hey buddy!"

"I-I missed you!"

"I missed you too."

Rethabile folded the blanket on the floor. She put it back in the bag while Batang chatted happily with Atang. She walked out as Mmagwe Palesa stood by the door.

“Here is your man. I hope I never see you again. I should be charging you for wasting my time. I hope you didn’t make my house dirty. Someone who’s serious about the house is coming so please leave now.”

Rethabile took the money back. “I am sorry for my wasting your time.”

Atang walked out with the bag while Batang held his bag.

“Lets go.”

Rethabile smiled at mmagwe Palesa. “Its clean. You can check. Thank you.”

Atang put the bag at the backseat. Batang jumped in behind his seat. Rethabile got in the car then Atang closed the door while she put on the seatbelt. She looked at Batang.

“Are you happy?”

Batang looked at her. “I m-m-miss our real h-house but I-I-I am happy.”

“I miss our old house too. But we are going to stay here till I am finished at school.”

Atang got in the car then paused.

“Come and drive. I spoke to your instructor. He says you are good.”

He stepped out. Rethabile took off her seatbelt then swapped seats. Atang looked at her as he adjusted the car seat moving closer to the steering wheel. She started the car shaking then

reversed slowly till she was out. She joined the road and drove off slowly stepping on the accelerator holding the steering wheel with both hands while staring ahead.

He took out his phone and took a picture laughing.

“Babe you know you can just relax. There is no need to drive like that.”

“Where do I turn?”

He laughed. “Turn right.”

Rethabile’s phone rang from Batang’s bag. Batang took it out and smiled staring at Farai.

“Thabi, Farai is ca-ca-calling.”

Atang turned. “Let me see buddy.”

Rethabile swallowed as he took the phone. He picked and put on loud speaker.

“Hi Thabi... are you with Elang? I have been trying to call her but she is not picking.”

“No. She found accommodation at UB. I left her there.”

“Can you please call her, I am worried.”

“Ok.”

“Thanks.”

He hung up. Rethabile stopped by the red traffic light and leaned looking at him. Atang sighed.

“You are still friends with her?”

“She is my only friend.”

“I don’t like her.”

She looked at him then turned to the road in silence.

In Block 5, Koketso walked inside a house with Elang behind her, both girls in mini dresses. She looked at everyone dressed in white just like them and smiled. Koketso dragged her to the bar.

“Two glasses of champagne please...”

“Sure!”

The bar tender poured them champagne. Koketso handed the other glass to Elang then laughed.

“Cheers to good life!”

Elang laughed sipping her wine. A Nigerian hit song started playing. Koketso screamed joining the crowd while dancing. Elang sipped more of the champagne watching while moving her body from side to side.

Her phone silently rang in her purse while she finished her drink then got another one.

Koketso walked over and dragged her in the crowd while

someone groped her butt. She turned to look but with the crowd, she couldn't even see who it was. A South African amapiano song played. Koketso screamed raising her glass up while singing loudly as she danced.

They danced for a while and got more drinks getting drunk. Koketso dragged her to the toilet and took out her weed then a page from my the bible. She rolled the cigarette and lit it up.

Someone knocked on the door. Koketso opened. Two thin men walked in holding their glasses of whisky in their hands.

"Ra kopa, why are you hiding with the good things?"

Koketso laughed taking another puff before handing the cigarette to one of the guys. They exchanged the cigarette and finally handed it to Elang. Not wanting to seem out of place, she took it and puffed once then blew out the smoke. Koketso smiled and Elang took another puff like a pro then blew the smoke in the air.

Koketso rolled another cigarette as they all sat on the floor getting high while sipping their alcohol.

Koketso started laughing with the other guy lying on the bathroom floors while the other one kissed Elang touching her breast. His hand went underneath her dress then he shifted her panty touching her pussy. Elang weakly pushed his hand laughing out of it. The guy looked at Koketso and his friend.

"I am taking her home."

Koketso nodded laughing at nothing. The guy helped Elang and walked out with her taking her to his car.

He jumped in and drove to his house while Elang fell asleep beside her. He parked his car at his house and helped her inside his house. Elang giggled as he put her on the bed drunk too. He got on top of her kissing her taking out his hard dick. He pushed her panty to the side as she fell asleep. He -removed.

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Yours Truly

#27

At a two bed apartment in Gaborone, Rethabile looked around then looked at Atang.

“You now stay here?”

“No. You will be staying here with Batang.”

Rethabile’s mouth dropped. “I can’t afford this house Atang! It looks expensive. A room is enough for me. That’s what I can afford. This is too big.”

“I am the one who’s paying for it.”

“Thank you for this but I am not going to stay here and have you pay rent for me, rent which I can’t even afford. What if we break up or what if you die? What will I do?”

“I am not dying and we are not breaking up. And I am not the one paying for this house. BDF pays for it. I am trying to make things easier for you.”

Tears filled her eyes. “I want to be able to take care of my brother and I should things not work out between you and I.”

“And why wouldn’t they work out? What’s going on?”

“Nothing... I am just...” She looked up blinking. A tear rolled down.

“Its too big.”

“Its enough. Even if we break up, I will still let you stay.”

“And if your new girlfriend is not happy with that? If I were you new girlfriend I wouldn’t be happy with that.”

Atang put his hands on her waist and pulled her closer and kissed her. He ran his hands all over her body as his dick hardened in his pants.

He took her hand and placed it on his dick. Rethabile put her hand inside his pants and touched his weapon. He grunted in her mouth squeezing her body. She let go then sighed.

“I am on my period.”

“What?”

“I am on my period.”

Batang walked from the bedrooms smiling.

“Thabi th-there are beds!”

Rethabile turned and walked to the bedrooms walking past the two couches in the small sitting room. She opened the first room and looked at the single bed and the fitted wardrobes. She walked to the other room and looked at the big bed figuring that was her room.

She slowly sat down thinking. Atang opened the door and walked in. He closed the door behind him locking it. She looked at him as he advanced towards her.

“I am not going to stay here. I will look for a house I can afford but I will take the furniture with. I understand you are trying to help but I want to have my own place, my own house. I want to be free and

stress free. I will stay here while I look for a room to stay in. I appreciate your help, I know you want to make things easier for me. But you already do. You do more than enough already. I can't accept this. I am sorry."

Atang pushed her down so she laid on the bed, her hips spreading over. He slowly took off her dress, Rethabile raised her body so he could pull it out. Atang looked at her thighs then her hips. His eyes moved to her stomach then her breast trapped in her bra. He unhooked the bra and touched them as his precum oozed wetting his pants.

He looked at her thighs rubbing against one another, she still had the pregnancy fat even though she had lost the baby. He parted her thighs and looked at her panty noticing her pad. He looked at her.

"What did I say about these panties?"

"I am on my period. I am not comfortable wearing the other ones."

"Then find the ones you are comfortable with. When I am around, I don't want to see them."

He pulled them out together with her pad. He got on top of her kissing her while unzipping his pants. He rubbed himself on her while touching her body.

Her pussy got wet as he continued rubbing himself on her, her hormones heightening. He kissed her neck then looked at her.

"I missed you..."

She put her hands inside his shirt and touched his skin. Atang took off her t-shirt and kissed her harder pushing at her entrance.

Rethabile moaned at the intrusion flinching. She pushed his chest.

“Atang... I want us to get tested first.”

Atang held her waist pushing in. Her pussy slowly stretched open as he slid in his weapon.

“Fuck I love you!”

He gently pushed inside blocking her path with his pipe. He looked at her and kissed her squeezing her breast. He kissed her neck.

“Keep it down for me ok?”

She nodded taking multiple deep breaths. He..

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Rethabile screamed in the bathroom holding the sink while staring at herself on the mirror. She closed her eyes tightly letting it out squatting. Atang continued pounding into her then grunted offloading. He slid it out kissing her neck while her legs vibrated, her knees weak.

He turned her around and picked her up. She quickly wrapped her legs around holding him tightly.

He parted her butt cheeks pushing her down his semi erection. She moaned weakly in his ear exhausted.

He held her against the wall fucking her with deep fast thrusts.

That same night, Elang slowly opened her eyes and looked around while the thin man's brother fucked her. She slowly slipped out of conscious unable to even make out anything.

The man grunted enjoying every thrust into her tightness. His butt clenched as he went faster moaning. He threw his head back feeling his load rushing through his pipe. He stilled spurting out his thick cum inside her then he got off shaking.

The thin man walked in and looked at his brother laughing.

"Go sharp yaanong, you have been at it go lekane."

The brother laughed then off bed pulling up his pants then walked out. The thin man looked at Elang's naked body while her pussy leaked. He picked up his t-shirt and wiped her then took off his pants again. He flipped her then parted her butt cheeks staring at her butthole. He had always wondered how it felt and it looked so tight. He stroked his dick and pushed in forcefully glad he had injected her with a sedative.

The following morning Rethabile opened the fridge and looked at the food. She smiled realizing this man had went all out for her.

She found herself thinking twice of finding her own place when she could save that money but then again, the future was an uncertain tomorrow. She took a few things then started frying a couple of things while singing.

Her phone rang on the kitchen counter. She looked at it then picked Farai's call.

"Thabi?"

"Hey."

"Is he there?"

"No.."

"Ok, how is it there?"

She smiled. "The school is huge and beautiful. I got my timetable. I am ready for class now."

"And accommodation?"

"I am going to look for something."

"You are staying with him now?"

"Yes."

"Ok. Be careful. If you need anything, call me. Call me anytime. I will be there for anything."

"Farai-"

"I am saying it as a friend."

Rethabile smiled. "Ok. Thank you. Are you still looking for Elang?"

“No. I called to talk to you but the way you answered told me you were with him.”

“I thought you and Elang were getting close.”

“I don’t want her. I love you. We will talk.”

Rethabile put down the phone then picked it and called Elang.

“The number you have-“

Rethabile dropped the call as a car drove in outside followed by a door closing. Seconds later, a lady opened the door in heels. She looked at Rethabile then modeled her way to the bedrooms, her heels echoing on the tiled floors.

“Attie!”

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Yours Truly

#28

“Attie!”

The lady continued calling opening his bedroom door. She looked at him sleeping with a sheet covering his lower body.

“Atang!”

Atang woke up as the lady walked further in the room, her heels making noise. She looked at him smiling.

“Hi...”

Atang frowned. “What are you doing here?”

“I came to meet your person.”

Atang threw a pillow at her. “Nayang get out!”

Nayang laughed. “So rude! Tsoga. (Wake up.)” She picked the pillow and put it on the bed then walked out. She paused standing by the door and turn looking at him.

“You look good.”

“Out!”

Nayang laughed and walked to the sitting room smiling. She looked at Rethabile who was just staring.

“Hi. Are you the maid?”

Rethabile silently looked at her in complete silence then put the fork down and walked to the bedroom. She opened the door and looked at Atang who was putting on his t-shirt.

“Hey babe...”

“Who’s that woman? And please don’t lie to me. “

“That’s Nayang. My uncle’s daughter. She is my cousin.”

Rethabile sighed relieved. “Oh... she’s pretty.”

“Did she say anything to you?”

“No. She just walked in like this place was hers. I thought...”

Atang kissed her. “She is just my cousin. She is the one who actually told me you were catfishing.

Rethabile nodded. “She called me a maid.”

“That’s how she is but I will talk to her. Come, let me introduce you.”

He took her hand and led her to the sitting room. Nayang looked up from her phone and smiled at Atang.

Rethabile looked at her flawless makeup then sighed.

“Nayang, this is my girlfriend, Rethabile. Babe, this is my cousin, Nayang.”

Nayang looked at Rethabile and smiled. “Hi.”

“Hi.”

Nayang got up pulling down her short dress. “Can we talk? In

private.”

Rethabile walked to the kitchen to finish up cooking while Nayang stared. Atang walked outside, she followed behind him and smiled.

“She is fat.”

“She is thick and beautiful. Never call her a maid ever again, even when joking. I don’t like it. No one will disrespect my woman.”

“She is too fat Atang. I think you moved on from Yaone too quickly and settled for whatever you could get your eyes on. Do you even love this girl? Yaone hurt you. You are dealing with a heartbreak and you’ve found the perfect candidate to use.”

“I love Rethabile. Say she is fat one more time.”

Nayang took a deep breath and exhaled deeply. “I am just saying, you were talking to her while she catfished you. You went after her, caught her in her lies and now you love her? I don’t think you love this one. If you needed full time sex to heal you could just gotten that instead of dragging someone into your heartbreak issues. You are going to hurt her.”

“You are not in my heart. You don’t know what I feel. If it was sex, I would have long left her and probably wouldn’t remember her unless she was a relative who made it a mission to always be in my face every single day. What do you want?”

Nayang smiled. “Do I annoy you?”

“You are annoying me right now.”

"I heard you were not flying so I came to see you."

"Ok. Bye. Who told you I was here?"

"Agang."

"My girlfriend stays here. Don't come here again."

He turned and walked back in the house. Nayang got in her car then took her phone and called her sister driving out.

"Naya..."

"I saw Atang's girlfriend. Out of all the previous one, she is the odd one out. You know how Atang likes his women, this time he went and took this fat girl hela was marago a makimakima with neck rolls. It's like he grabbed the first thing he could get his eyes on."

"You mean Rethabile?"

"You know her?"

"Papa told me about her. She is the woman he paid damages for. I wasn't supposed to tell you that. The family kept the issue on the low low. He got her pregnant months back then she had a miscarriage and lost the baby. I saw her picture on Atang's profile picture a while back. I don't know how her body looks but she has the face I won't lie. She is very beautiful."

"You kept this from me? Why?"

"Naya, do realize that because of your little crush on this man, you never like any of the woman he gets in a relationship with? Funny enough how the relationship ends when you and whoever it will

become best friends. Yaone was with Attie for so long while she worked in Jwaneng. He was happy. Then she moved to Gabs. You became friends with her and all of a sudden Yaone is cheating. You need to keep yourself under check because Atang is your brother, that can never change.”

Nayang laughed driving. “Are you serious? I have no crush on Atang. He is my brother. I didn’t tell Yaone to cheat. Maybe she was always cheating on him.”

“Whatever mma, stay away from Rethabile. Gape she is too young to be friends with you.”

“She looks 30.”

“Ng ng... I think 20 or something.”

Nayang laughed. “20? Waitse Yaone did a number on my cousin.”

“Sharp mma!”

“She doesn’t look 20. She is fat and looks older. Ebile I thought she was the maid.”

The sister laughed too. “You are going to hell. Bye.”

She hung up laughing headed to work.

That same morning, Tshelang walked to the bus stop near her house looking at the time. She stood at the bus stop waiting for

her combi. Minutes passed then she moved back to sit on the bench.

Her heart skipped as she saw the girl who was sleeping on the bench, her other hand on the ground. She put her hand on her chest and sighed wondering why someone would just choose to sleep on the bench in such a short dress.

Minutes passed, Tshepang looked again then walked over.

“Hi...”

She remained still.

“Hi!”

She still remained still, Tshepang shook her to wake her up.

“Wake up!”

A combi drove past her as she woke the girl up who seemed way too young. Elang slowly opened her eyes. Tshepang smiled.

“Thank God, are you ok?”

Tshepang helped her sit up. Elang stared into nothing drowsy and confused.

“What’s your name?”

“Elang...”

“Can I call someone to come and pick you up? Are you ok?”

Elang got up as her stomach lifted then hurried to the bin close by and vomited. Her throat burnt as she staggered back to the bench.

Tshepang took out her bottle of water and handed it to her.

Elang took it and drank some water trying to remember what had happened the previous night. Her body hurt so much.

She looked at her handbag then opened it. Her phone was gone.

“I lost my phone.”

“Should I call someone for you?”

“Yes, my friend.”

Tshepang took out her phone and gave it to Elang. Elang dialed Rethabile’s number and put the phone on her ear.

“Hello?”

“Thabi... thank God. I don’t know what happened, I am stranded, did Atang come?”

“Yes, you are stranded?”

“Yes. Can you please come and get me.”

“Stranded where? Aren’t you at the campus?”

“Ng ng... come and help me. I don’t know where I am or how I got here.”

Tshepang whispered. “You are in Tlokweng.”

“Gatwe Tlokweng.”

“I don’t know where that is. Let me ask Atang. Where exactly are you?”

Elang gave the phone back. "Please tell her where exactly I am."

Elang stood up as the black AmaroK parked besides her with Rethabile seated at the front seat while Atang drove. She got in at the back holding her handbag.

"Thank you."

Rethabile looked at her. "What were you doing here?"

"I was with Koketso. My roommate."

"You already made new friends who abandon you on the first day."

"She didn't abandon me."

"Then why were you stranded?"

Elang remained quiet. Minutes later Atang parked his car at UB campus.

"Thank you."

Elang got out of the car. Rethabile stepped out too and looked at her friend.

"Are you ok?"

Tears filled Elang's eyes. "Yesterday at the party, I-

“You went to a party dressed like that?”

“Huh?”

“You look like a prostitute. How do you wear that in public? And you don’t even know anyone to be attending any parties. That’s how those strangers sleep with you then after that someone screams rape.”

“I don’t need to know anyone to attend a party. And I don’t look like a prostitute but if I look like one then you are one. Between you and I you are the one who sleeps with a man for money.”

“You are ungrateful-“

“You said I look like a prostitute! And no one screams rape unless they were raped. Stop talking as if attending a party with people you barely know means people should sleep with you. People go there to have fun not to fuck. And if I scream rape it means I would have gotten raped. Your boyfriend is waiting for you. Bye.”

Elang walked to her room holding her tears. She opened the door then walked in and looked at Koketso who was doing her makeup. She smiled.

“Hi! Where have you been?”

Elang stared at her in shock. “So you let that man take me wherever he took me? You know I didn’t even know him.”

“Heela, I am not a babysitter. I was there to have fun not to look after you. Gape if you didn’t want to go with him, you could have just said no. You wanted to and you want to shift blame. No one

forced you to go to that party.”

Koketso stood up and picked her bag then walked out. Elang put her hands on her face crying remembering bits of the previous night.

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Yours Truly

#29

Atang sat in his car talking to his father while waiting for Rethabile who was buying her sewing material inside a shop.

"I hope you are smart about the things you do for this girl. I like her, don't get me wrong but it will hurt you so much more when the relationship doesn't go the way you expect it to go. And if you impregnate her again, you are marrying her."

"She wouldn't agree. She wants to go abroad for her degree. She won't agree to marriage but maybe this time I will just make sure nothing happens to my child."

"You want to trap her with a baby?"

"I am securing our future. Once she goes chances of us having a baby are slim. Her degree takes 7 to 10 years. Maybe her life plans will change, I don't know but at least if we have a child.."

"So you want to impregnate her again?"

"I want a baby. Losing Saron made me realize I want a child.. I am getting old. A child also secures our future."

"Maybe or maybe you are just scared a white man will take her."

Atang chuckled. "Yes. A child will be my security. But I really want a child."

Rethabile walked out of the shop holding a plastic.

“Papa, I will talk to you later.”

“Ok. Your mother is doing much better.”

Atang smiled. “That’s good.”

“Yes. Ok, bye.”

He hung up. Atang put down his phone as Rethabile got in the car.

“I am done.”

Atang started the car and drove her home.

“I am flying to Maun later today. I will be coming back tomorrow morning.”

“Ok.”

Atang parked the car and looked at her. “Please stay here, you don’t have to look for a tiny room to stay in when you can stay here for free. I know you want to be independent but let me help you. Batang is happy here. There is space for him to be free too.”

“I don’t want to burden you more.”

“I love you. I am doing this because I love you. Look at me...”

Rethabile smiled and looked at him.

“Kea go rata. I don’t expect you to do anything for me other than just being faithful and love me. I will give you everything... all I need is faithfulness. I need to know if I can trust you. And when you no longer want me... it’s easy. You just tell me. I won’t hold you hostage in a relationship.”

“I love you too. I don’t cheat.”

He smiled touching her chin then leaned over and kissed her. A car parked besides his, he sealed the kiss with a baby the kiss and looked at his brother stepping out of his car. Rethabile took her plastic and walked inside the house where Batang was sleeping on the couch, the remote control on his chest. Rethabile smiled staring at the TV mounted on the wall.

Rethabile walked to the bedroom and caught her reflection on the mirror. She got closer to the mirror. She needed the gym... she bigger than before. She sat down on the bed and searched for gyms on Facebook.

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Outside, Agang lit his cigarette and blew out the smoke.

“So she’s threatening you?”

“Yah...”

“I told you to stay away from that woman. Married women are tricky. And you have a lot to lose.”

“She doesn’t care. I got so close to strangling her to death yesterday.”

“I can talk to her if you want. She won’t bother you after that.”

Agang looked at his brother recalling the time they were still at

school then smiled. "I will handle it.. but thanks. How is it going with her."

"We are fine. I am happy she is now here. Maybe this way we can both take this relationship seriously."

"O seka wa tshosa ngwana sir."

Atang laughed. "Why would I scare her? I am just grooming her into a proper woman. This time I am giving it all my all. If she cheats, I am going to kill her and whoever it is that she will be testing me with."

Agang looked at his brother and sighed. "I am sure she loves you too. Not everyone cheats. You might find that she genuinely loves you. Rethabile seems like that woman. Give her a fair chance. She is not Yaone."

At UB campus, Elang laid on the bed crying silently. She tried to block her mind from all the time she drifted in and out of consciousness.. She looked at her phone then reached for it and called Rethabile.

"Hello?"

She sniffed. "I am sorry for calling you a prostitute. Last night at the party, I got so drunk and high. Two men joined Koketso and I. I was smoking weed. I got so drunk I couldn't walk then he took me

to his house... he drugged me along way. I remember slipping in and out consciousness... there was someone else. I am scared..."

"I am sorry.... Should I come there...? I am sorry about what I said too. Did you report?"

"They are going to say I am lying."

"I will go with you. I am coming."

Rethabile walked out with Elang from the hospital holding her hand. She unlocked the Amarak and jumped in. Elang slightly smiled getting in on the passenger seat.

"This car is nice."

"Atang said if I crush it I shouldn't come back."

Elang laughed. "He loves you."

Rethabile started the engine. "I love him but there is just something about him... I don't know..maybe it's in my head."

"What?"

"I don't know. I am happy he still wants me."

"He loves you. I hope I also get someone who loves me like that."

Rethabile laughed. "Catfish a good looking man. You never know."

Elang laughed too. "I don't want to be slapped. I am scared."

Rethabile slowly reversed then joined the road. She took a deep breath stepping on the accelerator driving at 30km/hr going to the police station. She parked a while later and sighed.

"Let's get in. I hope they arrest Koketso."

The girls stepped out of the car and walked inside the police station holding hands walking past Yaone who was walking out holding her certified documents. She spotted Atang's car and smiled walking over. She opened her umbrella the waited for him standing besides the car. It had been a while since she saw him and she wasn't sure how the conversation was going to go. Yaone fixed her dress waiting patiently. She took out her lipstick and ran it on her lips.

About thirty minutes later, Rethabile walked out with Elang. She unlocked the car from a distance, Yaone closed her umbrella and frowned as Rethabile walked past her and got in the car.

She walked over to the driver's side opening the door.

"Hi, who are you and where is the owner of this car?"

"Ma?"

"Where is the owner of this car? Can you step out, I will be damned if I let a fat thing like you take my man. Nyaa lala, step out and hand over those car keys. Ebile o imela koloi."

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Yours Truly

#30

Yaone opened the door wider.

“Get out.”

Rethabile looked at her summer dress and black dusty pumps. Her eyes went up to her weave as she tried to figure out if she was the ex.

“Do I know you?”

“You don’t have to know me, get out of my man’s car.”

Rethabile reached for her phone and called Atang.

“Babe...”

“Your ex girlfriend is here harassing me. She says she wants the car. I think it’s her. Tall thin woman with two complexions.”

“Put on loud speaker.”

Rethabile put the phone on loud.

“You are on.”

“You are getting on my nerves.”

Yaone swallowed. “Atang-“

“I am going to tell you once, I won’t say it again, get away from my car.”

“Attie-“

“If I say it again, you are going to regret it. Mark my words. Babe, please come back.”

“Eerra.”

Rethabile hung up then closed the door. Yaone looked at her.

“Do you seriously think what you have with him will work out?”

“What you have with him is what didn’t work out. Please move back.”

“What I shared with Atang is more than what you can ever-“

“You are in the past. You are going to remain there but go ahead and continue embarrassing yourself, it seems that’s your specialty. If you are not begging for money, you are humiliating yourself. Doesn’t it get tiring? Being rejected countless times because you couldn’t keep your vagina in your panty?”

“Thamma you are too fat to think you can-“

“And you are too thin to be talking to me. Move back motho was jeso.”

Rethabile started the car while Yaone angrily looked at her. She rolled down the window.

“Stop using the wrong foundation for your face and those eyebrows are too black and bold. I am not a makeup expert but I am sure the goal is to not look like a joke. You look like a clown with that red lipstick. Have class. You can’t fail at everything. Pick your struggle. Step back.”

Yaone stepped back as Rethabile drove off. Elang looked at her.
“Was that his long time girlfriend he broke up with?”

“Yes.”

“Be careful.”

“Atang won’t get back with her. If he wanted to he would have done it. Please stop. I am not going to discuss my relationship with you.”

“I am trying to make you see what you are missing.”

“Let me learn from my mistakes. I am happy.”

Rethabile increased the speed. She parked at the parking.

“I think you should rest. And take your pills..”

“Thank you. Atang really trusts you. To let you drive his car then rent out a house for you and your brother. He does everything for you.”

Rethabile smiled. “Its only today he let me drive it.”

“I am happy for you chomi. After everything you have been through, you deserve to be happy but I hope you leave room for disappointment..”

Rethabile sighed. “Elang can you just be happy for me without mentioning other things?”

Elang sighed. “I am sorry. I am working on my negativity.”

“Work harder.”

Elang hugged her and stepped out of the car. She slowly walked away. Rethabile sighed then drove out of the premises headed back to the apartment.

She drove in through the gate and parked the car then stepped out. The neighbor who had just drove in raised his hand at her waving in his suit. Rethabile smiled and waved back then walked inside the house where Atang was playing video games with her brother.

He looked at her and smiled. "You need to take your license so you can properly drive your own car."

She smiled. "Your car is nice and big. Maybe when you go for your trips I can drive it around for you. Hi Batang.."

He looked at her and smiled briefly while pressing the game pad. Atang pulled her closer and kissed her then made her sit on his lap. Rethabile bit her lower lip sitting slightly in the air holding her weight.

Atang pulled her to sit in properly. Rethabile looked at him.

"I can grab a chair. I am too fat, let me sit on a chair."

He kissed her neck. "You are not fat."

She smiled. "There is no need to lie to me.. I look at myself on the mirror and I know what I see. I am only 19 and I wear size 42, 44. I probably look older than you. That's why people easily believe I am Batang's mother."

"Do you know how much you are beautiful?"

Tears filled her eyes. "Thank you."

Atang looked at her as she looked away rubbing her eyes.

"Did Yaone say anything to you?"

"Nothing."

Atang looked at Batang. "Buddy, I am coming."

"Ok."

Atang stood up and picked her up bridal style. He walked with her to the bedroom then put her on the bed.

"Why did you remain with me after you found out I was catfishing? Why did you stay?"

"I wasn't going to stay. I was going to leave but I couldn't get you out of my head. I think I already loved you from your lie."

"You were angry I lied."

"I was but not so much. I had expected it."

Tears filled her eyes. "I want to go to the gym. I am too fat."

"You are not fat. And if you really want to go to the gym, I will make a plan for that. I love you. After my ex I thought I was done but here I am. I am in love with you. Never doubt that. You are the most beautiful woman I have ever come across."

He took off her flared dress and kissed her skin.

"I love every single part of you. I got you something. You are done with your period?"

“Yes.”

He opened the wardrobe and took out a shopping bag then handed it to her.

“Go and try them on. I will wait here.”

Rethabile looked inside and looked at him. She stood up in her full plain black panty and pink bra then walked to the bathroom.

She took off everything and put on the thong and the matching bra. She looked at her pubic hair and frowned then walked out with the shopping bag in front of her.

“It doesn’t look really good because I haven’t shaved yet.”

“Let me see.”

Rethabile put the shopping bag down. Atang looked at her.

“I will shave you.”

Rethabile smiled shyly. “I will do it.”

“I am coming. I have hair remover.”

He walked to the bathroom and walked out holding the hair remover cream. He put a towel on the bed and helped her lie on it. He pulled out the thong. Rethabile closed her eyes giggling as he applied the hair remover cream.

Atang opened her legs applying thoroughly. He finished up.

“Ok now we wait.”

He laid beside her, she put her arm around him, her head on his

chest.

"I love you."

Atang smiled. "I love you too."

At the UB campus, Elang laid on her bed staring into nothing while crying. The door opened then Koketso walked in. She looked at Elang then continued chatting on her phone loudly while laughing. She undressed and changed into another dress before walking out still on her phone.

Elang laid on her side and broke down crying. She cried so much, her body quivering. A while later she stopped and just laid on the bed motionless.

Yaone walked inside her house and took off her shoes. She paced up and down then took her phone and called Atang with her new number. His phone just rang till it stopped.

She sniffed texting him.

Yaone: I love you. I want us to fix things. I will do anything. Please...

She sent the message then waited but there was no response. An hour passed, she called him again. She frowned wondering if why it wasn't going through anymore.

Zaza walked inside Agang's office that same day. Agang looked at her seated with a man in his office. He smiled.

"Excuse me, let me attend to this."

He stood up and walked out with her.

"I am busy, what do you want?"

Zaza opened her handbag and handed him the home pregnancy test together with pictures from the Ultrasound.

"Congratulations. It's a boy."

She turned and walked away. Agang looked at the home pregnancy test that showed lines then at the pictures. He swallowed leaning against the wall.

At Keemi's house, Keemi looked at her husband.

“I can’t force her to stay with me.”

“I think we should take the kids.”

“What?”

“She is only a child. She needs your guidance. Let her come and stay with her brother. We will just sell her mother’s house to help raise her and her brother.”

“Lelomo wouldn’t want that.”

“Lelomo is dead. We will be doing what’s best for this kids. Tell her you can take her and her brother. Look now little boys are sleeping with her finishing her.”

Keemi took her phone and called Rethabile.

“Aunty...”

“Rethabile, I know you want to be with your brother. You are right. I don’t think it’s right to separate you and him. You can both live with me.”

The husband nodded staring at her.

“I am fine with Batang here. But thank you.”

“I am giving you one last chance, when things fall apart-“

“I will survive aunty. But thank you. Have a good day.”

Rethabile hung up. Keemi looked at her husband.

“She is going to regret this. Trust me, I will give her only a month and she will be crying. I am telling you.”

The neighbor's daughter knocked on the door. Keemi opened for her. The five year old walked in.

"Dumelang mmagwe Zake, mama is asking for the money."

"Ok, wait here. I am going across the road to take my money. I am coming."

Keemi walked out while her husband stared at the chubby child hungrily. He put his hands inside his pants while she innocently sucked her thumb. A minute later he grunted closing his eyes then got up and walked to the bedroom while Keemi walked inside the house with the money.

TWO YEARS LATER...

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Yours Truly

#31

Two Years Later...

At UB, Rethabile walked to her lecture's office in black jeans and an Orlando pirates black t-shirt then knocked on his door holding her printed and binded assignment in her hand. She opened the door and walked in. He looked up from his laptop and leaned back on his chair smiling staring at her.

"Kaisara..."

"Mr. Kgosi, I have brought my assignment."

"Ahh, perfect. I wish all your classmates were as serious as you. Come in."

Rethabile walked further in the office and put her assignment on his table. He took it and opened it. He smiled reading through.

"Brilliant Kaisara, you have potential. It will carry you far. You are focused, keep it up."

"Thank you Sir."

He smiled, he was one of the young lectures and every time she looked at him, he reminded her of the Skeem Saam actor who played Lehasa. Or maybe it was just the complexion that made him look like him.

“I will mark it tonight.”

“Ok.”

“I have this text book at my house. It helped me when I was at varsity, I stole it and never went back where I stole it. I think you might like it. I tried searching for it everywhere thinking I will get it somewhere but seems it’s not there anymore. It will help you.”

He stood up putting his stethoscope around his neck and took out his business card then walked over to her. Rethabile took a deep breath staring at him close the distance between them advancing like she was prey he, the predator.

“Call me when you need it.” He got closer to her letting her inhale his cologne and opened the door.

“See you tomorrow in class Kaisara.”

Rethabile turned and walked to the parking, she released her breath realizing she had been holding it then laughed alone unlocking the white Mercedes Benz A45. She got in then started the engine and reversed out of UB.

From a distance, Elang saw the white Benz drive out, she held her bag properly and ran over already screaming.

“Thabi!”

Thabi stopped the car then Elang jumped in.

“Yoh! It’s hot.”

Rethabile smiled. “Tell me about it.”

Elang laughed. "Waai, do you ever feel it? You control your weather kana wena."

Rethabile drove off laughing. "Where to?"

Elang sighed. "I am going home. I am tired. My laptop's charger is not working anymore. I had to go to the computer lab and do my assignments from there."

"Allowance gaese e tseni? (Hasn'tthr allowance reported in yet?)"

"It did but I paid rent, bought food and had my phone fixed. My money is already finished that's why I had asked you to pick me up in the morning."

Rethabile looked at Elang's phone. Elang leaned back on the car seat sinking into the comfort, her eyes closed.

"I had to drop off Batang to school. The school bus didn't come and I was already running late for my morning lesson."

Elang opened her eyes and looked at her. "But I had already asked you the night before Rethabile."

"I didn't know Batang's school bus wouldn't show up. I was going to come."

Elang smiled. "You could have just said no Thabi. You could have said that last night. I would have planned my day well. Sometimes I feel this friendship is one sided."

"Elang I also have my life to live. I am sorry I can't always be doing what you want me to do when you want me to do it."

"Your problem is you like to get licked between your butt every

single time. You behave as if you pay for this car to be moving. Mma when you don't want to do something, you just say so. I told you I didn't have money to go to school and you said yes. When you couldn't come, you tell me when you felt like it and I was just waiting for you because I am stupid that way. Funny how things change Thabile. Having a rich man had gotten into your head so much that you forgot who fed you, your brother and your mother when things were hard for you. I stole pads for you moghel, stole money for you, got beaten for you. Today you are the one treating like this... wena Rethabile Kaisara? When your mother was dying, who was there for you? When they said your mother was killed by AIDS, who was there for you? I really hope this lasts forever."

Rethabile looked at her. "I have been picking you up and dropping you off most of the time, I have borrowed you lots of money you never return, money that can buy everything you gave me."

Rethabile stopped the car on the bus stop.

"It's not my fault your boyfriend is nothing like mine, your problem is you want me to feel guilty for having what you think you should be having, that won't happen and I am tired of your stinking attitude, get out of my car. I am over this. Please get out of my car."

"My car?" Elang laughed. "O kile wa reka koloi wena? Ware my car?" She laughed even harder clapping. "My car? Wena? My car? Don't embarrass yourself, walking around as if you bought this car while you are dating a sugar daddy. Don't brag too loud sweetie, you can't afford any of anything you have. At least I can afford my shit!"

“If you could afford anything what are you doing at Nigerian parties o emetsi bo how much do you wants, no wonder you got raped, retarded jealous bitch!”

Elang angrily pulled Rethabile’s hair scratching her. Rethabile took off the seatbelt and grabbed her top. She punched her that blood spurt from Elang’s nose. Rethabile’s nose flared as she stepped out of the car then walked out going round to her door. She opened the door and dragged her out with her old braids and punched her again.

A car drove by then the driver rolled down the window.

“Thamma o tla bolaya motho.. mo tlogele..” The man yelled. Rethabile pushed Elang from her car then got Elang’s bag and threw it on the road.

“I can’t afford it but I have it, unlike you. I have it all and you don’t. At least I sleep with him and get my worth, unlike you but what can you expect after getting used by two men all night long? Maybe they were even more than two. Koteng o kometsa dick. (You probably swallow the dick.) I pity your so cold boyfriend, it must be sad sleeping with a borehole like you..”

Elang looked at her crying. “Says the girl who aborted a grown baby, you are going to hell!”

“I will meet you there loose vagina!”

She walked round and got in her car then drove off. Elang lips trembled as she wiped her nose with her t-shirt.

The man who had slowed down stopped his car and stepped out

then walked over to her.

“Hi... are you ok?”

Elang’s heart raced as she tried to keep it together. She picked her handbag then looked up trying to stop the bleeding. Her heart ached so much she broke down crying.

The man looked at her confused. “Hi... is there anything I can do?”

Elang shook her head then walked away wiping her nose. Over twenty minutes later she walked inside the police station.

Rethabile walked inside the house and slowly sat down in the sitting room. She put her handbag down taking off her shoes as she sat down. She couldn’t remember the last time she had fought.

Rethabile took a deep breath wondering why she had let the useless friendship drag for so long.

She reached for her phone then called Atang unbuttoning her jeans. She sighed at the relief then unclipped her bra with one hand.

His phone rang till it stopped. She pressed her lips together and dialed his number again. It rang for a while then he picked.

Rethabile smiled. “Hey...”

Atang cleared his throat. "Hi..."

"When are you coming back? I miss you."

"I miss you too. I will be back soon."

"I don't understand why you had to go on a trip with other soldiers when you are not one."

He spoke softly. "Its not a full time thing.. They needed me. These poachers are getting out of hand. I will be back in no time."

"I had a fight with Elang today. You know how she is. It got physical.. I punched her twice."

"I am not going to say anything about your friend anymore."

"You were right. I should have listened."

"You know what happens when you keep a snake. It will bite you one day."

"I am sorry. I should have listened."

"Its ok. I love you."

Rethabile smiled lying on the couch. "I love you too."

"I should get going. I will call you."

"Ok."

He hung up. Rethabile closed her eyes then her phone rang. She picked the call.

"Hello?"

“Rethabile Kaisara?”

Rethabile sat upright. “Yes, who’s this?”

“You are speaking to Superintended Bantla, we have Elang Lelang here. I need you here at the police station in 15 minutes. I believe since you have a car, that’s should be enough time kana yang Ms Kaisara?”

Somewhere in Botswana, Prince put pressure on Atang’s gunshot wound that was on his stomach at the back of a van while a soldier drove them from the bush to a clinic nearby.

Prince looked at his friend and laughed shaking. “Do you remember the time I got shot... fuck I thought I was going to die. I was convinced I was dying.” He smiled. “But I made it. You have been here before. Been shot before. Twice. This is nothing. You are going to be ok.”

Atang laughed then coughed out blood. “You’ve always been scared. From the first time ko training.”

Prince smiled. “Being scared is a good thing. But you got that guy.”

Atang looked at Prince and smiled slowly closing his eyes.

“Mister o seka wa robala, ba ta go jela monyana. (Don’t sleep. They will fuck your girl.)”

Atang tried to laugh but rather coughed out more blood. Prince looked at the driver.

“Skumba, drive faster!”

Skumba stepped on the accelerator speeding away.

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Yours Truly

#32

At the police station, Rethabile looked at Elang who's lips were swollen. Elang looked at her wiping her blood, there was blood all over her T-shirt.

Rethabile took a deep breath and looked at the police officer.

"She attacked me first. I was driving home then ran over wanting a lift. She got in my car and started making noise about how I couldn't pick her up in the morning though I explained to her that my brother's school bus didn't come in the morning so I had to drop him off. She pulled my hair scratching me, I punched her in self defense."

"She is lying. I didn't do anything to her. She got angry because I said she sleeps with older men for money. She punched me and dragged me out of her car beating me."

Rethabile angrily looked at her. "So you won't admit to pulling my hair scratching me?"

Elang put her hands on her face crying. The police officer looked at Rethabile.

"Let's see where she scratched you."

Rethabile turned showing him her neck. "She was fighting me. I fought back."

"Stop lying Rethabile."

The police officer sighed. "There is a witness who saw you hitting your friend on the side of the road. Look at yourself then look at her... you could have killed someone. She is pressing charges meaning I am going to lock you inside because wena o Mark Henry akere?"

"She started it."

"You should be humbling yourself apologizing rather than"

"I am not going to forgive her."

Rethabile looked at the police officer. "May I please make a call."

"Yes."

Rethabile got up and walked outside calling Atang. His phone just rang then stopped. She took a deep breath and sent him a message.

Rethabile: Hey babe, Elang is pressing charges. She told the police I attacked her when she attacked me. I am scared.

She looked at her phone wondering whom to call. She scrolled through her contact list and most people were just her classmates.

She came across Agang then tapped his name.

A female voice picked. "Hello?"

"Hi, can I talk to Agang?"

"And who are you? Listen here"

Rethabile hung up before Agang's girlfriend could go on talking.

She called Atang again.

“Rethabile, hi, it’s Prince.”

“Oh hi... can I please speak to Attie...”

“Yes but he’s busy at the moment. Something is going on. I make sure he calls you back tomorrow.”

“Tomorrow?”

“Yes.”

“Therra it’s an emergency and-“

Prince hung up. Rethabile called him again.

At the clinic, the nurse attending to Atang looked at his friend who was holding his phone while she did chest compressions.

She breathed heavily looking at him. “The doctor is coming. Who keeps calling him?”

“His girlfriend.”

The nurse smiled. “Why are you not picking?”

“I wouldn’t know what to tell her. Is he going to be ok?”

“Yes. We just need to contain the situation here then have him transferred.”

“Ok, a helicopter is coming to get him.”

“Perfect.”

“Let me speak to her.”

Prince frowned. “What? No!”

The nurse smiled. “I just want to make her calm down.”

“No. You want my friend Pearl. God knows what you will say to his girl.”

Pearl laughed. “I want your friend? Who told you that?”

She looked at Atang then at Prince.

“I like you guys for what you do. Don’t get it twisted.”

The doctor walked with two more nurses. Pearl looked at Prince as another nurse took over the chest compressions. He still had the other hand on the wound pressing on.

“Let go. He is in safe hands.”

Prince looked at her, he let go then Pearl pushed him out.

“You need to calm down. You said this is not his first time right?”

“No. It’s not.”

“Then you are good. Don’t worry. The helicopter is coming. He is going to receive the help he needs then go home to his girlfriend. You have a cut, come, I will clean it up.”

“Are you not going to help?”

“Those are ER nurses. They know what they are doing. That was an ER doctor. Atang is in good hands. Their first intuition is stabilize him. They won’t take out the bullet but they will keep him alive. Come.”

She walked with him to her office. She walked in another room and came minutes later now in another dress. She sat down putting on gloves and started attending to the cut on his hand. She cleaned up the cut and put a bandage on it. Prince smiled.

“Thanks.”

“You are welcome.”

“Let me speak to my colleague, he’s outside.”

“Ok.”

He stood up and walked out. Pearl smiled staring at him in his uniform, these men always looked good. It was like they born specifically for what they did. She smiled then took off the gloves and disposed them thinking of Atang.

His phone started ringing again. Pearl looked at ‘Babe’ calling then sighed picking.

“Hello?”

There was silence. Pearl looked at the phone then smiled.

“Heeelloo?”

“Where is Atang?”

“O busy, can I help you?”

“Please give him the phone. I need to speak to him.”

“I am sorry but he’s busy. What did you want?”

“I want to speak to my man. That’s what I want.”

Pearl laughed. “You want to speak to your man? Hunny, calm down. When he’s out in the wildness, you can’t claim him. He will call you. Be a good girlfriend and just wait. Good girls wait. Stop calling every second, wa mo lspisa le wena mma, let him breathe. I will tell him you called.”

Pearl hung up and put the phone down. Prince walked in and looked at Atang’s phone ringing. He cut the call and switched off the phone.

At the police station Rethabile tearfully called him again but it wasn’t going through anymore. She took a deep breath trying to calm down but her thoughts ran with her so much a tear rolled down her cheek while her heart pounded. She sniffed then scrolled through her contacts unsure of who to even call.

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Elang looked at Rethabile as she walked back in the office.

“I am still pressing charges.”

Rethabile looked at her. “I am sorry Elang. You know this is not the first time we fight. I am sorry for the things I said. I was just angry but I am sorry. I am sorry I couldn’t pick you up at your house. I am sorry for punching you. It won’t happen again. I am sorry. Can we just forget it happened and move on. I love you.”

Elang looked at her angrily. “You think you are up there with Jesus but I am going to humble you. I am not dropping the charges. Not after you almost killed me.”

The police officer stood up. “Come.. I am locking you inside for assault.”

“Wait, Elang please... I have an exam tomorrow morning. Kea go kopa. You know how important it is for me to take all my exams.”

Elang rolled her eyes. “You should have thought about that before you beat me.”

Elang watched as the police officer dragged her out then smiled posting the pictures she had taken on face.

‘After I told moghel to stop sleeping with old men for money she attacked me. Waitse friendships ke maaka hela. I am fine and currently at the police station. She’s been arrested. I am going to humble her. People who don’t work for their money ba lapisa.’

Elang shared her post to various groups.

Outside the police station, Pule stepped out of his car talking on the phone, his coat on while his stethoscope hung on his neck.

“I will look at his results and see if I can get anything else other than what you already got.”

The other doctor sighed. “Thanks.”

Pule hung up and walked over to the police station on the front desk.

“Hi, I am Pule Kgosi. I am here for Rethabile Kaisara. She’s been arrested.”

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Yours Truly

#33

Elang walked past Pule holding her tissue. He immediately noticed her, he had seen them together a couple of times. He walked after her.

“Hi...”

Elang turned almost tripping then smiled. “Dumelang.”

“I am Pule. You are beautiful, can I give you a lift?”

Elang looked at him and smiled. “Uh, yes. Thank you.”

“Are you ok?”

“I am fine.”

Pule pressed the keys to his yellow BMW. Elang looked over and looked at M4, she smiled staring at the car. The yellowish gold color made it look extra. She had never seen it up close.

“Your car is beautiful.”

“Thanks.”

They got in the car. Elang kept her hands on her thighs to not mess up his white car seats. He looked at her starting the engine.

“What’s your name?”

“Elang.”

“You are Rethabile’s friend, right?”

Elang shook her head. “No.”

“I am Pule, her uncle. She called me and told me what happened. I am sorry it came to this. I don’t even know what got into her but I am sorry. Have you been to the doctor yet?”

“You are her uncle?”

“Yes. She’s never spoken about me?”

“No.”

“I don’t blame her. I was never really close with my siblings but that’s not the case.” He looked at her and smiled. “You are pretty.”

Elang looked down at her hands. Pule rolled down the window.

“I know you are upset and hurt. But can we come to an understanding? How much do you want to drop the charges? I will also pay for your medical bill.”

Elang looked at him. “You want to pay me to drop the charges?”

“How much do you want?”

Elang looked at him thinking, she badly wanted to humble Rethabile, her missing her exam would mean she would have failed and she would kiss Harvard School Of Medicine bye.

She looked up and locked eyes with him, he slightly smiled making her skin burn.

“Maybe after this we can go out for dinner. I am starving. That’s if you don’t mind.”

“Rethabile really hurt me.”

“I know... I am sorry. Please forgive her.”

She thoughtfully looked at him. “I want a phone.”

“Which phone?”

“A Samsung. It’s 4k.”

“Go and say you forgive her then I will transfer the money to you.”

“If you don’t?”

“You will just tell them you really want to lay charges. I will give you the money, please...”

“Ng ng, send the money first then-“

“I will give you 5k. If you don’t drop the charges, we are going to just to get a lawyer. She will be out latest tomorrow morning then from there we will go to court. You don’t have a lawyer, all you have is what? A blood stained t-shirt? And what? Some pictures? And how far will you get with that? This is not an American movie. This is real life in Botswana.”

Elang swallowed. “6k.”

“2k. Take it or leave it. I don’t care.. please step out of my car.”

“You said you would give me 5-“

“I have changed my mind. You think you are smart-“

“I will take P4000 and say I forgive her.”

Pule looked at her. “Drop the charges first then I will give out the

money. Gape wa ntia, I need to get to work.”

Elang stepped out of the car and went back inside the police station. She walked back to the superintendent’s office then knocked. She walked in seconds later.

“I have thought about my decision and I want to forgive her since she says she is sorry.”

He looked at her. “What changed your mind?”

“She is my friend. I don’t want her to miss her exam.”

“Ok. But also understand we are working here. You can’t press charges then decide you want to drop them because you want to. We work with procedure here. And we are not here for you only. We have other matters to attend to that’s why we asked you if you are sure before you went ahead and pressed charges.”

“I was still angry. I am sorry.”

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Rethabile walked out of the cell then got her phone back over an hour later. She walked out of the police station pulling up her jeans. Elang looked at her standing by the entrance.

“Next time I won’t forgive you.”

Rethabile sighed. “I think this friendship should come to an end. I have always forgiven most things you do because of how far we

have come but I can't anymore. You are toxic and you will never change. Things always have to go your way or no other way at all. You always find it easy to try and break my spirit. You always remind me of everything you did for me. I never knew it was a debt but I believe I have repaid it. Don't talk to me, don't call me. You and I are done. I am tired of this back and forth with you."

"Good. Because I am tired."

Elang walked over to Pule's car where she was standing by his door.

"My money."

"Your number?"

Elang called out her number then Pule did an ewallet. Elang took out her phone and looked at the message with a smile.

"Thank you."

"You can go."

"You said something about dinner."

"I have changed my mind."

She looked at him confused then she looked back as Rethabile walked over. He smiled staring at her.

"You just said it so I would drop the charges?"

Pule glared at her. "Didn't I give you your money? What do you want?"

"Are you even her uncle?"

“Maybe I should reverse my money.”

“You can’t do that. I will tell them you threatened me to drop the charges.”

“Go ahead.”

Pule unlocked his phone and reversed the e-wallet. Elang looked at him as a message reflected in her phone showing the e-wallet reversal. She turned and walked back inside the police station.

Rethabile looked at him. “I am sorry for today. I didn’t know who to call.”

“It’s ok Kaisara. Are you ok?”

She nodded. “I am fine. Thank you. I know I was out of line. I am sorry Mr. Kgosi.”

Pule looked at her as her voice shook. “Thabile... are you ok?”

Rethabile sniffed as a tear rolled down. “I am fine.”

“Hey....” He got closer to her. “It’s ok.”

More tears rolled down. She put her hand on her mouth crying. Pule looked at her and hugged her.

Inside the police station the superintendent looked at Elang.

“I want to press charges again. She had her relative threatening

me.”

“Do you have evidence to what you are saying? If you have evidence, show us right now.”

“No but he is-“

“You know what, you think this is a play ground huh? You think this is your mother’s house where you can just come in and do as you please and we should just be jumping around for you. This is a police station and we deal with real matters. We are not here to play games. I am going to put you in a cell tonight for giving false information. Maybe I should let you stay the weekend too. What do you think this is? Get up! I am taking you to a cell. You will think carefully about your life from there.”

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Yours Truly

#34

Rethabile stepped back and sighed.

“Thank you. I have to go home. My brother is alone.”

Pule rubbed her cheek. “Can I drop you off?”

“No. But thank you. Thank you so much. It won’t happen again.”

“How will you go home?”

Rethabile pressed the car keys unlocking her car. “I will use that.”

“Ok. See you tomorrow.”

“Yes sir.”

Rethabile walked to her car and got in. She dialed Atang again. She closed her eyes tearfully as the prerecorded voice spoke.

“The number you have dialed is not available at the moment. Please try again later. Thank you. This is a free announcement from-“

She dropped the call and texted him.

Rethabile: There is no need to switch off your phone, I already know. Save yourself the energy and have yourself a nice life. I knew this would happen sooner or later. I hope she makes you happy.

She sent the text as a tear rolled down her cheek and fell on the

screen. Rethabile raised her head and caught her lecture staring at her. She started the car and drove home while sniffing.

That same night, Zaza rocked her sick son while seated on her bed. She put her hand over his forehead, his temperature was still high. She slowly laid him down and got off the bed taking her phone.

She called Agang sitting down.

“Hello?”

“Hi. Are you free to talk?”

“Yeah...”

Zaza swallowed. “I know you hate me...”

“I don’t. I long got over it.”

Tears burnt her eyes as looked at the picture frame of her son on the wall. He had his father’s ears. And they had the same smile.

“I know the DNA tests said he is not yours but every time I look at him, I see you. You were the only one I was seeing. The only man I was sleeping with.”

“Zaza, I am trying to sleep.”

“I still think the married lady you were seeing did something

because you are the only man I was sleeping with.”

“No one did anything to the tests. I am not your son’s father and that’s that. Stop trying to drag me into his life. A part of me is actually glad he is not mine.”

She nodded holding the phone. “He is not well. He has not been well lately. At first I thought it was because his teeth are beginning to grow out but he is not getting better. We are waiting for the test results. I know you are his father. I have no reason to keep lying to you. Good night.”

She hung up and put her hands together praying.

Agang walked back inside the house pressing his phone. His girlfriend looked at him.

“Who was that?”

“No one.”

Nkamo looked at his phone and sighed knowing he was probably lying. She felt the burning urge to snatch the phone from him and check but sat still, her hands on her lap. Agang sat down pressing his phone while she stared in silence.

He looked at her. “What?”

“Nothing.”

Nkamo move closer and leaned against his chest looking at the at the TV. Agang put his arm around her while pressing his phone. She raised one eye while the other remained at the TV, her head in the same position. She watched as he scrolled on his Facebook. He paused at a picture. Nkamo moved slightly closer. Agang looked at her, she turned her eyes to the TV remaining calm. Agang went back to pressing his phone, she turned one eye over to his phone memorizing the name as he reacted with a heart.

His phone started ringing. She turned with her head and looked as 'Thabile' called. Agang quickly picked.

"Thabi.."

Thabile sniffed. "Hi, where is your brother?"

"Im Ghanzi, what's going on?"

"Where exactly in Ghanzi?"

"What's going on Thabi?"

"Your brother is cheating on me. I want to go there."

He got up and walked out while Nkamo watched.

"Atang will never cheat on you. He loves you."

Rethabile sniffed. "A woman answered his phone. Now he switched off his phone. I should have known that whole trip was a way for him to go and cheat."

"Hey.. listen to me. He loves you. He loves you more than anything."

"If you can't tell me where he is, it's fine."

"I would tell you if I knew. All I know is that he is in the bush. I don't think he is cheating. He has great plans for you and him in the early future. Let him come and explain himself. Don't be quick to jump go conclusions. And even if he were to cheat, he wouldn't let his side chick touch his phone."

"I am scared."

"Don't be. You have no reason to be. Do you guys need anything there?"

She sniffed. "We are fine."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Call me when you guys need anything."

"Ok."

Agang hung up. He called his brother. The call didn't go through, he called Prince.

"Agang..."

"Let me speak to Atang."

"An accident happened. But he's fine."

"What happened?"

"He got shot but he's ok."

Agang swallowed. "Where is he?"

“He’s been taken to SA. But I can’t tell you where he is. You understand akere?”

“How serious is it?”

“He’s fine. Don’t worry.”

“Where is his phone?”

“I have it. Why?”

“Who’s been answering his phone? Thabi said a woman answered his phone.”

“A woman?”

“Yes.”

“No one answered his phone. I switched it off. Unless... fuck! I will sort it out. It was a nurse.”

“Atang o bata go nyala. He can’t have such happening.”

“I will talk to her. She’s been wanting him, I forgot his phone in her office. I think that’s when she picked the call.”

“Talk to her. I will talk to Thabi. She’s already crying.”

“Ok.”

“Keep me updated with Atang.”

“Sure.”

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Nkamo stood behind the door while Agang wrapped up his call outside. She hurried to the couch as he walked back in the house.

“I am going to see a friend. I am coming.”

“What friend?”

“You don’t know him. I will be back in an hour.”

He picked his car keys. Nkamo stood up and watched him as he walked out. He got in his car and drove off. Tears filled her eyes. She couldn’t understand why God always let her get in relationships with men who always cheated on her.

She blinked rubbing her eyes knowing he was out to cheat on her. She laid down on the couch holding her cries. Pain choked her so much, she broke down crying.

At Rethabile’s house, Agang parked besides Rethabile’s car then stepped out. He walked to the door calling her.

“Hello?”

“I am by the door. Open.”

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Yours Truly

#35

"I am outside. Open the door."

"Ok."

He hung up and waited. Rethabile opened the door minutes later. Agang looked at her reddish swollen eyes and smiled as she unlocked the burglar bar.

"Why are you crying?"

She looked at him and sniffed. Agang smiled.

"Atang would never cheat on you."

A tear rolled down her cheek. She wiped it with the back of her hand. Agang sighed.

"Please don't cry. He loves you. You know that. He's proven that you every day. Why are you doubting him now? Has he given you a reason to think he would cheat?"

She shook her head sniffing.

"Exactly. He's in the middle of a mission. Prince had his phone. Prince's side answered the call thinking it was Prince's other phone. I am sorry it happened. I am sorry you had to cry for that. I don't blame you but trust your man enough to know when he says he only loves you, he does."

She wiped off another tear nodding. Agang smiled.

“And if a man really loves you, he’d have no reason to cheat. Please just wait for him. He’s going to come back to you.”

“Thank you.”

“Are you guys ok though?”

“We are fine.”

“If you need anything, don’t hesitate to call me. I am a phone call away Mrs Daniel.”

Rethabile smiled blushing. Agang chuckled.

“Go back in the house and lock up.”

She nodded then locked the burglar bar and the door. Agang walked to his car then reversed out if the gate. He stepped out and closed the gate before driving back home.

He walked inside his house minutes later. He looked at Nkamo sleeping on the couch then walked over.

“Babe...”

She opened her eyes and looked at him. He frowned realizing she had been crying.

“What happened?”

She sat upright and sighed. “I think we should end this. You have been after me for six months coming to my work place everyday. The reason I had been rejecting you is because I am insecure. My baby daddy hurt me so much I thought I was going to die. I stayed through out all his shenanigans because I loved him. My problem

is that when I love, I love with my all. He destroyed me so much I couldn't recognize myself then he dumped me and married a woman he'd just met. I tried with my next relationship. I did everything a good woman could possibly do and I got him impregnating my cousin. They stay together right now. From there it's just been a series of me being used. I am used to the hurt so much I always expect it. I am so insecure... it's like a disease destroying me. When you left all I have been thinking is that you are cheating on me. Everything you do is suspicious to me. I snoop around like I am crazy... I sniff your clothes. I want to know what you are doing on your phone, who you are talking to, why you didn't answer my call immediately. I have anxiety and I think I am depressed.. I am in constant pain. Sometimes I cry myself to sleep when I think of everything and just wonder why me... you deserve better than this. And I know you are going to get tired so it's better I leave on my own."

Agang looked at Nkamo and smiled staring at her while she wiped her tears.. She pushed her long hair back then stood up. She was short, so short she barely reached his chest.

"I know you go through my phone and that you snoop around... a lot. I know you question the things I do though you never say it out loud. I know you cry at night. I know you eavesdrop on my conversations. You probably know each of my Facebook friends..I know you heard my conversation with Prince. I saw your shadow. I actually wanted you to ask me where I was going but I also wanted you to trust me enough to know I won't cheat with my sister in-law. I love you. With your imperfections because I am not perfect too. I want this to work. And I want us to work to make it

work. I want us to see a therapist. Maybe as individuals for now then as a couple. I am not hiding anything, I have told you everything so feel free to do anything that will make your day better.”

Nkamo looked at him in shock. Agang hugged her.

“I love you. My sister in-law is fine. I went to check up on her because I know my brother would do the same. Zacharia called about the child. I told you all about it.”

“Maybe you should just block her.”

She took out his phone from his pocket and handed it to her. Agang unlocked his phone and blocked her. Nkamo smiled happily.

“Do you still want to watch the movie?”

Agang put down his phone and took off her night dress.

“No. I want to fuck you.”

He kissed her touching her naked body. He picked her and put her on the dining table then pushed her chest down. Agang pulled out his t-shirt then leaned over dropping kisses from her neck down to her chest then further down passed her belly button. He kissed her kuku.

Nkamo moaned grinding against his face. Agang walked to the kitchen and came back with two dish towels. He tied each hand to her leg and opened her legs even more. He took off his t-shirt and covered her head with it so she wouldn't see anything.

He took out his hard veined weapon smacked her clit with it. She flinched trying to close her legs but he held them in place. Agang pushed the tip and circled inside while biting his lower lip. He continued teasing her getting her even more set.

Nkamo tried moving slower impatient for it. Agang slipped it out and rubbed her sensitive clit making her moan. He stopped and pushed in an inch... then another and more. Nkamo pulled at restraints as Agang pushed his entire dick inside.

He remained still then kissed her and repeatedly filled her path rubbing against her wall while caressing every corner inside her kuku.

Nkamo moaned trying to move against him. It felt so good her moans got louder. Agang touched her breast while thrusting into her. He pounded into her grunting and groaning. He looked at himself disappearing inside her pussy. The table shook with every thrust.

She tried to move her arms as her entire body itched.

“Agang... ahhh...”

Agang dug deeper while fucking her hard. She was so sweet he found himself thinking about pulling out but fuck! She was just too good. Her pussy began narrowing on him. Tears wet his t-shirt, the pleasure multiplying.

Nkamo screamed spasming. Agang went in full force cumming. He gave her one stroke making sure he offloaded everything into her.

He untied her then took off his t-shirt from her face and kissed her sliding out.

“We can watch that movie now.”

She smiled nodding.

At the jail cell, Elang stood at the corner locked with other ladies. She got tired and sat down. She still couldn't believe she was sleeping in jail all because of Rethabile. Anger and pain made her breathe heavily and she couldn't wait till she was released.

She took a deep breath planning in her head. There was no way she would watch Rethabile go overseas, she was going to get her off her high horse and bring her down to earth were everyone was.

The following morning, Rethabile walked out of the examination hall and sighed with a smile. One of her classmates also walked out and looked at her.

“Hey...”

Rethabile smiled back. “Hi. Katlo right?”

She smiled. "Katso. Rethabile right?"

Rethabile laughed. "Sorry, yes."

"It's ok. How was it?"

"It was fine."

"Yah, I hope I did well. I saw you applied to be sponsored to go to Harvard. Me too."

Rethabile smiled as they walked together. "Awesome. I hope we qualify waitse."

Katso nodded. "Me too. Me going there would change my family forever."

"Me too."

Rethabile watched as two soldiers walked to them

Katso held her bag properly nervous staring at their guns.

Rethabile's heart raced as they stood in front of them staring at her.

"Ms Rethabile Kaisara?"

She nodded. "Yes."

"My name is Ompile and this is Tiro. Re tswa BDF, do you know Mr Atang Daniel?"

"Yes. Is he ok?"

They looked at each other. "You have to come with us."

Her heart pounded so much as her knees got weak.

“What happened to him? Is he ok?”

“No. You need to come with us to confirm his body. An accident happened yesterday. Everyone is waiting for you.”

She looked at them, her entire body weakening further.

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Yours Truly

#36

They led her to the BDF number plate Golf. Ompile opened the front seat door for her. She looked at him, she hadn't said a word yet or even made a sound.

"Get in."

She got in and stared ahead, her face blank. Tiro got in at the back while Ompile took the front seat. He started the car and drove off headed to the airport.

Tiro looked at her thickness filling the entire seat while her summer dress rode up exposing her thick yellow thighs. He had heard about Atang's girlfriend and always thought people were just exaggerating. She silently sat on the front seat not moving an inch.

He sighed looking outside the window. Ompile stole glances at her wondering where Atang had gotten her. He looked at her hands then short clean nails. On her wrist was a black manly watch, possibly Atang's but now he understood why Atang hid her.

He finally parked the car. "Lets go."

She slowly looked at him. "Where is my boyfriend?"

"We are taking you to him. Let's go."

"You said confirm.... What do you mean confirm? What does that even mean?"

“You will see.. let’s go or else you will miss your flight.”

“I don’t understand. Make me understand. Where is my boyfriend? I am calling him.”

“He is not going to answer. If you want to see him, let us take you to him.”

She shook her head. “I am going home.”

Rethabile opened the door and stepped out. Tiro got out of the car and grabbed her hand.

“Your man is not home. He’s a man, not a boyfriend kana he doesn’t make you cum? Does he make you cum?”

She looked at him in shock.

“Exactly, that makes him your man. A boyfriend is someone who doesn’t make you cum. As long as he hits it and makes it rain, he’s a man. And you are his woman. We are taking you to your man. Turn around and walk inside the airport. I am not Atang who probably begs and licks the ground you walk on. Turn, now!” He commanded firmly and loud. She looked at him.

“I am going home. I will wait for my man there.”

“Ok, very well then.”

Tiro bended then picked her up and threw her over his shoulder. Rethabile screamed as he walked with her inside the airport.

“Thusang!”

Ompile walked behind him. Minutes later they walked to the

bordering gate. Tiro put her down, her body rubbing against his wakening every sense in him. He swallowed as she stepped back fixing her dress.

She was stubborn, it turned him on to have a woman challenge him like that. He forgot the last time he had someone just stand up to him and she looked fearless. He wondered how Atang handled her knowing who he was. She probably stressed him more than any woman he'd been with.

"My brother-"

"Agang will sort out your brother."

"Stop talking when I am talking and didn't you say everyone is waiting for me? Who's everyone?"

Ompile chuckled then smiled taking out his phone. Tiro looked at her.

"You will find out soon."

"How do you know Atang? What happened to him?"

"He's dead."

She angrily looked at him. "Never say that about my man ever again. If it's lifting bricks and putting them at one corner and back where you got them all day at work has gotten into your head, don't think you can dispose it on me."

Ompile burst into a loud laugh.

Tiro frowned. "I don't like you."

“Good for you.”

They got in the plane. Rethabile sat by the window and dialed Agang.

“Thabi..”

She took a deep breath as tears filled her eyes. “Whats going on?”

“I will take care of Batang. They told me he got into an accident. I am not sure what’s going on. He was shot.”

“Shot?”

“Yes but it’s Atang... he will be fine.”

“They said they are taking me to confirm his body. I don’t even know what that even means.”

“Relax. It’s ok. He’s fine. If anything was wrong, I would have felt it... ok, I am lying but I am sure he is fine. Hey... don’t cry. He’s fine.”

“I an scared.”

“Don’t be. I will remain with Batang here... “

“Thank you.”

“I got you.”

She hung up and put her phone away. She took a deep breath as the plane took off with Ompile and Tiro seated behind her.

Elang walked in her room that same morning. Her roommate looked over at her.

“Hi... are you ok?”

Elang sighed. “I am fine.”

“I saw your post on Facebook. Was it your friend who drives the Benz?”

“Yes. The one her sugar daddy got her.”

Her roommate smiled. “Waitse bathong I also need a sugar daddy in my life.”

“That’s just prostitution.”

“Ng ng Elang mma. Sometimes yes but sometimes it’s love. I don’t think there is anyone who would buy you a Benz just for fun.”

“There is no love like that. Ke prostitution hela. And I am going to expose her. Everyone should see this girl for who she truly is.”

“Uhu, the friendship is over?”

“She thinks so highly of herself. Let’s see how she will deal with her boyfriend and the world finding out she aborted a baby.”

The roommate looked at her in shock. “That’s witchcraft. Why would you do that?”

“I am going to fix that pathetic fat thing. Going around thinking she is better than me. She won’t see it coming. She can kiss

Harvard bye. Nxtla!”

“What are you going to do?”

Elang looked at her and laughed. “Look at your face. I am joking mma. Mxm, I am just annoyed but I think its best I forgive her and move on. Kana Thabi is my day one.”

The roommate laughed. “Ija, you got me there. I am happy you are choosing peace. I will see you later. I have a late afternoon lesson.”

“Ok, bye!”

The roommate walked out. Elang pressed her phone and searched for Lysergic acid diethylamide and Phencyclidine. She read through their effects and what they could do.

She went on Facebook and searched for them. Over thirty minutes later she came across a post and a number. She copied it down and called the person.

“Hello?”

“Hi, do you still have LSD and PCS?”

“Yes.”

“I want them. How much is it?”

“P300 for both.”

“I will take it. Can I have them today?”

“Yes but you know what they do right?”

“Yes. I am medical student and we are not an experiment.”

“Ok. Let’s meet at Rail Park Mall today. Say 2p.m.”

“Ok. Thank you.”

Elang hung up and smiled then checked her bank balance.

“Ok Mrs Benz... let’s see you going to America after playing me.”

She walked to the bathroom and showered then changed into a body hugging dress then walked out locking behind her.

Two hours later, Rethabile held her school bag properly as the car that had taken them from OR Tambo parked in front of a building. She looked at Ompile who was seated besides her.

“Let’s go.”

They stepped out. Tiro got out from the front passenger seat. They were now on just their clothes, she wasn’t even sure where they had changed. They walked in the building, Rethabile quickly noticed it was a hospital. She walked behind the two men who led the way then approached a door.

Ompile looked at her and sighed. “We will wait outside.”

He opened the door. Rethabile slowly walked in then froze staring as Ompile closed the door.

Yours Truly

#37

In Johannesburg, Atang smiled on the bed. She hurried over dropping her bag and hugged him. Atang adjusted himself so he could wrap his arms around her. She tearfully cupped his face.

“What happened?”

“Things didn’t go exactly according to plan but I am fine.”

“When I called you yesterday-“

“I had been shot. I didn’t tell you because you had an exam in the morning. I know how it was important, how did it go?”

She smiled as he wiped her tear. “Well. I think I did well.”

“That’s my girl.”

“I thought you were cheating after Prince’s side chick answered his phone. I love you.”

Atang rubbed her cheek then her lips. He pulled her closer and kissed her.

“You smell good.”

She giggled staring at him. “It’s the perfume you bought me that time.”

“You smell nice.” He looked in her worried eyes. “I am fine. They took out the bullet. I am good. They will releasing me tomorrow. I

want us to go somewhere before we go to Vic falls.”

She smiled. “Where?”

“You will see tomorrow. I have booked you in a hotel.”

“I am not going anywhere. I am going to stay here with you. I missed you... your beard has grown.” She touched it playing with it.

“Lie down with me.”

She looked at the bed and laughed. “We won’t fit.”

He scooted to one side. Rethabile smiled and climbed on the bed. She laid on her side putting her arm around him, her head on his chest. She smiled in his arms. Atang rubbed her thick butt squeezing from time to time again while kissing her forehead.

“Elang reported me to the police. They arrested me for assault because she went there with a bleeding nose. I called you and that’s when your phone was answered. I sent you a message then called Agang but his girlfriend answered the phone and she is was rude. I didn’t know who else to call because I had an exam in the morning, I called my lecture. He came and paid Elang to drop the charges.”

She looked at him to and found him smiling. She relaxed. “I was scared.”

“You see why it’s important to stay away from that girl right? At least you saw it for yourself. I never liked her right from the beginning. And I hope this is the last time I hear about her. I will pay the lecture back when we go home.”

Rethabile smiled. "I am sorry I didn't listen to you."

He kissed her. "The real lesson is one you learn yourself."

"Your beard makes you look older. Kana gatwe ke jola sugar daddy."

He laughed. "I like this look more."

"Therra bata go tsaya gotwe o dzaddy. I love you. I don't want to lose you."

"But babe this is a look."

Rethabile laughed putting her leg over him. "They will snatch you. I don't know how to fight. With Elang I know she can't fight for shit."

Atang kissed her hand touching her ring finger. "Your fingers are small."

He took out a ring from underneath his pillow and slid it on. He took it out.

"Your finger is really small."

"Who's ring is that?"

"Tiro's. He wants to propose to his baby mama. Her fingers are almost like yours."

"It was a bit loose."

"He will have to get it altered. Tiro!"

The door opened then Tiro walked in. He smiled staring at Atang

be who seemed comfortable and happy.

“Yah?”

“You will need to get it altered slightly. Just slightly.”

“Ok. We are going.”

“Thanks for bringing Mrs Daniel.”

“Sharp laitaka.”

They bumped fists then he walked out. Rethabile snuggled closer to her man while he rubbed her thigh then her butt.

In Gaborone, Elang got in Honda fit. A lady looked at him. She handed him a black plastic.

“There is LSD, it’s an hallucinogen drug. It causes hallucinations, all in all, it tempers with your brain. Make you see and feel things are not there. You may feel joy and euphoria, feel like you are floating but you can have really terrifying thoughts. It’s effects are unpredictable. It starts working within thirty minutes and go into full peak in 2-4 hours. This lasts for 12 hours. It’s a dangerous drug. Constant use may cause permanent damage to the brain. It can even cause schizophrenia.”

“How much do I take?”

“One tablet is enough.”

“Ok, at the other one? PCS?”

“It’s PCP. Phencyclidine is a mind-altering drug that may lead to hallucinations, it’s as same as LSD. It causes auditory hallucinations, image distortion, severe mood disorders, and amnesia may also occur. It also causes acute anxiety and a feeling of impending doom, paranoia, violent hostility, a psychoses indistinguishable from schizophrenia.”

“So it doesn’t kill?”

“High amounts of those leads to seizures, coma and worse, death.”

Elang nodded. “Addiction too akere?”

“Yes. PCP is addictive and its use often leads to psychological dependence, craving, and compulsive PCP-seeking behavior.”

“You know so much, are you a doctor?”

She smiled. “No. Do you have my money?”

“Yes.”

Elang took out the P300 and handed it to her.

“Thank you.”

“Eemma. Please don’t overdose. LSD causes violent and psychotic behavior.”

“Thank you.”

Elang stepped out of the car and walked to the combis smiling. She got in at the front seat and started typing Rethabile a

Facebook message.

Elang: Hi. I know we are fighting. I am sorry. I took out my frustrations on you. I know you have been by my side for the longest and I keep taking your u fir grunted. I am sorry. I feel depressed. I have been dreaming of the night I got raped so much that can't sleep. I keep thinking it's going to happen again. I am being haunted. I am going crazy, sometimes I just want to kill myself. I am sorry. Please forgive me. You are the only one I have.

She sent the message and smiled knowing her person.

She inserted the new sim card and quickly registered it then sent Atang a message.

'Unknown': So you think you know your girlfriend? Did she tell you about the baby she aborted... your baby...

She smiled feeling as if she was in James Bond film. She put away her phone as the combi got full then the driver drove off.

Later that day Agang walked in the house with Batang. Nkamo looked at the child then at him.

"Hey, this is Batang. Rethabile's younger brother. We will be staying with him till she's back. She went to SA."

"Doesn't he gave relatives?"

“He does. I am his uncle and he will be staying with me.”

Nkamo looked at the child suspiciously then she faked a smile.

“Ok.”

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Yours Truly

#38

Elang smiled as her roommate got back.

“Hi...”

She smiled. “Hi.”

“You didn’t go to school today?”

“Ng ng. I am not feeling well and my face is swollen.”

“I am sorry.”

“It’s ok. I will see school on Monday.”

“Yah...”

The roommate sat down on her bed. Elang stood up then poured juice in two glasses. She secretly dropped a pill in the drink then grabbed a fork and quickly mixed.

She sighed turning to her roommate.

“Take... some juice.”

The roommate smiled. “Thank you.”

The roommate sipped the cold drink and gulped it all down quenching her thirst. She took out a novel and laid on her bed reading while Elang slowly drank hers.

Thabi opened her eyes waking up. She looked at the white walls and got off the bed. She looked at Atang sleeping then sat down staring at him. She took out her phone then took a picture of her hand holding his. She reached for her bag and took out her laptop and books and started studying while he slept.

His door opened then a nurse walked in holding food. She smiled at Rethabile.

"I am going to wake him up so he can eat."

Rethabile smiled back then frowned sniffing the boiled egg. Her stomach turned, she put the laptop down and rushed to the bathroom in the room and vomited. She walked out minutes later wiping her mouth. Atang looked at her worriedly.

"Are you ok?"

"Yes. You know I don't like boiled eggs. The smell gets to me."

He looked at the eggs then closed them. "Oh..."

"It smells like fart. You can eat."

She took her laptop and books then sat at far corner of the room. Atang looked at her confused. She smiled and looked at her laptop continuing studying

Zaza sat in the doctor's office as he explained to her.

"As feared, the tumor is cancerous. He has grade 4 malignant brain tumor and it's aggressive. I know this is not what you expected to hear..."

Zaza looked at him holding her boy in her arms. He had lost so much weight, she could feel him slipping from her hands.

"It has already spread throughout his brain. We can do radiation and chemotherapy but... it's not going to take it away.

She smiled holding him tighter. "He's all I got."

"Is there history of cancer in your family?"

"Yes. My aunt had it. My grandmother. And the history goes on."

"I am sorry. I really am."

She laughed as a tear rolled down. "He's too young. He's been crying to go to school with my neighbor's daughter. I refused because... he's just too young. I was going to take him next year."

"I am sorry."

She swallowed. "I can't lose him."

"Radiation and Chemo is painful. His little body won't handle it."

She shook her head crying. "I can't lose him. I can't."

"The treatments are not only painful but they are expensive and it's not going to make him better."

"I can't lose him. I can't." She bit her lower lip staring at the doctor.
"I can't... he's all I got. I will sell my car and my plot. I am not losing him. I can't..."

"I know this is hard for you. I will give you time to think about it."

"I can't lose him... I can't. You don't understand... I have nothing without him."

"I am sorry."

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Zaza walked out carrying her boy then put him at the backseat. She got in her car and put her hands on her face crying.

"God please..."

She took a deep breath and looked at him sleeping peacefully. She reached for her phone and called Atang but the call didn't go through. She dialed his number with her other sim card. It rang twice then he picked.

She quickly hung up and texted him instead.

Zaza: Today I went to get AJ's results. The doctor had spoken about cancer a while back but he had brushed it off because we had hope. The results came back and he has cancer. Grade 4 brain tumor. It's already spread. He says we can do radiation and chemotherapy but it's already too late. I should have taken him to the hospital earlier. I didn't see it. I thought most of the symptoms

were just ordinary sickness. My ignorance and selfishness is the reason he is sick. I blame myself. I am going to take him for his treatments because I am not going to lose him. I will keep you updated.

She sent the message then sniffed putting her phone down. She started the engine and drove home listening to Train Wreck by James Arthur while her son slept.

'Laying in the silence

Waiting for the sirens

Signs, any signs I'm alive still

I don't wanna lose it

I'm not getting through this

Hey, should I pray? Should I pray

To myself? To a God?

To a saviour who can

Unbreak the broken

Unsay these spoken words

Find hope in the hopeless

Pull me out of the train wreck

Unburn the ashes

Unchain the reactions, I'm not ready to die, not yet

Pull me out of the train wreck

Pull me out, pull me out, pull me out

Pull me out, pull me out'

She stopped the car emotions wrecking her. She got out and stood in front of her car as the sun set. She knelt down crying. She cried so much till she was just gasping.

At Agang's house, Nkamo opened the message from the unsaved number.

7267****: Today I went to get AJ's results. The doctor had spoken about cancer a while back but he had brushed it off because we had hope. The results came back and he has cancer. Grade 4 brain tumor. It's already spread. He says we can do radiation and chemotherapy but it's already too late. I should have taken him to the hospital earlier. I didn't see it. I thought most of the symptoms were just ordinary sickness. My ignorance and selfishness is the reason he is sick. I blame myself. I am going to take him for his treatments because I am not going to lose him. I will keep you updated.

She started typing her response.

'Agang': He is not my son so I don't want to know anything about him.. let him die if he's dying. I don't care. Stop texting me or calling me. I am in a serious relationship and I love my girlfriend. I am not going to deal with your garbage drama. Tell the father of that child not me.

She sent the message then deleted it together with the one Zaza had sent. She sighed putting his phone back where she had gotten it. She thoughtfully picked it up and blocked her before putting the phone down again. Minutes later Agang walked from the bedroom dressed then he kissed her.

"I am going out with the boys. I will be back later. I love you."

She smiled. "I love you too."

He kissed her then walked over to Batang who was watching TV. They bumped fists then he walked out. She walked behind him and waved as he drove out then she closed the door and looked at Batang.

"Where is your mother?"

Batang turned to her. "She-she-she is dead."

"Is he your father?"

Batang smiled and shook his head. "N-No."

"You know what I do to liars?" She walked to the kitchen and walked back with a jug full of hot water.

"I burn them. Tell me the truth. Is he your father?"

Batang looked at her confused. "I don't lie-lie-"

“Hey! I will burn you!”

His heart started pounding as he looked at her.

“Who’s your father?”

“I-I I-”

Nkamo got closer holding the kettle of hot water

Yours Truly

#39

Batang leaped bumping into her as she got even closer. The hot kettle slipped from her hands dripping her feet. She screamed as the lid opened, the hot water burning her.

Batang rushed to the kitchen and came back with cold water from the fridge and poured her legs.

“So-sorry.”

Nkamo sat down as the pain weakened her. Batang picked his small phone from the table and pressed the buttons. He dialed the ambulance number he had memorized and put the phone on his ear.

At the club, Agang parked his car the stepped out of his car listening to the loud music from the club. His phone rang then he picked this father’s call.

“Papa...”

“Where are you?”

“I am flying there tomorrow morning.”

"I don't understand why you didn't come today. Tomorrow anything can happen. You should have slept here."

"I will be there in the morning."

"Your brother is paying magadi. I want you to see how it's done. Maybe it will motivate you too."

Agang laughed. "Papa wee, can you let me be?"

"No. You are growing. You are not going to stay young forever. You are getting old."

"I haven't met the rightful person to marry."

"Don't you have a girlfriend?"

"Our relationship is new and it's going to take time till I can be sure she is the one I really want to marry."

"It didn't take your brother that long. I just want you settle and have kids. Time is moving my boy."

"I don't want to marry for the sake of just getting married. I want to get married because I am in love and see a future. I don't see it with the woman I am currently seeing."

His father sighed. Please come early morning."

"Eerra."

He hung up then put away his phone and walked inside the club staring at the lady walking in front of him.

His phone vibrated in his pocket. He took it out and picked Nkamo's call walking out.

“Babe...”

“Your child has burnt me with water!” She screamed hysterically.

Agang frowned. “What?”

“He burnt me!”

“He burnt you?”

“My legs!” She cried screaming.

Agang hurried to his car and drove off headed back to his house.

Elang watched her roommate laughing lying on the floor talking alone. She got up and looked at Elang. She turned to the wall screaming as if she was seeing something. She ran to the bathroom, Elang stood up and close the bathroom door locking her inside.

She sat down on her bed knowing for Rethabile she was going to give her two pills of each. One didn't seem to really be doing the job.

She laid on her bed and checked if Rethabile had read her message but it hadn't been opened as yet. She bit her lower lip and typed another one.

Elang: Please talk to me. I feel like killing myself.

She sent the message and sighed going to her timeline. She paused coming across Rethabile's picture of her hand and Atang's. She looked at the caption.

'My happy place.'

Elang looked at the 23 heart reactions on the picture. She scrolled past the picture. Her roommate banged the door screaming. Elang switched on her Bluetooth speaker and started playing music loudly.

At the hospital, Agang walked inside Nkamo's room. He looked at the nurse bandaging her legs. He walked over to her.

"What happened?"

She put her hands on her face crying. He looked at her legs and hugged her. He sighed confused, the nurse walked out.

"What happened?"

"My phone was ringing so I went to answer it holding the kettle. He pushed me and it fell."

"He didn't do it on purpose."

"He did."

"He's only 12. Come on, why would he do it on purpose?"

“I don’t know. Maybe he should go back to his house. To his mother.”

Agang looked at her. “I told you he’s Rethabile’s brother.”

Nkamo looked at him angrily. “You are lying! You think I don’t know he’s yours?”

Agang stepped back staring at her. “Are you insane?”

“That thing tried to kill me!”

“You are crazy. I am going.”

“You are a liar and cheater. O nkg a difebe!” She screamed. “You think I don’t know your tricks? I know it all.”

She got off bed now crying. “Go on and call me crazy. I have been called worse.”

Agang looked at her then sighed realizing just how broken she was. He picked her up and put her back on the bed.

“Please sleep. I am going home. My sister in-law’s brother is alone. I love you.”

He walked out. Nkamo screamed crying.

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At Agang’s house, Agang walked in and closed the door wondering why Batang hadn’t locked or it was the shock of

everything that had happened.

“Batang!”

He walked to the guest room and found him seated on the bed with his bag.

“Hey champ...”

“Wh-where is Thabi?”

“She went go see uncle Atang. Are you ok?”

He took a deep breath like he did with the speech therapist then he started speaking slowly.

“I want to go home. I will wait for Rethabile there.”

“What happened?”

“Your wife doesn’t like me. She wanted to burn me with water. I want to go home.”

“She is not my wife. I am sorry I left you with her. You don’t have to go because this is my house and I like you very much. This is your house too. Ok?”

“She-“

“She is not coming back. You don’t have to go. Your sister will come and take you when she comes back. Tomorrow we are going to see your uncle then come back. Do you want to watch a movie?”

Batang smiled then walked out with Agang. They sat down and played an action movie. Agang looked at him seated besides him.

It would feel great having a son... but then he was not sure about Nkamo. Not that he'd been sure in the first place but now he doubted a lot of things. He looked at the TV watching as Jason Statham jumped from a moving car to another moving car.

The following morning, Atang put on his t-shirt slowly then walked to the hospital bed where Rethabile was sleeping with her lips parted. He leaned over and kissed her.

"Hey ..."

She woke up and looked at him sitting upright. She yawned then smiled.

"We are going?"

"Yes. We are going to bath at the hotel and go."

She got off the bed then picked her books bending. Atang smacked her butt making it jiggle. She turned laughing. He kissed her and walked out carrying her bag.

They got in a car by the entrance, him taking the front seat. He started the car and drove while Rethabile stared at the South African streets for the first time. A while later they walked inside a hotel. Rethabile smiled taking everything. She followed behind him smiling. They got in an elevator that whisked them up.

Seconds later they stepped out. Atang inserted the card he had

gotten on the door and opened it. Rethabile walked in while he held the door open. The beauty of the room leaving her speechless. She walked to the balcony and looked at the tall buildings and busy roads.

She walked back in the room. "Babe... this place is beautiful.."

Atang took off his t-shirt. "I know. Let's shower and get going."

"Ok..."

She walked to the bathroom as he pressed a phone in the room. She took off her dress staring at the huge bathroom. She took off her panty and bra then put them nicely on the hanger. Atang walked in unzipping his pants. He looked at his girl, his eyes moving from her breasts and further down.

He pulled her closer and squeezed her breast. She flinched. He smiled noticing the changes now that he was paying attention then he hugged tightly kissing her neck.

"Thank you... Fuck I love you so much."

She put her arms around him hugging him unsure what she was being thanked for. Atang moved his head and kissed her.

Rethabile put her hand on his chest going down to his bandage.

Atang kissed her more caressing her, his hand moved between her legs then he touched her wet folds cursing underneath his breath. He opened her legs more taking out his dick. He pushed her against the wall and hooked her leg that she stood on one leg. He looked in her eyes curving his back and #removed.

In Maun, a fleet of cars from the Daniel family parked outside Mmagwe Rethabile's aunt's gate that the neighbors stood by their fences just staring. Inside the house, the magadi negotiations continued between the two families. The neighbors continued staring, minutes later there was ululation in the house followed by tradition wedding songs being sung.

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Yours Truly

#40

Rethabile pulled the duvets convulsing. Her eyes rolled back as pleasure paralyzed her. Her p*ssy squeezed him making grunt in her ear burying himself deep inside her. He dic jerked, his cum landing inside. He kissed her then remained still enjoying just being inside her. Her breathing went back to normal then he slid it out and looked at her smiling.

“I love you.”

She smiled. “I love you too.”

Atang got off her then picked her up and walked with her to the bathroom. A while later they walked out laughing. Someone knocked on the door. She fixed the towel around her body as he walked to the door, a towel on his lower body.

He got a plastic then walked back in the room. “I got you something to wear.”

He handed her the plastic. Rethabile opened it then took out a dress and a thong together with a matching bra and sandals.

She smiled. “Thank you.”

She dressed up while he opened his bag and took out some clothes. She watched him as he put on a jean and a t-shirt, the t-shirt clung onto his body showing his muscles.

“You can use my things.”

Rethabile looked inside his bag and took out the lotion. She applied staring at him.

“So who cooked for you in the bush?”

He put on my a watch. “We do it ourselves but there was a lodge nearby and an elderly lady always cooked.”

“What was Prince’s side chick doing there?”

“The only ladies around close by are the nurses. I think it’s one of them. I am not sure though. Why are you asking all this?”

She applied his roll on then his fragrance.

“I am just asking.”

“If he’s cheating it would be with one of the ladies there.”

She combed her hair then put down the comb. Atang helped her up and kissed her.

“I am not cheating. Please trust me.”

“I do.”

“Good. Let’s go.”

She walked out with him going to the car outside. Atang drove them back to the airport again and walked inside with her. Thabile followed behind him trying to guess where was taking her.

He ked her to where the planes were then took her to a small plane. The man who had been standing in front of it smiled.

“Atang..”

“Sure sure. I have my girlfriend with. Tell Skhu I said thanks. I owe him.”

“Sure.”

The man walked away then Rethabile looked at him happily. She jumped in his arms excitedly.

That same morning, Zaza advertised her plot and car in several groups. She went on WhatsApp and posted on her story.

She looked at her son watching TV. It made her smile. Zaza continued advertising. She went to her messages and swallowed her proud

Zaza: Hi. I know you said you want nothing to do with the child but I need you. I am selling my car and plot. Please help me. I will pay you back.

She sent the message but it bounced. She looked at her phone, a tear dropping on the skin. AJ started clapping his hands with the cartoon character he was watching while singing along.

Zaza looked over watching him sing happily clapping and moving his body. She took a picture smiling tearfully.

He continued singing oblivious to what was going on.

Elang looked at get roommate waking up. She smiled staring at her. The roommate slowly say upright feelings as if she had been hit by a train.

Elang smiled. "Are you ok?"

She shook her head recalling bits and pieces of last night.

Elang sighed. "Waitse you didn't sleep last night. You were screaming and mumbling. I even started praying because I was scared."

The roommate looked at her confused. "I was dreaming? It felt so real. You locked me in the bathroom and..."

"I locked you were?"

The roommate laughed.. "I can't believe it was a dream. Yoh... I was going crazy in my dream. Matter of fact, I was crazy."

Elang got up from her bed. "Are you ok?"

"Yes. I guess it's school stress. The exams were where hectic. I can't believe it was a dream.

"It was."

She got up and poured herself some water feeling sleepy still. She looked at herself then sighed wondering why she would have such a dream...

In Maun, Keemi sat in her car watching as more of her relatives celebrated. Her brother walked over and got in her car.

“What’s wrong?”

“You should have said no. How could you marry her off just like that?”

“What do you mean?”

“She is still a student. She is a child!”

“Rethabile is happy with this man. And so what if she’s still a student? He is doing right by her. I support this.”

“Because you love money so much!”

“I don’t even know what’s wrong with you. Or why you are fighting.”

“My sister would not have wanted her daughter to get married like this. This man is too old for her.”

“Your husband is 11 years older than you. What’s wrong with you? You are so bitter because she didn’t come running to you when her mother died. That she didn’t need you. You are sick and stupid.”

He stepped out of the car and walked to where everyone was.

In Cape Town, later that day, Rethabile smiled as Atang walked towards the beach with her. The sun slowly set, she looked around happily.

“I have never been to the beach.”

He held her hand and smiled. “I know.”

She looked at the trail of rose petals.

“Are these for someone?”

Atang shrugged. “I doubt.”

She walked down the beach with him as it got dark. From a distance she could see candles. She squeezed his hand. “Are we supposed to be here?”

“I want to show you something then we go back to the hotel.”

She smiled and nodded. They approached the candles. Rethabile looked at the glowing stones in the water that made a big heart making the water glow.

Atang looked around then frowned.

“I am coming. I think they removed it.”

“What?”

“I am coming.”

He disappeared into the darkness. Rethabile swallowed looking

around now thinking of all the horror stories she had heard. She looked at the stones in the water, her eyes falling on something shining inside. She took off her shoes and got in the water. The waves made her heart pound so much. She had seen enough movies to know a lot could happen in the water. She hurried over and dipped her hand in the water, the water barely reaching her knees. picked it up and looked at the glittering ring.

“Hey..”

She dropped the ring in the water startled. Atang smiled.

“Hi...”

She put her hand on her chest. “You scared me..I think someone is planning something here. We should go.”

She looked in the water and picked the ring.

“See? We should go. Let me put it back.”

Atang took the ring from her.

“Let me say something first... I know the dream is to go abroad for school. I know what you want. And I want to see you achieving it. I want to be by your side when you achieve it.”

Rethabile smiled. He touched her hands. “I love you so much. I want to be with you forever. I want us together in every way. I want to be your permanent cheerleader. Your permanent number 1 fan.”

She blushed. “I love you too.”

“I have never been this happy and I want to feel like this forever..”

He slowly went down on his knee in the water then held out the ring.

“I am already the happiest man in the planet. I want to make you the happiest woman in the planet. I want us to be an official team. I don’t know what the future holds but I want to experience it with you. Marry me babe... let’s make it official... Please be Mrs Daniel...”

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Yours Truly

#41

Rethabile looked at him in shock. She punched herself but he was still there, still kneeling holding a ring. She thought of her degree, her goals, what she wanted. She swallowed then looked in his fearful eyes, tears burning her own. A tear rolled down her cheek.

The ring stared right back at her. Another tear rolled down.

“What about school?”

“I will never stop you from the reaching the greater heights you’ve always wanted to reach. I want to be by your side helping you reach them. I know your dream... I will not stand between you and that. I love you.”

She looked at the ring again and nodded crying.

He looked at her smiling. “Is that a yes?”

“Yes.”

Atang closed his eyes then opened them and slid it on her finger. He got up and hugged her tightly.

From a distance the camera man hired captured everything as they kissed standing in the water. He stopped the video and smiled satisfied. He walked away humming.

In Kasane, that evening, Rragwe Atang smiled reading Atang's message. He looked at his wife.

"Atang says she said yes."

"Good. We wouldn't have wanted to go back to that family again. What he did was a risk. That girl is still young, it's not like she is desperate to settle down. She is not under pressure unlike some women.."

"She loves him. She makes him happy. He's very happy with that girl. And he did right to marry her before she went overseas. These white men are vultures. Now she will be going as Rethabile Daniel."

"At least Atang can breathe."

"She probably makes it difficult for him to breathe. She is too beautiful. But she's the rightful size for him. Not the food deprived girls he used to sleep with."

Mmagwe Atang laughed. "Stop it."

"I am telling you. I went there the last time. He doesn't sleep at night."

"Aii Rragwe Atang!"

"I am telling you. He represents us well.. that's exactly what I taught him."

"What did you teach him?"

Rragwe Atang took the bible from her lap and put it aside then kissed her.

“I will show what I taught him.”

She laughed as he got on top of her.

“Don’t do that thing you did last time. Nna kea lapa. I am not young anymore. Mangole ame a botoko. (My knees are painful.)”

He kissed her taking off her nightdress then reached for the lub on the side of gthe bed.

Later that evening Agang walked in his house still in his suit. Batang followed behind yawning with exhaustion. Agang switched on the light, his heart skipped as be looked at Nkamo sitting on his couch.

Agang looked at Batang. “Go and sleep buddy.”

Batang nodded and walked away. Agang sighed.

“How did you get inside?”

“I have a spare key.”

“I have both my keys. Where did you get yours?”

“I had one made for me. Where are you coming from?”

Agang sighed. “Ok. So you can come in and out as you please in

my house.?”

“I missed you.”

“I think you need to heal from what you went through. See a therapist. What happened with Bateng showed me just how broken you are. I know you wanted to burn him so he can admit to me bring his father when I had told you whom he was. You need to see someone. You need professional help and now I see it why your relationships don’t last.”

“You are breaking up with me?”

“You need time to heal.”

“But I am fine.”

“You are not. You need help. I will drop you off at your house. And don’t think you can try psycho tendencies on me, I will kill you.”

She looked at him tearfully and started crying. Agang walked to the guest room and looked at Batang.

“Buddy, I am dropping off aunty at her house. Come and lock.”

“Ok.”

Agang walked over to Nkamo and picked her up as she cried even louder. Batang closed the door as Agang put Nkamo inside.

He jumped in and drove to her sister’s house. Agang parked at the gate and looked at Nkamo.

“Lets go.”

“I love you.”

“You need to see someone. I will pay for your sessions but you need help. I will send you money for your legs. I will be keeping in touch with your therapist. After she declares you well, we will get back together.”

He stepped out of the car and took her inside the gate carrying her. He knocked on the door.. seconds later Nkamo’s sister opened the door. She looked at her older sister and sighed.

“What did she do?”

“Can I put her down?”

The sister opened the door wider. He walked in and put her on the couch then turned to the sister.

“Your sister needs help. I am going to find someone to help her.”

The young sister nodded. “Ok. I hope she didn’t cause much damage.”

“No.”

“Thank God. Thank you for bringing her here.”

“Cool.”

He kissed Nkamo then walked out. Nkamo’s younger sister sighed.

“You couldn’t keep it going could you? You ruined it like you ruin everything else. I wish I could just take you and dump you at Sbrana because I am tired! I am tired Nkamo. I think you should go back home. To mama...” The sister sniffed.

Nkamo shook her head tearfully. "I will lose Agang."

"You have already lost him because you don't want to drink your pills. I think you should go home. I can't keep doing this. Not anymore."

In Cape Town the following morning, Rethabile looked at her diamond ring on her finger, it fit perfectly. She skid it off her finger and looked at it closely before sliding it back on her finger. Atang walked back in the room and looked at her.

"I wish we can stay a bit longer but we will come back."

She smiled. "Thank you for bringing me. I love it."

He kissed then took her bag and walked out with her. They got in a cab waiting for them at the entrance. Rethabile rested her head on his chest staring at her ring.

In Gaborone, Agang parked his car at Zaza's house and walked inside through the gate. He knocked on the door and waited.. minutes later she walked out.

"Hi.. I want to do the tests again."

She nodded then moved from the door letting him in. She walked to the sitting room and turned to him.

“You can take him. I will remain here.”

“Are you ok?”

She nodded. “I found a buyer for my plot but she says she has only 50k. I am thinking of just taking that. I did research and there is a hospital in South Africa. They can save him. They have dealt with grade 4 brain cancer before and won. I am going to take a loan too.”

Agang looked at him. “What are you talking about? He has cancer?”

“I sent you a message.”

“I didn’t see anything.”

She picked her phone and handed it to him while mumbling inaudibly. She sat down and kept quiet in complete silence staring at the wall. Agang looked at the messages and swallowed.

“I...”

“You blocked me.”

He slowly sat down.

She slowly turned to him. “I am going to save him.” She smiled tearfully. “I am not losing my son. Not like this. I’d rather die. I am not losing my son.”

Agang pulled her in his arms as she broke down crying.

At Sir Seretse Khama International Airport, Atang walked out with Rethabile. A man stepped out of the Amarok and handed Atang the car keys.

“Thanks!”

The man smiled walking away. “Sure, we will talk.”

They got in the car, Atang looked at Rethabile.

“I have to tell you something.”

“What?”

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Yours Truly

#42

She looked at him. "What?"

"I already spoke to my uncles."

She took a deep breath and swallowed. "O bata go ntsa magadi?"

"Yes."

"What's going to happen to us when I go abroad...if I go."

"You are going to go. And we will be fine. We will find a way to make it work."

"What if you get tired of waiting for me to come back? Will you divorce me?"

"There is nothing that will make me tired. It's a leap of faith..."

He kissed her. "Don't overthink... we will deal with each day as it comes. Together."

"It feels like a dream."

He smiled. "Its not."

She looked at her ring and smiled. "You want me to talk to malume?"

"I already asked my uncles to."

She sighed. "Ok. So when are you—"

"Yesterday. I did yesterday."

"You did what?"

"I paid your bride price."

She paused. "You what?"

"I didn't want to wait."

"So you already paid?"

"Yes."

"How much? Who took it?"

"Your uncle. He's going to talk to you. I just wanted to tell you before he called."

"How much did you pay?"

"That's my secret."

She smiled. "I can't believe this. You want to make me a wife?"

"You are already a wife."

She looked at her ring. "I can't believe you really want me as a wife. I never imagined getting married."

"One more thing, I think you are pregnant. You are getting thicker. I am not sure so go and check. I am working man who can afford my wife and children. Please don't kill my child if you are. I can afford taking care of you and him making sure you have everything you need at all times. I can afford a nanny who can

help us. Even if you are to go abroad for school, I will still take care of you and the baby.”

She looked at him thoughtfully then swallowed. “But...”

Atang kissed her. “Please don’t kill my child.”

“I don’t think I am pregnant Attie.”

“Let’s pass by the clinic. I want a proper scan.”

He started the car and drove off headed to a clinic while her heart pounded.

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At the clinic, Atang walked inside with her. He spoke to the receptionist while Rethabile’s heart raced so much she found herself shaking. They sat down by the waiting area waiting for the doctor.

Atang held her hand and kissed it. Minutes later a female doctor walked over.

“Mr. And Mrs Daniel, I am Dr. Tiku, you can come through.”

They followed after her to her office.

“We want to do scan and see if my wife is pregnant.”

The doctor smiled. “Ok. You can put on the boon tube right in the bathroom.”

“Ok.”

Atang took out his phone then picked a call walking out. Rethabile looked at the doctor.

“I think I am pregnant but I am not ready. Can you say I am not. Please.”

The doctor looked at her. “You want me to lie?”

Tears filled her eyes. “I am not ready. I don’t know how it happened. I am on contraceptives. Please... I can’t have a baby now.”

“And what happens after you say you are not?”

“I want to do a surgical abortion. I am not ready. He’s my boyfriend. I have school. I don’t want a child limiting me. Please...”

The door opened then Atang walked in. Rethabile smiled walking to the bathroom. Minutes later she walked out and got on the bed. Atang excitedly held her hand smiling.

“We will do a transvaginal scan.”

She took a probe and put some gel on it.

“It’s going to be a little cold.”

Rethabile took a deep breath as the doctor pushed the probe inside her. They all looked at screen. The doctor swallowed then turned to Atang.

“Uh... no. I don’t see anything. False alarm I guess.”

Atang’s smile died down. “Are you sure?”

"100%."

"Please check."

She looked at the screen and sighed. "Nothing.. I am sorry."

He sighed. "Ok thanks." He looked at Thabi. "Are you ok babe?"

Tears rolled down. "I am fine."

"Don't cry. It's ok."

"I am sorry."

He kissed her. "Don't be. But can we try?"

She looked at him and nodded crying. "Yes."

He smiled. "Really?"

She nodded. "Yes."

He hugged her tightly. "Thank you. Let's go home and start trying."

His phone started ringing again. He took it out and looked at Prince calling then kissed her. "I love you. Let me take this."

He walked out. She looked at the doctor.

"Thank you."

The doctor walked over and pushed the probe inside her again. Rethabile frowned. She moved it on and about then paused as they both listened to the heart beat. The doctor smiled.

"It's a girl... she is pretty strong. You are about 17 weeks. Congratulations."

"I want to book for an abortion. Do you perform abortions?"

The doctor sighed. "Yes."

"I want to book in. Tomorrow morning."

"Ok."

She got up and changed then walked out. Atang smiled.

"Let's go and try."

She laughed. "I was on contraception so it might take time."

"Its ok. I love you."

She smiled hugging him. "I love you too."

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Yours Truly

#43

Rethabile walked inside Atang's house while he followed behind carrying their bags. She sat down feeling heavy on her shoulders. Atang looked at her.

"Are you ok babe?"

Rethabile smiled. "I am fine. Just tired."

Atang walked to the bedroom with the bags then came back in sweatpants shirtless holding his lotion. Rethabile looked at bandage right above his abdomen as he sat down taking her legs. He placed them on his lap and took off her shoes.

He put some lotion in his hand and gently massaged her feet. He raised his head and found her staring.

"You should stop wearing closed shoes for the whole day."

She smiled. "Ok Doc." She took a deep breath. "Attie..."

He smiled. "Yes..."

"What will happen if we don't have kids?"

"What do you mean?"

"What will happen if we don't have kids?"

"Why do you ask?"

She put her feet down and straddled him. Atang out his hands

around her waist.

“You badly want a child. I can see you are disappointed that I am not. But what if we just don’t have kids?”

“Why wouldn’t have kids? You and I are fertile.”

She looked at him and smiled. “Would you leave me if I couldn’t give you a child?”

“Babe what’s going on?”

“What will happen if I can’t give you kids? Anything can be a problem. What if I can’t carry full term? Or what if I can’t get pregnant because I once had an abortion... what will happen then?”

“We will seek second opinion. There are options.”

“Can’t we just stay without kids? Why do I have to share your love? Childless couples are happy. There are a lot of people who are happy without kids.”

“Rethabile-“

“Did you know cancer is hereditary. I may have it. My mother had it. Her mother did too. I can have it too.”

“Babe-“

“And I may die and leave my children to suffer!”

“Thabi..”

She sighed. “I was just wondering...”

“Don’t you want kids?”

“I do. I just...” She kissed him. “I do. I was just wondering. I do.”

“Talk to me.”

“I am fine. Just that sometimes I wonder.”

“I know cancer is hereditary. But it doesn’t mean you have it or that’s incurable.”

“I know. I just.. “ She sighed.

Atang looked in her eyes. “And you won’t share my love. I love you. I love you more than anything.”

She smiled resting her head on his chest. “I love you too.”

Atang flipped them and stared at her. “I don’t know what tomorrow holds. Or what the day after has in store. I know I love you. I know I would choose you over and over again. I know I want you today... tomorrow and the day after that. I want you forever. I know I am willing to take a leap of faith and trust our love. I know I would give anything for you.”

She smiled emotionally. “I am scared. I am scared of the future. I am scared of what the future can bring. I am scared of dying and leaving the people I love. I am scared of losing you. I love you so much... I don’t want to lose you.”

“You are not losing me. And you don’t have to be scared. I am right here and ready to give you anything. What do you need from me?”

She sniffed. “Nothing. You are perfect.”

Atang kissed her taking off her dress. He slowly made love to her on the couch. Rethabile moved her waist underneath him as he kissed her neck moving on top of her.

Agang sat in Zaza's house while she slept in his arms, he pressed this phone checking doctors in India. Zaza moved on top of him waking up. She quickly got up thinking of her son.

Agang pulled her back. "Hey... he's ok. He woke up. Watched TV and ate then he played and slept."

"What time is it?"

"It's just after 4."

"I slept the whole day?"

"Yes. Good thing is I found a doctor in China. He can help him. He's good."

Zaza smiled. "Ok... how much is it? I was thinking of selling my property too."

"You don't have to sell anything. I will dig in from my savings and I can get much more money from the bank.. It should be able to cover most things."

"I will give you the money from the plot and car. To add on."

"Ok. It's not your fault. Stop blaming yourself. You are a great

mom.”

Zaza shook her head. “I am not. But I will be a better mom.”

“You are the best mom. You couldn’t have known. You are human. Stop blaming yourself.”

He hugged her. She held him tightly now hopeful.

“I have to go and pick Batang from school. If you don’t mind, we can come here and keep you company.”

She stepped back. “Maybe you should do DNA tests first.”

“It can wait.”

“Where is Thabi?”

“With Atang.”

Zaza smiled. “You guys can come. I hope your girlfriend doesn’t mind.”

“I ended that. It wasn’t working.”

Elang’s roommate sat in the room thinking of her dream that evening. She couldn’t stop thinking about it. She still couldn’t believe it was only a dream. It hadn’t like it at all or maybe she was going crazy.

She picked her novel. Elang walked in. “Hi..”

She smiled. "Hi."

Elang sat on her bed taking out her phone. She checked her Facebook messages but there was nothing. She took her shoes and laid on her bed constructing her plan. The roommate read a couple bod sentences from her novel then put it away and laid on her bed.

Elang looked at her and continued with her plans.

The following day, Atang parked the Amarak at UB.

"Call me when you are done. I will come and pick you up."

Rethabile nodded. "Ok. I love you."

"I love you too."

She stepped out of the car and waved walking away. She took out her phone and called a different clinic.

"Hi, I would like to make an appointment for a surgical abortion."

"How far are you?"

"17 weeks."

"Unfortunately Dr. Ikeme doesn't"

"I was raped. I don't want to keep this child. Please..."

Dr. Tiku sat in her office that same morning, guilty eating her up. She reached for her phone staring at Atang's number on a piece of paper. She dialed it then called him.

"Hello?"

"Mr. Daniel, it's Dr. Tiku. I have to tell you something. I am sorry I.."

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: Yours Truly

#44

Atang held his phone driving with one hand.

"I just realized that the monitor we were using yesterday was to go for servicing because it's been giving us some problems. If possible, may you please come with your wife for another scan. Free of charge. We greatly apologize for this."

"Uh yeah. I will bring her later today."

"Perfect. See you soon."

He hung up and smiled. He dialed Rethabile but her number was busy. He sighed and drove to Agang's work place.

He parked at the parking lot and walked inside the building. The receptionist looked at him, he didn't know this one. She seemed new. He smiled.

"Hi."

"Mr Daniel. Good morning."

"Can you please bring me coffee to my office."

"Yes sir."

Atang walked away then went up the stairs. He looked at his brother's PA, Ole smiled. "Twinnie."

Atang laughed. "O ta swaba Ole. O teng?"

“Yes he’s in.”

Atang opened his brother’s door and walked inside. He sat down while Agang spoke on his phone.

“I need 200k. Can I get it then? ... Ok, when? Ok , cool.”

Agang hung up while Atang stared.

“That much? What if it doesn’t work?”

Agang sighed. “It has to work.”

“Don’t take money from the bank. I will get you the money but you need to carefully think about this. He’s a child, one you’ve been denying. Can he handle it? He’s only 2.”

“He’s my boy. I failed him for two years. Not again.”

Atang looked at his brother and nodded. “I will get you the money.”

“Thanks. Zaza is hopeful...”

“How is she handling it?”

“She is scared. She says the cancer is hereditary.”

“Yah... Thabi is scared she might get it.”

“Chances are high.”

“She is scared of dying and leaving her child.”

“I am scared my son might die..”

“Where is Nkamo?”

“I took her to her sister’s house after she almost burnt Batang accusing him of being my son.”

“She what?”

“She burnt herself instead. I think purposely. She’s too damaged.”

“These crazy ones are your type.”

Agang laughed, Ole opened the door and looked at Atang.

“Coffee ya gago e tsile Mr. Daniel.”

Atang looked at her and smiled. “Thanks. You look nice.”

Ole smiled and closed the door. Atang stood up.

“I have to go. We will talk. You are doing well. I heard you were in the newspaper le bafana ba corruption.”

“Connections!”

Atang laughed walking out. Ole watched him as he walked out then sighed printing a document for her boss.

Around lunch hour, Rethabile walked out of the library holding a book with her bag on her arm. She took out her phone and called Atang walking to the gate.

“Hi, I am done.”

“Ok, I will be there in ten minutes.”

“Thank you.”

He hung up. She walked out of the school premises and sat by the bus stop waiting for him. Her phone rang, she took a deep breath staring at her uncle calling.

“Malome...”

“Thabi, how are you?”

“I am fine. Le teng? (Are you well?)”

“We are well my niece. Uh, is this a good time to talk?”

“Eerra.”

“Ok. The Daniel family came and paid your bride price, I am sure he told you. We had been told this young man was ready to officially make you his and also that he was going to ask for your hand in marriage.”

“He did. Thank you for what you did.”

“No worries. I really like this young man. He loves you and takes care of you and your brother. I am happy God blessed you with a good man who loves you. I know wherever my sister is, she is so happy.”

Rethabile smiled. “Thank you.”

“We are now one with the Daniel family. They are good level headed family. They acknowledge the fact that you have a younger brother and they don’t mind. I am not going to take much

from the money that came but rather I was thinking we renovate your mother's house and put a tombstone on her grave. For the longest time, my sister and I didn't talk because she believed I was still after my mother's house, not that I blamed her but... it was ten years after my mother's passing that I accepted that the house was hers. I didn't try resolving our disagreements, I was prideful and I regret it more than anything. I didn't even know she was sick. But I will do right with her kids. I know you want to go abroad, I need you to know that when it gets to assisting you with anything you may need, I am always here."

Rethabile smiled.. "Eerra."

"Good my child. I will call you so we can discuss the tombstone issue."

"Yes."

He hung up. Rethabile smiled happily, she looked at her finger then took out the ring from her pocket and slid it on her finger.

"Hi..."

Rethabile looked at Elang as she sat beside her.

"I am glad I found you. I have been looking for you."

"What do you want?"

"I know you are angry with me. You probably hate me. I don't blame you. You have every right to be."

"Elang-"

"I am sorry. I am sorry I took out my frustrations on you. You

didn't deserve that. I am sorry. I know I don't deserve you as a friend. There is only much someone can take and I know you are tired. I am sorry." Tears filled Elang's eyes. "I got you this juice... peace offering. I don't have much money."

The Amarok parked by the bus stop.

"I have to go. This friendship should just end. I think we should just keep our distance. Good luck."

She stood up taking her bag. Elang stood up too.

"Your juice."

Rethabile sighed and took the small bottle of orange juice. She got in the car. Elang watched as Rethabile received a kiss then her boyfriend drove away.

Atang looked at Rethabile driving.

"You are friends again?"

"No. She's back again but this time it's not going to work. I am so tired."

"I want us to pass through that clinic first. The doctor called and wants to do another scan."

Rethabile swallowed. "What? Why?"

“She said the monitor she used was supposed to go for servicing. You might be pregnant...”

Rethabile held Atang’s hand. “Please let’s go tomorrow. I have an exam in the morning. We can go in the afternoon. I am tired. And hungry.”

“It won’t take long. It’s just two minutes.”

She leaned over and kissed him while they waited for the traffic light to turn green.

“Can we please go tomorrow. That place makes me nervous. I don’t want to be poked with things today. Let’s go tomorrow.”

He looked at her and smiled. “Ok.”

Rethabile took off her shoes adjusting the car seat. She put her feet on the dashboard and closed her eyes relaxing.

She slowly fell asleep. He drove for a while then finally parked the car under a tree and looked at her smiling.

“Babe...”

Thabile woke up. She looked at him. “We are home?”

She sat upright staring at the bush. “Where are we?”

“This is a plot. Just outside Gabs. I was thinking that after we get married, maybe we buy a plot and build our home.”

She looked at the space then at him. “You want to build a house?”

He shook his head. “No. I want us to build a home. Together. It will be for our family.”

She smiled. "I would love that. You are paying for it right? I don't money now."

He laughed. "We are one. My money is your money. That's what it means being a team. There's no I in this. Only we."

He pulled her on his lap adjusting his seat. He kissed her. Thabile smiled.

"Ok. You want this space."

"I want you to see it so that we can find somewhere we both like and want to stay at."

"I like it. It's far from the city rush."

Atang touched her stomach. "Thank you for saying yes for a child. I can't wait for this. I am thinking maybe it's going to be a boy."

"Or a girl."

He smiled. "If it will be a girl, we should call her Warona."

"No. Warona is too ordinary and common. I like Miraya. I want English names."

"What does that even mean?"

"I don't know. It's beautiful."

"E kare leuna la makula. Ebile reka bitsa second born Rajesh.(Sounds like an Indian name. We might as well call the second born Rajesh.)"

Rethabile laughed. "Therra Miraya is beautiful. Utwa... mmagwe Raya."

“Warona is nice babe.”

“No. And if we have a boy.. we will call him Ramon.”

“Maina a makula.”

“Rragwe Miraya le Ramon Daniel.”

“No. The boy ke Otsile. It will be Warona Otsile. It makes sense.”

“Miraya and Ramon. Your names can be second names. Nna ke bata gonna mmagwe Raya.”

“Mmagwe Wawa.”

“Atang.. ke Raya. Tsabo Warona ke tsa gago kwa.”

“Mme kana o mmagwe Warona. It’s a done deal. You will be the most beautiful mmagwe Warona in history.” He touched her stomach. “She will be beautiful. Maybe she would have your eyes.”

Rethabile smiled then put her hand over his. “Hopefully not your ears.”

“What’s wrong with my ears? These ears are sexy.”

Rethabile laughed. “They lied to you.”

“These can be featured in a magazine. That’s what made you fall for me.”

Her stomach vibrated. Atang kissed her. “Let’s get you fed.”

“I love you. Our daughter is going to be beautiful. And you are going to be an amazing Dad. An amazing husband too.”

He smiled shyly touching his beard. She kissed him taking it out from his pants then she pushed her panties to the side and slowly sat on it. He grunted squeezing her waist.

A police van parked besides them. Rethabile quickly jumped off. Atang grabbed his jacket and out over his dick sitting properly. The police officer stepped out and walked over.

“Dumelang... is everything ok here?”

Atang nodded. “Yeah. I am Atang and this is my wife. You have parked in our plot. Isn’t that trespassing morena?”

“I just wanted to see if everything is ok. Dumela mme.”

Rethabile smiled and waved making sure he sees her ring. The police officer nodded and walked to his car then drove off. Atang took off his jacket.

“Come.”

She smiled. “Go and pee. I want to eat. We will do at home.”

“You can’t do this and say I should pee.”

“Go and pee. I am calling Nandos.”

He looked at her begging her. She looked at his weapon.

“Babe go and pee. I am hungry.”

“You are evil.”

He got out of the car. She grabbed her phone and called the clinic she had called earlier on.

“Hi, I would like to cancel that appointment.”

“Good afternoon. We will cancel you. Thank you.”

She put away her phone watching him walk over zipping his pants. He got in the car and kissed her.

“Did you order something?”

She shook her head smiling. “What did you want to eat?”

“You.”

She laughed. “Ijo. Your life is hard.”

Atang started the car and drove while she called Nandos. She grabbed the juice she had gotten from Elang and started drinking.

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Yours Truly

#45

At the mall, Thabile rolled down the windows in the car fanning herself with her hand while waiting for Atang who had went to collect their order. She opened her bag and took out a paper and continued fanning herself but the more she did, the more she sweated.

Atang walked back and got in. "There you go. Are you ok?"

"I am burning."

Atang started the car and switched on the Aircon.

"Better?"

She shook her head. "I am not feeling too good.. let's go home."

"We can go see a doctor."

She looked at him. "No. I want to go home."

"Ok."

Atang drove off while Rethabile scratched her arm. Her skin burnt so much it felt like someone had set her on fire. She took a deep breath closing her eyes then she opened them.

She frowned unable to see properly then rubbed them. Atang parked the car and looked at her.

"Let me go and pick up Batang. Agang is going to Zaza's house."

“Ok. I am going to go and take a shower.”

“Ok.”

Rethabile stepped out holding the phone. She unlocked the house and he walked in and Atang reversed out.

She put the food on the table and took off her clothes then he switched on the AC hoping the burning would go away but it got worse.

Rethabile walked to the bathroom then stood under the cold water. She sighed feeling it get better. A while later she stepped out, she screamed staring at her mother sitting on the bed covered, worms moving around her body.

She slipped trying to run and fell dropping the towel. She looked over at the bed, her eyes locking with her mother’s eyes which were black and scary.

She screamed louder getting up then ran out of the bedroom. Atang opened the door and looked at her as she ran over naked.

Atang hugged her taking off his jacket then put it around her while Batang walked in. Rethabile looked at him, horror reflecting in her eyes.

She slowly turned. Her mother smiled showing her black sharp teeth while slowly walking over, worms climbing her.

“Atang! She’s coming! Help me.”

Atang looked behind her staring at the wall then he hugged her.

“Babe... it’s ok. It’s ok.”

Rethabile cried. "She is coming. She is coming!"

"No one is here... hey.. look at me.."

She tried to push him out of her way but he held her tightly then he picked her up while she hurried her head on his chest hiding.

He walked with her to the bedroom and laid her down.

"Babe.."

She kept her head on his chest, her eyes tightly shut while she held on to him. He looked around the room and sighed confused.

"Thabi... there's no one here babe. Did you hear something?"

She slowly moved her head and looked. She was gone. Thabi sighed.

"She was here. Sitting on the bed. She looked scary. She's haunting me."

"Babe who?"

"I have to go. I can't stay here. I am not safe."

"What are you talk about?"

Thabile got off the bed is and opened the wardrobe. She took out a long dress then put it on top of the jacket. She picked some pants and put them on.

"I am going."

Atang locked the door noticing something was completely off. She looked like she was high on something.

“Did you smoke anything?”

“What?”

“Or eat something? Because something is wrong.”

She laughed. “Wrong with who? You? I am going to school.”

“You are not going anywhere. What did you smoke?”

“Why are you accusing me of things I do not know? Huh? Why do you like behaving like my parent? I am not your child. I want to go. Open the door!”

“I am not opening that door.”

She turned to the door, her heart skipped as her mother stood by the door now in her church uniform looking beautiful.

She smiled. “Thabi...”

Thabi smiled. “Mama...”

“Come here my girl... I missed you.”

Thabi walked over and hugged her. Atang watched as she hugged the air talking alone. She sniffed then touched the air as if she was holding something.

She turned and laughed talking alone. He sighed knowing she had gotten something, he thoughtfully took out his phone and took a video while she laughed alone.

“Thabi...”

Thabile turned to him. “Shhh.. mama is here.”

“Come and lie down.”

“You are making noise. Mama will hear you.”

Atang watched her seat on the bed. He pulled her closer.. “I need you to sleep. I will cook supper with Batang. Sleep whatever you took off.”

“But I am not sleepy. And I feel hot. My skin is burning.”

She fanned herself with her hand. Atang kissed her then walked out. Rethabile followed him out. She looked at Batang in the living room, he slowly turned into a big snake. It slowly hissed coming towards her.

She moved back, her heart pounding.

“Snake!”

Atang walked from the kitchen holding a glass of water.

“What snake? Drink this.”

Rethabile ran to the kitchen and grabbed a knife. Atang walked over, her heart pounded so much as he also changed into a snake.

Her knees slowly got weak. She looked at Atang changing back then caught her before she could fall. Batang looked over confused.

“Is there a snake?”

Atang laughed. “No. Your sister ate some buns. They make you crazy. She will be fine.”

Batang laughed. “She is screaming like it a crazy person.”

Atang smiled. "She will be fine."

He picked her up and walked with her to the bedroom. He laid her down glad he had the drug from his trip.

He took off her clothes and covered her with a fleece. He leaned over and kissed her smiling then walked to the kitchen and started cooking.

At Zaza's house, Agang walked inside the house holding a bottle of wine.

Zaza smiled. "Hi..."

Agang smiled back. "I got us wine."

"Thank you."

He walked inside. Zaza smiled walking behind him.

"I found a buyer for the car. He negotiated to 50k."

"No. That's way to low."

"He says-"

"I will sell the car for you. Don't let know you are desperate for their money. They will take advantage of it. You have a beautiful car and 50k is just a joke."

"We need the money quickly. We can't-"

Agang pulled her closer. "Look at me... look in my eyes... we will handle this. Relax... I know you are scared. So am I but breathe babe... we will sell the car at the right amount. Ok?"

She tearfully looked at him. "I don't want to wait so he dies."

Agang kissed her. "No one is dying. We will win this."

She wrapped her arms around him rubbing her tears on his white shirt.

Elang paced in her room wondering if she had drank the juice. There was no way of knowing till maybe tomorrow.

Her roommate walked in. Elang sat down.

"Hi."

The roommate smiled. "Hi. Waitse I can't get that dream out of my head. I keep thinking and I just..."

Elang smiled. "It got you. I am sorry"

"I still can't believe it was a dream. I keep remembering things and it doesn't really feel like a dream."

"But be you were sleeping. I saw you sleeping. I'm was awake"

The roommate sat down, Elang looked at the time then closed her eyes curiously.

Later that evening Atang watched TV while pressing his phone. He looked at the message he had gotten from an unsaved number then deleted it.

His phone rang, he picked the call turning to the TV.

“Hi... it’s Rorisang...”

“Do I know you?”

“Sorry... I mean Dr. Tiku... I couldn’t sleep. Your girlfriend is pregnant. 17 weeks. It’s a girl. She wants to abort because she says she is not ready. She had asked me not to tell you. I just wanted you to know the truth.”

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Yours Truly

#46

The following morning Rethabile opened her eyes and stared at the wall. She looked around the room as her head spun. She slowly sat upright locking eyes with Atang who was seated on a chair staring at her.

“Hi...”

“Hi. How are you feeling?”

She took a deep breath feeling tired. “I feel tired.”

“What happened to you?”

“I don’t know. I had this... I... was I dreaming?”

“No. What happened?”

“I don’t know. I just... I was seeing things. I saw mama. You turned into a snake.”

“What did you take? Did you try drugs?”

“No. I didn’t take anything the whole day. I just... I was losing it. I kept seeing mama.”

Atang stood up. “And you didn’t take anything?”

“I didn’t. I had an exam in the morning. From there you came to pick me up. I don’t do drugs.”

“So you just went crazy out of nowhere?”

“Maybe I am being haunted.”

“Haunted by who?”

“I don’t know. But I didn’t take drugs.”

“Baloi ba kwa lona ba strong akere? (The witches in your family are strong, aren’t they?)”

She swallowed closing her eyes.

“Or maybe you were trying to do another abortion.”

Rethabile opened her eyes and looked at him. “What?”

“You heard me. So you were just going to kill my baby like you did with the first one?”

Her heart skipped as she looked at his angry face

“I don’t know what-“

“The doctor called me and told me the truth.”

“What truth?”

“About the baby! I know!”

Rethabile got off the bed. “What baby?”

“Keta go thuba ka klapa, koore o ntaetswa keng?”

She swallowed staring at him.

“

“Where you just going to kill her too?”

“Atang what are you talking about?”

“So you are going to pretend like you don’t know?”

“You are scaring me. I don’t know what-“

Atang gave her lighting slap that she staggered falling as her ear rang. She blinked slipping into confusion as her cheek burnt as if it had catch on fire.

“Stand up and lie again.”

She slowly got up, her hand on her cheek.

“So you are not pregnant?”

“I don’t know.”

He slapped her again, her lips trembled then she started crying.

“You don’t know anything about the baby akere?”

She cried louder putting her hands on her face.

“I am talking to you! How many have you killed so far?”

“I panicked but I wasn’t going to go through with it.”

Atang smiled. “Why can’t you just be honest Rethabile? Is that too hard to do?”

“I swear I was going to keep it.. I panicked. I got scared because I am not ready.”

“You are not ready?”

“Attie... I know what you are thinking...”

Atang shook his head. "No. I don't think you do."

"I was not going to hurt the baby I swear."

"I don't believe you.. I don't think you even love me to begin with. I am convenient for you. I don't think it's love."

Tears went down to her neck. "I love you. Atang..."

"I am beginning to wonder how many more babies you have killed."

"I wasn't going to hurt the baby I swear. I panicked yesterday. I wasn't thinking straight."

"Did they sell you the wrong pills this time around?"

More tears fell as she looked at him. "I wasn't going to hurt the baby... I got scared that's why I asked her not to say anything. You have to believe me. I know I was wrong. I am sorry." She held his hand. "I was never going to go through with it. I know you are questioning me... and I don't blame you but she's here." She put his hand on her stomach. "She is still here. I was never going to go through with it. I don't know what happened yesterday but I didn't do anything. I didn't even eat anything... I wrote my exam and called you... then we drove to the plot. Please believe me..."

"I am going out, I have things to do , your crocodile tears are now boring."

"Atang-"

"You know what hurts me? It's the fact that I know you don't love me. Not as much as I do anyway or maybe not even at all. You are

comfortable with the set up. This set up... it works for you.”

“That’s not true. I love you. Don’t say that...”

“I don’t know anymore. Call back Dr. Ikeme, he wants to know more about your rape and also how far the pregnancy is. He says he will bend the rules if you really need to go through with the abortion. I didn’t realize making love to you was rape.”

“Attie..”

“Do you think this is working kana ra forca hela?”

“I love you. I was not going to go through with it.”

“I don’t know anymore.”

She held his hands crying. “I wasn’t going to do it. I wasn’t thinking properly. I had canceled the appointments.”

“Let me go.”

She shook her head. “O seka wa tsameya.”

“Let go of my hands. O bata go ntena.”

He pulled his hand away and walked out. Rethabile put her hands on her face crying.

Atang’s phone rang as he drove. He picked the unsaved number.

“Yah?”

“Hi. It’s Pearl.”

He laughed. “What do you want?”

Pearl laughed too. “I just spoke to Prince. I am sorry for answering your phone. I wasn’t trying to cause problems in your relationship but I am sorry. It was unprofessional and out of line.”

“O ta swaba kana.”

“Sorry. I was naughty. Kana Prince o nkomantse. Gatwe I should respect myself ebile ke swabile mogo maswe.”

Atang laughed. “It’s ok.”

“I heard you are doing well. I was worried. You left this side bleeding to death.”

“Thanks, I am fine now.”

“Please don’t get shot again.”

“I will try not to.”

“Ok. Bye.”

“Sharp.”

He held the phone to his ear waiting for her to hang up. Pearl giggled.

“Sharp.”

“O tshegang?”

“Sepe. I got transferred to Gabs, I will be starting ko Marina on Friday.”

“That’s great.”

“Yeah... if your girlfriend won’t get mad maybe you will show me around. I have never been to Gabs.”

“Are you serious?”

“Yes. I studied ko Serowe. I am from Maitengwe and I stayed in Francistown all my life, went to Serowe for school. Worked there, go transferred to Orapa, Kasane them here.”

“How old are you?”

“25. Please don’t laugh at me.”

Atang laughed. “I am not. I am just shocked. That’s all.”

“I am moving tomorrow.”

“Ok. You will call me when you arrive tomorrow. With the way you are forward, I would have never guessed you have never been in Gabs.”

She laughed. “I am not forward.”

“You are.”

Pearl sighed. “By the way, congratulations on paying magadi.”

Atang sighed. “Yah thanks...”

“You don’t sound excited.”

“I am.”

“That’s not how excitement sounds like.”

Atang parked on the side of the road. “I am excited. But I think I am alone in this relationship.”

“Why?”

“I don’t think she loves. Not enough to settle and have a family.”

“Why do you say that?”

“I can see it with her actions. She likes the idea of us being together but... I don’t think she loves me.”

“I am sorry. I don’t know how other woman do it but God knows how I would thank him everyday if I had a man like you. Or just a man hela who loves me. Someone who would do anything for me. I crave for that kind of love. Pure love. Love that comes naturally. When I live, I love hard. I have never met someone who loved me the same way I would. But ahh... it’s difficult to meet people with pure intentions. I am sorry for what you are going through. Chances are she knows you love her and would feed it anything she gives you. She knows the power she has over so it makes it easier for her to hurt you because she knows your heart won’t let you leave. I am sorry. But maybe she loves you and just doesn’t know how to show it properly.”

Atang sighed. “I have been wanting a child. The first pregnancy she aborted it. I understood. She was young then. Now we are getting married and she was planning to abort again. I suspected she was pregnant and took her to a gynecologist. She then told the gynecologist to tell me she’s not pregnant so she can abort.”

“It means she doesn’t want kids. I can give you one.”

He laughed. “You are crazy.”

He relaxed as they continued chatting, the conversation got lighter as they laughed.

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Yours Truly

#47

Just after dusk, Rethabile set up the dinner table and smiled staring at her work. She walked to the bedroom and put on an evening gown. She looked at herself on the mirror then ran her lipstick on her lips again. She rubbed her belly and walked to the sitting room where she lit up candles and switched off the lights.

Rethabile sat down, her hand over her stomach. Time slowly passed as she sat waiting for him. Almost an hour later she called again but there was still no answer.

She looked at the time and continued waiting. Almost two hours later she yawned and laid on the couch staring at the wall. She slowly fell asleep as more time passed.

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The following morning, Atang walked inside his house. He paused staring at the set up then closed the door. Rethabile opened her eyes waking up. She yawned getting up from the couch still in her evening gown. She looked at Atang realizing he was only arriving then she looked at the time. It was just after 6.

“Where did you sleep?”

He walked past her going to the bedroom. She followed after him.

“You didn’t come back.”

“I was with Phefo. I was watching a game.”

“What game?”

Atang took off his t-shirt walking to the bathroom. Rethabile took off her heels going after him.

“What game?”

“What do you want? Don’t you have abortions to be doing?”

“I waited for you.”

“Good for you.”

“I was worried.”

“Worried about what? That your card to good life might be gone.. wa mbora, ke bata go thapa.”

She looked at him tearfully.

“Your crying plan is annoying. There is nothing new about your waterworks. Close the door, I want to bath.”

“I know you are angry, I am sorry. I-“

“You are not sorry. You are sorry you got caught. For all the other time you didn’t get caught, you were not sorry.”

He took off his pants then took a shower while she stood by like a lost wet puppy. Minutes later he walked out. He opened the wardrobe and began dressing.

“Where are you going?”

“I have things to do. What do you want? Money?”

A tear ran down her cheek. She wiped it with the back of her hand. He finished dressing and put on his fragrance.

“Can we fix this?”

He grabbed his cap. “I am going out. Don’t wait up. If you go to your house, leave my keys next door.”

“I love you.”

His phone rang. Rethabile looked at the caller but he quickly swiped the screen picking while walking out.

She ran after him. “Atang!”

He got in his car and drove off smiling. She sniffed walking back in the house as pain strangled her. She swallowed holding her tears but they still fell down her cheeks.

Agang smiled staring at Zaza ironing his shirt.

“Thank you.”

She smiled. “Its ok. When are you doing the DNA tests?”

Agang reached for his shirt and put it on. “I will do it. But it doesn’t matter.”

“It does. It does matter. Please do the tests.”

He sighed buttoning up. "Ok."

Zaza smiled. "Thank you. For everything."

Agang reached for his tie and put it around her neck. Zaza smiled looking in his eyes.

"Do you remember when you broke up with me?"

Agang sighed. "Yeah.."

"You hated me didn't you?"

"No."

"You did. After you had sex with me the first time, you were done with me then. But I stayed and slowly your annoyance grew to hatred. I stayed because I actually loved you. And I kept me wondering if I had been that desperate that Atang would have his brother fuck me whenever he felt like it. Honestly I wouldn't have minded being told that I don't want you anymore, but I guess I loved you so much I had wanted you to say it. I am sorry I dragged you back. That's why I want you to do DNA tests. I want you to do everything you are doing knowing it's for your son."

"I am sorry-"

"Don't be sorry. You did nothing wrong."

Agang's phone rang. Zaza walked to her bedroom and laid down beside her son. She moved closer listening to him breathing. She sighed closing her eyes.

In the sitting room, Agang picked Nkamo's call.

“Yeah?”

“Hey, where are you?”

“What is it?”

“So you are cheating on me? I am at your house and I slept here. Who are you cheating on me with?”

“How did you get in my house?”

“You are just like the rest of them! If you think you can cheat on me and get away with it, you are wrong!”

“I can’t do this with you. I am done. Our relationship is clearly not working. You need serious help for your psychotic behavior. Leave my house before I call the police!”

“I am going to burn this house. You are not breaking up with me! Never! You and I are meant to be! You are the love of my life! I am not going anywhere!”

Agang grabbed his car keys and walked out.

“Try any funny games in my house I will burry you alive!”

He got in his car and drove off headed to his house.

At his house, Nkamo continued cutting his pants with a scissor. She took his jacket and cut the arms in half.

She took all of his clothes and walked out with them and walked with them to the bin. She put everything in the bin and walked back in the house. She looked at his TV and slammed it on the floor. She walked around the whole house just opening the taps.

Agang parked outside and hurried inside his house. He froze staring at his upside down house while slashed the couches.

Agang pulled her with her hair and smacked her face. She screamed dropping the knife.

“What the f*ck are you doing?”

“Where are you coming from?”

He looked at her boiling with anger. He grabbed her hair and dragged her to the bathroom where water was now spilling from the tub. He pushed her head inside the water. Nkamo kicked drowning. She continued fighting scratching him. Agang remained still for a while to then pulled her out and threw her on the floor. She gasped coughing out water.

She looked at him, her heart pounding. Agang took off his shirt and tie.

“Wa ntwaela wena, after I put you in line, you will never try it on anyone else.”

Nkamo moved back terrified.

Atang drove in through a yard where a truck loaded with property was parking by the door. He stepped out of his car just as the driver of the truck jumped out of the truck.

Pearl opened the door and stepped out then she smiled looking at Atang. He eyes moved from her short blonde hair moving to her beautiful face then down at her perfect body wrapped with the bondage dress she had on.

“Hi...”

He smiled. “You made it. Sorry there was no grand welcome.”

Pearl laughed. “Its ok. I am so tired.”

Atang walked to the truck driver and begun helping carry her little furniture in the house. Twenty minutes later Atang took out his wallet and paid the truck driver.

“Thank you boss!”

“Sure sure!”

He jumped in his truck and drove off. Pearl walked inside her bachelor pad and smiled.

“Not bad.”

“So it’s free accommodation?”

She laughed. “Feels nice being a nurse. I don’t worry about rent money. I love it.”

“It’s cute.”

She put her bag and leaned against the wall staring at him.

“Are you staying or you have to go?”

He looked at her smile. “I will help you move your furniture then go.”

“Thank you.”

They moved her furniture around putting the house in order while chatting. Almost an hour later, Pearl threw herself on her bed exhausted.

“I am so tired!”

“Should I order food?”

“Please... I will shower in the meantime. I am so sweaty.”

Atang sat on her bed dialing a fast food restaurant. Pearl stood up and took her toiletry bag then walked out smiling.

She couldn't understand how someone would just play games with such a man but what was that phrase... someone else's stone is someone else's diamond.

She walked out a while later, a towel wrapped around her body then walked back in her bedroom. She smiled staring at him lying on the bed.

Pearl put down her toiletry bag and got on top of him sitting on his dic. Atang opened his eyes and looked at her smiling.

“Food is coming.”

She smiled then she leaned over and dropped a kiss on his lips.

“O bata nkgolega wena.”

Pearl chuckled. "Thank you for helping me today."

He put his hands on her waist. "You are welcome."

She moved her waist slightly feeling his dick beneath her. She kissed him rotating her hips. He kissed her back, his hands going down her butt as his dick jerked waking up. His phone started ringing, she paused kissing him and took out his phone from his pocket. She looked at 'Babe' calling and gave it to him.

His looked at the caller and sighed picking.

Rethabile held her phone.

"Yah?"

"Hi... I..." She sniffed. "I love you. I am sad you think I am with you for money. I am sad you think I don't love you and that I am with you because I love the set-up. I have never asked for anything from you which makes me wonder why you say that to me or maybe it's anger talking. I know you are upset, broken and disappointed. Nothing I am going to say will be believable at this point but I promise you.. I was not going to go through with it. Can we please fix this."

"I am busy right now. We will talk."

He hung up. Rethabile rubbed her cheek then took a deep breath lying on the couch in his house.

Pearl smiled then kissed him again.

“I can give you what you want.”

She took off the towel and remained naked. Atang’s heart pounded.

She bit her lower lip and kissed him again taking it out from his sweatpants.

“Pearl-“

“Shhh... don’t think about it.”

She stroked him, her own heart racing. She opened her mouth and started sucking him. He grunted staring at her. She closed her eyes letting him but the back of her throat.

He groaned then she stopped and straddled him. She slowly sat on it. Atang squeezed her waist as her pussy squeezed him. Just being inside felt do good he felt like he was about to explode. She looked at him then kissed him before getting off.

“Sorry. Let me put on some clothes.”

He looked at her in shock as she took out a dress like she had just not sat on him. He got off bed with hard on.

“Are you serious right now?”

“Yes. I don’t think we should do this. Thank you for what you did today but we hardly know each other. I can’t already be riding you.”

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Yours Truly

#48

Later that day, Rethabile parked by Batang's school gate and waited. Agang parked behind her then smiled walking over to her. He knocked on her window then she looked over and forced a smile rolling down her window.

"Hi, I didn't know you were picking him."

Rethabile smiled. "I miss him. I haven't been spending time with him lately. I should have communicated. I am sorry."

Agang looked at her puffy eyes. "Are you ok?"

"I am fine."

"Talk to me."

"Ng ng... ke sharp. Just school stress."

"Thabi wee... it's me."

Rethabile laughed. "I know."

"What did he do?"

She smiled. "Nothing."

"I don't bite."

Tears filled her eyes then she sighed. "Its nothing."

He looked in her eyes. She looked down as a tear ran down. She

wiped it off and smiled staring at her nails. Batang walked over, Agang turned and bumped fists with Batang. Rethabile fixed her face and smiled. They chatted for a while then Agang turned to her.

“You don’t have to be alone. I know you think because he’s my twin I will side with him... but you are now part of the family and as much as you are his wife, you are my sister.”

Rethabile smiled. “Eerra.”

Batang got in the car then looked at his sister. “Hi.”

Rethabile started the car and drove off. “How is school?”

“Fine.”

She looked at him and smiled. “Atang and I are getting married. We are all going to be a family.”

“Yes!”

Rethabile laughed. “And you are going to be an uncle.”

Batang looked at her confused. Rethabile smiled. “I am going to have a baby and you will be the uncle.”

His mouth dropped open as he looked at her. Rethabile laughed putting her hand over his mouth.

“Flies will get in.”

“You are pregnant?”

“Yes.”

“We are going to have a baby?”

“Yes. Let’s go and get some snacks then watch a movie kolapeng.”

“Ok. What will we name the baby?”

“Warona.”

Batang smiled. “The-The-“

“Take a deep breath in. It’s ok.”

He smiled and spoke slowly. “There is a girl called Warona at school. She is nice and pretty.”

Rethabile looked at him. “You like her?”

Batang laughed. “I didn’t say I like her.”

She smiled. “Akere lenna I am just asking. Do you like her?”

“I like her the way God likes me.”

Rethabile burst out laughing parking at a mall. She turned off the engine still laughing then paused staring at the entrance. She swallowed staring at Atang walking out of the mall holding plastics with a woman. They laughed then kissed. Her heart pounded so much it felt like it was vibrating.

Her knees went weak as she watched them laugh again.

“Thabi!”

She looked at her brother. “Stay in the car. I am coming.”

Rethabile stepped out of the car and walked over. She moved

even faster feeling her feet get even heavier. Each step she took threatened to pull her under the ground.

He unlocked the car, the woman put her hand on his chest kissing him.

“Atang!”

Atang turned locking eyes with Rethabile. His eyes popped out as he froze dropping one of the plastic he was holding.

The woman also looked over confused then smiled making sense of what was going on.

“Hey babe...”

Rethabile looked at him opening her mouth. Tears rolled down.

“Who is this?”

“Fuck! It’s not what you think.”

“I saw you kissing. Who is she?”

Pearl sighed. “I will wait in the car.”

Rethabile looked at her. “Wait in who’s car?”

Pearl rolled her eyes. “I am not talking to you.”

“Atang, ke bua le wena! Who’s this?”

“She.. she is my cousin.”

“You kiss your cousins?”

He put the plastics down. “It’s not what you are thinking.”

"I saw you..."

Pearl got in the car. Rethabile looked at her then a Atang shaking.

"Tell her to get out. You are not going with her. We are going home."

"She is my cousin."

"In your family you kiss your cousins?"

"It wasn't a kiss. You are over reacting."

"Atang am I crazy?"

"You didn't see properly."

"Atang I saw you! Tell her to get out of the car."

"I am just dropping her off."

Tears rolled down. "Atang I am begging you. Tell her to step out. Let's go home... please."

"I will drop her off and come home."

"You are not going anywhere. Tell her to step out of the car. Atang please do this. You are breaking my heart."

"She is my cousin. I am only dropping her off."

Her heart broke even more. "Atang...."

"I will see you at home."

He picked the plastics and put them in the car. She looked at him crying.

“Therra why are you doing this? Please stop. Ke kopa reye lapeng.”

“I will meet you at home.”

She held his hand crying. “You are hurting me. We are getting married. Please do this. I love you.”

“Rethabile, I will see you at home. She is my cousin. I don’t know what you want me go say or why you are even crying.”

“Atang I saw you kissing her.”

“Why would I kiss my cousin? You didn’t see properly.. What you are saying doesn’t make sense. I am dropping her off. She is my uncle’s daughter.”

“Atang you kisses her. I saw you. Please don’t do this. I love you. I know you are angry at me but don’t do this. Please don’t do this to me.”

“I am dropping her off then I will come home.”

She went down on her knees begging him. “Atang please... please let’s go home.”

“You are causing a scene. I will meet you at home. People are beginning to stare. Go home. I will see you there.”

He got in his car while Pearl ate her magnum then he drove away. Rethabile sat on the pavement crying.. The security guard who had been watching walked over and pulled her up sadly.

“O seka wa lela my sister. Gotla siama. Don’t cry. God will see you through. Gotla siama.”

Yours Truly

#49

At the mall, Rethabile got in the car, Batang put down his sister's phone pausing his game. Rethabile started the car and drove to Agang's house. She parked by the gate and called him.

"Thabi..."

"Hi, I am parked at the gate. Are you home?"

"No. At work. What's up?"

"I thought I would drop off Batang. But it's ok."

"Bring him to the office."

"It's ok if-"

"Rethabile... bring him.. ok?"

"Eerra."

"I am waiting."

Rethabile put down her phone and drove to Agang's company.

Batang looked at his sister. "Are you ok?"

Rethabile nodded. "Yes."

"You are crying."

Rethabile wiped away her tears. "I am sorry. I am fine."

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At Agang's work place, Rethabile parked near the entrance where Agang was standing. She looked at her brother.

"Please sleep over with him today. I will get you tomorrow."

Batang hugged his sister. Rethabile closed her eyes holding him tightly. She let go.

"Its ok."

He stepped out of the car and walked over to Agang. They fist bumped then Batang walked inside the building.

Agang got in the car and looked at her. "Are you ok?"

Rethabile sighed. "Your brother is cheating." She took a deep breath feeling her emotions rise again, tears filling her eyes.

"I... Atang has been wanting a child for a while now. Ever since Sarona. I told him I wasn't ready. He... then we went for a scan after suspecting I was. I knew chances were that I was but I was on contraceptives. I don't know how it happened. I panicked... besides that if I give birth, one of us will be staying with the baby and she won't get to feel how it feels to have a mother and father... cancer in our family is hereditary. I panicked. I asked the doctor to say I wasn't because I was considering abortion. But the following day I changed my mind seeing just how badly he wanted a child. I canceled my appointment. I know it barely makes sense

but the doctor who I asked to lie called him and told him. He's upset and now he is cheating and kissing her in public."

Rethabile wiped away her tears. Agang sadly looked at her and hugged her.

"I am sorry."

"He said I am over reacting. He said I didn't see properly. He said it's his cousin. He went with her. I know he's sleeping with her."

"I am sorry."

Rethabile pulled away and leaned back on her seat.

"I will wait for him."

"I will talk to him. He's losing it."

"Thank you for taking Batang."

"Anytime."

Agang stepped out then Rethabile drove home. She parked and stepped out of the car holding the keys. She unlocked the door and walked inside the house.

She sat down and stared at the TV crying. Her phone rang, she reached for it then took a deep breath staring at the landline.

"Hello?"

"Rethabile Kaisara, it's Ms Pilane."

She sat upright as one of her senior lectures spoke. "Good afternoon Dr. Pilane."

“My daughter, I am at Ministry of Education. How often do you check your emails?”

“Uh..”

“You are done with your exams right?”

“No. I have the last one tomorrow.”

“The ministry approved your sponsorship application based on the 4.5 GP you got last semester. Your results for this semester are the last requirement needed, if you get anything above 4.0 in which knowing you, you already got it. From there you are going to have to write that mini exam for Harvard School so you get accepted into the school. You are leaving in less than two months. You are one of the best students right now so everyone is backing you up. You have made it.”

Rethabile mouth dropped open as tears ran down her cheeks.

“Thabi... you did it. You will continue your postgraduate degree in Harvard.”

She broke down crying. “Mama.... Mama look at me... look at me Mama!”

Dr. Pilane sniffed. “She is looking. She is looking my girl. She is seeing it. I will see you tomorrow.”

Dr. Pilane hung up. Rethabile sat on the floor.

“Mama look at me... look at me... I am going..”

She put her hands over her face as light droplets of water hit the roof. The rain got heavier while Rethabile cried.

Pearl smiled staring at Atang.

“Thank you for what you did earlier on. I thought you were going to throw me out of your car.”

Atang sighed. “It’s ok.”

Pearl looked at his sad face. “She won’t dump you.”

“The last time I saw her cry like that was when her mother died.”

Pearl held his face. “She will be fine. She loves you. You guys can always fix things. Stop stressing yourself. You will die with stress. Nka lela gore.”

Atang chuckled. “I should go.”

“You haven’t eaten. Please eat first.”

“Pearl-“

She kissed him putting her hand underneath his t-shirt. She touched his sell built body then she unzipped his pants and out her hand inside touching it.

He grunted squeezing her waist. She stroked it smearing his precum while at it.

Atang picked her up and put her on the bed. He took off her shirt dress. Her body was flawless, she had no single stretch mark. He

took off her bra and kissed her neck.

Pearl moaned closing her eyes as he moved his lips from her neck to her small breasts. He squeezed them, his lips moving further down. He took off her lace thong and opened her legs further.

His heart pounded as his dick got even harder. He rubbed himself on her wetness. Pearl moved he waist beneath him then helped take off his t-shirt. She touched his tattooed skin.

Atang pushed his weapon inside. He groaned as her walls hugged his weapon. She felt so good.

“Fuck!”

She looked at him and kissed him holding her breath feeling deeper in her. Atang slowly slid out and pushed back in again.

“Shit! Fuck!”

He gave her the third thrust, Pearl moaned softly in his ear. Her phone started ringing from the bed. She reached for it and picked.

“Hello? What?”

Atang tried taking the phone from her, she laughed. “Its my mother. Sorry. Go home, finish off there. She’s waiting.”

“No... come on.”

Pearl pushed his chest. “My mom is having an episode. I need to attend to her Atang.”

“Cant she wait?”

“She will die. Please...”

He looked at her as if he was about to cry.

“Finish off at home.”

“I can wait for you.”

“No. It’s late. Go and give it to her. She will appreciate it. Go...”

“Thamma kea go kopa.”

“You want my mother to die because I was too busy having sex?”

She kissed him. He got off her, Pearl got off bed and held her phone to her ear.

“Mama... don’t panic. Go home Atang. I will call you.”

She held her phone staring at him. He slowly got up and went to the bathroom where he peed and put it back in his pants.

Pearl smiled as he walked out sadly. She closed her door and continued talking to her mother.

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Yours Truly

#50

Agang watched as Zaza hugged Batang by the door while he replied to an email. He sighed thoughtfully then called Rethabile.

"Hello?"

"Hi, where are you?"

"I am waiting at his house."

"Do you need me there?"

"No. But thank you."

"If you need anything call me. At times like this I hate that he has my face."

"I will call you."

"Ok. Bye."

"Bye."

He hung up as Zaza walked over. She looked at him.

"Are you coming in?"

"Yes. I love your dress."

Zaza looked down and laughed. "I look like a door. No wonder you left me."

He laughed too. "You looked better pregnant."

“Not even.”

“You look like a model. I like it. Portable.”

She smiled. “Should I dish for you? Your son is awake.”

“Dish up. I am coming.”

Zaza nodded then turned and walked back in her house. Agang’s phone vibrated ringing, he looked at Nkamo calling.

“What do you want?”

“I am going to kill myself.”

“Ok. Bye.”

He hung up and blocked her then called his brother.

Atang’s phone rang as he drove home while it rained.

“Agang...”

“What are you doing?”

“With?”

“So you are now cheating?”

“She ran and told you?”

“New vagina is driving you crazy I see but you are going to regret

this. Trust me. You are going to regret this, I have never said this to you but you are going to cry.”

“She kills my kids!”

“Because she’s not ready. And she didn’t kill the current one so what’s your problem? She could have aborted but she didn’t. She is still carrying your child then you go and cheat. Come on... isn’t it too soon?”

“Agang-“

“I hope you know what you are doing. You had finally found a woman who loves you and you only-“

“She doesn’t love me. I wish she did but she doesn’t! She loved what this relationship does for her. She never loved me.”

“You are going crazy but it’s ok. Think whatever you want to think. You will think of this day.”

He hung up. Atang drove in his yard and parked next to Rethabile’s Benz. He stepped out of his car and hurried inside the house. He sighed walking in. He took a deep breath staring at Rethabile who was seated on the couch.

She looked at him with puffy swollen eyes then stood up.

“I am going to take a shower.”

“Your uncle’s daughter is Nayang. I know Nayang.”

“You don’t know every family member in my family.”

“Its how you think I am that stupid. I don’t know... maybe it’s the

impress I gave you. Maybe I made you think I was stupid.”

“Rethabile-“

“I saw you kissing that woman. I am not crazy. Why are you lying?”

“Are you still pregnant? Or you have done the usual? I am not sure about you anymore. I can’t wait help but think you are going to kill mire of my children.”

“It was only once.”

“Whatever.”

He walked past her going to the bathroom. Rethabile went after him. He took off his t-shirt and grew it on the bed. He sat down taking off his shoes.

Rethabile picked his t-shirt and sniffed it.

“You slept with her?”

“I don’t fuck my cousins. Rethabile I am tired... Please...”

Tears filled her eyes. “You did. I can smell her all over you. Atang...”

“Your accusations are a turn off.”

“Atang you are breaking my heart.”

He looked at her tears and got up. He kissed her, her tears rolled down as she dropped the t-shirt. He pushed her to the bed and took off her dress. Atang took out his dick and pushed her panty to the side.

He pushed his dick inside then looked at her. He kissed her and closed her eyes imagining Pearl's perfection. He grunted imagining just how her pussy had felt so good. Rethabile pressed her lips together smelling the other woman on him.

He fucked her harder, it felt different. He wasn't touching her like he usually did, not kissing her and taking his time with her.

He fucked her even harder and stilled grunting.

"Fuck Pearl..."

Rethabile looked at him and burst into tears. He looked at her realizing his slip of tongue. He sighed then got off her and walked to the bathroom.

Rethabile put her hand over her mouth crying. His phone started ringing. She quickly reached for it and picked.

"Hey, you forgot your wallet. Come and take it..."

"He is not coming there."

"Uhu... honey... you are still holding on? If I were you I would just leave on my own but you want to keep hurting yourself do suit yourself. You have lost him. Maybe if you were not busy trying to be a graveyard killing his children... maybe... just maybe you would still have him. But now he's gone. Sorry."

"You-"

"You can't possibly compete with me. You are fat. Tell him Pearl called."

She hung up. Rethabile swallowed and put his phone down. She

sat still staring at the ring on her finger.

Atang walked out with a towel wrapped around his waist.

“Pearl called.”

“You answered my phone?”

“I remember her... she is the lady who answered your phone when you were still at your trip. I remember her voice. Where you even on a work trip or you were with her?”

“You are losing it.”

“I am not. I don’t know how you hit shot but you were not at a work trip. You were with her. This didn’t start just now. All that 5 months you claimed to be on a work trip, you were with her. Saying you were on trip was a lie you knew I wouldn’t question you about.”

“You can check-“

“I don’t want to check anything. Not when you have slept with me after you have slept with her possibly giving me diseases.”

“You are going crazy. You won’t be stand here as if you are innocent when you have done nothing but kill my babies. You don’t even love me. You love what my money does for you, you love the things I do for you or maybe that’s how you were raised. O bata go mbora wena,.”

“I never loved you for your money. I loved you for you, you piece of shit! Don’t put my mother into this, she raised me well that’s why I am going to Harvard to be doctor. My mother did well! She raised

a woman who can stand on her own, I don't need you to survive, who do you think you are? You are a weakling! You couldn't date your age mates and decided to go after me. It makes sense why Yaone left your ass! I am so glad this happened so now I can go and abort your little dirt, I would never want to be associated with a community dick when I have made it and I am up there."

"You are do sure about Harvad, they don't just take-

"Tsek! I blame your father who never loved you for the amount of bullshit you have grown up to be. Nna papi I am going to Harvard. Ministry of Education approved my application. Imagine if I actually went ahead and got married to you and be stuck with you when I could be meeting better men who will be in my level." She laughed. "Imagine being in America saying I am married ke togela bo Zayne, bo Andrew... missing an opportunity to have white kids all because of you? I never!" She clapped her hands. "I am going to the States, you will remain here with Pearl. I hope it works and she gives you hundred kids. Better it's not me, Legone I wouldn't want my kids to have you as a father! It would be a curse."

He looked at her in silence. "Your application was approved?"

She smiled tearfully then took off his ring. "Yes. Thank you for showing me who you are. You have saved me from future heartbreak. You have taught me a good lesson. And if I stayed with you for your money, I would have never stayed for that long because you don't have the money to give me. Other men give their girlfriends 15k monthly, they buy their girlfriends di Range Rover, you are here crying for what? Second hand car? Other men take their girlfriends to Paris... their one trip in Paris will buy your

car. Don't raise your voice saying you have money papi, you are not in the same league with the big boys. O ngwana Atang. But what can we say? You are who you are. Tell your family we have broken up. I am done with you. Go to Pearl. She has got your wallet."

Rethabile grabbed her car keys. "And you know what annoys me? It's the fact that I know I chose the wrong twin. Agang is much better man than you can ever be. I wish I had met him first. You are that one twin that the doctors should have killed. But it's ok. I mean, Beyonce le ene had an ex, you will be that ex in my life. Irrelevant ex. Go and display your weak sex tendencies, don't forget to put your energy into your fore play."

She walked out and drove out. A tear rolled down her cheek followed by another one.

"It's ok Rethabile... it's ok."

She stopped by the red traffic light holding it in. Her phone rang, she looked at him calling and hung up then blocked him.

SIX WEEKS LATER...

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Yours Truly

#51

TWO MONTHS LATER..

In Shakawe, Rethabile finished cleaning the house then fixed her mother's picture frame. She took a deep breath and walked to her mother's bedroom. Everything was still in the same position.

Tears filled her eyes as she looked at the bed. She sat down on her mother's dressing table and stared at herself on the mirror. She opened the drawer and smiled staring at the picture inside. She took it out and chuckled staring at her and her mother.

She stood up and walked to the wardrobe where her mother's dress was. She took it out remembering her wearing it. Tears rolled down. She took off her dress and put it on. She took out the perfume and sprayed it on herself just lightly the way her mother used to.

She turned to the mirror and broke down crying. She sat down on the bed, minutes passed then she finally kept quiet. The door opened followed by Batang walking in. He paused staring at the dress.

"That's Mama's?"

Thabi smiled. "Yes... I am a bit big, it feels tight "

"It looks nice. You smell like her."

She showed him the perfume. He smiled.

“She loved that one.”

“She did. You want?”

He shook his head. “I am going to cry.”

“Its ok to cry. Come...”

She opened her arms. He walked over and cried in his sister’s arms. Thabi bit her lower lip holding him tightly.

He finally kept quiet and sat besides her. “I wish I was going with you.”

“Me too. But you will be visiting. And as soon as I can, you are going to stay with me.”

“Why can’t I stay with uncle Agang? He’s really cool.”

“Because uncle Agang is uncle is Atang’s brother.”

“So he doesn’t like us anymore because you are angry at uncle Atang?”

“No. But he can’t stay with you.”

“Zaza is also nice.”

“Her child is sick. She can’t stay with you.”

“But I am not angry at Uncle Atang. You are the angry one.”

“Batang, Atang and I are no longer in a relationship. We broke up.”

“Why?”

“Because he found another person. If someone doesn’t love you anymore, you let them be.”

Batang looked at her. “Sorry. Why didn’t you just say that?”

“Your are going to stay with our uncle. As soon as I find a job then I will take you.”

“I love you Thabi...”

Rethabile smiled. “I love you too. I love you.”

They hugged each other then finally walked out of the bedroom. Rethabile’s phone rang. She picked it from the table and answered.

“Hello?”

“Thabi, it’s Zaza... how are you?”

“I am fine.”

“When are you going nnemma?”

“Is Atang there?”

“Thabi-“

“I know he’s there. Next week. I am going next week.”

Rethabile smiled. “Ok... I am going to miss you.”

“How’s the baby?”

“Fine. He’s fine. We are hopeful.”

“Me too.”

“Did you go ahead with the abortion?”

“Long back. I am happy that I am not going to be a single mother at my age. Gape I don’t want to inconvenience monna was ga Phele.”

“Uh ok. Bye.”

“Sharp.”

She hung up. Thabi walked to her bedroom and dragged the bags outside to get car. She put everything in the boot. She went back to the door as Batang walked out, Rethabile locked the door and jumped in her car with Batang.

She called her uncle starting the engine

“Hello?”

“Malome, I am on my way there to drop off Batang then I will go.”

“Ok. We are waiting.”

“Ok. Thank you.”

“Its ok, what time is your flight?”

“In the evening today.”

“Ok my daughter. We are so proud of you but what about you and Atang... He paid magadi. You are his wife.”

“I don’t want to get married. I don’t think I ever want to get married. I want to be free.”

“Marriage is-“

“Atang’s behavior showed what he could have been capable of

once he got married. I don't want to get married."

"Thabi, you can't into a wild animal just because you and your husband had a little friction."

"He cheated on me. I don't want him anymore. He left me crying at the mall going with her. I will never forgive him."

"My daughter-*

"I am on my way there."

He sighed. "Ok...*

Rethabile reversed just as Farai parked beside the gate and walked in. He walked over smiling. Rethabile smiled stepping out of the car.

Farai smiled then hugged her tightly. She sighed putting her arms around him with her eyes closed.

"Hey..."

She smiled then stepped back. "Hi."

Farai smiled. "You are going?"

"Yes."

"I am going to miss you so much."

Rethabile laughed. "Me too."

"Don't forget me... please."

"I won't."

Farai took her hands into his and kissed them. "I am happy for you."

Rethabile smiled. "Thank you."

He hugged her again then let go. He looked at her lips and leaned over to kiss her. She looked down, his lips landing on her cheek instead then she smiled.

"I have to go."

Farai swallowed and cleared his throat. "Yeah... call me."

"I will bye!"

He watched her getting in her white Benz then waved as she reversed. She waved back smiling and drove off.

**

Atang inserted a new sim card in his phone and called her. The phone rang twice then she picked.

"Hello?"

"Hi, please don't hang up. Can we talk?"

"Atang you and I have nothing to talk about. Stop calling me."

"I need to see you."

"O kae Phele?"

"We need to talk."

"We have nothing to talk about it. Leave me alone. I am about to report you for harassment!"

"Babe please... I know you are upset."

"I don't want you."

"Where is the baby?"

"In heaven."

He took a deep breath. "You aborted her again?"

"Yes. I told you I would. I would never want to be associated with you."

He closed his eyes sitting in bus car. "Why? Why would you kill her?"

"Because I want nothing to do with you."

He rubbed his eyes sadly. "Did you ever love me?"

"Yes. Not anymore."

"Thabi-"

"I did. Not any more. You have taught me that love doesn't get you anywhere because we are with people who don't know what love is."

"Can we talk? Where are you? Ke bata re bua."

"I am not going to talk to me because you and I are done. The relationship ran it's cause."

“Please...”

“Bye.”

“Can I come where you are so we talk?”

“No.”

“I messed up. My actions were influenced by anger. I was angry and I wanted to hurt you back. I was hurt because even after assuring you of my love.. you still went ahead took plan an abortion.”

“I am happy you got angry and showed me who you are. I will never forgive you for the amount of pain you put me through. For sleeping with me after you slept with her. For embarrassing me and choosing her. I will never forgive you. You hurt me so much I will never forgive you for it. Stay away from me! I have nothing of yours with me. You even had the audacity to her name while on top of me. I long told you I would never forgive you if you cheated.”

“I forgave you when you killed Sarona, I am also willing to forgive you for Sarona-“

“Hey wena Satan, you are not God. I don't need your forgiveness. Please leave me alone.”

“Babe-“

She hung up. He tried calling again but it didn't go through. He sighed then stepped out of his car at a car dealership. A car dealer walked to him.

“Boss...”

“Eita, show ne what you have. I want something nice for my wife.”

His phone vibrated, he took it out from his pocket and looked at Pearl calling.

“Pearl...”

“Where are you? You are stressed. Come I will massage you.”

“Thamma don’t do this.”

“Do what? Come... I will make you feel better.”

“I am busy now.”

“Attie... come. You need to cum so you can think properly.
Come...”

He swallowed listening to her luring voice.

“I love my wife.”

“I know.”

“I like your body and I want to fuck you out of my system but not enough to continue destroying my relationship. You look like you could be a good fuck.”

Pearl laughed. “When you want me, you know where to find me.”

She hung up. Atang sighed and pointed at a car. “That one.”

Zaza held her phone talking to Agang.

“Can’t you talk to your cousin babe?”

“Thabi and I are not close. Gape what your brother did is unforgivable.”

“He was angry and hurt. He-“

“He should own up to his shit. I doubt Thabi will forgive him. She knows she can make it without him. Her mother did without a man. I don’t know what it will take for her to forgive him.”

“I am getting in a meeting. I will call you.”

“Ok.”

He hung up. Zaza finished preparing her son’s food then walked to his room where he was sleeping.

She took a deep breath staring at him. The chemo was taking a toll on his little body but she was going to keep him fighting.

“Hey...”

She touched his cold hand. A cold chill ran down her spine as she looked at him. She slowly picked him.

“Hey.... Baby ... wake up ..”

He remained still, his body cold.

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Yours Truly

#52

Rethabile drove in her uncle's yard that afternoon and parked besides his Nissan double cab.

Meanwhile at the neighbor's house, mmagwe Kaelo frowned staring at the car. Her neighbor looked at her.

"Who's that?"

"It's Lelomo's child! She has brought her brother so he can burden us. I wonder why she just can't take her brother wherever she is going. Kana we already have our budgets gape I just don't want to care of anyone's children when no one helped me with my kids."

She stood annoyed. "She should be looking for that boy's father instead of bringing him to me. I don't know what people think I am, a slave who's meant to take of everyone's children."

The neighbor laughed. "Tell her you can't."

"How when Rragwe Kaelo told her she could bring him. Sometimes I hate this man so much. Ke tola ke ipotsa gore o ita gore ke maid kana slave sa gagwe."

"Nyaa mma, stand our ground. You can't be forced to be a nanny."

"He is not going to stay in my house for free eating my food for free, drinking my water for free. That's not going to happen. I am not a charity house. Ke eta."

Mmagwe Kaelo walked to her yard as her husband welcomed his sister's children.

Rethabile smiled walking inside the house with her uncle. Her uncle smiled happily.

"I am proud of you. You have come so far."

Rethabile nodded. "Thank you."

"So where exactly are you going in America?"

"Boston, Massachusetts."

"Where is that? Waitse don't bother yourself my child. I don't know those places, what I know is you are going to America. My sister is happy wherever she is."

Mmagwe Kaelo walked inside the house and say next to her husband.

"Rethabile, how are you?"

"I am fine aunty, how are you?"

"With the way you made it clear you would never separate from your brother I am surprised you are leaving him today."

Rethabile laughed. "I will take him after I have settled."

"Ng... I see. But Thabi, we need to talk about your marriage. You just can't decide you want to break up then up and go when magadi was paid for you. It's disrespectful and paints our family bad. After everything this man did for you, it shows just how ungrateful you are to just think you can dump him. That man is

your husband. You should not be here, you should be with your new family!”

Her husband looked at her. “Mogatsaka, Thabi says he was cheating and-“

“What man doesn’t cheat? Does that mean we should leave our husbands because we are being cheated on? It’s nature for a man to cheat. Rethabile is not the only woman with a vagina on earth. Every other woman has a vagina and it was made for a man. You want him to taste the same food every night?”

“Mmagwe Kaelo-“

“She was lucky to have found someone who loved her the way she is. Now who’s going to want her. Men don’t want fat woman! You should go back to your man and ask for forgiveness and move on with life. And hela what’s wrong with UB if I may ask? UB is still-“

“Enough woman! If my niece doesn’t want to get married then that’s it. She’s young, she can always find someone else. Just because you settled for less because of envy doesn’t mean everyone should! If you have nothing intelligent to say... you know what? Just keep quiet. Go and spread gossip in the streets.”

Mmagwe Kaelo kept quiet. Rethabile took a deep breath.

“I-“

“Go to Harvard. Bring that degree home. I am proud of you. Batang will stay in my house with me. He will be my son. He shall eat what I eat. He shall stay and live happily in this house. Go and

take your degree, don't feel pressured to take him. I will be his father, his mother, his guardian. I will do right by him."

Tears filled Rethabile's eyes. "Thank you."

"Its alright."

Rethabile looked at her aunt. "Thank you aunty."

Mmagwe Kaelo looked at her. "Eemma."

Rethabile opened her bag then took out a phone.

"I bought Batang a proper phone so he is able to communicate with me."

She gave it to him. Batang smiled staring at the smart phone.

"Yes!"

He hugged her sister happily. Rethabile smiled wrapping his arms around her.

She looked at the time. "I have to go. My flight is for 9."

They all stood up and walked out expect for Mmagwe Kaelo. Outside Rethabile took out done money from her purse and gave it to her uncle.

"I didn't but anything so-"

He shook his head. "No my daughter. This is your home. His home. There is food. You don't have to give me money."

"Its to help in the house."

"I can't accept it. Keep it for yourself. You don't know where you

are going. We will be fine here.”

Rethabile put it away. “Ok. Thank you.”

“Its ok.”

She walked to the car is and got in with Batang. She opened her bag and took out the money her mother left, it was still in the plastic she had found it in, untouchable. She gave it to him.

“Keep this money. When things turn bad, take it, go to the rank and get a bus to Gaborone. You will go to Agang’s house.”

He nodded.

“I will leave you with this card. It has money inside. I don’t want you to use this money unless and only if necessary. You have a passport. I am going to find a job and see if I can take you. But for now be a good child. Don’t be disrespectful. Read your books and pass. Mmagwe Kaelo is not the nicest woman but our uncle is so don’t mind her. If anything happens call me. I will give you my number as soon as I arrive. But till then, call Agang. Or Farai.”

“Ok.”

She gave him her mother’s perfume. “Stay with this. It’s Mama’s.”

Batang smiled taking it. “Ok.”

Rethabile hugged him. Tears filled her eyes then she laughed. “I don’t want to leave you.”

“I can’t wait to come to America too.”

She smiled. “Ok. Bye...”

“Bye.”

He put the money and bank card in his pocket.

“The pin is 0887.”

“Ok.”

He stepped out then waved. Rethabile started the car and reversed then drove off headed to Gaborone.

Agang walked in Zaza’s house later that day taking off his tie.

“Babe!”

He walked to his son’s room and opened the door. He smiled staring at Zaza who was on the floor holding him in her arms. His smile slowly disappeared as he stared at her tears. He slowly walked over and looked at his son.

His heart pounded as he touched his little hand. Zaza looked at him crying silently. He swallowed, tears burning his own eyes. Now it made sense why she had not been answering her phone.

He took out his phone, his hands shaking then called his brother.

“Agang...”

“He is gone...”

There was silence. “Shit!”

“Who do you call? What do you do?”

“Let me call someone. I am coming there?”

A tear rolled down Agang’s cheek. “What should I do?”

“I am coming. Where is Zaza?”

“With him. His body is cold.”

“I am coming.”

“Should I call mama?”

“I will call her.”

“Maybe he is still alive. Mama can pray for him.”

“I am coming.”

Agang looked at his son, his entire body crumpling down, he could feel his strength drain out. He knelt before Zaza.

She looked at him and cried. He put his arms around her crying too, their child between them.

Elang scrolled through Thabi’s Facebook timeline with her fake account, she hadn’t posted anything in a while. She sighed then dialed her number but it didn’t go through.

She looked at the pills on her bed unable to wait till schools re-

opened so she can properly drive her crazy.

She put the pills away just as her roommate walked in laughing on her phone.

“I am coming. Give me two minutes. Ok. I love you.”

She hung up. Elang laughed. “Who’s that?”

The roommate laughed too. “My boyfriend. I am going out. See you tomorrow.”

She put on her flipflop and picked her already packed overnight bag then walked out. Elang got off her bed and walked out then watched her roommate jump in her boyfriend’s Audi 5. Bored, she walked back in the house.

She went to get Facebook messages and looked at the hi’s in her inbox. She went to every profile of each person and sighed putting her phone away. The fish in her inbox wasn’t the fish she wanted.

Hours later in Gaborone, Rethabile parked at the airport, her heart racing. She got out and took her bags then dragged them inside Sir Seretse Khama International Airport.

“Kaisara!”

Rethabile turned and looked at Mr. Kgosi walking over. He smiled.

“Dr. Kaisara...”

Rethabile smiled. "Sir.."

He got closer and got her bags. "I have been sent to see you off and give you words of encouragement."

Rethabile smiled. "Thank you."

"Let's go in Dr. Kaisara."

They walked inside then he smiled staring at her.

"You are going to make it. You are going to be the doctor you want to be, you just have to know which doctor that is. I am proud of you Kaisara."

"Thank you Sir."

He hugged her. Rethabile took a deep breath feeling his muscles around her. His breath brushed her neck. She slowly put her arms around him, her heart beating way faster. He pulled away and smiled.

"Good luck!"

She smiled taking her bags. "Bye."

He sighed. "You know what? Fuck it!"

He pulled her closer and kissed her. Rethabile gasped as he kissed her ravishing her lips. He pulled away and smiled.

"Go."

She swallowed then slowly turned and walked away.

In the plane, Rethabile took a picture and posted it on her Facebook.

'Harvard here I come. Dr. Kaisara in the making.'

She looked at her caption then smiled. She unblocked Atang and texted him.

Rethabile: Hi. I am leaving. I have left your car at the airport. The car keys are with the airport staff. I told them you are going to come and collect them. You can always resell it or better yet, give it to Pearl. I left the ring inside the car. I moved my things from your house, what's left is what I found. Bye.

She sent the message just as the air hostess started talking.

Pule watched as Rethabile's plane took off, he held up his phone taking a video then smiled watching it go up. He walked out of the airport and jumped in his car.

At Agang's house, Atang read the message and tried calling her.

"The number you have"

"Shit!"

Prince walked over. "Are you ok?"

"Thabi is gone."

Prince sighed. "You messed up. Big time. Forget her ever taking you back. Not in this lifetime anyway. It's over."

He swallowed sitting down, reality dawning on him.

"I love her..."

"Its too late now."

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Yours Truly

#53

At Johannesburg OR Tambo International Airport, Rethabile checked out upon arrival then checked in for her connecting flight. With only her laptop bag, she walked to Terminal A following behind two white ladies who were laughing. She took a deep breath glad she had changed into her jeans and sneakers, it made moving much easier.

Minutes later she boarded into the British Airways flight and sat by the window. She looked around at the beauty, her heart pounding. A man sat beside her and gave her a nod. She smiled and looked out through the window

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen.”

Rethabile took a deep breath as a flight attendant spoke softly. She switched off her phone following instructions then put on her seatbelt together with everyone else.

She rubbed her sweaty palms and took a deep breath as the plane slowly to took off headed to London Heathrow.

The following morning in Botswana, Keemi sighed staring at her daughter who was sitting on the mattress crying.

“I don’t understand why you never told me the baby was sick. Maybe this is why he died because the bible says respect your mother and father for long life. You don’t even talk to me or check how I am doing yet you are my daughter.”

Other relatives looked at her. “No mmagwe Zaza, that’s no way to speak to a child who is grieving.”

“This is the right way to because Zacharia doesn’t respect me. Today she gave birth to a fatherless child who died.”

Mmagwe Agang frowned. “You will not speak to like that. I have heard enough of this, if you can’t sympathize with your daughter, don’t. What I will not let you do is destroy this woman further anymore.”

“Your son did not pay-“

“Yes, he did not and he will but I will not let you harass this child. What kind of a mother are you? Are you not ashamed? You should be ashamed.”

Keemi looked at everyone who was now looking at her the clicked her tongue and walked out.

Zaza sniffed as mmagwe Atang sat down to next to her. Outside other relatives sang church songs.

Atang handed the cashier money at a shop then walked out his

new sim card. He got in his car and inserted it then registered it before trying to call her.

"The number you have dialed is not available at the moment, please try again later, thank you."

He took a deep breath and called Batang's number.

"Hello?"

"Hey buddy, how are you?"

"I am fine."

"What's up? Where are you guys?"

"I am at my uncle's house. Thabi went to America."

"She already left? Wasn't she going next week?"

"No. It was last night. And I am not supposed to talk to you anymore because you have a new girlfriend."

"Who said that?"

"Thabi."

Atang sighed. "Its ok. She is angry at me that's why she said that but it doesn't have to be like that. I am always here."

"So there is no new woman?"

"No. There is no one. Has she called you yet?"

"Not yet."

"Ok buddy, look, don't tell her we spoke."

“Ok.”

Atang hung up and put his hands on his face. Pearl started calling.

“I said I will call you.”

“Atang, I just saw that your brother’s son passed on. I am so sorry.”

“Thanks.”

“It can’t be easy on him. Or the child’s mother. I am really sorry for your loss.”

“Thanks.”

“Did you manage to talk to Rethabile?”

“I am not going to discuss my wife with you. If I ever did, it’s stopping today so never mention her name.”

“Ok. I am sorry. Uh, my tap is leaking. I don’t know who to call. I tried everything but it won’t and water had filled the kitchen.”

“Call a plumber then.”

“I don’t know anyone and I haven’t gotten paid. Could you please fix it. I don’t think I will be able to handle the water bill. I need help.”

“So you want me to leave my nephew’s-“

“I am sure it won’t take long. Atang I am sorry for whatever that k did because I am seeing you now hate me. I am sorry. Please help me.”

“I don’t hate you but I want to stay far away from you.”

“I know. I won’t ever all you. I just want my tap to be fixed before I drown the house. Please..”

He took a deep breath and sighed. “I am coming.”

“Thank you. Please hurry so you can go back to the funeral.”

Atang started the car and drove to Pearl’s house. He parked inside her yard and walked inside her house. He walked to the kitchen where she was on her knees mopping the floor with a towel. He looked at the tape which she had tied with another towel.

She got up. “If you take off the towel, the water is going to go everywhere.”

He sighed. “Go and close it at the back.”

Pearl nodded and walked out in her oink night dress. She walked back in and found him already working on the tap. She knelt down and continued mopping.

He finished up and looked at her. “Go and open it.”

She got up and walk outside them opened it. She walked back inside the house and smiled.

“You fixed it!”

“Its temporary, you need to get a new tap.”

“Thank you. I wanted to call you yesterday but I got scared.”

“Got scared of what?”

“You hate me. I wish I knew what I did.”

“I don’t hate you. I just... I messed up with my relationship. I don’t know how I even let it happen because I love her. I know I do. Maybe it was anger and pain but I love her. I wanted to save my relationship.”

“I understand. I hope everything works out.”

“She left. I doubt it. She already went to Harvard, she is going to meet much better men.”

“I am sorry.”

“I always feared when she goes she would leave me but now I know for sure she is going to move on. Maybe she will never ever come back.”

Pearl stared at his sad face. “I am sorry...come...”

She pulled him to her bedroom and pushed him on the bed then took off her dress remaining naked.

He looked at her body then she got on top of him.

She unzipped his pants and took out his dick then leaned over and sucked it. He grunted, his dick getting even harder.

Pearl raised her head and #removed.

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Yours Truly

#53

She unzipped his pants and took out his dick then leaned over and sucked it. He grunted, his dick getting even harder.

Pearl raised her head and slowly sat on it. She moaned taking it all in then took a deep breath staring at him and started moving. She put her hands on his chest riding him.

Atang put his hands on her waist grunting at the feeling of her pussy. He couldn't understand why she felt so good... so tight and warm.

He flipped them and looked at her face. She kissed him. Atang put her legs on her chest and pushed his dick inside grunting.

He looked at her little breast and squeezed them. He hammered her pussy, his eyes closed as the pleasure drove him crazy. He watched his dick disappear in and out of her sweet hole. He slid out to delay his cum and smacked her clit.

Pearl moaned as he pushed back his dick inside and went for the kill pounding into her. Her body shook as Atang fucked her. She grabbed his hands gasping then spasmed moaning louder. Atang bit his lower lip, his cum coming at full speed. She closed her eyes as he filled her up.

"Shit!"

He slowly slid out breathing heavily. His phone rang in his pocket.

Atang took a deep breath and picked his brother's call.

"Yeah?"

"Where are you?"

"Pearl called...her tap was-"

"What the fuck did this woman feed you?"

Atang walked out of her bedroom. "Something is in her vagina."

"You fucked her for real this time?"

"She's.. wow!"

"At a scale of 10?"

"She is a ten."

"I don't believe you."

"Come and feel it for yourself.."

Prince spoke to. "Who? Pearl? Lenna kea bata. We are coming. Send location."

Atang hung up and sent the location. He went back to Pearl's bedroom and found her asleep. He kissed her.

"Hey..."

She opened her eyes and smiled.

"Hi."

"I like you. I think I should accept I lost Thabi and move on."

She smiled. "Ohh.."

"Yeah... and you are perfect for me."

"I am happy feel that way because I love you."

Atang kissed her. "Ok. Uh by the way, you know I have a twin right?"

"Yes."

"My brother and I are one. We share everything. Including women. Thabi was ours both. If it's too much to handle we can end this. Because my brother and my friend like to share everything. If I am not there, either Prince or Agang is with you keeping you happy. You get what I mean?"

She swallowed and nodded.

"Should we continue?"

"Yes but we will all sit down so I understand how this works."

"Yeah."

"So you also sleep with Prince's girlfriend?"

"Yes. Also Agang's."

She nodded. "Ok. I have never...done that before."

"I understand. Agang lost his son. He's sad. He's coming over. He wants to meet you. Together with Prince. They want to say hi then we go to the funeral."

"Ok, let me dress up."

“Don’t. I still want to fuck you.”

He flipped her making her kneel and stroked himself then pushed his hard dick inside pushing her chest to the bed.

Pearl’s eyes opened wildly feeling it deeper than say before. She tried raising her chest but Agang pushed it down fucking her with his entire dick. Her butt vibrated with each thrust as he drilled her. She tried to crawl away to save herself but he pulled her back slamming inside her over and over groaning.

He pulled her off the bed so they could both stand, him behind her then curved his back filling every corner of that pussy.

She stood on her toes unable to take it as tears filled her eyes.

Her bedroom door opened then his twin walked in followed by Prince. Agang looked at her and smiled walking over.

“Hey....”

Pearl looked at his brother, tears rolling down while Atang continued fucking her.

“Shhhh.. it’s ok. O seka wa lela.”

He kissed her cheeks then her lips while squeezing her breast. Prince slid his hand between her pussy lips. He rubbed her clit gently while caressing her body. Pearl’s heart pounded as all three men surrounded her. She closed her eyes at the pleasure. Atang hit it a spot as Prince continued rubbing her clit while Agang kissed her neck whispering sweet nothings to her ear.

She moaned in Agang’s mouth letting it out again. Atang gave her

one last stroke and released. He moved and kissed her back.

“I will see later babe. Let me rush back to the funeral.”

Atang wiped himself then picked his phone and walked out as Agang bended her more now behind behind her. Prince took out his weapon and pushed it in her mouth. He gently tapped her throat enjoying himself. Agang held her waist and pushed his dick inside cursing underneath his breath. They both...

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In Orapa, Batang packed his clothes in his new room. Mmagwe Kaelo walked in and looked at him.

“What time are you cleaning the house and making breakfast?”

He looked at her. “Ma?”

“Hey, do you think you are just here to eat and go to the toilet? This is not Gaborone and I am not your sister. This house is not going to clean itself. Start cleaning right now then after that cook. My clothes are dirty. They need to be washed. If you don’t wash them then you will sleep outside do you hear me?”

He nodded. She looked at him then clicked her tongue walking out.

“Make sure you mop every corner and rake the yard.”

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Yours Truly

#54

In London, two hours behind of Botswana, the British Airways flight touched ground in London Heathrow. It slid smoothly on the runway and finally stopped. The Air hostess spoke.

“Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, we have touched ground in London Heathrow where local time is 07:35. Connecting flight to Boston, Massachusetts will be in two hours and thirty minutes for those going to Boston, welcome to London.”

Rethabile smiled taking off the seatbelt exhausted from just sitting. She took a deep breath as they got off the plane at Terminal 5.

Rethabile checked out as the cold breeze brushed her skin. She opened her laptop bag glad she had done her research. She put on her jacket then pulled her bags to the sitting area where other passengers that were waiting for the connecting flight were being led. Rethabile put her bags down looking around unable to believe she was actually in London. The airport looked so busy with amount of people she was seeing though that took nothing from the beauty of the airport itself.

She took out her phone and switched it on then smiled connecting to the Wifi.

Her phone vibrated as message notifications started. She opened her WhatsApp and looked at 25 messages from an unsaved

number. She clicked on the message.

Number: Hey it's Elang

Number: Where are you going?

Number: I can't believe you left without telling me

Number: Your application got approved?

Number: Waitse you are tricky Thabile, I can't believe this. I really thought we were friends

Number: What about Atang?

Number: You are just going to leave without a word? Girls

Number: What about Batang?

Number: Waitse our friendship was one sided!

Number: I can't believe you are going to Harvard!

Thabile read the rest rolling her eyes then blue ticked all of them and replied some of her classmate's messages. She clicked on Batang's number and sent him a message.

Thabi: Hey, now in London . How is it?

The message ticked once. She replied more messages then stood up and walk to the glass wall staring at a plane that was landing. She took a picture of it then a couple of selfies which she posted with a caption.

'London, check. Next flight to Boston.'

She smiled reading the comments from her previous picture. She

replied to most comments smiling. Agang sent her a message over WhatsApp.

Agang: Hey, Ms Harvard.

Thabi smiled.

Thabi: Hi.

Agang: So you just left?

Thabi: It was for the best

Agang: We miss you already.

Thabi: Focus on your brother

Agang: I am happy for you.

Thabi walked to the waiting area and sat down holding her phone.

In Botswana, Agang sat in his car staring at Rethabile typing.

Thabi: Thank you. I am nervous.

He typed his reply.

Agang: Don't be. You got this.

Atang walked over and got in the car.

"You need a shower."

Agang put his phone in his pocket. "Yeah.."

"Mama said Zaza wants AJ to get buried here in Gabs."

"Yes, she wants to be closer to him."

"Ok. I am sorry. I know you did everything you could. It was his time. He was in a lot of pain."

"Yeah... thank you."

"It's ok."

"I saw Rethabile's pictures on Facebook. She's now in London."

Atang sighed. "I saw."

"I am sorry but I told you so."

"I know."

"Pearl is beautiful and she's a good fucking candidate, but that's all. I don't think she's the kind of woman you would want to settle for. Yes her vagina is bewitched but that's all. I doubt besides lust you feel anything for her. O jisetse. You lost the best thing for what?"

"I am going to wait for her to calm down then maybe go and see her. She's angry right now. She said I have weak sex performance. I don't even know what she meant because I am the only she's ever been with."

Agang laughed. "She probably just wanted to hurt you."

"Gatwe I don't compare to big boys who buy their girlfriends Range Rovers giving 15 k allowances."

Agang looked at him laughing. Atang sighed.

“Wa tsgega, kenale stress. I am going to wait for her. Ke duetsi magadi. I am going to fight for my marriage. Whenever I think of her moving on, I feel like dying. Thabi is my girl.”

“She is going to come back married to a rich white man who drives Rolls Royce and Ferraris, now called Dr. Peters o utwe mala a gago ana bothoko, o kare o ka nyela mme go tswa metsi. Ore wa hema o utwe o hema sephinya sa lekgowa se se nkgang perfume ya Versace wa kgamiwa ke mathe ebe o swa.”

“O ta nyela o marete!”

Agang laughed as Atang stepped out of his car. He sighed then followed his brother.

Pearl laid on her bed sniffing while massaging her abdomen. She slowly got off bed as her pussy burnt then stood by her mirror facing backward and bended looking back. She sighed unable to see anything due to how swollen she was.

She wiped away her tears and slowly walked to the bathroom. She filled it with water and added some bathing salts.

She got inside and soaked her pussy as she thought of how Agang and Prince had taken turns on her fucking her in all ways possible. She wasn't sure how Rethabile had stayed that long

being fucked by three men like that though now it made sense why Prince had been angry the time she answered Thabi's phone.

A while later she got out of the bathtub and walked to her bedroom. She took her phone and called a number.

"Hello?"

"Hi, I want that mixture again. The one I had is finished."

"Ok, how was it?"

"He couldn't stop. It worked."

"I told. I am not at home right now. Come later on and collect it."

"Ok. Thanks."

"Bye."

She hung up and laid on the bed listening to her kuku throbbing painfully.

Batang bended under the sun washing her aunt's clothes. She looked at him sipping her juice then walked to the room he was going to be using. She opened the wardrobe and looked at his clothes. She started searching throwing some of his clothes on the floor. She paused reaching for the plastic of money. She opened it then took out the money and counted. Her mouth dropped as she recounted the P2000 pula then she put in her bra.

She looked at his phone with a frown. He even had a better phone than hers. She took out the sim cards then walked out with the phone and hid it everything in her bedroom.

She thoughtfully looked at her husband's jacket where he usually kept his money then took it and searched the pockets. She took out the money inside then walked with the jacket to Batang.

"Also wash this. If you find any money, bring it to me."

Batang breathing heavily as she dropped the jacket on top of the huge pile of clothes that still needed to be washed.

She walked to the house and sat in front of the TV watching a Pakistan series.

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Yours Truly

#55

Later that day, Zaza stated into thin air surrounded by relatives. She had never felt so alone in her life. She kept hoping to wake up and laugh about the nightmare but the heavy fog just wouldn't leave.

She had stopped crying in hope that it will just go away. But she found herself still on that mattress, still feeling lost... sad. Her heart felt do heavy it was as if bricks were being loaded on top of it.

She had stared at his picture for do long slipping into more denial. It just didn't feel right to be sitting on that matress. Atang walked inside the bedroom. His mother looked at him to as he is stared at her.

"Can I please sit with her alone."

His mother nodded and got up together with the rest of the relatives. He took off his shoes and sat with her. Zaza looked at him.

"I just want my son... I don't understand why I was given him for him to be taken away... to be stolen from me.."

He held her hand. Zaza laughed.

"It doesn't make sense. He was too young... he hadn't lived his life."

“He will forever be with us... here.” He touched her chest.

“I want to hold him. I just want my son Agang... I want my child. I just want my child. I don't want to be sit here and cry... I want my son! I want my boy...”

Agang hugged her as she cried. A while later she was silent.

“I am sorry. Maybe if I had been there we could have saved him. I am sorry. I know it won't bring him back but I am sorry.”

Zaza stared at the wall in silence sniffing. Agang rubbed her back rubbing his eyes.

“He was in pain. He is resting now. Looking over us. He is free from the pain.”

“I will never be free from it. I failed my son.”

“You didn't fail him. You fought harder than anyone could have fought. He loved you. I loved him too but he's no longer in pain.”

“My heart is in pain. It's too much... the pain is too much. I don't want the pain too...”

He rubbed her back. “We will make it together.”

“I don't want the pain Agang... I don't want the pain... I want my boy.”

Agang kissed her cheek rubbing her back.

Outside, Rragwe Atang looked at his son.

“So what now?”

“I am going to wait for her.”

“Wait for her till when Atang? And if she chooses to work overseas then what? You need to settle down. You can’t just wait... Rethabile is not the only thick beautiful woman on earth. You will move on, maybe next time you won’t cheat like a teenager. Her uncle is very upset.”

“I love her. I was just angry.”

“Now look at what your anger cost you. You don’t cheat the way you cheated. Your wife should never suspect it. Or even think you are cheating. Women have 10 senses and they can just catch that you are sniffing in a whiff. You should have been smart. Not the way you behaved. Like an immature.”

“I want to visit her and give her the gift I got her.”

“Woman are full of themselves sometimes. She can refuse it because she can.”

“You are not helping.”

“What should I helping you with? Take responsibility of your behavior. You didn’t get that from me.”

Rragwe Atang walked over to his wife as Prince walked over.

“I have to go. I will be here tomorrow morning.”

“Yah sure!”

“Ta ke cheke Phele then go home.”

Atang laughed. “O seka wa dira thata le wena.”

“One round then I go home.”

Prince laughed then walked to his car. He drove off and passed by a mall getting a few things cash. He threw away the receipt driving to Pearl’s house.

He walked inside her house and found her lying on her couch. Pearl looked at the red roses and the plastic he is was holding including food.

“Hi... I got you some things.”

Pearl smiled sitting staring at the flowers. “They are beautiful.”

“Like you. I also got you food and done snacks.”

“Thank you.”

He sat besides her. “Are you ok?”

“Yes. So are you ok with another man sleeping with your wife?”

“Yeah... it’s normal to us. Plus why would you cheat if you are getting all the love and attention you need.”

She smiled. “I guess.”

“You are special. You have been driving my boy crazy. You are rightful woman for him. He wants to get married. You are right woman for that. You look like a happy ending.”

Pearl blushed. "Thank you."

"Its ok. You just have to be ours and that's all. You are not only Atang's. You are also Agang's... mine."

"Ok."

"Good."

Prince kissed her then took off her gown. He touched her naked body and laid her on the couch. He took out his weapon staring at her swollen reddish meat. His weapon got harder. He leaned over and muffed her clean kuku pushing his tongue inside.

Pearl moaned softly as he continued sucking and suckling her bringing her to the edge. She got wet as he carried on muffing her.

He raised his head as her body begun shaking then he pushed his weapon inside. Pearl put her hand over his chest feeling her pussy ache.

He kissed her thrusting mercilessly into her sweet hot kuku.

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Prince offloaded inside then got off her just as he Agang walked in. Prince kissed her then walked out zipping his pants.

Pearl breathed heavily staring at Agang as he took out his dick staring at her kuku.

She swallowed. "Again?"

He got on top of her kissing her. "I missed you. You look beautiful like this..."

He kissed her getting himself ready to fuck her.

Batang finally finished washing and hanging the clothes. He walked inside the house with burning reddish wrists and a painful back.

His body ached do much and hunger made it all worse. He went to his room, he looked at his clothes on the floor in confusion. He looked at where his mother's money had been but there was nothing anymore. He swallowed and walked to the bed to take his phone but it wasn't there. He searched the entire room but there was nothing.

His uncle's car drove in then he walked inside the house holding maize meal. He opened Batang's door and looked at Batang who was searching for something.

"Batang..."

Batang looked at his uncle crying. He frowned.

"What's wrong?"

"I can't find my phone and my money. Thabi left me some money."

"I am sure everything is here."

Mmagwe Kaelo walked inside the bedroom.

“Whats going on?”

“Batang says his phone and money is missing.”

“I haven’t seen anything. I was busy washing the clothes. I am sure it’s somewhere in here. Why would Thabi even give a child money and buy that big phone? He’s a child. What does he need the phone for? He should focus on his school books not phones and money.”

Batang tearfully looked at her knowing it was her.

“Batang, why are you looking at me like that? You think I would steal your things? Me? I am a thief now?”

“Mmagwe Kaelo he didn’t say that.”

“I am going to cook.”

She walked away. Batang’s uncle sighed. “I will help you look. I am sure the phone is somewhere here.”

In Boston, Massachusetts, Thabi checked out and walked over to where people who were receiving their friends and relatives were waiting holding boards with names written on them. She looked around staring at all the white.

She took a deep breath then caught her name written on be a white paper, ‘R. KAISARA, BOTSWANA’.

She walked over then the lady smiled at her.

“Hi, you must be uh Retabile...”

Thabile smiled. “Yes. Rethabile.”

“Oh... it’s Re-tha-bile!”

She nodded smiling. “Yes.”

The white lady smiled. “Lovely! My name is Lucy Dean. I am from Harvard School Of Medicine and I will be your caretaker till you know your way around. Please come with me.”

Lucy took the other bag and led Thabile outside the airport.

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Goodnight

Yours Truly

#56

At Harvard, Lucy led Rethabile to the dorms while she looked around staring at the other students around. Lucy knocked on a door smiling. Another student opened the door. Lucy smiled.

“Hi Mosa, I have brought your roommate.”

Rethabile smiled, Mosa smiled opening the door further. Lucy led Rethabile inside the room.

She looked at the two beds with a desk and a chair on each side of the bed, the closet at the other corner.

Lucy smiled. “Mosa, this is Rethabile Kaisara... your roommate this year. She is doing her post graduate and she is from uh Boswana. Rethabile, this Mosa Bimbo, she is from uh Zambia. You two can catch up, tomorrow we are sorting out classes and timetables. Bye.”

Lucy turned and walked out. Mosa looked at Rethabile smiling.

“Hi, I feel better seeing my neighbor.”

Rethabile laughed. “Me too. When did you arrive?”

“Last night. They never told I was going to sit for the longest time.”

“My butt hurts.”

Mosa laughed. “What are you studying?”

“Post graduate in Biology.”

“First year?”

“No, last semester in my second.”

“I am doing my first year, post graduate in Chemistry.”

Rethabile smiled. “Nice. Is there WiFi here?”

“Yes.”

“I need to talk to my young brother.”

Rethabile took out her phone and went on WhatsApp. She sighed staring at her message that hadn't been replied yet. She looked at his last seen worriedly wondering if something had happened then she is went to her uncle's chat and video called him.

It rang for a while till he finally picked. He smiled.

“Thabi!”

“Malome, how are you?”

“I am fine. Have you arrived?”

“I just arrived.”

“God is great!”

“I have been trying to communicate with Batang, I can't get hold of him.”

“He misplaced his phone. We have been looking for it and we can't find it.”

“Where did he lose it?”

“He says it was in the house.”

“I want to talk to him.”

“Ok.”

Rethabile took a deep breath as Batang got the phone. He smiled.

“Thabi!”

“Hi, how are you?”

“I am fine.”

“Where is your phone?”

“In the morning when I was packing my clothes, Aunty came and told me to wash her clothes. I left it on the bed and washed the clothes the whole day. When I was finished, it was not there anymore and also the money you gave me. My clothes were on the floor. She says she doesn’t know but it was only me and her the whole day.”

“You washed her clothes?”

“Yes. She said I can’t stay here for free. I want to go home.”

Tears filled Rethabile’s eyes. “There is no one at home Batang.”

“Can’t I go to uncle Agang?”

“Let me call someone. Stay with that phone so I can call you back.”

“Ok.”

Rethabile hung up then called Agang.

“Thabi...”

She took breath as Atang picked.

“Babe...”

“Hi, is Zaza there?”

“Hi, she’s sleeping. Agang is with her. She slept early tonight. Can’t I help you with whatever it is?”

“No. Not you.”

“I know you are upset but it’s me... you can talk to me.”

A tear rolled down, she quickly wiped it before Mosa could see.

“I think that ship sank.”

“You bring angry with me doesn’t mean I can’t help you.”

“You can’t because you will mention it in the future listing all the things you’ve done for me. That’s the person you are.”

In Botswana, Atang swallowed listening to her.

“I am sorry for how I spoke to-“

“Don’t be sorry. You said his you felt. All along you just felt I was with you for the money. It explains mist things. I need to speak

with Agang, he is will talk to Zaza for me.”

Atang watched as Agang walked over then he out the phone on louder speaker.

Agang looked at his brother. “What’s up?”

“Agang?”

Agang looked at his phone. “Hi. What’s up?”

“I had left Batang with my uncle thinking he was safe there but my uncle’s wife has already started abusing him. I am scared of what can happen in the future. I don’t have another plan for him at the moment.”

“Do you want me go take him?”

“No, can Zaza do it?”

“We just lost the baby...”

“What? No...”

“Yes.”

“I am so sorry I didn’t know. I am really sorry...”

“Its ok.”

“I am sorry. Uh and it’s ok. Let me just talk to my uncle.”

“If you want me or Attie to take him, it can happen.”

“No. I think it’s best I don’t. You are Atang’s brother and I am trying to move on.”

“Thabi, you will be doing this for-“

“I will rather he stays there, endure it till I can take him. But thanks. I am sorry for your loss. Pass my condolences.”

She hung up. Atang sighed sadly then called her back.

“Hello?”

“I know you want nothing to do with me because of what happened. I don’t blame you. You want nothing to do with me, that’s understandable but does Batang have to suffer for it?”

“I will make a plan for him. You are the last person I would want my brother to stay with him. Gape your girlfriend doesn’t seem like she would appreciate my brother’s presence. You showed me that you would choose that woman over anyone and I don’t want my brother to find himself homeless because Pearl doesn’t want him. Tota I don’t think you and I should even talking. Till now I am still trying to figure out what happened but it’s ok. You don’t have to explain anything to me.”

“I was angry. I am not excusing my behavior but I was upset. It was the fact that after I reassured you of our future you still went ahead and lied to me.”

“I was not ready for a child. I was going to keep her for you but I am glad you and I are over because I didn’t feel guilty when I got rid of it. Imagine the burden... the stress and what kind of anger throws you in another woman’s arms? I am hanging up. Don’t call me back.”

She dropped the call. Atang swallowed then turned to his brother

with a sad face.

At Harvard campus, Rethabile held Mosa's phone to her ear calling her mother's uncle.

"Hello?"

"Hello, Rremogolo ke Rethabile."

"Hello?"

"Malome ke Rethabile."

"Thabi...?"

"Eerra. I went to America for school. I don't know if Rragwe Kaelo had told you."

"He did my child. He did. I am so proud of you. I am happy."

"Thank you."

"But he also told me you had a fight with that boy."

She sighed. "Eerra."

"These things happen. It's normal for people to fight. It doesn't mean you walk away."

"Eerra. I called you to tell that Rragwe Kaelo had said he would take Batang and stay with him while I am at school but mmagwe

Kaelo is not happy about that and she has started mistreating him. I just arrived in America today, I left him there yesterday and she has already started. I don't know what to do." She sniffed.

"Don't cry. I never liked that woman. She is vile and your uncle does not see it because he is blinded by love. The reason why no one ever visits him is because of his wife. Let him come to me. He will stay with me. I am 72 years old but I am still alive. I don't mind staying with him. He can come to the farm and live with me."

"Thank you."

"I will never let my brother's grandchildren suffer when I am there. Plus my own kids hate me so I get lonely. Some company would be good."

"Thank you."

"Its ok my child. Let him come."

Rethabile tearfully smiled dropping the call. She dialed her brother again.

"Hello?"

She sighed as her uncle picked. "Hello, let me speak to Batang."

"Ok, is everything ok?"

"Yes."

"Batang come..."

In Orapa, Batang took the phone and went outside.

“Hello?”

“Hi, I spoke to Rremogolo Nthutung. He said you can come to the farm. I know you were now used to the city but it’s only temporary. Take the card, go and cash out money tomorrow. Pack your bags, when you leave tomorrow, go with your bags and take a bus to Maun. I will call Rremogolo to wait for you at the rank. He’s old. Help him around.”

“Ok.”

“Don’t worry about the phone. I will get you another one. Don’t say anything. Tomorrow you are going to Maun. Give the phone to malome.”

Batang walked back in the house and gave the phone to his uncle them went to his room and started packing.

“Thabi?”

“Malome, I have spoken to Rremogolo Nthutung and asked him to take Batang. Mmagwe Kaelo is not happy about Batang living in her house. I don’t want to break your marriage or cause problems in your home so I think it’s best Batang goes to Maun. I am going to ignore the fact that mmagwe Kaelo took Batang’s phone or the fact that she took the P2000 I had left for him. I will ignore the fact that she made him wash all her clothes. I will take it that it

was for sleeping under her roof. Thank you for wanting to assist but for my peace of mind, I have decided Batang leaves.”

“Thabi, such issues can be solved.”

“I don’t think this can be solved. You are a good man. I have seen it but your wife is not happy with my brother living with her. Batang will catch a bus to Maun tomorrow morning. Till I take him, he will be staying in Maun. I have to go. Bye.”

She hung up then he stood up and looked at his wife.

“I want the P2000 you stole together with Batang’s phone in an hours or I swear to you, you will sleep in jail for theft tonight! What kind of a person are you? Even Satan is better than you. Your heart is rotten I can even smell it! You are so evil and have separated me from my family. But not anymore. Bring that money.”

“Are you accusing me of being a thief? Me? You know what? I will leave. I will not stay where I am not wanted.”

She walked out of the kitchen angrily. The money in her breast started burning her. She frowned as the hit got worse, she screamed taking out the money and threw it on the floor. Her breast continued burning, it felt like someone was burning plastic on it. She screamed even louder running to the bathroom taking off her dress.

Her husband looked at the money then took a deep breath wondering why he had married her.

“Lebele lame! Nthuse! (My breast! Help me!)”

She continued screaming. He walked to the bathroom and looked at the burn wound on her breast.

“Its burning! It’s burning! Ijooweeee!”

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Yours Truly

#57

Batang walked over and looked curiously. Her aunt cried so much rolling on the floor naked.

“I am burning! I am burning! I am burning! Bring cold water.”

Batang looked at his uncle who was just staring then ran to the kitchen and came back with the 2 liter bottle of coke full with water. He opened it and poured it on her.

She turned around as he continued pouring. He ran back to the kitchen once it was empty and poured it on her. She calmed down then sighed crying.

“I took the money and phone. The phone is under the bed.”

Batang’s uncle swallowed still in shock. He looked around the house then looked at the wound on her breast that has just appeared from no where.

Batang walked out and went to his room and continued packing his clothes. Mmagwe Kaelo slowly got up and walked outside. She laid down on the Veranda as the cold wind brushed her painful inflamed body.

At Atang's house, Atang walked inside his bedroom, her perfume was still in the air. He swallowed trying to figure out what had happened to him. He had destroyed a relationship he had put his everything in for someone who was not even worth it.

His heart ached so much as he tried to come into terms with it. He opened the wardrobe and looked at some of her clothes. He took out her dress then laid on the bed holding in breathing in her scent.

He took out his phone and went on her Facebook. He smiled staring at the pictures she had just posted. She looked beautiful as usual, he smiled staring at her smile then saved her picture in his phone.

He heard his main door opening followed by his father's voice. He remained still holding her dress in her arms.

His door opened seconds later as his father walked in.

"Atang... uhu? Are you sniffing a dress."

"I am trying to sleep. You will sleep in the next room."

"Sniffing her dress won't bring her back. You need to move on. You messed up. I don't see that woman coming back."

"Can you borrow me your phone?"

"What do you want to do?"

"I will return it. There is food in the kitchen."

Ragwe Atang looked at his son then gave him the phone and walked out.

Atang laid on the bed then saved her number in his phone. He went to his WhatsApp and WhatsApp called her.

“Hello?”

“Hey, I just wanted to check if you made a plan for Batang. I know I am bothering you. I am sorry..I am worried about him.”

“I did. And yes you are bothering me. Why are you so concerned about Batang? He’s not your concern.”

“I have cared for him since I met him. I can’t help that I love him and want nothing but the best for him.”

She sighed. “I am trying to sleep Atang. Please stop this. Where is Pearl?”

“There is no Pearl. I was not cheating, I was really on a trip I swear. You can ask anyone. I never cheated before. I was angry and I am sorry. I don’t want to lose you. I don’t want to be without you.”

“I am hanging up. I am too tired for this. Tomorrow I am changing my number.”

“I will do anything. Please don’t leave me, I love you.”

“You thought I was just going to forgive didn’t you? That because I showed desperation I wasn’t going to leave.. that because you paid magadi I was just going to take it.. you were wrong. I told you I would leave I you slept with another woman. You did and came back smelling like her. You had the guts to get on top of me after fucking her then call her name on top of me, after all that you want to put it as a mistake? A mistake is never well thought. I am

going to get over you and move on. That's going to happen I will find someone who deserves me. Not you. Someone who loves me. It's not you "

"I love you more than anything. I will give anything for us... for you. I will do anything... "

"Stop calling me corner to corner. You are stealing my peace. I am blocking this number."

"It's papa's birthday. He wants to say hi."

"I don't want to talk to him.

"Can I just listen to you breathe? I want to listen to you breathing. I swear that's all."

"Bye-"

She hung up. He laid down holding her dress in his arms tearfully.

His father walked in and looked at him.

"Atang.."

He remained still sniffing.

"If you want her you will have to prove to her that you can be the man she needs. I still don't understand what made you cheat on such a beautiful fit girl but she is your wife so you can choose to hold on trying to win her back. If she rejects you, pick your losses and move on."

Ragwe Atang picked his phone and walked out. He went on his WhatsApp and looked at Rethabile's number. He tapped it and

called.

"I am tired of this Atang. I don't want you! Accept it, you, I hate you more every time you call me with your infested dick, nyla! You asked what you could do, go and die. I am sure your parents will breathe better."

Rragwe Atang cleared his throat... "Makoti..."

There was done some silence.

"Makoti... how are you?"

Rethabile hung up. Rragwe Atang looked at phone then sighed defeated.

Mmagwe Atang walked over from the kitchen. "Where is Attie?"

He put away his phone and sat down "Crying for Rethabile."

"**

The following morning Pearl slowly took off her clothes at the doctor's office and opened her legs. He touched her reddish skin with a frown and looked more carefully.

"You got a cut... you need stitches. If we don't treat this, you are going to have an infection. What happened to you? Where you raped?"

"No. I am fine."

Ok.”

“I want to get extra stiches so it gets smaller.”

The doctor looked at her. “What?”

“When can it I get it done?”

In Boston, Rethabile switched off her phone and laid on the bed exhausted. She sighed closing her eyes. Mosa looked at her.

“You are pregnant?”

Rethabile opened her eyes and looked at her. “What?”

Mosa looked at her belly and smiled. “Nothing. You can sleep.”

Rethabile nodded and closed her eyes sleeping.

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Yours Truly

#58

In Orapa, mmagwe Kaelo looked at her wound and put on a dress while her husband stared.

“Batang is going today. I have decided to drive to Maun. I will be coming back tomorrow.”

“So you are leaving me while I am not feeling well?”

“Your evil deeds made this happen. How could you steal his money?”

“I was keeping it safe for him.”

“You were keeping it safe? We looked for that money everywhere! I don’t even understand why you hated his presence because you don’t pay the bills in this house! I regret marrying. I regretted even before I did.”

He walked out. Mmagwe Kaelo took a deep breath walking out of the bedroom. She watched her husband carrying Batang’s bags outside while Batang behind him. They got in the car then he started the engine and drove off. She took a deep breath and walked out too holding her handbag. She opened her umbrella headed to the clinic.

At Pearl's house, Atang watched as Pearl drank the morning after seated in his car with one butt.

"Are you ok?"

"Yes. It's painful to seat."

"I am sorry. I should have told them to take it easy."

She nodded holding the bottle of water. Atang took out some money and gave it to her.

"Get something for yourself. I will ask Agang to bring the other pill later on."

"He's going to want. Give it to me, I will remain with it."

"No. He won't. I have spoken to them. No one is going to touch you. I am sorry. He will come later and also check up on you. I am flying out today."

Pearl nodded counting the money. She smiled then looked at him.
"I love you."

He smiled. "I know. I have to go."

She slowly got out of the car and limped to her house. She turned and waved. He waved back and drove off calling Agang.

"Hello?"

"I am on my way. Are you already at the graveyard?"

"Yes."

“I will be there in twenty minutes.”

“Sharp.”

At the funeral, Keemi sat beside her daughter as the pastor preached in front of them.

“Where is Rethabile?”

Zaza remained in silence staring at her son’s picture on top of his little coffin. She recalled the time during her aunt’s funeral... she still could recall Thabi’s cries... she had cried so much.. no one had been able to hurt her. She had thought she was just being dramatic and wanted attention.

Tears rolled down as she leaned on Agang who was seated the other side. He kissed her forehead as the pastor carried on.

Minutes later everyone stood up, Prince walked wards the coffin with Phefo. Atang walked over too, Agang took a deep breath then also walk to the coffin. They all carried it headed to the grave they had already been dug.

Mmagwe Atang started singing, everyone joined as they walked to the dug out grave. Zaza sniffed crying standing with her mother who kept looking around searching for Rethabile in the crowd.

The pastor said a prayer as the coffin slowly went down. The family members all threw a handful of soil inside. Zaza got her

handful and looked at her son's coffin. She had never felt pain. It felt physical. Agang put his arm around her holding her.

She threw the soil inside and cried in his arms. Agang wrapped his arms around her holding her tightly.

Atang picked a shovel with the other men and started filling the grave. He took off his jacket remaining with his white long sleeved shirt. He folded the sleeves and continued.

From a distance, a few Kaisara relatives watched as he worked.

The other cousin chuckled. "Le seka la tswa pelo bathong, that's Rethabile's man."

The thin cousin smiled. "Rethabile is not here akere."

"Yes but that is her husband. Gape have you seen Rethabile? That man is used to meat not a meatless drumstick. Hold yourself mma, we can't always fear for our men because of your boney ass."

The thin cousin kept quiet and continued staring at Atang.

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People begun dispersing, Atang looked at Agang.

"I am flying to SA."

"Ok."

“Don’t forget Pearl.”

“I won’t. I am thinking of working out things with Zaza.”

“I am sure she will like that too.”

“Yeah... I will see you when come back. I heard papa talk about how when he called Rethabile yesterday, she thought it was you and went off with insults.”

Atang laughed. “I know. She’s upset. I won’t stop calling her. She’s yet to block me.”

Prince walked over. “I am going. Lone passes her condolences.”

Agang nodded. “Thanks.”

Prince bumped shoulders with him then walked to his car. Atang sighed.

“Sharp.”

Agang watched as his brother walked to his car. He sighed and walked to his where Zaza was already waiting.

Atang got in his car pressing his phone.

“Hi...”

He raised his head and looked at one of the Kaisara relatives. He rolled down his window.

“Yeah?”

“Our cars are full, I was wondering if you could give me a lift.”

“I am headed to work. I already running late. You can go to that

car..."

Atang pointed at Agang's car. "He can drop you off."

"Aoo rra... you can drop me off along the way. Thabi and I are close."

Atang hooted flashing at Agang who was reversing.

"He will drop you off."

She stepped back as he rolled up his window. She walked over to Agang's car and got in. Zaza looked at her.

"For an ugly person, you have so much confidence to think you can go after people's men. O maswe thata Amo, if I were you I would stop embarrassing myself. Everyone knows that's Thabi's man but you being you, you couldn't help but take your smelling vagina there. I wonder how your father feels in Orapa knowing his daughter is nothing but an ugly whore. Le re buisa thata lona."

Amo remained quiet as Agang drove off.

In Boston, Rethabile looked outside through the window early morning. She smiled happily then took a picture of herself. She smiled changing her WhatsApp profile picture.

She looked at her aunt's message.

Keemi: My daughter was there when your mother passed on and

you couldn't even bother coming today. You are so ungrateful, my daughter even came to see your dick mother but you never bothered when her son was sick. I hope you get cancer and die a slow painful death, I never thought you would ever turn out to be this person you are. My sister is turning in her grave.

Rethabile blocked and deleted her number. She continued replying some of her messages. A while later she put on her summer dress after bathing. She looked at herself on the mirror and smiled. Mosa walked out of the bathroom, a towel around her body.

She looked at Rethabile smiling. "Pregnancy looks good on you."

Rethabile turned. "Oh no... I'm not pregnant. I lost the baby... a month ago."

"Oh... sorry. I am sorry."

Rethabile smiled. "It's ok. It's the baby fat."

Mosa nodded. "You look good."

"I want to lose weight."

Mosa laughed. "When you shed off the weight, give it to me."

The girls laughed. Thabi turned back to the mirror and sighed smiling.

THREE YEARS LATER....

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Yours Truly

#59

THREE YEARS LATER..

In Maun, the school siren rang as Batang finished up his Science notes. He packed his bags in his school bag. He stood up with his 'School President' badge on his white ironed shirt. He picked his bag and walked out looking at the time.

His friend rushed over. "Themonna Batang, o heditse home work ya Maths? Nna e mpolaya nxondo mfethu, ene 1 leg was nyedisa le ene."

Batang looked at him. "I am submitting my book right now."

"Eh ta ke re cha Cha then we submit together."

Batang took out his book from his school bag and handed it to him.

"I am coming."

"Sure laitaka."

Batang walked out and hurried to the Library looking at his watch. His heart skipped as he watched her walk out in her school dress that reached just above her knees.

Her friend joined her talking loudly as usual. He looked at her now nervous, the friend was always there. Sometimes he just wished

she would just break her leg and stay at home so he could have a proper conversation in her absence.

He approached them, the friend looked at him.

“Hi?”

Batang looked at her as she looked at him too.

“Hi Lebo, can we talk?”

Lebo’s friend laughed. “Uhu! What do you want from Lebo?”

Batang sighed. “I want to talk to her.”

“Talk ehh, what’s holding your tongue? The cat? With the way you talk like a snail, I bet”

Lebo looked at her friend. “Seba-“

“Ng ng, let farm boy tell us what he wants. We need to go home. What’s a form 2 student have to say to a form 3 student. Koore o nyatsa nna kana mang? Talk! Talk fast. We don’t have the whole day here to listen to you say one word for twenty hours!”

Batang looked at her big nose and small Chinese eyes as she spoke loudly that even other students stared. He hated her so much just staring at her face annoyed him to the last.

Lebogang sighed. “We can talk...”

She walked from her friend. Batang looked at her with a smirk and followed Lebo while Lebo’s friend laughed.

“The wonders shall never end!”

Batang sighed as she walked with Lebo. "I don't like friend. O papile ebile o modomo."

Lebo laughed. The way he spoke with his deep voice and that slowness always made her blush. "She's actually nice. Just loud."

Batang took out a small gift bag from his bag and handed it to her.

"Happy birthday."

Lebo smiled taking it. She opened it and took out the earrings, watch and chocolate. She looked at the beautiful watch.

"This is beautiful..."

"I asked my sister in America to get for me."

"Wow..."

"I am glad you like it."

"I love it. Thank you Batang."

She hugged him. His heart skipped and pounded so much as her skin touched his. She stepped back as he smiled.

"We are closing on Friday, maybe we can hang out."

"I am going to Boston the holiday. I am going on Friday."

"Oh... that's... tomorrow?"

"Yes. My sister has already booked my flights."

Lebo smiled as they walked out of the school premises and took the road to her house. She smiled.

"I will see you next term then."

He nodded. "Yes."

He took a deep breath going through what Atang had told him to say.

"I really like you. I know you are older but age is just number. It doesn't define anything. I want you."

Lebo nervously looked up at him. He didn't look younger than her because of his height, his beard and his voice too.

Batang looked at her then leaned over and kissed her. With confusion and shock, she moved her lips and mistakingly bit his tongue.

Batang moved back then smiled. "Have you ever kissed before?"

She shyly shook her head. "No."

He leaned over and kissed her again, this time with a bit more confidence. He moved back smiling.

"Can I take your number?"

"Yes."

She took out a piece of paper and a pen then wrote down her number with her neat handwriting. She handed him the paper. He smiled taking it.

"Thanks. Bye."

Lebo watches him as he turned and walked back to the school. Her friend walked over.

“Did you just kiss him nemma?”

Lebo sighed putting her gift bag in her bag.

“Let’s go.”

“What’s that?”

“Nothing.”

“Isn’t he young for you?”

Lebo started walking smiling wondering when he had noticed her. Her friend clapped her hands once.

“Wow!”

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Batang hurried to his class and found his friend waiting for him. Karabo smiled.

“You got her?”

Batang jumped then kicked the air celebrating. His friend laughed celebrating too.

“Tsena yana boy!”

They bumped fists. “That’s my boy!”

Batang smiled. “Tsala ya gagwe ye maswe yele ene e le teng.”

“O Ra tonki yele? Nxla! Kante go swa leng gomo?”

Batang laughed. "Lets submit re vaye."

Karabo picked his bag and walked out chatting with Batang.

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Almost an hour late, Batang walked inside the house at the farm and found his grandfather fixing the old coffee table.

"Papa... I told you I would fix that."

He looked at him and smiled. "It's nothing big, just loose screws."

Batang took the screwdriver from him. "You will hurt yourself. Sit down. Did you drink your medication?"

The old man grunted sitting. "I did. Batang, I can take care of myself my boy. Don't worry. Did you pack your passport?"

Batang put down his bag and started fixing the table. "Yes. Everything is packed."

"Your sister is going to be so happy to see you."

Batang smiled. "Me too. I can't believe I am going to be in an airplane."

His grandfather laughed. "Old back I worked for a white man. He had his plane. It was small but in my eyes it was the biggest I had ever seen. The first time he flew with me I messed up my pants. I remember how embarrassed I was and how he laughed at me. I will never forget it, from then, I never flew ever again. Don't be like

me.”

Batang laughed. The old man laughed too then started coughing. His cough worried Batang so much, it actually scared him.

He got him a glass of water and gave it to him. “Drink.”

“Thank you my boy.”

“I am scared to leave you alone.”

“Don’t be. I will be right here when you come back. I will be here waiting for you my son.”

Batang tearfully hugged him. The old man hugged him back.

“I will be here waiting for you. I will only die when you are finished with school.”

Batang sniffed. “I don’t want you to die.”

In Gaborone, Zaza walked out of her meeting holding her tablet and made her way to her office. Her PA walked inside holding flowers.

“These came for you.”

She smiled already knowing who they were from. The PA put them on her desk. Zaza took then took out the note. She read it and blushed as her PA walked out.

Zaza took her phone and called him.

“Hey...”

“Hi, I just saw the flowers. Thank you.”

“You are welcome. Can we go for dinner tonight?”

“Yes.”

“Great. I will make some reservations. I want to take things to the next level. I love you and I know I want you.”

She smiled staring at her nails.

“I will come and pick you up later.”

“Ok.”

“I love you.”

“I love you too.”

He hung up. Zaza took a deep breath smiling. Her phone rang, she looked at the caller ID, her smile disappearing.

“Hello?”

“Hey babe, what time are you knocking off tonight?”

“Late. I have reports to submit.”

“What time is late?”

“Maybe around 8.”

“8?”

“Agang you know I am behind schedule. That trip you took me to without consulting with me first made take ten steps back.”

“You needed that trip.”

“You like taking decisions alone. You should have told me. You know I don’t like funny surprises.”

“Babe are we fighting?”

Zaza sighed. “I am just telling you. I am working late tonight.”

“I wanted us to go out.”

“I don’t think I will make it.”

“It’s ok. We can go when we knock off.”

“I will be tired then. Can’t we just go some other time?”

“I have plans for us tonight. It has to be tonight. Whatever time you knock off, we will go then.”

She sighed. “Ok.”

“I love you.”

“Me too.”

He hung up. She looked at her phone bored.

Atang walked out if the airport holding his small overnight bag. He

took out his car keys approaching it at the parking then unlocked it and jumped in. He jumped inside then sighed staring at his messages report in. He opened his Facebook then clicked on her name. She had changed her profile picture. He smiled reacting to it then sent her a message.

Atang: Hey babe, just flew back to Botswana. I am headed home now. I love you so much.

He sighed satisfied then started his car and drove home.

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Yours Truly

#60

That evening Agang parked his car at Zaza's workplace then he stepped out of the car and walked to the security guard seated by the entrance.

"Morena.."

The security guard looked at him. "Boss, how can I help you?"

"I looking for my girlfriend. She's working late tonight."

"There is no one here. The last person to leave was a man. The building has been locked."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, everyone had left. I came here at six. The building is empty."

Agang sighed taking out his phone wondering if she had already went to her house. The Phone rang unanswered.

"Ok, I think she went home. Thank you."

"Sure."

Agang turned calling her again and drove to her house. He parked his car then walked to the door holding the spare keys. He unlocked the door and walked inside searching for her but the house was empty.

He tried calling her again but her phone just rang unanswered. He

worriedly sat down and waited. An hour later he called again but still there was no answer.

He called his brother.

“Hello?”

Agang sighed. “I think Zaza is cheating.”

“Why?”

“I can feel it. It’s the secret phone calls, the distance in the relationship. She feels like she is miles away from me even though we are on the same bed. Our sex doesn’t even feel the same...”

“After everything you two have been through, do you think she can do that?”

“I can feel her slipping from my hands.”

“Where is she right now?”

“I had told her I want to take her out. She told me her everyday excuse that she is working late. I sent to her work place and she is not there. I am calling her she is not picking.”

“Wa jelwa.”

“Motho wa teng o tsile go nyela, ba ntwaela. What’s so hard about telling someone you don’t want them anymore? O mongwe o tsile go nyela. Zaza thinks I am a year old.”

“Don’t go to jail.”

“If I go, it’s going to be worth it. She wants to see another side of

me.”

Agang hung up then got in his car and parked the car at the back. He got back in the house and waited for her on the couch.

Zaza sipped her champagne on the roof top restaurant staring at her partner. He smiled.

“You look beautiful.”

Zaza blushed. “Thank you.”

“I want to get married.”

Zaza looked at him. “What?”

He took out the ring and showed her. Zaza’s heart skipped as she looked at it.

“It’s beautiful.”

He smiled. “I got it for you.”

Zaza took it and looked at it carefully. She had never seen anything do beautiful.

Teara filled her eyes. “I love it.”

He took it and slid it on her finger. Her leaned over and kissed her then they continued dining on the roof top

In Boston, later that day, hours behind, Rethabile walked out of the lecture hall holding her books. She looked at the time and hurried home carrying her books.

Almost twenty minutes later, she opened the door to her tiny apartment and walked in. She took off her shoes by the door and walked to the couch. She sat down exhausted then took her phone and relaxed stretching her legs.

She opened her WhatsApp messages as a Facebook notification pinged. Already knowing who it was, she ignored it and carried on replying to her messages.

Mosa walked in her apartment holding a mug. She smiled.

“Hi... I am in need of milk. Do you have any?”

Rethabile stood up and went to her tiny kitchen. She opened her fridge and took out her last milk. She poured for Mosa just a bit.

“This is my last.”

“Thanks.”

“Its ok.”

“Chris was here looking for you.”

Rethabile frowned. “For what?”

Mosa sighed. "He loves you."

Rethabile rolled her eyes. "I don't."

"Thabi, Chris is a good man. He's a third year resident, handsome and loves you."

"I have responsibilities, and I am just not into relationships. One night of sex can't have him thinking he is in love with me. He should have stuck to just being my friend. I will not be cornered into relationship because I was horny and drunk and decided to fuck." She sighed. "I was also stressed about my exams. And I still am."

Mosa looked at her. "I don't know what happened to you previously but ... consider him. He's a good guy. Down to earth. You don't have to be a heartbreaker."

"Then go for him Mosa. I want to get my degree... I want to be able to take care of my little family. Chris and I will want different things then he will decide to cheat... I am not painting everyone with the same brush but maybe relationships are not my calling."

Rethabile took off her t- shirt. Mosa looked at her tattoo just below her breast. She shook her head.

"You need to go to church. I know you were not raised like this. Not to be this kind of person. You are going to regret all of this. All the missed opportunities and chances. You are going to watch other people happy and you will remain this bitter person that you are, you are going to be sad and I feel sad for you... for those around you. You will become even more bitter, it will just start

with your ex. You are full of so much anger and won't accept your part into how things fell apart. You want to be the victim so much that you walk around with the excuse everywhere you go. And that's the truth. I pity your brother for how much he looks up to you. For how he thinks you are God when in fact that you are a destruction. I pity your daughter... for having such a vindictive mother who's so caught up in her own selfishness."

Rethabile looked at her and laughed. "I didn't come to America to be judged by anyone. You don't know me or where I have been or what I have been through. Go and focus your energy on your abusive father who is still beating your mother and making your sister his second wife. Or better yet focus on your therapy sessions because between you and I if there is anyone with anger it's definitely the rape victim. The only destruction here is you, maybe if your mother loved you and your sister enough she should have protected you instead of shielding herself with her daughters. Don't bring my brother or my daughter into your messed up life, wombless whore. Trying to make yourself Jesus' cousin with fake Christianity pretending to be happy, I will mop the floor with your ass moghele."

Mosa looked at her in shock. The door opened, Thabi looked over as her daughter walked in followed by her nanny behind her.

"Mama..."

Thabi watching her run over. Thabi picked her up.

"Hey sweetie... I missed you."

She hugged her and took a deep calming down. "I missed you my

angel..."

Mosa walked out. Thabi looked at the nanny.

"Thank you."

"You are welcome. See you tomorrow. Bye Lomo..."

Lelomo smiled and waved excitedly. "Bye! Bye bye!"

The nanny laughed and walked out. Thabi looked at her daughter, tears filling her eyes. She took a deep breath and kissed her daughter sitting down.

Lomo smiled in her mother's arms, Thabi looked at her two buns and smiled.

"I love you..."

"Kiss mama.."

Thabi kissed her. Lomo giggled burying her face on her mother's chest. A tear rolled down Thabi's cheek, she wiped it away kissing her daughter's forehead.

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Yours Truly

#61

In Boston, Rethabile watched her daughter eat watching cartoons on the laptop while she held a book in her hands. Lelomo laughed at the laptop screen pausing eating.

Thabi sighed then continued studying. She opened another book, her phone started ringing. She reached for it and look at the Botswana number calling her wondering who it was.

She sighed then picked. "Hello?"

There was silence. Thabi looked at her screen them put the phone on her ear.

"Hello?"

She frowned at the silence then sighed. "Why do you keep doing this? Is it necessary. I know you are listening Atang. I don't know what you are trying to achieve from this but don't you feel sorry for me? All this is unnecessary."

"Hi..."

Thabi paused. "Elang?"

Elang chuckled. "Hi..."

"Wow! I am sorry about.. I thought it was-"

"Atang. It's ok. I am sorry."

Thabi smiled. "No. Don't be. It's nice to hear your voice."

Elang laughed. "How is school?"

"School is fine, now pursuing Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery."

"Wow! And how long is that going to take?"

Thabi laughed. "Well quiet a few. But not too long."

"I am having for you. You've always wanted to be s doctor."

"I think I underestimated it. I thought since my Pre-Med degree would just be like everything else, I should known from the GRE test that these people were not playing."

"The test you take before being accepted into Harvard?"

"Yes. That was do hard, I thought it would end there but it's an ongoing thing. The first year here, I cried when I saw my results at the end of the semester. I was fighting to stay above the line. It happened with the next semester. I have lost weight Elang... not from gym... of cause I now do but wow!"

Elang laughed hard. "Thabi!"

"I am telling you. I have lost weight because of stress, forgetting to eat and more stress, being under pressure. It's not what I thought it would be like."

"Its always different. I always see your pictures with my fake account. You are still beautiful."

"How are you?"

Elang sighed. "Unemployed. Very unemployed. I am beginning to hate my degree. I feel I wasted my time."

"Its only been a year Elang. You need to be patient."

"If life could also be patient."

"It will happen for you."

"I hope soon. I was now selling weaves and wigs. It's been keeping me afloat. I don't know for how much longer. I am barely holding on."

"I am sorry. Keep hustling till you find something. You will give a testimony one day."

"I hope I do. And you? Any plans of visiting."

"I had wanted to come last year got nervous... scared of what waits for me. I just left. I packed my bags, and left. I was ready... I had already packed my bags, I went to the airport and just couldn't. So I came back and cried."

"What happened to you and Atang?"

"He wanted a baby so much and I didn't. I got pregnant and I wanted to abort in which I changed my mind. He found out and was very upset. He was heart broken and I guess disappointed that he questions everything about us and my love for him. That's when he decided to find someone else who possibly could love him. I remember crying ko Airport Junction mall begging him to tell the other woman to step out of the car so we could just go home. I had seen them kissing, this man looked at me and said

she's my cousin and that I didn't see properly. That I was over reacting and that I sounded crazy. I knelt begging him, by that time he didn't care anymore. I went home and waited. He later came, her perfume all over him. He slept with me without bathing after having to have slept with her then he said out her name. I guess he had imagining it was her not me. That's how that ended."

"I am so sorry."

"It still hurts to think about it. Obviously I know she was better than in but for him to say her name while on top of me.. it hurts me a lot."

Elang sighed. "I am sorry friend but maybe you should just forget him and move on. Kana obviously his life is moving forward."

"He has my number. I know Batang gave it to him. If he's not sending messages over Facebook, he calls keeps quiet."

Elang laughed. "O irang?"

"Wa letsa ebe a didimala. Sometimes I don't answer unsaved Bots numbers."

"So the second pregnancy... you did what?"

Rethabile looked at her daughter. "I aborted mma."

"I would too. Imagine having a child with a cheating man. That would mean you would be tied to him for the rest of your life."

Thabi sighed. "Yeah..."

"So you will never get back with him?"

"If I do it would be to hurt him. I would break him till he kills himself. I would finish him, it so won't be for love. What I have for that man is hatred. I would hurt him to the last. I imagine it Elang. I imagine him killing himself. I am holding a grudge and..." Tears filled her eyes. "Sometimes I think I need help."

"You are fine. Your anger is justified. You have every right to be angry. Lenna I would just be angry like you are. You are human Thabi. It's ok to be angry. It's ok to be hateful. It will wear off as time goes on."

"I guess."

"Gape he was your first. First heartbreaks are not to be taken lightly. He was your first in everything. It's o my normal that you cry for so long."

She laughed. "You are right. When met him I didn't know anything."

"See? The heart shall heal."

"Thank you for calling me."

"I am happy I spoke to you."

"Me too. I missed you so much..."

"We have never had a fight this long."

"No. We have not."

They both laughed.

Elang sighed. "I am sorry Thabi."

"Its ok. I long forgave you."

"Thank you. How is America? Kana some of us just see it on TV."

Thabi sighed. "Its hard. It's really hard. I can't get a second job... a full time one because of school. I have to pay rent. I have to buy food. I need to send Batang money every month. I have to pay other bills. Allowance is barely enough Elang. I am left at 0 when everything has been paid. And the food is barely enough... I don't eat everyday. When I forget to eat, good. Sometimes it's starvation. Drink water and move on. Right now there is nothing in the house. I had saved enough money to get Batie to visit. He's so excited. He doesn't know he's coming to hunger. Maybe I am should turn to prostitution."

Elang laughed. "Stop joking like that ija."

Thabi laughed. "Let me read. I have an exam tomorrow. Bye."

"Bye."

Rethabile hung up. She sighed massaging her stiff shoulders. Lomo stood up and walked towards her. Thabi smiled staring at her beautiful face.

"Hi..."

"Hi mama.."

Rethabile picked her up. She looked at her innocent eyes.

"What are we going to do tomorrow baby?"

She kissed her lips and sighed looking at her books.

The following day in Gaborone, Agang woke up to Zaza's voice outside the door while she unlocked her door.

"I am home now. Thank you. I love you"

She paused walking inside the house then locked eyes with Agang. She swallowed as the phone fell from her hands.

"B-babe..."

Agang stood up then locked the door and picked her phone.

"Where were you?"

Zaza took a deep breath as her heart raced so much. "I was at a friend's house. A colleague. I knocked off really late and was just too tired to drive home."

"I could have picked you up."

"I forgot."

"Forgot what?"

"I am sorry Agang. I know it's about whatever you had planned. I was just too tired."

"No one is talking about that. I am talking about the fact that you could have called me to pick you up."

"I knocked off around 10. I thought you were sleeping."

“What’s the password?”

“I am not telling you anything. If you do trust me then we have nothing between us. We might we well just call it quits.”

Agang laughed. “Ok.”

“Yes!”

“There is nothing at the back of your house. Come and see.”

She walked out with him. Zaza looked as he unlocked his car. He opened the boot, she walked over and looked curiously.

Agang picked her up and put her inside while she screamed. He closed the boot and sighed walking back in house dialing a number with his phone.

“Hello?”

“I need a favor... I need to go through someone’s phone but there is a password.”

“Bring it.”

“Sure.”

At Atang’s house, A taxi dropped off Elang by the gate. She stepped out and took a deep breath walking to the gate pulling down her short dress. She took a deep breath then pressed the intercom.

Yours Truly

#62

Atang spoke through the speaker by the gate.

“Yeah?”

Elang took a deep breath. “Hi Atang. It’s Elang. Can I please talk to you. It’s important. It’s about Thabi.”

There was silence. She waited nervously then the gate opened. She walked in and went to the door just as Atang walked out in only his sweatpants. She took a deep breath staring at all his tattoos.

She pulled down her dress. “Hi.”

“What happened to her?”

“Can we sit and talk while seated?”

He looked at her then opened the door wider. She walked in his house, her eyes fell on Thabi’s picture frame on the wall.

“Sit and talk. I hope it’s important.”

She sat down biting her lower lip. She looked at him waiting for him to sit but he remained up. She sighed.

“Thabi told me about how you still want her. I thought you needed to know something. She is my friend and I don’t want her to hurt herself. She is planning on taking you back only to hurt you. She wants to destroy you and watch you kill yourself. She doesn’t love

you anymore, she hates you and just wants to hurt you. You have no reason to believe me but..."

She opened her handbag and took out her phone. She went to her recordings and fast forwarded to that one part.

"If I do it would be to hurt him. I would break him till he kills himself. I would finish him, it so won't be for love. What I have for that man is hatred. I would hurt him to the last. I imagine it Elang. I imagine him killing himself. I am holding a grudge and...Sometimes I think I need help."

She stopped the recording.

"Play it from the start."

"Uh the other things are not important."

"I want to hear it."

She pressed play from the beginning. Atang listened then looked at Elang.

"Call her again. Ask her where she stays in Boston."

"What?"

"You heard me."

"My airtime is finished. I just wanted you to know that she-"

"I will buy airtime."

He took his phone and bought her airtime.

"Call her."

Elang swallowed them dialed Thabi. Her phone started ringing.

"Hello?"

"Hi... are you already sleeping?"

"Yes. I am 7 hours behind you."

"Sorry. I thought you were awake."

"Ng ng... but let me wake up and read. I fell asleep."

"Ok... so where is exactly do you stay in Harvard?"

"I stay at Brighton Allston. Not the best neighborhood but affordable. Why? You want to visit me?"

Elang laughed. "No. Just curious

"Its not that fancy but really affordable. Eish..."

"What?"

"I regret telling you. Kana wena when you get angry, , you air my business to the public."

"Aoww mma... I have changed. I was young then. Maybe one day after I get a job I will visit you."

Thabi laughed. "57th Everett... you look for me and I will be there."

"My airtime is finishing. Bye."

"Bye."

Elang hung up and looked at Atang.

"She doesn't want-"

“What exactly were you hoping to achieve from this?”

“I wanted you to know the truth.”

“I want you nowhere close to Rethabile. If I hear you call her again, I am going to shoot you and bury you. If you think I am joking, try it. I hope this is the last time you call her.”

Elang looked at him. “I just wanted to help you.”

“I said if I hear that you called Rethabile, o tsile go nyela. Get out.”

She slowly stood up and walked out. Atang walked to his bedroom calling his brother.

“Hello?”

“She came?”

“Yes. In the morning.”

“What did she say?”

“She is yet going to say something. I am giving her time to think of her answers. She thinks I am playing.”

“Where is she?”

“At home.”

“I am going to Massachusetts.”

“To do what?”

“To try again.”

“And you think this time she will tell you where she stays?”

“I know where she stays. I want my girl back.”

“Don’t get arrested in foreign countries. That side they arrest for harassment.”

“I am not leaving till I talk to her.”

“Be careful.”

Atang hung up and packed his bags into a traveling bag.

The phone technician unlocked Zaza’s phone and handed it to Agang. Agang took a deep breath then opened her messages.

He swallowed through her messages then went to her WhatsApp. He sighed then took out some money from his pocket and gave to the technician.

“Thanks.”

“Sure!”

Agang walked go his car and jumped in. He read Al her messages and put her phone down weak. He took a moment, his hand on her face. He started his car and drove back to her house.

He opened the boot. Zaza gasped coughing while tears rolled down her cheeks. Agang sighed be defeated.

“I just want the truth.”

She started crying. "Please don't kill me."

"I want the truth."

"Agang..."

"I want the truth. That's all. The truth."

"I am sorry."

"You are sorry about what?"

She looked at him shaking with fear. "I... he...I love you."

"I was not bolding you hostage in this relationship. You could have easily dumped me not to string me along with street niggas. Wa ntwaela. I was actually thinking of getting married to you thinking maybe..." Agang sighed. "Get out of my car. I am not paying your rent by the end of this month. I am sure your man can manage."

Zaza slowly got out. Agang closed his boot then jumped in his car and drove off.

The following morning in Boston, Thabi finished dressing then packed her things in her bag. She looked at the time wondering where her daughter's nanny was.

She took her phone and called her.

“Hi Tabi..”

“Hi, where are you? My exam starts in thirty minutes.”

“I know, I am so sorry but I had an accident on my way there, I am at the hospital.”

“What? Is it serious?”

“I don’t know. I am scared.. I can’t feel my legs.”

Thabi looked at her daughter tearfully. “Cant you get anyone to help me?”

“I am sorry Tabi.”

She hung up. Thabi put her hands on her face holding her tears.. She thoughtfully picked Lomo up then walked out with her bag. She locked the door and walked downstairs to Mosa’s door. She knocked and waited. Mosa opened seconds later.

“What do you want?”

Rethabile sighed. “Can you please remain with he. I will be back in two hours. I am writing an exam.”

“No.”

Mosa closed the door on Thabi’s face. Thabi put her daughter down.

“You are going to stay with aunty Mosa ok? I love you.”

She kissed her. Lomo waved.

“Bye mama...”

Thabi knocked on the door and listened as footsteps approached. She turned and ran off. Mosa opened the door then looked at Lomo who was smiling at her. She looked over to her mother who was feet away running.

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Yours Truly

#63

Later that day Agang walked inside his house and found Kelly ironing his clothes. She turned to him still in her Choppies supermarket t-shirt.

“Hi, mama is not well. I already went to Atang’s house. I am finishing up here.”

He smiled. “It’s ok but mmagwe K cooks for me when she’s here.”

Kelly laughed. “I will cook.”

“Thank you. What’s wrong with my girlfriend?”

Kelly laughed. “Your girlfriend’s ulcers are making it hard for her.”

“Didn’t she get treated last time?”

Kelly sighed sadly. “She did but... she... your girlfriend believe in the pastor healing her so we are waiting for Sunday. We are going to church and maybe she will get healed.”

Agang nodded. “I see. I will call her.”

She smiled. “Don’t say I told you that. She will be upset.”

“I won’t. I love your short hair. I liked your long hair too.”

Kelly smiled. “I like the short hair. It’s affordable.”

“You cut because of money? Where is your boyfriend?”

“Got married.”

“I am sorry to hear that. If it makes you feel better, Zaza is getting married.”

Kelly sadly looked at him. “I am sorry. I know you love her?”

“Yeah. It’s life. Ke eta, I hope you didn’t cook for Atang. He went to the States.”

“I hope she takes him back.”

Agang nodded. “Me too. He has learnt his lesson.”

Agang walked to his clean bedroom. He walked back to the sitting room a while later already in his grey sweatpants and a t-shirt. He looked at her as she finished up ironing.

“Thank you. The house looks spotless.”

Kelly put his shirts and pants to his bedroom. She came back and smiled.

“Just how your girlfriend likes it.”

“I am going to call her. God helps those who help themselves.”

Kelly walked to the kitchen. He followed after her and smiled.

“What can I do?”

She looked at him. “You can start making the salad. I had already started with the meat.”

“Ok, what am I supposed to cut?”

She smiled then opened the fridge and took out a couple of things

for him. She washed the tomatoes then took a chopping board and a knife.

“Cut them like this...”

She showed him. Agang nodded and took over while she took out her marinated meat from the fridge. She looked at his tomatoes and laughed.

“Those are huge Agang....”

“You said I should cut like that.”

Kelly took the knife from him then cut again. “I want it like this...”

He looked at his tomatoes then hers. “What’s the difference?”

“They are not. Cut properly.”

He started cutting. She smiled. “That’s better. Be fast. I have to go home.”

Agang turned to her. “I will drop you off. Please stay and eat with me. Eating alone is boring.”

Kelly smiled. “I can’t.”

“Please... I won’t eat you. I will drop you off at the gate.”

“Mama won’t like it. She doesn’t even like this friendship... she believes in professionalism. I don’t want to-“

“Don’t you have friends?”

“I do.”

“You will tell her you were with a friend. Not me. Stay... I am

cutting these tomatoes nicely for you.”

Kelly sighed. “Ok.”

He smiled. “Thank you.”

Elang scrolled through her Facebook later that evening. She came across her roommate’s post, they had parted ways as soon as they graduated and now she was getting married to her boyfriend.

Elang went through her pictures and liked them then moved on scrolling down on Facebook. Her landlord started calling. Elang bit her lower lip wondering what excuse she was going to give. She knew this month she would get evicted. There was no way around it.

She sat upright staring at her room. There was nothing much. She went to her contacts then took a deep breath and called her mother.

“Ela...”

She smiled. “I went to the interview today.”

“And?”

“They said they will call me. I doubt it. I am thinking of coming home. I can’t afford to keep staying here without a job.”

“I am happy you are now understanding what I was saying. You

will look for a job while you are home.”

“Thank you.”

“How is Thabi?”

“She is struggling in America.”

“In the bear future she won’t be struggling. Not so much. Doctors are the most respected people in the world. She’s going to be such a bright star. Her mother is proud wherever she is.”

Elang nodded. “Yes. I wish I had studied medicine too.”

“But your degree is still as good.”

“I will get a truck for my things.”

“Ok.”

She hung up and started packing her belongings.

Just after ten in the evening, Agang parked his car, his lights off then looked at Kelly.

“Thank you.”

She smiled. “Bye.”

“Which Choppies do you work at?”

She shook her head. “No. And bye.”

“Wait, I wanted to take you out for-“

“You are going through a heartbreak Agang. I know you are looking for something to take away your pain. It won't be me. Good night.”

She stepped out of the car and walked to the gate. She opened it and walked in while he watched smiling. She got in the house, Agang drove off, his lights still off. He switched them on at the corner disappearing out of sight.

Hours later in Boston, Rethabile waited at the airport holding a board with his name. She excitedly watched as the arrivals walked over. She watched as others hugged screaming while others cried. She looked around hoping to see her brother as the arrivals walked out.

Minutes passed, her heart started pounding. She walked to help desk.

“Evening...”

A lady smiled at her. “Evening... how can I help you?”

“Uh my brother was supposed to be arriving too. BA1445.. uh he's from London. His name is Batang Kaisara. He is with Rachel Motsumi.”

The lady looked at her. “Which flight is it?”

“BA1445. His name is Batang...” She spelt it out. “B A T A N G K A
I S A R A. He is my brother. He was supposed to be in flight
BA1445.”

“Thabi!”

Thabi turned, tears filled her eyes as he ran over to her. He
hugged her crying. Thabi held him tightly, her own tears wetting
her cheeks.

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Yours Truly

#64

In Boston, Rethabile opened her door and walked in. Batang followed behind her smiling, his heart racing with excitement. He took off his shoes by the door and stepped on the American floor.

"This floor is soft."

Thabi looked at him and laughed. "You are going crazy."

"Everything is beautiful." He looked at the two couches and the painting on the wall.

Batang smiled staring at the sliding glass door that led to the small balcony. He turned his head and looked at the kitchen.

"It's small but beautiful."

"It's really small."

He walked to the bathroom and smiled looking at the American shower and toilet. He pressed the button then it flushed.

He nodded impressed. "Smart."

He looked at her sink and opened the tap touching the water. Somehow the water felt different. It definitely didn't feel like water from the Botswana dam...

"The water here is nice..."

Thabi laughed harder. "It's just water. You must be tired. It was a

long journey.”

Batang walked out and smiled. “No. I am not tired. Where is your TV?”

“I have Netflix on my laptop.”

“Yes!”

Thabi smiled then touched his beard. “You are big “

“And you are beautiful.” He touched her hair and chuckled. “And you have lost weight..”

“You liked me fat?”

He smiled. “I love you. I don’t care if you are thin or thick.”

“I lost weight. Gym and diet. And lots of stress. So much stress.”

“I missed you.”

She hugged him. “Me too..”

Another door in the house then Mosa walked out her. Batang looked at the baby is who looked do much like his sister and turned back to Thabi. She looked at the baby again then Thabi.

Thabi walked over and picked her up as Batang stood in shock.

“Batie, this is Lelomo. Lomo. Lomo Kaisara.”

“Kasara mama?”

Thabi smiled kissing her daughter’s . “Yes hunny... this is Batang. He is my brother.”

Mosa sighed. "I bathed her. I am going."

Thabi swallowed and followed her outside. "Thank you. I am sorry about yesterday. I was out of line. I was angry but it doesn't make alright. I was upset. I felt attacked and judged. I should not have said what I said."

Mosa sighed. "I am happy it happened. Now I can your true colors"

"You provoked me!"

"I told you the truth. You don't want to accept it. But for you use my past struggles against me...."

"I am sorry. I didn't mean it. I am sorry. I felt attacked. You attacked me. Provoked me. I wasn't going to just keep quiet."

"I told you the truth. You are self centered-"

"You attacked me. I wasn't going to keep quiet. I am sorry I said the things I said. I should have not taken that far. But I wasn't going to keep quiet after you have attacked putting my daughter and my brother into it. Thank you for staying with my daughter."

Thabi walked back in her house and looked at Batang who was still staring at Lomo.

"I told you I was having a baby."

He smiled. "She is ours?"

"Yes."

"She is really beautiful. And big .."

"I know."

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"I wanted to surprise you."

He picked her up. Lomo laughed touching his nose. Batang his arms around her, tears filling her eyes.

"She is beautiful..."

Thabi smiled. "She is..."

He sniffed. Lomo looked at his tears.

"Mama... he crying?"

"He's happy."

Batang laughed and sat down holding her. Thabi sat down.

"I am happy you are here. I missed you."

He sniffed. "I missed you too... I missed you so much."

She held his hand. "You are here... I will be done in three years then I will start my residence program. I will be getting paid plus allowance. I will take you then."

"What about Papa? I don't want him to stay alone."

Thabi looked at him and sighed changing the topic. "Your haircut is nice."

"Uncle Ata-... I..."

"He what?"

“Took me to the barber.”

“I hope you didn’t tell him you were coming here.”

“No! I didn’t.”

Thabi sighed. “I didn’t like what you did.”

“I know. I am sorry. I just love him.”

“He is your friend gone koo! He is not my friend.”

Batang looked down. “He loves you.”

“He doesn’t. He will tell you what you want to hear. “

“He doesn’t lie. I wish...” He sighed.

Thabi shook her head. “It will never happen. Don’t hold your breath. I am trying to move on. How am I supposed to if I don’t have the support of my family?”

“I am sorry. I just... I am sorry.”

Thabi hugged him. “Its ok. Let’s make a promise... the three weeks you are here no Atang.”

“I promise.”

Thabi looked at her daughter who was now sleeping.

“Are you hungry?”

“I ate a lot in the plane. I like that lady who came with me.”

Thabi smiled. “She was nice.”

“I was scared when we checked in London. They wanted to see

the affidavits. They called the Botswana embassy.”

“I heard. I was scared too. But you are here now. You can sleep in the bedroom with her.”

“What about you?”

“I will sleep on the couch.”

“I will sleep on the couch. It’s ok.”

“Ok. Let me put him down. Adjust the couch. It can turn into a bed.”

Thabi took her daughter and walk to the bedroom and laid her daughter down. She took a duvet and a pillow then walked over to Batang who was standing by the balcony snapping pictures.

“Is there WiFi?”

“Yes. Let me put the password.”

She took his phone and entered the password. Batang smiled then posted his pictures. Thabi adjusted the couch and out the pillow and ducebt down. She walked to the kitchen glad her allowance had reported today. She opened the fridge and took out the Popeyes chicken she had left. She took a can of Coke. She heated the chicken and took the food to her sitting room.

She put it on her little table then sat down on her tiny table with her books.

“I have exams.”

Batang walked back in the sitting room and picked the box of

Popeyes. He took a picture. Thabi laughed.

"You are going crazy."

"The people must know. Ke hema pefo ya America go ha."

She laughed harder. "O seka ware kgolega."

"What do you call this place?"

"We are Brighton Allston Apartments."

"I can't wait to tell them I was in Brighton Allston."

She smiled watching him take pictures of everything. Her phone vibrated. She smiled seeing the caller Id then walked to her bedroom picking.

"Hello?"

"Kaisara, I saw the questions you sent me. I will reply them as soon as I get to the hospital."

"Yes Sir."

Pule laughed. "How are the exams?"

"Hard. But... I am doing my best."

"The best is what we want. You are doing really well Dr. Kaisara."

"Thank you."

"How is Lomo?"

"Lomo is fine. Batang has arrived."

"He must be so happy."

“He is. He won’t stop taking pictures of everything.”

“Let him be.”

She giggled. “I am taking them to the park tomorrow.”

“When am I getting invited?”

She smiled. “You are welcome to visit the tiny apartment.”

“I am going to come. Maybe when Batang comes back home. I don’t want to overwhelm your little flat.”

They both laughed. “Yeah...”

Pule sighed. “You are making everyone proud. Keep it up.”

“Yes Sir.”

He laughed. “Get some sleep. It’s late there.”

“Yes.”

“Bye.”

She smiled. “Bye...”

She hung up and smiled. She went to the sitting room and smiled watching her brother take videos of himself

In Gaborone Pule’s friend looked at him and smiled.

“O jola le student yaanong Mister?”

“Thabi is not my student and no. She’s not coming back. Not now.”

“So?”

Pule sighed walking inside the hospital. “She is beautiful, in and out. She’s been hurt, been through the most but she is strong. She is a go getter. She is a hard worker. She is a wonderful person.”

His friend looked at him. “You are falling for her. I can see it. Be careful.”

His friend walked away. Pule rushed to his office and sighed sitting. He unlocked this phone and thoughtfully looked at her pictures. He found himself smiling.

Elang got in the bus that same morning. She leaned back on her seat and sighed tearfully as the boys slowly moved going out of station. Tears burnt her eyes, she rubbed them.

The passenger besides her looked at her. “Hi, are you ok?”

She nodded. He smiled. “I am sorry.”

She turned to him. “Rra?”

“I am sorry. For whatever reason you are crying for.”

She nodded. "Thanks."

He pressed his small phone then put it on his ear. He sighed disappointed.

"Thamma ke adima founu ya gago. My airtime is finished. I need to call someone urgently."

Elang gave it to him. He smiled. "Thanks."

She nodded. He dialed a number and called it.

"Hello? I got in the bus.... Ng ng, they didn't see me. Sure..."

He hung up and gave back the phone. "Thanks."

Elang took back phone and sighed relaxing.

Agang parked at mmagwe Kelly's house then stepped out and walked inside the yard headed to the door. He knocked and stepped back. A minute later Kelly opened holding her handbag.

She smiled then looked back in the house. "Mama, Agang is here to see you."

Agang chuckled. She looked at him then opened the door wider.

"Come in."

He walked in and looked at mmagwe K who was seated on the couch holding her bible. She smiled.

“Agang...”

He walked over and hugged her. She smiled as he sat besides her.

“How are you feeling?”

“Better.”

“What did the doctor say?”

“The man up there is in control.”

“You didn’t see the doctor?”

“I have given it all to God.”

“My mother is just like you. I grew up in a Christian home. She prays and believes just like you. She loves God, she has Faith in him. And as much as she taught is to pray and give all the battles to him, she also taught us that God helps those who help themselves. As much as I want him to heal my headache, he should find the painkiller already doing something. Faith is you believing you shall be healed through his mercy and love, it’s you believing that he will make the medication work. Let’s fight this with everything. Please...” He held her hands. “I miss you.”

Mmagwe K smild then fixed his tie. “You look handsome. Your mother raised a good man.”

“Will you see a doctor?”

“Can I go tomorrow when I come back from church?”

He kissed her cheek. “Yes. Can I take you?”

“Yes.”

Agang hugged her as Kelly stood by the door at watching. Agang got up and looked at her.

“Can I drop you off?”

Kelly nodded smiling. “Yes. Thank you.”

Agang walked out with Kelly and got in the car. She smiled.

“Thank you for talking to her.”

“That’s my girl.”

She laughed. Agang started the car and drove off.

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At a mall, Agang parked the car. Kelly smiled.

“Thanks.”

“You look beautiful.”

She laughed. “Not happening. Bye!”

She stepped out of hia cat ans walked away. Agang laughed watching her as she ran inside the mall in her jeans and Choppies t-shirt.

He started the car and drove to work. Hos phone rang, he took it out and picked Zaza’s call.

“Yeah?”

“Hi, can we talk?”

“About?”

“I am sorry. I know I hurt you.”

“Don’t be. Congratulations.”

“Maybe we can-“

“I have moved on.”

“So quick?”

“Yes why not?”

“I thought-“

“Stop thinking and stop calling me.”

He hung up and blocked her number.

In Boston, The following morning, Thabi finished holding her daughter’s hair into a bun. She took a small tooth brush and did the baby hairs and while she played a video game on her mother’s phone.

Thabi finished up and smiled. “You look beautiful.”

She smiled touching it with her hand. She walked out of the bedroom. Thabi opened the wardrobe and took out a dress.

Lelomo looked at her mother's phone ringing and swiped the screen and put it on her ear.

"Hello?"

A male voice spoke. "Hi... how are you?"

"Fine..."

"What us your name"

"Lomo..."

Batang walked out of the bathroom already dressed. Lomo looked at him and put the phone behind her smiling.

"Who are you talking to?"

She giggled then threw herself on the couch. Batang turned as someone knocked on the door.

He walked over and opened. His heart skipped, Lomo came from behind him and looked too. Atang smiled.

"Hey buddy..."

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I am so sorry about yesterday

Yours Truly

#65

Atang's eyes fell on Lelomo, the resemblance immediately catching his attention. She smiled then raised her arms. Atang swallowed then picked her up.

"Hi..."

She smiled. "Hi..."

Batang swallowed then walked outside closing the door.

"Did you follow me?"

Atang laughed. "If I knew we would have come together, Lebo's boyfriend."

Batang smiled. "She's going to be upset. I just promised not to ever mention your name in front of her."

"I will handle her. Who's baby is this?"

Lelomo held his beard smiling making him smile back.

"What's your name?"

Batang swallowed. "She is my nephew. I just saw her yesterday."

Atang looked at her, his heart vibrating against his chest.

"How old is she?"

"3."

He dropped his bag and held her with both hands. The door opened then Rethabile walked out holding a glass of juice. She froze staring at him, her knees weakening as a cold chill ran down her spine.

Atang looked at her. She was still as beautiful, his eyes slowly went down her body, she had lost weight though she still had voluptuous hips. He swallowed and looked in her eyes.

“Hi...”

Tears filled her eyes and rolled down her cheeks. She staggered back get lips trembling. Atang handed Lomo to Batang then hugged her. She gripped his t-shirt holding him tightly as her emotions rose. A cry escaped her lips, Batang walked back in the house as his sister cried.

Atang held her warm body tightly kissing her neck. Her cries died down minutes later, he felt her body begin to relax in her arms as she fought her hiccups, her head on his chest.

Minutes passed as they held each other like nothing else mattered. Thabi closed her eyes still holding his t-shirt.

Her mind took her back to all the time he had held her like that, the memories still felt fresh in her mind. Those neck kisses still felt the same, still weakened her the same way they did ages back. His touch reminded her of every other touch he had ever made.

She took a deep breath inhaling his scent. God Atang... she breathed out then slowly let go and stepped back. She wiped her tears and sniffed looking at him.

His beard had crowded his face but he still looked as good. His haircut put out all his facial features. She looked at his buffed up body. He was more buffed than the last time he saw her. Probably taking his job more seriously.

He smiled. "You look beautiful..."

She opened her mouth to respond but nothing came out rather a tear rolled down.

"Very beautiful."

He moved closer and wiped away her tears as they rolled down.

"Fine wine."

She chuckled tearfully. He cupped her face.

"Metsi a America a bereka."

She laughed crying. He smiled caressing her face.

"When I leave here, ke tatsa 25 litters. They will have to understand at the airport."

She smiled. "They won't allow you."

His heart hammered against his chest as she spoke. "Maybe.. but it's worth a try."

His eyes went to her slightly parted lips. He looked in her eyes for a moment debating with himself. He slowly leaned over, his lips brushed against hers.

He parted his lips and softly kissed her. Thabi gasped as he took control of her lips. He turned it into a french kiss, his hands went

down to her waist. She staggered back weakly.

Atang held her against the door, his hands now all over her. Thabi slowly touched his biceps kissing her back as every part of her body woke up. He rubbed his body against hers, she stood on her toes wrapping her arms around his neck.

The door opened, Thabi moved back quickly and swallowed. Batang looked at her.

“Phone.”

He handed her the phone. Thabi looked at Pule calling then quick picked.

“Hello?”

“Hey... have you looked into what I sent you?”

She cleared her throat. “No. Not yet.”

“Ok. I answered everything.”

“Thank you.”

“You are welcome. Are you already at the park?”

“No. not yet.”

“Can I video call you?”

Atang looked at her hearing the male voice at the other end. He swallowed wondering if that was her boyfriend. Not that he would blame her. She had probably moved on.

Thabi looked at him then spoke on the phone.

"I will call you back."

"Ok. I am on my way home."

"Ok."

She hung up. Atang looked at her phone then at her. Thabi rubbed her lips as she recalled Pearl.. she pulled down her dress.

"How did you find me?"

"Is Lomo mine?"

"Did Batang tell you?"

"No. I hired a PI."

"To stalk me?"

"I needed to find you. I was going crazy."

"That is illegal! Where is Pearl?"

"There is no Pearl."

"Where is she?"

"Not here. Babe-"

"Don't... please don't do that. That kiss was a mistake. Don't think it means anything. It doesn't."

"Is Lomo mine? She's mine right? She looks so much like you? Why would you keep her from me?"

She looked at him, her anger rising. Atang sighed

"Why did you keep her from me?"

“Because she is not yours.”

“She is three.” He sighed. “Thabi-“

“She is not yours. She’s two. Her father was the one who had just called. I slept with him a week after the divorce. Stop forcing yourself on my daughter. She is not yours and will never be yours. Her father is Pule Kgosi.”

Atang looked at her shaking. “I don’t believe you.”

“That’s your own issue. She is two years. My daughter has a father and it’s not you. Seeing you just reminded me of a lot. If you thought coming here would make me take you back, you have wasted your time.”

“I don’t believe you.”

“Suit yourself. But Lomo is not yours. This is her father...”

She showed him a picture of Pule. Atang looked at her UB lecturer.

“That’s her father. You and I don’t have anything together. Don’t force my daughter on yourself. She has a father. I am surprised your PI failed to tell you that. A shame...”

He looked at her and blinked, pain choking him. “I don’t believe you.”

“You don’t believe what? That I met a better man?”

“You want to break me... she is mine. I don’t believe any of that crap you just said. I want DNA tests.”

“Ok. We will do them. Matter if fact.. let’s do them today. The

sooner you crawl back to whatever shut box you came from, the better...”

Thabi walked back in her house. She dialed a number going to her bedroom.

Chris picked. “Thabi...”

“Hi. I need DNA tests done on my daughter. But I need a favor...”

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Yours Truly

#66

In Boston, Rethabile put her daughter's documents together with his and walked out of her room. Batang looked at her.

"Why are you lying to him?"

Thabi turned to him. "What?"

"Why are you lying to him? It's his daughter. Why are you lying to him,?"

"Why do you think I am lying to him? Lomo is not his daughter."

"She has his mouth."

"So you go around looking at people's mouths? This is not Atang's daughter. Lomo has her father and it's not Atang."

"Let me see his birth certificate then."

"Batang what's wrong with you?"

"Let me see her birth certificate if you are not lying."

"I am not showing you anything. It's not his daughter. Did you bring him here?"

"I didn't bring him anywhere. Why are you denying Lomo the chance to have her father in her life? You want her to grow fatherless or you are just hoping to give her to the next man you meet?"

“Don’t talk to me like that! I am older than you.”

“What if she wants her father? If you are not lying let me see his birth certificate.”

“I am not showing you anything. I don’t know what’s gotten into you but I am your older sister and you are going to respect me.”

Batang stood up. “Respect is earned and you trying to keep this child from her father won’t make me respect you. Why do you want to keep him away from his daughter? Lomo deserves to grow up with her father present in her life.” His voice shook as tears filled his eyes. “You might not see the importance because you grew up without a father but I know it’s nice to have a dad. I have seen the difference between me and my friends with fathers. Uncle Atang didn’t do anything to Lelomo. I know my father once wanted to be in my life. Ntatemogolo told me that mama was to angry, she refused. She hated him. But I wanted my father. I would have loved to have a dad. He didn’t do anything to me... I deserved to have a dad. I deserved to be like other kids too! You also did. But mama was angry at every man. Your father doesn’t even know he has a daughter out there because mama ran off. We deserved to grow up with fathers. There is nothing respectable about keeping children from their fathers. There is nothing special about that!” His tears rolled down. “If you can’t see my point go and look at yourself in front of the mirror and you tell me what you see!”

Tears burnt her eyes as she looked at him.

“Lelomo deserves to have a father. If you can’t forgive uncle Atang for what happened, it’s fine but Lomo shouldn’t have to

suffer for that. He did nothing to her. She deserves his love and attention.”

Thabi wiped away a tear than had ran down. She out her bag down sniffing. Her daughter looked at her sadly.

“Mama...”

Batang picked her up. “Mama is fine. Come and see your dad.”

Thabi watched as he opened her bag and took out the birth certificate. She pressed her lips together holding her tears as he walked out. She turned and walked back in her bedroom.

*

Outside, Atang smiled holding his daughter. Batang handed him the birth certificate where she had listed him as the father.

He smiled staring at her names. ‘Lelomo Warona Kaisara.’

Atang took a deep breath and looked at Batang.

“Where is she?”

“Crying.”

He nodded then looked at his daughter smiling. She was beautiful. She looked so much like her mother. She smiled touching his beard again.

“Hi ..”

Lomo smiled. "Hi... you want mama?"

Atang smiled. "Yes. I want mama."

Lomo turned her to the door. "Mama..."

Batang sighed. "I don't think she wants to see you. And I won't let you see her because it makes her cry."

"You are doing a good job at this brother business."

Batang smiled. "I am trying. Thabi takes the trophy at being the best big sister."

"Please let me talk to her. I won't take much time..I know she is angry at me, I just need a minute. Just a minute then I will go."

Batang thoughtfully looked at him. "60 seconds?"

"Yes. 60 seconds. Just 60 seconds then I will be out."

"Ok. 60 seconds and you are going. I will be counting."

"Ok." Atang looked at Lelomo. "Hey baby... let me talk to mama. My name is Daddy ok... say daddy?"

"Dada.."

Atang smiled and kissed her cheek. He handed her to Batang then walked inside. Batang pointed at the bedroom door.

"I am counting. 59..."

Atang walked to the door then knocked before walking in. He found her seated on her bed crying silently.

He crouched between her legs and looked at her.

“She is beautiful. She looks so much like you. She is smart too. And can talk properly... I guess she takes after you because I know I wasn't that smart.”

He cupped her face and wiped her tears. “I hurt you... I wish I knew what to do to make it alright. I was too angry I destroyed what we had. It was hard to believe you were not going to abort when you had the doctor lie to me the previous day. It felt like you were just saying it because I had caught you. I was so upset, I wanted a distraction. I never slept with her when I was with you. I have no reason to lie to you. I was going to sleep with her that day, but I didn't. I love you. There hasn't been anyone else. I am happy you kept her.”

“I didn't. She just wouldn't die. I took the pills. I bled and I had cramps. When I went to get my womb cleaned out.. she was still there. The doctors said it was too late. And that if I tried it I would die. I didn't want to die. I was scared.”

“I love you. I have never stopped. It's always been you. I want to be part of her life. I understand you were too angry you wanted to keep me away... but I want to be a present father. Whichever arrangement makes you comfortable... as long as I am her father. I want you back and I will do anything... “

Thabi sniffed. “Don't you think it's a little too late for that?”

“Its not. Just give me a chance babe... give me a chance. Kea go kopa... I love you....”

He looked at her begging her.

Yours Truly

#67

Rethabile shook her head staring at him. Tears glistened in her eyes, she sighed closing her eyes. They rolled down her cheeks. She opened her eyes and touched his face.

“I spent all these years working on my hatred for you... I worked on hating you so much. I had had days where I just want to pick up your call and instead of hanging up or saying whatever... I just want to tell you that I have no money and that your daughter is just expensive but I would rather sleep on water... because I worked on blocking you in my life. I need help...” She sniffed. “I really need help. I need help with Lomo. She should be going to a daycare but her nanny already is expensive. Allowance is barely enough. It only covers for me not my daughter. And she has to eat... she has to wear clothes. Sometimes it’s just hard because I have school... right now her nanny got in an accident.. if Batang didn’t come, I don’t know what I was going to do next week. The load for me alone is too much. I can’t... I am failing to take proper care of my daughter while fighting to get a degree. I need help.”

“What do you need? I will give you whatever you need for maintenance. How much do you need?”

She smiled tearfully. “A lot. Uh I am not earning anything other than allowance. So I will need money for her day-care. For her food. For her nanny. For her clothes. She doesn’t have much. But we make use with what we have work.”

“Ok.. how much do you pay rent here?”

“\$690. Uh it’s tiny and it’s an old apartment. The ceiling is also cracked that’s why it’s sort of affordable.”

“How much is the day-care?”

“\$1100. Per month.”

“Ok, and her nanny?”

“I pay \$100 per week. She does online schooling so while she does that, she’s helping me with Lomo. It’s way too little but she understands.”

“So if Lomo is now going to a daycare, do you still need her full time?”

“No. She can come early morning to help prepare her for school and maybe after school because I sometimes have to go to the library or have an evening class meaning I will get home quite late.”

“Ok. Then maybe now we can pay her according to hours that she’s here. On the days you are not at school, you can take over.”

Rethabile nodded.

“How much do you need for her food? Enough food.”

“\$200 should be enough.”

“Ok... and clothes. If I give you \$2500, will it be enough for her?”

She sniffed. “Yes, it’s more than enough.”

“How much is a good apartment around here?”

“Its pricey.”

“How much?”

“A good studio apartments starts at \$1500. It’s expensive.”

“Ok... I will give you the extra money for a good studio apartment.”

“No. It’s too much money. It’s a lot. Where will you get all that money?”

“I started a school bus business. I am not poor.”

“School bus?”

“Yes. I got three combies. I had one at first and I made a deal with a preschool that had just opened to transport their students. They have 50 students so far. Besides those, I have another group of 10... high school students. I make good money from that.”

“How much do you charge per student?”

“P500. Fuel is expensive.”

Thabi smiled. “That was a smart move.”

“Yeah... I am thinking of getting another combie.”

“More market?”

“Yeah... I am eyeing a primary school that is about to open. A private thing. If I can bag them... maybe I can get a bus instead.”

“I am happy you can afford Lomo.”

He chuckled then got up and sat besides her. "You look beautiful."

She smiled. "Thank you. What did you do with that plot?"

"Nothing. I just bought it. It's a forest."

She nodded then sighed. "Thank you... for helping with Lomo."

"I would do anything for you... and her."

She looked at him. "Do it for your daughter. I am not taking you back."

He smiled. "You are not taking me back right now. We just found each other. It's understandable."

"I didn't find you." She laughed. "I am not taking you back ever. Ija."

"We are meant to be. We are going to raise our daughter together. O soulmate yaaka. If you refuse my grandmother is there... she's good. Nkuku o ta nkemele ka dinao."

Thabi laughed. "Gao swabe. It won't work. I am not your soulmate."

Atang smiled. "Re di meant to be. Ebile I love you. Gape we are married."

She chuckled. "I am not going to take you back wena mogatsa Phele. Not after making me cry on pavements o tsamaya le Phele. I will never forget how I cried for you like I was crazy then you told me she is your cousin after I saw you kissing her. O re I am over reacting, if I ever take you back you are going to hate women for

the rest of your life. You will hang yourself.”

“I never loved her. And she’s in the past. I love you... Who’s Pule?”

“My new man.”

He swallowed. “Where does he stay? And you are lying. What boyfriend let’s you sleep on a stomach full of water?”

Thabi smiled. “He is a potential.”

“If I see him I am going to shoot him. I am going to shoot everyone who tries it. You are my wife and we are a family. We have a child.”

“You should see him. He’s a doctor gape he walks around with big dick energy. He’s probably good at the department too. He’s a good kisser. It’s the confidence for me... he’s one of those men who don’t talk a lot. I like him.”

“I am going to kill him if he gets close to you.”

“Ijo... so I should just be single? I am too young, I need a real man who won’t cheat.”

“I made a mistake. One that won’t happen again. I love you.” He touched her chin and kissed her.

Her heart raced as he kissed her harder. He slowly laid her down and got on top of her. Thabi touched his chest, her nipples hardening in her dress. Her dress rode up as he got in-between her legs.

His dick got even harder tenting his pants. Thabi moaned softly as he rubbed himself on her.

Her soft moaned turned him on even more he rubbed himself on her again. Her pussy throbbed getting wetter.

Atang kissed her neck, his lips going further down. He quickly took off her dress. His heart pounded so much it felt like he was going to have a heart attack. He unclipped her bra and squeezed her breast still rubbing himself on her.

He leaned over and sucked her nipples. She closed her eyes, her hand in his head. She moaned moving her waist underneath him.

Atang slid his hand inside her panty and touched her wetness with a grunt. He took out his hand and pulled out her panties then looked at her smooth p*ssy. He leaned over and kissed her p*ssy as if he was kissing her lips.

Thabi closed her eyes moaning a little louder. He worked his mouth on her like he was paid to. Thabi moaned his name feeling her entire body itch. She touched her breast moaning his name.

Atang raised his head taking off his t-shirt and kissed her again. He unzipped his pants and took out his hard oozing dick. He ran it up and down her wet slit groaning. He looked in her eyes sliding up and down her wetness.

"I love you..."

"Mhmmm.... "

He smiled then #removed.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809549596663175/?ref=sha>

re_group_link (The removed is shared at the group under announcements)

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She let go the pillow and pulled her hair convulsing uncontrollably, her pussy exploding in.

He looked at her big breasts bouncing as her pussy squeezed him. His dick jerked, he gave her a couple more powerful thrusts then stilled pumping his seeds inside her groaning.

Thabi closed her eyes as deposited all his thick cum inside her. Atang let go of her legs and kissed her sliding out.

“I love you.”

She opened her eyes breathing heavily. “Good for you. I am still not going to take you back. Don’t raise your hopes.”

She turned and closed her eyes dozing off. Atang chuckled staring at her knowing it was going to take more than just a trip to Boston to win his girl back.

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In the kitchen, Atang finished cooking then he dished up for his nephew and himself. He walked to the kitchen where she was watching cartoons on Thabi’s laptop.

“Lomo... come and eat.”

Lomo quickly got up and walked over. She looked at the plate already reaching inside. She grabbed a handful of rice and put it in her mouth.

Atang walked out and smiled staring at his daughter. It still felt unreal that he had actually made a human.

He sat down beside Batang. “Let me feed her. How is school?”

Atang picked Lomo and put her on his lap taking her plate.

“Your 60 seconds was 1 hour and five minutes.”

Atang smiled then started feeding his daughter. Lomo swallowed picking more rice with her tiny hand. She opened her mouth eating more.

Atang chuckled. “Am I slow sweetie?”

He quickened his pace feeding her. A few minutes later he put her empty plate down. Lomo got down then picked her bottle of juice on the floor and looked at him drinking.

He smiled making her smile back. Atang looked at Batang.

“How is school?”

“Fine. I wanted to join the debate club but I couldn’t. The teacher said I speak too slow. I really liked it.”

“He has a point but it makes you feel better, the debate club is to train you to on how to think critically, it boosts you confidence especially for public speaking. You really don’t need a club to help

you with that.”

Batang smiled. “Is that your way to make me feel better?””

Atang laughed. “It’s the truth. And Lebo?”

“I kissed her.”

Atang smiled. “That’s my boy. Don’t have sex though. She will get pregnant. Pregnancy is real. You are too young for sex. Just wait for a bit. But when you do or if you decide to... use a condom. I know your hormones are raging and as much as it will be nice, if you don’t use a condom it will not be nice... not at all. Other people are born with HIV. Imagine getting HIV while on top of it she’s pregnant.”

Batang smiled shyly. “I am not going to do it.”

“Good.”

“Are you getting back with Thabi?”

“That’s going to take a while. I have to win her back first.”

“Maybe if you do something nice for her she will take you back. Something she really likes...”

“Like what?”

Batang smiled. “My ideas don’t come cheap. I am very expensive.”

In Botswana, later that day, Zaza tried opening Agang's gate with her remote but her remote wasn't working.

She took out her phone and called him.

"What?"

She swallowed at his cold tone. "Uh hi... I am at your house. The door won't open."

"Because you are no longer welcome."

"I am here for my clothes. You are being petty."

"I will pack your clothes and bring them. I am not home."

"Where are you? Waitse I find it funny how you can just jump to another pussy. You are such a joke Agang. I have never met anyone like you. You probably never loved me. Koore you always have to be on top of people's kids with your dick inside them. You are disgusting."

"You know what, I probably never loved you Zacharia. Maybe it was just grief that made me stay with you. And why are you hung up on what I do with my dick? I mean, aren't you getting married? I am blocking you, you are getting on my nerves. Nxla!"

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Yours Truly

#68

Agang stood near the Choppies entrance looking at his watch. Kelly walked out with a colleague laughing at something in her jeans and the work t-shirt.

Kelly looked at him and laughed walking past him with her friend. The friend looked at him smiling then waved. He smiled politely and grabbed Kelly's hand.

"I an here for you..."

She turned to him and smiled. "Ok... what is this? You follow me around till you get me? I know men put good effort into getting you. They do.."

Her friend smiled. "Bye..."

Kelly smiled at her. "Bye."

The friend walked away then Kelly turned to Agang.

"Cam you just leave me? I know you can get any other... it doesn't have to be me. This doesn't have to be a challenge to you. It doesn't have to be a challenge of me playing hard to get and you trying to get me by all tricks possible. It doesn't have to be like that..." She smiled then laughed. "Please..."

"It's not. I am looking for friendship. That's all. It's not a challenge."

She sighed. "Ok... is that a try a different angle thingy you just did? Agang it's not going to work. I am not stupid. I am a grown woman who's been there before. Nothing you are doing is new to me. Please don't do this... it's exhausting. I am tired. I just want to get through my day. Go home, take care of my mother, watch TV and sleep."

"I am not trying anything. I just want to be your friend. You seem like a cool person. I just want us to be friends. Not everyone is trying to get in your pants. I am not trying to get in them. I just want us to be friends. And trust me, I won't try anything."

Kelly smiled. "Ok. I have to go. Bye."

"I can drop you off at home."

"No. I am fine."

"As a friend."

"I don't want to be your friend. I have enough friends." She laughed. "I can take a combi."

"What's wrong with us bring friends? I am good friend. I can be a good friend."

Kelly turned and started walking. He walked with her then unlocked his car.

"Can we go for movies together?. I don't want to go alone. People will look at me ebe ba ntseba. There is a movie that just came out. I have been wanting to go but not alone. I can't ask Prince or Phefo, they are busy gape as majita we just don't go to movies

together. Go gay nyana. And my brother is not here. Can we go together...?"

He opened the car door for her. Kelly looked at him.

"If you think you and I are going to be a thing, you are going to be so disappointed because if there is anyone who is level headed, it's me. I know red flags when I see them."

"I don't want us to be a thing. I want you as a friend because indeed, you are level headed. I do need a level headed somebody in my corner."

She smiled and got in the car. Agang smiled closing her door then rushed to the driver's door.

Zaza parked her car at her house and sat inside for a while. Tears stung her eyes, she took a deep breath unable to understand why she was so bothered and hurt.

Her phone started ringing. She opened her handbag and took it out. She looked at her boyfriend calling, now the excitement and thrill of hearing his voice gone.

She blinked then waited for the call to end before typing a message.

Zaza: I know all about Pearl. The nurse. I touched your phone after the funeral and I saw the messages in your group with your

friends and brother. It bothered me so much that you would even have threesomes during our son's burial. Not only that but it proved to me that you were not serious or just incapable of being serious. You only came back because of our son and when he died I felt that connection fade away. I actually had hopes... hopes for us. I thought finally we do would have something real but you were just not into it. I am happy you said you don't love me, that it was only grief. Now I can get married without having to feel guilty about the way we ended.

She sent the message and sniffed stepping out of her car. She called back her boyfriend unlocking her door and walking inside her house.

In Orapa, mmagwe Kaelo laid on the hospital bed, the doctor walked over putting a mask on over his nose to avoid the smell of rotting meat.

He looked at her. "We are going to have to take off the other breast too. The infection has gotten worse. I have never seen anything like your case before."

"Am I going to die?"

"No. You are not going to die."

Tears filled her eyes. "Its Lelomo haunting me because of what I

did to her son. I did everything but she won't leave me alone. She wants to kill me."

The doctor sighed. "I think we are going to have to recommend someone to talk to you. Where is your husband?"

"At the farm. He doesn't stay at home anymore because I smell."

"I am sorry to hear that."

She wiped away her tears. "I need to talk to Rethabile. She has to help me before I die."

In Boston, Thabi opened her eyes waking up. She took a deep breath getting off bed as semen ran down her inner thigh. She picked her dress and wiped herself and put on my another dress thinking of getting emergency pills. She was already on contraception but Lomo had been conceived while she was on contraception, Atang's semen couldn't be trusted.

She put on another dress and walked out of her room. Batang took off his earphones seated on the floor with the laptop on his lap.

Thabi looked at Atang sleeping on the couch, Lomo sleeping on his broad chest. His big body couldn't fit on her small couch, his legs were on the floor.

"What time did he sleep?"

“An hour back.”

“Did you guys eat?”

“Yes, I cooked.”

Thabi slowly picked Lomo then shook him.

“Atang...”

He woke up and looked at her lazily.

“Come and use the bed.”

He slowly got up. She led him to her bedroom then laid his daughter down.

“You can lie down with her.”

He looked at her short dress sitting on the bed.

“Lie down with us.”

“I am not sleepy. Not anymore.”

“Please...”

She looked at him and sighed then got in the middle. She laid on her side then he spooned her holding her close.

“How is school?”

“Hard. Very hard. But I am going to get my degree.”

“You will. I know you will. You are a brilliant student Dr. Daniel.”

“I am not taking you back.”

“Did I say you are?”

He turned her around and pulled her closer. “I didn’t say anything Mrs Daniel.”

“I am not taking you back..”

“Your body is soft... you smell good. You smell like us.”

She put her head on his chest and closed her eyes.

“Are you coming back home after you are done with school or am I moving here to you and our daughter?”

Thabi laughed. “I am not taking you back. You are not going anywhere.”

“When are we officializing our marriage? Or should I marry you again? I can do that...”

Thabi put her arm around him. “Sleep.”

“When do you think we will have our second born? After you are done with School? I will take anything as long as I am with you.”

“With me where?”

“With you... loving you. I missed you... I missed you so much. I like this feeling.”

“What feeling?”

“This feeling. I feel happy. I am happy. With you, our daughter and Batang. It feels perfect.”

Thabi giggled. “I don’t feel anything.”

Atang put his hand inside her dress and touched her slick p*ssy. He moved slightly then kissed her. He squeezed her breast and unzipped his pants taking it out. He turned her around then pulled her waist closer curving his body. He kissed her neck pushing through her pussy lips. His dic parted her swollen folds sinking further inside her wetness with a low grunt in her ear.

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Batang finished an episode of a series in his sister's laptop and tapped the next episode curiously.

A knock on the door interrupted him. He stood up and walked to the door then opened. A white man smiled at him.

"Hi, you must be Thabi's brother, finally meeting you."

Batang frowned as he spoke fast. The man smiled.

"I am Chris. Your sister's boyfriend. I have been trying call her but I think she's deep in her books. Can I come in?"

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Yours Truly

#69

Batang looked at him and smiled.

“You are Thabi’s boyfriend?”

Chris smiled. “Yes.”

“Hebanna! Lekgowa lame, ware o mang kana?”

Chris looked at him confused. “What?”

“Eh sorry. Uh I didn’t know Thabi had a boyfriend because she is married.”

Chris frowned. “What?”

“Yes. Uh magadi was paid for her. What do you call it in English? Uhh... bride price! Yes. In Botswana, when you marry a woman, we, the bride’s family don’t give you our daughter for free. So you bring your uncles and your aunts to our family then we negotiate the price you will marry her for. The amount is to appreciate us for raising her and also to unite our families together. After that, you have traditionally married her.”

“Ok?”

“Yes. So uh Lomo’s father... you know her right? I am sure you do...”

“I know Lomo.”

“Good. Lomo’s father paid that money. And married Thabi. So Thabi is traditionally married to Lomo’s father so you can’t be her boyfriend. You are her nyatsi.”

“Her natsi?”

“Nyatsi... say nya...”

“Nya...”

Batang smiled. “Yes. You are her nyatsi. In other words, you are her ... side piece. Yes. Meaning you are small house. Small house is you. Big house is Lomo’s father.”

“They broke up.”

“They had broken up. You are right. But they broke up on their own. Us the families... we don’t know anything so they had separated. I think separated is rightful term. Now... there is a small problem on your side...”

“What problem? Is she in? I need to talk to her.”

“Ema pele lekgowa... wait. You can’t get in because Lomo’s father is here. He is here for his daughter and for his wife. Their... ijo, sekgowa banna.. uh they are bonding as a family so I can’t let you in. In Botswana, if you married someone then someone else sleeps with that person you are married to, you who’s been slept with will be sued then we will take you to the chief’s where you lie down naked and they beat your naked butt with a big fat stick. Those people can beat. You won’t seat for a month... your skin will peel off. Your butt will bleed. We can still do that, you will be summoned to Botswana then they will beat you. He is still here,

you seem like a nice guy so you will just have to call her. He can't see you. I am doing this for you Christoffer."

Chris sighed. "What is she doing with him?"

"I don't know.. but they are in the bedroom together. With Lomo too. I think they are talking about the future."

"Please call her... I need to talk to her. It's important."

"I am sorry but I can't let you in. Call her. Bye Christoffer."

It's just Chris!"

Batang put his hand on his chest. "Ijowee! You are yelling at me? Do you know that since Thabi doesn't have a father, I her brother makes me her father. You just yelled at me..."

"I didn't yell... I just... I really need to talk to her. Please..."

"I am sorry. Call her... remember.. small house.. big house. You call first when you are small house lekgowa.. you know these things akere? Ok bye."

Batang got back in the house and locked the door. He sighed continuing with his show.

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Outside Chris took out his phone and called Thabi. Her phone started ringing. Mosa walked out of her house dressed up. She looked over at Chris smiling.

“Hi...”

“Hey, how are you?”

“I am fine. Looking for Thabi?”

“She is not picking and her brother won’t let me in because Lomo’s father is here.”

Mosa frowned. “Lomo’s father?”

“Yes.”

“Thabi and that man long broke up. She won’t even take his calls or respond to his messages.”

“Apparently he is here.”

“Nope. The way Thabi hates him, she would never let him anywhere close to her. I think she just doesn’t want to see you.”

“She called me earlier on saying she is bringing Lomo to do DNA tests and she wants me to give her false results.”

“Why would she want false results?”

“I don’t know. But she really needed the help. So I brought the testing kit.”

“Uh... ok. I don’t understand who she’s lying to though...”

“I just need to talk to her. Let me call her again.”

He called her again then listened to her phone ringing till it stopped.

“She is not picking.”

Mosa sighed. "I am sorry. I don't think you should be running after someone like this. Just let her be. It's enough begging now."

"I really love her. I am not sure what I did wrong."

"I don't think it's you. It's her. She hates every men. She is just a toxic ball."

Chris sighed. "I know she's been hurt before. I want to be there for her. I want her to see that not everyone is like her ex."

"She won't see it. She is invested in her bitterness and hatred. I fear for Lomo. She is not a fit parent."

Chris sighed. "I will come back later."

"Let me walk with you."

He nodded and walked out of the complex with her.

At the cinema, the movie came to an end as Kelly finished her popcorn. Agang smiled.

"I love this movie."

Kelly smiled. "I loved it too. It was really nice."

They got up and walked out.

"Thank you for coming with."

“You are welcome.”

“Should we get something to eat?”

“No. I really need to get home.”

“Ok.”

They walked outside and got in the car. Agang started the car and drove off. A while later he parked across the road, his lights off.

Kelly smiled. “Thank you for taking me there.”

“No, thank you for escorting an old man there.”

“I have to go.”

“Where is your church? I will come and pick you guys at church tomorrow then go to the hospital.”

“I will send you the directions with Mama’s phone.”

Agang smiled. “That’s still fine. Also what time does church end?”

“It depends. I will send you a message when it’s almost over.”

“Ok.”

Kelly smiled. “Thank you... for all you are doing. For mama...”

“It’s ok. I see my mother in her.”

Kelly leaned over and hugged him then moved back. “Bye...”

She stepped out the car and ran over to the gate. Agang smiled watching her get in the house then he drove home smiling.

That same evening, Zaza sat in front of her TV then thoughtfully called her mother.

“Hello?”

“Mama...” Zaza paused listening to an ambulance siren through the phone.

“Mama, are you ok?”

“No. I was at work. I just came back and found your father being beaten by neighbors. He was caught raping a four year old who might be dead right. I am so scared. The police are everywhere. There is blood everywhere. Zaza my husband is not moving and he has blood all over... jeso...”

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Yours Truly

#70

Zaza sat upright, her heart pounding.

“He did what?”

“No one is giving him attention. He is dying.”

“I hope he dies!”

“You want my husband to die?”

“How do you still call that monster a husband? He is a monster! He just raped a 4 year old! How do you still call him your husband?”

“So you want me to rejoice that my husband may be dead?”

“Yes because he is a monster and he deserves to die!”

“Mmagwe Ompi’s child wonders around naked. I am sure other men have sex with her. She was already being used.”

“What kind of a woman are you?”

“Mmagwe Ompi wanted her child to be used that’s why she let her wonder around naked. No man will ever sleep with anyone unless the person wanted it.”

“So you are saying a 4 year old wanted it?”

“I am saying her mother wanted it. She enjoyed her daughter being used. She was selling her daughter.”

“You are the most evil person on earth. You knew he was raping me and... I don’t believe you are my mother. You can’t be my mother.”

“You wanted to sleep with him. I long-“

“I was only 10!” Tears filled Zaza’s eyes. “You watched him violate me! You watched him take away my innocence... you watched him abuse me every day... I didn’t want it. I didn’t want to sleep with him. I was only a child!”

“If you didn’t want it, you could have reported it. I didn’t hold you down.”

“I hope they kill you too! You are going to rot in hell you evil woman!”

Zaza hung up breathing heavily. She bit her lower lip, the memories filling her head.

A tear rolled down, she quickly wiped it as someone knocked on her door. She stood up then opened. Agang looked at her reddish eyes.

“Are you ok?”

“I am fine.”

“Ok. I brought your clothes.”

He handed her the bag. “I packed everything.”

“Thank you.”

“Ok, sharp.”

“You are not going to say anything about Pearl?”

“We broke up.. I don’t think I owe you any explanation.”

“What is it that I don’t have? What is it that won’t make you love me?”

“Zaza, can’t you just focus on your wedding?”

“You couldn’t even respect your son’s funeral. You don’t respect yourself. To you everything is about sex and your dick. You will never settle down, you will just continue to be this joke of a man for the rest of your life because you are a disappointment.”

“I am not going to exchange words with you. I am leaving because you decided I wasn’t good enough and was already planning your wedding.”

He turned and walked to his car. Zaza angrily looked at him.

“You are pathetic!”

He got in his car and drove off. Zaza walked back in her house and put her hands on her face crying.

Later that night, Kelly smiled as the movie she watching ended. She yawned switching off the TV then walked to her room where her phone was charging. She got it from her dressing table and laid on her bed looking at the three missed calls from an unsaved

number.

She ignored them and went on her Facebook and scrolled down her timeline laughing at memes. Her phone started ringing, she looked at the unsaved number calling and hesitantly picked.

“Kennete Witchcraft hello? Press 1 if you want to join satanism, press 2 if you want to get a thokoloshi, press 3 if you want to go to the land of the dead, press 4 to hang up.”

Agang burst into laughter. Kelly sighed. “Where did you get my number.”

“Thamma ke bata number 1. How much money do I get?”

“I am serious. Where did you get my number?”

“Your mom. I still want option 1.”

“You are disturbing me. I am sleeping.”

“You don’t sound like someone who’s sleeping.”

“Agang what is it?”

“I missed my new friend so I thought I would call and say goodnight.”

“Ok, goodnight. Bye.”

“Wait... I want to come to church too tomorrow.”

“What?”

“I want to come to church. To your church. Tomorrow.”

“Why?”

“To pray. What else do people do at church?”

“Ok.”

“Is there a dress code?”

“Just...” She sighed. “Be appropriate.”

“Jeans and a t-shirt?”

“That’s still fine.”

“Or should I wear I suit? I don’t want to be the odd one out.”

She closed her eyes. “A jean and a t-shirt is fine.”

“Ok.. can we go together then? I don’t want to find myself lost.”

“I sent you directions.”

“I want sit with you guys.”

“Agang-“

“I need God... please.”

“Ok.”

“Thank you. I don’t have a Bible. We will share yours akere?”

“You... yes.”

“Do I annoy you?”

“Yes. No... aii Agang!”

“Did you eat?”

“No.”

“Why?”

“I wasn’t hungry.”

“Where had you eaten?”

“No where. I was just not hungry.”

“Should I get you food now?”

She laid on her side. “No. I am fine.”

“Chips and russian? I can get those by a filling station. I will be there in thirty minutes.”

“Agang I said-“

He dropped the call. Kelly closed her eyes frustrated.

THIRTY MINUTES LATER...

Agang walked inside the gate and went to her window. He knocked softly and waited. Kelly opened her curtain slightly then he smiled holding the plastic.

She opened her window and whispered. “I said I am not hungry.”

“I asked them to hit the food.”

He gave her the plastic. Kelly opened it and looked at the food together with a cold drink.

“Agang stop this...therra go and deal with your heartbreak alone.”

“I am not heart broken. I am going to sound heartless saying this but it wasn't love with Zaza. We lost our child. I felt I needed to be with her. It wasn't love. I am glad she found a man to love... she deserves it. I am happy I don't have to try so hard to show I love her.”

She sighed. “Church starts at 9. We leave at 8 because I am an usher at church so I need to help them set up.”

He smiled. “I will be here at 8.”

She closed her window and closed the curtain. Agang smiled then walked out of the yard.

In her room, Kelly opened her drink and took a sip then started eating the chips and russian.

In Boston, Rethabile finished cooking while Atang took out the plates.

He looked at her body and smiled. “I like your tattoo.”

“Thanks.”

She turned catching him looking at her in a certain way.

“What?”

“I love you.”

“You are going to stop at some point.”

Atang put his hands on her waist and picked her up placing her on the counter top.

“I don’t think so.”

“I am not going to take you back. I don’t think I will ever get over what happened. I like this.. but I am not going to give you everything so you trample it and throw it on my face. I told you what would happen if you cheat. You cheated. Now these are the results of your actions. I like having sex with you. It’s nice... maybe a part of me may still love you. Matter of fact, I know a part of me still love you. But that’s it... you hurt me. You broke me. I don’t think it’s fixable.”

Atang cupped her face. “Its fixable. I just need a chance. I love you. I messed up but I love you. I know I wasn’t the best previously but I can give you everything. I love you... I am not accepting defeat.. you are mine.”

He kissed her wrapping his arms around her waist. “I am not giving up on us... on our family. I don’t care how long it takes me... I am not giving up.”

THREE WEEKS LATER...

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Yours Truly

#71

THREE WEEKS LATER

Zaza looked at the police officer.

“I think everyone hated her. Especially with the way she was defending her husband. It could have been the entire community who planned her death. Mama never leaves the gas open and she would never kill herself. At least not by burning herself in her house.” Zaza sniffed. “Someone wanted her dead together with her husband.”

The police officer sighed. “I think so too, the community was upset especially after her statements. I am sorry for your loss.”

Zaza wiped away her a tear that had rolled down her cheek.

“Thank you.”

Zaza walked out of the police station and got in her car pickup her uncle’s call.

“Malome...”

“Zaza, how are you today?”

“I am fine.”

“I feel like spirit of death is roaming around my family. I have lost

both my sisters and I don't know what to do."

"There is no body. We will burry what the forensics managed to get. The ashes. I don't think we should have a big gathering. Just something small, burry the ashes and move on."

"We need a coffin."

"We will get one from mazesuru or just burry her in a plastic. Tota I don't think we should be wasting money on ashes. Gape I heard mmagwe Kaelo is not well. I am sure you need money."

"I don't think it's right to just bury her in a plastic."

"But what can we do? It's just ashes. And I don't think a lot of people will come knowing the type of person she was."

"My daughter-

"I don't have money too. Her husband's family can buy the coffin but I don't have money. We should just put her ashes in a plastic and move on. I don't understand why we need to spend a lot of money on her as if she made a good difference to the world. The devil is rejoicing right now with his evil daughter. That's enough."

"My child, I know you are so angry-

"I am not angry. I don't have money. I am not buying a coffin nor am I buying food. We should just dump her ashes in a hole and go home."

"You are too angry right now. I will call you tomorrow. Goodbye."

Zaza put away her phone and drove to her house. A foreign number called her as she walked inside her house.

“Zacharia speaking, hello?”

“Zaza..”

Zaza smiled. “Thabi...”

“I am sorry. I-”

“Don’t be. She’s where she belongs.”

“I heard the whole story.”

“I am praying she died crying in pain.”

“I am sorry that was your reality. You didn’t deserve it. No one deserved it. They were just kids.”

Tears filled Zaza’s eyes. “Thank you for calling.”

“It’s ok. How are you?”

“I am fine.”

“I heard you are getting married. Congratulations.”

“I thought we were going to marry in the same family.”

“It’s tricky.”

“He didn’t love me. I heard Atang is there. I am surprised you never told me about the reason you and Atang actually broke up. I know we are not close but I just thought since we are related you would tell me.”

“Well uh... I... you were dealing with your son’s situation.”

“I wish you told me. I would have protected my heart from Agang

then. But it's ok. I am happy now."

"I am happy you are. I have to go. Bye."

"Bye."

Zaza put down the phone and kicked off her shoes wondering if fire had been too easy.

Kelly walked out of Choppies Supermarket and found him waiting. She smiled.

"Don't you have meetings?"

Agang shook his head. "I postponed everything."

"Why?"

"I want to take you somewhere."

Kelly folded her arms. "Agang-"

"You will love it there. You need it. I do too. Please..."

She turned and walked out of the mall with him. "I can't. My mother needs me to be there for her. The medication makes her drowsy."

Agang grabbed her hand and smiled. "You are going to see wild animals... go for adventures... you are going to have fun. Take lots of pictures. Eat nice already cooked food. Enjoy a serene peaceful

environment. You won't regret it. And your mom has a nurse. She will be fine. Please..."

"Agang-"

"I am not doing it to sleep with you. Have some faith in me. I actually like our friendship. I am happy with what we are. I am happy with this."

Kelly slowly smiled. "Ok."

Agang smiled. "Really?"

She giggled staring at his wife smile. "Yes."

He hugged her picking her up then put her down and hugged her again.

"Thank you."

She laughed. "You are welcome."

He moved back then took her hand and led her to the car. He opened the door for her. From a distance, Yaone spotted him and walked over smiling.

"Hi..."

Agang turned and smiled. "Hi... what's up?"

Yaone smiled. "I am good. I haven't see you in a while."

"Yeah, it's been a minute."

"Yeah..."

"Uh Kelly, this is Atang's ex, Yaone. Yaone this is my best friend,

Kelly.”

Kelly smiled and waved. Yaone waved back smiling then looked at Agang.

“Nice seeing you. Bye...”

“Yeah you too.”

She walked away in her formal wear. Kelly smiled as he closed her door for her and jumped in.

“Where are we going?”

He looked at her and smiled. “You will see.”

In Boston, at the airport, Thabi sat with Batang and Atang, her hand holding Batang’ who’s head was on Thabi’s lap. Thabi rested her head on Atang’s chest while Lomo rested on the other side.

She sighed sadly as their plane got called out. Atang kissed her and smiled.

“I am not going for good. I love you.”

“She’s going to cry. See the way she’s holding you already.”

“You are my girls...”

“I am still not taking you back.”

Atang laughed. "I love you."

Thabi sighed getting closer in his arms. Batang moved too.

Atang kissed her. "We have to go. I will call you when we arrive."

They all stood up. Thabi wrapped her arms around him smiling then took her daughter. Lomo looked at her father.

"I am going mama.."

"No hun... we are staying."

Atang picked the bags as Batang hugged his sister then his niece.

Lomo looked at him tearfully then looked at her father raising her little me arms.

"Daddy.."

Atang kissed her. "I love you."

She smiled. "Love you..."

Thabi watched as they waved then the ex. Lomo looked at him and started crying fighting to go with him. Atang turned a distant away from her and waved.

Lomo screamed more crying for him. Thabi rubbed her eyes taking a deep breath getting ready to comfort her daughter. She rubbed her own eyes with a sigh as sadness and emptiness took over.

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I know it's short but I am not well. I drank my pills, they make me extremely drowsy. Please forgive the short insert. Keep liking and commenting. I love you lots!

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Yours Truly

#72 and #73

Thabi carried her daughter inside the new studio apartment. She closed the door with her foot and walked to her room. She laid Lomo down who took a sad deep breath in her sleep. Thabi sighed and walked out, the new house didn't feel as nice anymore... it felt so empty and foreign.

She picked Batang's cap and laughed knowing he was going to be so hurt to find out he had forgotten it. She put it down and picked up Atang's jacket. She looked at it then picked it up and put it on before lying on her couch inhaling his scent.

She picked her phone and unlocked it. She opened her Camera folder and looked at the dozen pictures they had taken. Tears burnt her eyes as she wondered why her heart was so gullible. She couldn't seem to remember the hurt anymore.

She sniffed and swiped the screen staring at their picture together. She wiped a tear then played a video they had taken together. She looked at his smile.. at the way he had been looking at her. She played another video of him and Lomo as he tried to style her hair. She sighed with a smile, Batang appeared on the video holding hairpins.

Thabi watched as Batang tried to keep Lomo still while she drew on her book. She turned her head.

"Daddy..."

Atang looked at her drawing and smiled. It already looked like he had always been there. Thabi sighed, she had already seen that she was no longer the favorite parent the second day after Atang's arrival.

She watched the rest of the videos smiling and laughing. Her phone rang, she looked at Pule calling and picked.

"Hello?"

"Hey, is he there with you?"

"No. They left."

"Including your brother?"

"Yes."

"So you are back with him?"

Thabi looked at the wall. "He is Lomo's dad."

"I know. Are you back with him?"

"No... not really."

"Do you love him?"

Thabi sighed. "Mr.-"

"Pule. Do you love him? Be honest."

"Yes. He is my daughter's father. He was my first. Rragwe Lomo was my first in everything."

"Do you love him to a point of taking him back?"

“I-“

“Are you taking him back?”

“I don’t know.”

“Was he fucking you on his stay there?”

Thabi remained in silence unsure of the rightful way to answer him.

Pule sighed. “Talk to me? Where you sleeping with him? ... You know what? My guess is that you were. After all the years without seeing him, I am sure you let him between your legs. You probably think you can fix things now that he seems to have come back to his senses... you are thinking to raise your daughter together with him. Be a proper family. I bet you are thinking as soon as you get your degree, you go home to him... sex has never been love Rethabile. Sex will never be love. Understand this... do you actually think he loves you? Don’t you think if he did, he would have never hurt you right from the beginning? Men act right for the women they love. If you are that woman to him, he would have never hurt you the way he did.”

Thabi swallowed in silence.

“Cheating is a choice, he wasn’t even sorry then because he didn’t expect you to leave. He probably just thought he would get away with it. His ego was bruised because you left him. If he loved you, he would have never called her name while on top of you. He didn’t love you enough or respect you enough back then. What’s different this time? Your daughter? Men leave their wives who

they have been married to for 20 plus years, they leave their kids for the people they truly love. Are you that person for him? That one person he will stop his entire world for to give you what you need. Don't get hurt again because you think he's in love... that he's changed. There is no change...he just hasn't met his one true love. You will see it when he meets her."

"I didn't take him back."

"I was just making you see. If you want to give it a chance, do so. You never know. Maybe he actually loves you and just made a mistake"

Thabi looked up blinking. "How is work?"

"Tiring but saving lives is my career. I love saving lives. When are the results coming up?"

"Next week. I am nervous."

"You did well. You are a brilliant doctor Thabi. You are a hard worker, you are smart. Stop worrying so much."

"Thank you."

"Where are you thinking to do your residence?"

"There is a hospital in LA.. I was thinking of that or the one here in Massachusetts."

"LA is a good place to learn."

"It is..."

"I did my residence in Australia. I have been thinking of going back

to school. I love being a family doctor but I think I want more.”

Thabi looked at her an incoming call coming in.

“I have to take another call. I will call you back.”

She dropped the call and picked her uncle’s call.

“Hello?”

“Thabi, I don’t have much airtime. How are you?”

“I am fine, how is aunty?”

“Its-“

The call cut. Thabi called him back.

“Hello?”

“How is aunty?”

He sighed. “She is alive. But it’s not looking good. She is always in pain. We have tried everything. Going to church, going to healers...going to hospitals. It’s not working.”

“Eish... I have a friend in Gaborone. I can ask him to look at her.”

“That will be so helpful. Thank you. I don’t think here they want to help her. You know how it is.”

“I know. I am sorry.”

“Its ok. Uh I spoke to Ntatemogolo... he said Batang is there with you.”

“He was visiting. He’s on his way back.”

“I am happy you love your brother the way you do. Lomo taught you well.”

Thabi smiled. “She did.”

“I wanted to talk to you about Atang. His father called today. They want to know what is going on. If you two don’t want a big wedding, it’s fine. We can just go to the molaodi’s office.”

“Attie and I are not back together.”

“His father told me Atang is there with you and that there is a child. Thabile, I don’t think it’s right to have your elders hearing things from neighbors. I don’t know why you think you don’t need us... we are your family my daughter.”

Thabi swallowed. “I was going to tell you.”

“You had a child and kept her a secret for three years, thiri! No... I don’t like this. Then you say you are not back with him when he is there with you, there is nothing like that. Stop making us fools! We are grownups. You need to come back and deal with this issue.”

“Atang-“

“Atang is your husband. You and that boy should do the right thing. I am tired of being asked questions I cant answer. Today you have been keeping people’s grandchildren from them. We need to see that child.”

“I am sorry.”

“I hope so. We can’t continue treating you like a baby. You can have sex..you are clearly grown.”

She kept quiet. He went on reprimanding her for more minutes then sighed.

“I hope you heard me.”

“I did.”

“Good. When are you finishing?”

“I am doing my M.D right now then I will do my foundation training and core training and-“

“How many years? You are going to come back old.”

Thabi laughed. “No. Medicine takes a long time. But I won’t be old.”

He sighed. “Thabi... you are growing my child. I know what you kids of today say... that there is no rush for anything and indeed there is no rush but you need to think of the direction of your life. Ok?”

“Eerra.”

“Good. I am giving you till tomorrow to tell me your decision with Atang.”

“Eerra.”

He hung up. Thabi sighed and closed her eyes thinking.

In Botswana, Elang finished cooking her fat cakes outside on the fire then put them in a bucket. She packed her stock in her plastic then carried her things outside from the backroom. Her mother looked at her walking outside.

“I know this is not what you expected to come home to but your father says you need to learn to stand on your own. I like your determination. Thabi managed, you will manage to.”

“I am going.”

She walked out headed to the school. Mmagwe Elang walked back in her house. She looked at her husband.

“I think we should let her cook on the stove.”

Rragwe Elang looked at his wife in disbelief. “Is that what we agreed on? You want to spoil this child too much. Let her cook on the fire. We are not going to spoon feed a grown woman. Elang needs to learn that sometimes life is unfair. She needs to work. I am not giving her my hard earned money. She must work for hers. Thabi managed just fine. What’s the difference between she and Thabi?”

He stood up and walked out.

Elang sat you at the primary school and put on her cap to protect herself from the harsh sun. She looked at the time knowing the

students were about to knock off then messaged Thabi on WhatsApp.

Elang: Magwinya ke P1.

Thabi read the message and started typing.

Thabi: We are back at it? I thought you said it wasn't for you.

Elang: I want to be rich. I wish I knew how to sew

Thabi: selling to school kids will bring in money too. Do it with positivity. I know you're doubtful but you need to be determined to do it. Maybe you are not meant to work for other people

Elang smiled.

Elang: ,You must be right waitse.

Thabi: Keep pushing

Elang: I can't wait to see you."

"Hi..."

Elang raised her head and looked at Farai. She smiled noticing the changes. He was a bit light in complexion. He actually looked good with his clean haircut.

She looked at his clean jeans and a t-shirt. "Farai!"

"If it ain't the Gabs city reject."

Elang laughed. "Mxm.. waitse Gaborone life is not for everyone."

"Its called sin city for a reason."

“Satan stays there. You look... different.”

He smiled. “In a good way I hope.”

She looked behind him and smiled at the Mazda Axela behind him.

“Yes. Is that yours?”

“Yeah... I decided to get a real job.”

Elang laughed. “Where? Therra I also need a job?.”

“At the Safari. A risky job but worth it. White people tip you good.”

“Waitse I have always feared those jobs. I don’t want to be eaten by a Lion.”

“It’s a risky job. But pays bills. I want to raise enough money and start something.”

“Something like what?”

“I am not sure yet but I have a plan.”

“After you start the plan, call me. I can be your receptionist or PA. I am good listener, a quick learner. I can multitask.”

He smiled. “I will keep that in mind. You look good.”

She smiled. “Thanks.”

He took out a P20 note from his pocket and handed her then took two sweets.

“Nice seeing you.”

He turned and jumped in his car while she smiled. It was hard to

believe that the same guy who made coffins was now this man that drove such a car and looked... like that. She looked at the P20 with a smile.

In Gaborone, Kelly finished packing her bag then walked to her mother's bedroom where her mother was busy on her phone.

"Mama.."

Mmagwe K quickly put away her phone. Kelly looked at her and laughed.

"And then?"

"What?"

Kelly shook her head and smiled. "Nothing. I am going to Fifi's house."

"Ok. Be careful."

"Emma."

She hugged her mother and walked out. She walked down the street where Agang was parked then jumped in his car. Agang smiled.

"Hey..."

Kelly looked at him. "When am I being returned?"

“In a couple of days.”

“I took four days leave at work.”

Agang started the car. “Perfect.”

Kelly put on her seatbelt as he drove off. She looked at his hand and looked out the window smiling alone.

Unable to contain herself, she turned to him. “Please tell me...”

Agang laughed staring at her face. “Be patient.”

“I am going to die from curiosity.”

He pinched her cheek. “Ke ta dira mouth to mouth mna.”

She laughed. “You are crazy.”

“You are beautiful.”

She turned to him and smiled. Agang smiled back then turned to the road reaching for her hand. He held her hand and drove with one.

She relaxed on the passenger seat as he drove. Kelly’s heart begun pounding as he took the turn to the airport. She swallowed.

“Agang...”

“Relax. We are collecting something from the airport then we go.”

She looked at him. “I almost wasted my happiness.”

“You thought I am flying you out of the country?”

“Mxm..”

Agang laughed. "Flight trips are not for friends."

"I hate you. I had packed my passport just in case."

He laughed parking at the airport.

"Let's go in together."

Kelly got out with her handbag. Agang threw his car keys at someone. Kelly looked.

"Why are you giving him the keys?"

"To look after the car. Let's hurry up and go."

They walked inside the airport. Kelly's heart skipped as he led the way holding her hand.

They checked in, the man he had given his keys to following with their bags behind.

Tears filled Kelly's eyes. "Agang..."

He looked at her. "I thought you would help me find a Tanzanian girlfriend maybe when we go to Zanzibar or maybe at Kilimanjaro. I need an exotic someone in my life."

Kelly hugged him. "Thank you."

Agang wrapped his arms around her. They held each other for minutes then Agang let go.

"Lets go and get my girlfriend..."

Kelly laughed wiping away a tear. "Aye Aye captain!"

Agang picked her up and threw her over his shoulder then walked

to their boarding gate while she laughed.

In Maun, Rragwe Elang walked towards mmagwe Thabi's grave. He looked around then started plucking out the grass around the grave like he did every month. He put the flowers he had just gotten on top and sighed tearfully.

"I brought your favorite. I miss you. I miss you so much. I heard Thabi had taken Batang for his holiday. She loves him so much. She's doing a good job. She takes after you. I hear she is doing well. I read about her sometime back in the newspaper. She is apparently the only Motswana student at that school. Our daughter is... smart. Brilliant... they said she is brilliant. She is going to be the best doctor. I wish I can play my part but I am limited. I wish I can be there..." He sighed sadly. "I love you. I have to go."

He turned and walked away.

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Mmagwe Elang looked at him as he walked in the house.

"Where are you coming from?"

“I went to see my father’s grave.”

He walked past her going to the bedroom where he locked himself in the bathroom and put his hands on his face crying.

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Yours Truly

#74

Later that day, Elang packed the remaining stock she had and started walking home much slowly. She couldn't seem to think of a different business idea that would help her leave home.

The constant comparison to Thabi brought back just how she grew up. It didn't seem to have changed. Thirty minutes later she slowly opened the gate then closed it. She tip topped to the back room and unlocked the door. She walked in and looked at the darkness.

Switching on the light would bring her mother to the room, she put her things down and lit her phone's torch. She sat on the bed and went to a job vacancy group on Facebook. She scrolled down looking for something but all she was seeing was maid jobs.

Tears filled her eyes as she thought of working for someone. It didn't feel be right. Not after giving four years to varsity.

She looked at one advert.

'Looking for someone to assist my 6 year old daughter and I in Maun. Must be of between 26-35, years. Must be good with kids, should be able to speak fluent English and Setswana. Should be able to help my daughter with homework. Must be a good cleaner and be able to wash and iron but most importantly, should be able to clean. Salary P2800. Call 745****'

She looked at the salary realizing that the post had just been posted. She quickly copied the number and called.

It rang twice then the man picked.

“Hello?”

“Hello?”

“I just saw your post on Facebook that you need a helper. My name is Elang, I am a UB graduate, I am very fluent in English and on Setswana. I am 24 years old but I am a hard worker. I am good with kids. I can cook, clean, wash and iron.”

“Can you come for an interview tomorrow?”

Elang sighed listening to his foreign accent now questioning him.

“I can come but I am coming from Shakawe. I can take the morning bus there.”

“You are too far. I need someone close by.”

“I am good with kids, I am what you need. I am a hard worker.”

“I don’t want to waste your time incase you don’t meet the requirements. If my child doesn’t like you, I won’t take you. You are too far, I don’t want to have to return you after you have traveled all the way here.”

She sighed disappointed. “Ok, thank you.”

She hung up and continued scrolling through the group. She slowly gave up and laid on her bed exhausted.

*

In the main house, mmagwe Elang carried the food to the room then slowly opened the door. She switched on the light and looked at her daughter.

“Elang.. wake up. Food.”

Elang opened her sleepy eyes and looked at her mother.

Her mother smiled. “Eat. How did it go today?”

“It was fine.”

“Maybe you should start making some type of jewelry. For selling.”

“Like Thabi?”

“Yes. It worked for Thabi.”

“Why should I do what Thabi was doing? I am not Thabi!”

“Who are you raising your voice at? We are just trying to motivate you here. We all know you are not Thabi but since she is your friend, we thought she would be enough motivation for you.”

Elang tearfully looked at her mother. “I don’t know how to make jewelry. Should I also sew?”

“Elang, are you planning to sell magwinya for the rest of your life?”

“I will come up on with something.”

“Good.”

Her mother put the food down and walked out. Elang tearfully laid her head on her pillow.

Hours later that evening, Agang led Kelly inside their room at a hotel along the Indian ocean in Tanzania, Zanzibar. Kelly smiled looking around the big beautiful room holding her complimentary glass of wine. She walked to the sliding doors that led outside and opened.

She smiled staring at the waters as a cold breeze brushed her skin. She walked back in the room.

“It’s beautiful..”

Agang put down their bags then picked the room phone. Kelly took off her shoes as he ordered food. He put down the phone and smiled.

“Should I bath first or you will?”

“Let me bath first.”

“Ok.”

She picked her bag and walked with it to the ensuite. She looked at the huge oval shaped tub smiling from ear to ear.

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In the room, Agang switched off his phone together with hers and put them away. A while later the hotel brought their food as Kelly walked out in her pyjamas already.

Agang looked at her in the shorts and the top, her nipples showing. He took a deep breath and smiled.

“Food is here.”

“Finally. I am hungry.”

“You can start eating. I am going to shower.”

She smiled. “The tub is nice.”

“Tub e bata me and my exotic girlfriend. After I get her, I will bath in the tub.”

Kelly smiled. “Are you really here to look for a girlfriend?”

“Yes. I am not leaving without a girlfriend.”

He walked to the bathroom. Kelly looked at him and sighed. She looked at the food, her stomach grumbling. She picked a piece of meat and started eating. Minutes later Agang walked out, a towel around his waist. She looked at his chest going down his faint abs then his V- line. She looked away and continued eating. He opened his bag and took out sweatpants and walked back in the bathroom. Kelly looked around searching for her phone.

Agang walked out now in only sweatpants. She looked at him.

“Have you seen my phone?”

"I put it away. No one is going to be using their phones while we are here."

"Pictures?"

"We are going to enjoy this without phones."

Kelly smiled, her eyes went down. She took a deep breath staring at it and looked away. He sat down with her and ate. He had no single tattoo on his skin, it was funny how she couldn't imagine his twin brother without all his tattoos and still couldn't imagine Agang with them.

He caught her staring. "What?"

Kelly smiled. "Nothing."

"By the way, accommodation is expensive here. We will be sharing this bed."

She nodded. "Ok. Thank you... for bringing me."

He looked in her eyes and smiled. "Don't forget why we are here."

Kelly sipped her drink. "Why look for a girlfriend so far?"

"Fresh blood. Gape the ladies here are beautiful."

"I thought you were joking."

"No. I am single. I need to settle down, get married, have kids. I am getting old. The person I want doesn't want me so better I find someone else."

Kelly nodded and ate in silence.

The following morning in Botswana, The Botswana airlines flight landed at SSK International Airport. Batang smiled as they checked out and walked out of the airport. He breathed in the Botswana air and laughed.

“Back to unpurified air, waitse Rona bo Batang ra go swa ka nnete.”

Atang laughed. “You are crazy.”

“America o monate. I can’t wait to go back.”

Prince hopped off the bonnet as Atang walked over with Batang. He held up his fists at Batang.

“Show me what you got!”

Batang put down his bag putting up his fists. Prince threw a punch, Batang dodged and punched his ribs. Prince jumped back.

“You want to kill me?”

Batang laughed. “Old age.”

Prince laughed then picked him up putting him over his shoulder.

“Wa ntwaela wena.”

Atang laughed as Batang got down. They got in the car. Prince started the car and drove to Atang’s house. Atang handed Batang

the keys as Prince parked next to his car.

Batang stepped out and walked to the door. Prince looked at Atang.

“What did she say?”

“I hurt her, she has trust issues. I caused all that and I am going to take responsibility for my actions. It’s going to take us time to be where we were.”

“As long as you are fixing things.. “

Atang got out of the car. “Where is Agang?”

“Still trying to win Kelly over. He took her to Zanzibar.”

Atang laughed walking towards the door. “Sure boy!”

Prince reversed and drove off. Atang walked inside the house just as his phone rang.

He smiled. “I ass about to call. We just arrived.”

“You were taking too long. Travelled safely?”

“Yes. I will drop Batang off tomorrow. I am flying.”

“Thank you. By the way... I suspect he has a girlfriend. I heard him talking to someone the other day. He obviously now knows a lot. Can you talk to him?”

“Yeah...”

“I can’t afford another child. He’s too young too. I want him to finish school.”

"I will talk to him."

"Thanks."

"How is Lomo?"

"She woke up and cried some more before sleeping again. She will be fine tomorrow. I was thinking when I start my residence program you take her because I won't have time to give her all the attention she needs."

"Yes. I can take her."

"Thank you."

"I love you."

"I think you should move on. It's going to be years till I am done with school. You are growing old. You shouldn't have to wait for me when you can move on. I don't think I want another child. I don't think I want to get married. Those things are not in my future plans. And I can't fully trust you. I can't be here worried if you are cheating or not. If you could cheat in my presence, it means in my absence it will be worse. I can't be with a man I can't trust. I don't see our future together expect us co-parenting Lomo. I don't even think I will get over what happened. I don't think you really love me. I know a man acts right for a woman he loves. If you truly loved me you would have never cheated on me. I don't believe cheating is a mistake. You made a choice and cheated on me. I know I deserve better than to be your second best. Either way, I long told you I would never forgive you if you cheated. That hasn't changed. You should move on because you and I are

done.”

“Who did you talk to?”

“Rra?”

“Who did you talk to?”

“No one, I just had time to think things through.”

“Someone filled your head with all you are saying. It doesn't sound like you. Is it that lecture of yours?”

“No, Atang-“

“Tell him kare o tsile go nyela o marete. I love you. If I didn't you would know. You know I love you. I would give anything for you. I know you deserve better and I am going to give you that. Are you going to let someone who obviously want you to decide our future? Of cause because he knows where I fucked up, he will know exactly what to say. I don't even like that guy. Koore he's taking advantage of this. Why are we even letting him in our business. I messed up but I didn't do it because I don't love you. I have loved you for the longest time now. I learnt from my mistakes... don't let someone decide for us babe. I want you to tell me you don't love me... tell me you don't love me and I promise you, I will stop trying to fix us. Say you don't love me...”

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Yours Truly

#75

Atang walked to his bedroom holding his phone.

“Talk to me. Wareng?”

“I don’t trust you especially when you are there doing God knows what?”

“What would make things easier for you?”

“I am here and you are there, Atang-“

“Distance is not excuse, tell me what you need from me to make things better for you. A visit every month? Do you want that?”

She sniffed. “It’s too expensive. You are already spending a lot of money on us. You don’t have to come every month.”

“Ok, then what do you want?”

“I want to be able to trust you enough not to worry about what you are doing with who. I want to be able to trust you enough to know you won’t run to another vagina because you are not happy with me.”

“I can work on that.”

“I also don’t like how you make decisions on your own without including me.”

“I will work on it.”

"I don't want another child. Not now anyways. I don't want to be an absent mother. I want to be there for my children."

"You can still be there for them, even if it's not full time. That's when co-parenting comes in. It's all about helping each other, backing each other. You are not alone. I am not a absent father."

"I know but school is demanding. Maybe in 6 years or so."

"Lomo will be 9."

"I was 9 when Batang was born. We can have the other one after that."

"Babe... you know how lonely you were alone. 9 years is a lot. She is going to get bored."

"I turned out fine."

"Can we compromise a bit? I don't mind stepping up and helping with the baby. I can take leave and help. I won't bother you about babies here forth."

"Wena rra you are not to be trusted. If it doesn't work out, I don't want to be left with two kids. Other men don't like women with a lot of kids."

"Maybe I am asking for too much right now. How about we revisit this issue in a year?"

"Ok."

"I am not happy about your friendship with your lecture."

"He is my mentor."

“Mentor a mentara masepa yaana? What has our relationship got to do with your degree?”

“He’s also a friend. When I had no one in my corner he was there.”

“I don’t like such friendships.”

“Pule is a good friend. A good mentor. A good lecture. He helps me a lot. He has helped me a lot more. I need him in my corner. He has a degree in medicine. He knows what I am talking when I ask him to help me. I am not going to get rid of him because you insecure and jealous. You don’t even know him. He is a good guy. I don’t cheat in relationships.”

Atang sighed. “I am not comfortable with your friendship with him.”

“You will get used to him. My uncle called. He wants to know the way forward with us. I don’t want to get married. Not now. I want to get my degree first.”

“I would never stop you from going after what you want. You know me by now.”

“I know. I want you to marry a doctor.”

“Are you really giving us a short?”

“This is the last chance.”

“I love you, I love you so much.”

“I love you too. You never slept with Pearl? You said you didn’t when we were together. Or you did after we broke up?”

“Babe, can we just move on from this?”

“Yes. After you answer me.”

“What are we gaining from this?”

“Keng o sa bate go nkaraba? (Why don't you want to answer me?)”

“I just don't want us to keep bringing her into our conversations.”

“Did you sleep with her after we broke up?”

“I didn't sleep with her. Babe can she just remain in the past where she belongs?”

“I just want to know. You didn't sleep with her?”

“I didn't.”

“So you never slept with her?”

He took a deep breath. “I never slept with her.”

“What did you do then?”

“I am not answering anything that has the potential to hurt you and take us ten steps back.”

“I just want to know what you did? If you kissed, just say we kissed.”

“I am not answering that.”

“That night... her perfume was all over you. What did she do to you?”

“I said I am not answering any of that. Can we stop this? What I did or didn’t do doesn’t matter. It was a mistake. One that I regret.. Mmagwe Lomo... please.”

“Did the fact that I was fat bother you? You know what... it’s fine. I have lost weight. I believe you. I am going to believe you. You don’t have any reason to lie now. We are starting over.”

He sat on his bed thoughtfully but then again telling her would mean more doubt and hurt...

“There was nothing wrong with you. It wasn’t your body or anything of that sort. I messed up. It was all me.”

Thabi sniffed. “Ok.”

“I miss you.”

She yawned sleepy. “I miss you too.. Please don’t cheat on me.”

“I won’t. I have learnt my lesson. Thamma kea go rata.”

“Ng...”

“Babe... so what’s the name of your lecture. At least let me get to know him too.”

“Pule Kgosi. He’s nice.”

“O bereka kae?”

“GPH.”

“Do you know where he stays?”

“Phase 4.”

“Where in Phase 4?”

“I am not sure. I don’t know. Why?”

“No... just curious. Maybe we can all be friends... I think I need a friend like him. A doctor friend.”

“Ng...”

He held the phone to her ear listening to her fall asleep. He listened to her for a while then hang up and called his father.

“Atang... did you get her?”

He smiled. “Yes.”

“At least, so what now? I don’t like what’s happening.”

“I messed up, I don’t think our family should behave like the saints. Thabi did what she thought was best considering how we ended. I don’t want her being put against the wall to answer questions she can’t answer. We have a daughter. Now I know and I will step up as a father and as her man. I don’t to pressure her into anything.”

Ragwe Atang sighed. “I understand but there are ways things are done. We just can’t ignore the fact there is a child that was kept away from us. I know you love her and you want your family back but what happened should be addressed.”

“I know but I don’t want her attacked.”

“No one is going to attack her. Your mother doesn’t like her anymore.”

“I love her and she is going to have to make peace with it.”

Everyone is going to have to make peace with it. I have to take care of something. We will talk.”

“Sharp.”

Atang hung up then took a shower and put on black clothes. He opened his wardrobe and unlocked his safe then took out his gun. He slid it in the inner pocket of his black leather jacket and walked out. He looked at Batang who was pressing his phone in the sitting room.

“Buddy, I am going to see someone. I will be back later.”

“Yah sure...”

Atang walked out then jumped in his brand new black modified Ford Ranger Raptor and reversed out.

He put on his cap and drove off headed to GPH.

In Tanzania, Kelly walked with Agang along the beach smiling while he held her hand. The wind blew her dress over and over exposing her thighs. She smiled as they approached their beach lounge chairs. She laid down on hers under the big yellow umbrella.

Agang looked at the curly haired lady he had seen at the hotel as she walked past them in a pink bikini.

“Do you remember this lady?”

Kelly looked and frowned. “No. Who is she?”

“We were in the elevator with her. I am going to talk to her. I am coming.”

He got up and followed her. Kelly watched as he caught up with her and said something that made her laugh. He continued walking by with her talking. Kelly laid down waiting for him to come back. Almost thirty minutes later he walked back smiling.

“She is beautiful right?”

Kelly nodded. “She is. She is pretty. Where is she from?”

“She is South African. I am taking her out on a date later on. She’s so beautiful, o kare Pearl Thusi.” He smiled lying down.

Kelly smiled. “I am happy you found someone. I hope you are ready for a relationship.”

Agang looked at her surprised at her reaction. “You know I am.”

“I hope she’s ok with my presence.”

“I told her you are my sister.”

Kelly laughed. “You share a bed with your sister?”

“Maybe I am sleeping on the couch. She doesn’t know we share the bed.”

Kelly looked at him and laughed more. “You are full of jokes.” She got off her lounge and got on top of him sitting on his stomach.

Agang swallowed putting his hands on her waist as she looked at him.

“I need you to understand something... nna rra I am lover. When I love, I give it my all. Maybe that’s always been my weakness but I am lover. I love. I make sure to love with my all. I give it everything. I want to be loved too. To be shown love. To be cherished. Be put first.. I want to receive the same love I give. For some people it’s too much... I don’t challenge them enough I guess. Some people are after half baked love that keeps them chasing. I am not that. I get caught and I give it all up.”

He nodded mute.

“I know you brought me here to make me jealous because obviously I feel a certain way about you now. I am not that person who will give you the reaction you are hoping to get. Me going crazy.. it’s not going to happen. I want you to prove to me that you are deserving of my love.” She leaned closer and rubbed her lips on his. His dick stirred in his pants.

“Show me why it has to be you.” She moved her butt back and sat on his dick then moved her waist feeling it get harder.

“Or better yet, let’s just fuck and move on. You took us for testing last week, is it because you wanted to have sex? No need to lie to me about anything. I can give you what you after... at this point I want it too. You have been showing me your dick, I am curious now.”

“I want you to be my girl. I am falling in love with you... with the person you are. I want to be in a proper relationship with you. It’s

not just sex. I do want to have sex but I want more than that.”

She looked in his eyes and touched his face then kissed him. She touched his chest as his heart pounded, his dick getting harder. He squeezed her waist feeling her warm pussy right on his dick. The beach shorts he had on didn't help.

She paused and looked at him helpless face. She moved her waist again rubbing her now throbbing p*ssy on him. He grunted closing his eyes slightly.

She moved her waist again. He shivered grunting again.

“Fuck!”

His shorts rode over exposing his dick. She felt it on her moist panties and moved again moaning.

She lowered their umbrella to hide them. Atang moved his hands to her breast. Her pussy throbbed more as she continued rubbing herself on it. The sounds he kept making made her drip even more.

She put her hand between her legs and shifted her panty to the side then rubbed her flesh on his. She closed her eyes at the pleasure. She couldn't remember the last time she had done this.. it had been more than a year and her body couldn't help it.

They continued humping moaning and grunting under their umbrella driving each other insane.

Agang groaned lifting her up, she held his dick upright and slowly lowered herself on it, she paused halfway as he stretched her

walls. Agang closed his eyes pushing himself in grunting as the pleasure weakened him more. Kelly looked at him feeling bit deep inside, her pussy squeezing him.

He squeezed her waist harder. His dick jerked inside her, Kelly gasped then closed her eyes spasming, her p*ssy clamping his weapon. He held her hips easing his weapon out then slid back in. She moaned in his ear creaming his dick.

Agang cursed giving her one more stroke then held her in place cumming. Weeks of his cum filled her canal while he let out a restrained groan.

Kelly laid her head on his chest with a sigh. Agang wrapped his arms around her.

“I want more... more than this. I want you. I think I am in love with you.”

Kelly smiled remaining still on top of him.

At GPH, Atang smiled at the receptionist.

“Hi...”

She looked at him and smiled back.”Dumelang...”

“I am here to see Dr. Kgosi... I have a delivery from him.. from Rethabile Daniel.”

“Let me inform him.”

She picked the phone and called him. She looked at Atang.

“You know where his office is?”

“No.”

She directed him smiling. Atang smiled back and walked away headed to his office. He opened the door and walked in.

Pule looked at him. “Hi..”

Atang closed the door and looked around the office. “Your office is nice.”

Pule frowned. “Who are you?”

Atang smiled. “Sorry, I forgot to introduce myself. I am Atang Daniel. You are my wife’s new friend.”

Pule smirked. “You are here to threaten me?”

Atang took out his gun then cocked it and pointed it at him. “No. I am here to build friendship. Did she tell you that I kill for a living?”

Pule looked at the silencer on the gun and swallowed keeping a brave face. “Am I supposed to be scared?”

Atang pulled the trigger and fired. Pule's heart skipped as the bullet grazed his coat going through his chair to the wall.

“No. I don’t think so. I don’t miss. I am trained to never miss.”

Atang walked over and looked at the hole on the wall. He turned and looked at Kgosi.

“I am not a bad person. I think you are good person too. I hate shooting good people. See you around friend.”

Atang saluted him and walked out putting his gun back in his inner pocket. He unlocked his car and jumped in as a nurse walked in front of the car smiling.

Atang sighed then started his car and drove off like he didn't see her.

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Yours Truly

#76

In Shakawe, Elang served the last fat cake to a student and smiled. It seemed fatcakes and fresh chips were selling more than anything else. She packed up everything that had remained and stood up from bricks she had piled into a stool.

Farai parked next to her rolling down his window.

“Hey, can I drop you off at home?”

“Yes. Please.”

She got in the car and put her bag on her lap. “Thank you.”

Farai smiled driving off. “How was it today?”

“Better than yesterday. Students like fatcakes and fresh chips a lot more. Tomorrow I am going to come in the morning and later during the day. I think they buy more in the morning.”

“They do. You are doing well.”

She smiled. “Thank you.”

He looked at her and smiled. “Who knew you would ever sell fat cakes.”

Elang laughed. “Life... ijo. I thought after varsity I would immediately get a job. Get to work... I had so much hope.”

“Unemployment is everywhere. I think we all think after varsity, we

will get jobs and enjoy life. After I got my degree I thought this is it. I am going to get my office job and wear suits... where? I was in Zim then. Life got so hard that's when my brother came to Botswana. He used to be a gardener. I remained behind, I was staying with my uncle. It was hard for him too so I became a conductor at the rank. You'd barely get anything... I turned to a thief. I pick pocketed, I was at a stage where I financially understood why people steal. I raised enough money to get here. I didn't have a passport. All I knew was that I am going to Gaborone. My brother stayed in a tiny room with four other men and he was sleeping on the floor. That's when I learnt that bring hungry is a luxury. We would walk from Mogoditshane to Bus rank."

"You are lying!"

Farai laughed. "I am telling you. It was hard. That's what unemployment does but you keep going because the world never promised you anything."

"At least you made it now. Where is your brother?"

"Making coffins. He's doing well. He makes other things too."

"I am happy for you. I remember when you used to look dirty in your flip flops driving that old car."

Farai smiled. "Life..." He parked the gate. "That's just life."

"Sometimes I wish I chose medicine like Thabi.,"

"Why?"

"She made a good choice. She will never be unemployed. And I

would never get compared to her everywhere I turn. Now imagine I am unemployed, not a doctor and I am back in my parent's house."

"We are different. Thabi is Thabi. You are you. Your success will never be the same."

"Yeah... thank you for dropping me off."

He smiled and nodded. She stepped out and walked inside the gate. Elang turned and waved. He waved back then drove off.

Zaza stepped out of her car staring at the pictures Batang had posted on Facebook. She paused at the selfie he took with Thabi, Atang and a little girl. She zoomed in the picture and looked at the child.

She unlocked her door and walked in going to her WhatsApp. She called Thabi with voice call closing the door.

"Zaza..."

"You have a child?"

Thabi laughed. "Yes."

"Wow! And you hid her?"

"Aii mma..."

Zaza laughed. "Atang must be happy."

"He is."

"So you guys are back together?"

"Yes."

"At least he loves you. I am happy for you. What's her name?"

"Lelomo."

"That's nice. I am happy for you. Hopefully there won't be any cheating scandals again. I am still disgusted that they all slept with her though I had forgiven Agang. I knew after the threesome. I didn't ask him anything. I just forgave it. I should have asked."

"Threesome?"

"The one with Pearl. What hurts me is that they slept with her while I mourned my son. The day he was buried. I always thought Prince was the better one but he was part of it. They all had sex with that woman. If you had read those messages in their group, you would have died I am telling you. I wish you told me. Why didn't you tell me?"

"I don't know what you are talking about. Atang slept with her?"

Zaza paused. "Yes, isn't that why you broke up?"

"It is but he denied sleeping with her."

"Waaka! He denied it?"

"Yes, I saw him kissing her at the mall. He told me she was his cousin and said I was crazy. Later that day he comes back

smelling like her. But it was before your son's death."

"Atang is the one who found her. He was sleeping with her before Agang and Prince then it seems they all met up and fucked her. Together. And it went on for a day or two."

"Ijo, ke mathata. (It's a problem.)"

"So he's been denying it?"

"Yes. Aii it's a problem. I am sorry you went through that."

"Yeah but at least Atang loves you. He's been single all this time. Ene mma he regrets it. And now you have a child together. You two have a reason to fix things."

"How are the funeral arrangements going?"

"Well. We are getting whatever ashes of her they got. Nna I am just going to dig a hole and throw her inside then move on with my life. Koore that woman doesn't deserve a dignified funeral."

Thabi laughed. "Don't say that."

Zaza laughed. "I am telling you. I am not paying for a single thing. I am putting her in a plastic and throwing her in a hole. I am praying she is burning in hell. At least she left that plot. I am selling it ke reke koloi."

"My daughter is awake, I will call you back later."

"Ok."

Thabi hung up. Zaza took off her shoes then going through the wedding gowns her friend had sent her.

In Boston, Thabi gave Lomo a bottle of juice.

“Sit down.”

“I want daddy...”

Thabi looked at her and sighed then video called Atang. His phone rang for a while then he picked smiling.

“Hey...”

“Hi, Lomo wants to talk to you.”

She handed the phone to her. Lomo smiled staring at her father on the screen. Thabi walked away as they started chatting. She sat on her bed then opened her laptop thoughtfully.

A while Lomo walked over with the phone smiling. She handed her mother the phone and climbed on the bed.

Thabi looked at Atang and sighed calmly. “I spoke to Zaza and she asked me why I never told her about Pearl when I found out. I am not sure if I really want you back anymore. You are a liar. I gave you a chance to be open with me. To be honest but you still chose to lie. I don’t know what you think of me Atang but I am not stupid.”

“I am sorry I lied but I just want us to move past that.”

“You want us to move on with your lies?”

“Babe didn’t I pay enough for my sins? I didn’t want to say it because I knew what it would do.”

“I’d rather you kill me with the truth than lie to me to protect me. I just can’t believe you all slept with her.”

“I slept with her once. I didn’t sleep with her that night. I swear. It didn’t mean anything. Please don’t break up with me. That’s the only I lied about.”

Thabi sighed. “Please go and shave. You look funny with all that beard.”

He smiled. “Emma.”

“Is there anything else you think I should know?”

“No. I promise. That’s all.”

“Ok. I will let this slip.”

“Thank you. I love you.”

Thabi smiled. “I love you too.”

Lomo smiled. “I love you.”

“I love you too princess.”

Lomo took the phone taking over the conversation.

In Zanzibar, later in the evening, Agang walked out of the bathroom after taking a shower then looked at Kelly who was lying on the bed holding her phone. She sent her mother a message then switched it off.

Agang looked at her. "You spoke to her."

"Yes. I have sent a message."

He took the phone from her and put it away then got on top of her. He kissed her getting between her thighs. Agang took off her night dress and kissed her squeezing her small breasts.

She chuckled. "Amme o tla kgona?"

He laughed. "Once we have a child they will grow."

Kelly laughed. "If they don't grow then we are going to fight."

He smiled then kissed her neck taking off his towel. He moved his waist sliding up and down her wet slit. She moved her waist underneath him impatiently, Agang slid his hand underneath her waist and #removed.

That same night Elang laid on her bed looking at Batang's Facebook pictures. She stared at the child in the pictures immediately connecting the dots. She looked at all their happy to faces. Her face got sour as she scrolled through. She went on her Whatsapp and texted Thabi.

Elang: I can't believe you took back the man who cheated on you. He is going to cheat again then give you another child. It's going to end in tears. You are yet going to cry I am telling you.

Her phone rang, she looked at the unsaved number calling and picked.

"Hello?"

"Hi... it's Farai..."

Elang smiled. "Hi. Where did you get my number?"

"I long had it. I am surprised you still have the same number."

She laughed. "I never changed."

"Can I come pick you up. The moon is out, it's beautiful at the river on nights when the moon is out."

Elang smiled. "Yes you can."

"I am coming."

He hung up. She got off the bed and quickly put on a dress and flip flops. Her phone vibrated minutes later. She took it out and hurried out using the small gate.

She jumped in his car smiling.

"Hi..."

Farai looked at her and smiled. "Hey... I got us some snacks."

He drove off headed to be the river then parked underneath what used to be Thabi's favorite spot.

Farai took out the snacks. Elang smiled staring at the river.

“Thank you for bringing me.”

Farai looked at her smiling. “You are welcome.”

In Boston, Thabi’s heart pounded as she waited for her first year M.D results to load. They slowly covered her laptop’s screen. She swallowed then looked at her 4.0 GPA. She screamed happily jumping up and down.

FIVE YEARS LATER..

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Yours Truly

#77

FIVE YEARS LATER

In Gaborone, Atang tried on the wedding slim fit tuxedo standing in front of the mirror. He fixed his tie then sighed.

Botho knocked on his door and spoke softly. "Atang..."

Atang walked to the door and opened. He looked at her.

"Yeah?"

"Lomo has started. She is not talking to me. She says she wants to talk to her mom."

Atang sighed. "It's ok. I will handle it. You can pacj her bag."

"Ok."

Botho walked to the kitchen. Atang walked to his daughter's room then knocked before walking in. He looked at her sitting on her bed in only her panty.

He closed the door and sat besides her on the bed.

"Hey princess..."

She tearfully looked at him. "Why won't you call mama?"

"You know she is at work right? She is in the middle of saving

lives right now. She is doing an operation and you know she is not allowed to be on her phone. But if you want the person she is trying to save to die, I can call her. Should I call her?"

A tear rolled down her cheek. Atang wiped it then reached for her nightgown and covered her with it. He picked her up and placed her on his lap.

"I know you miss her. I am not refusing to call her, I would call her for you every second but right now she is working so hard so she can come and live here. She misses you too. She misses you so much. As soon as she is done, I will call her for you. I love you."

She sniffed in his arms, her arms around him. Atang kissed her forehead then placed her on the bed and took her school dress. He dressed her up and zipped her dress.

He took out her white socks and helped her out them on before putting on her school shoes on his foot.

He took a comb and her hair oils. Atang put the oils in hair and combed the long hair gently. He tied the bun on the middle of her head smiling.

Lomo got off the bed and looked at herself on the mirror. Her bun was not straight but who knew that! Atang looked at it, it could be a side puff. That worked too.

"Do you like it?*"

She touched it smiling. "Yes. But my baby hairs Daddy... do everything."

“Lomo, you know I don’t know that. Aunty Botho-“

“I don’t like her. She wants to be my mom. I told mama.”

Atang paused holding the small brush. “You told your mom what?”

“That Aunty Botho wants to be my mom and that she likes to get close to you.”

“And what did mama say?”

“She said ok and that I should just listen to you.”

Atang sighed. “Aunty Botho is not here to replace your mom Lomo. There is no need to dislike her when she is only trying to help you. She wants to make things easier for you by helping you. I have seen how you treat her, you are grown now Lomo. If you don’t like Aunty Botho then it’s just going to be just you and I. You will have to start really working around the house and cook too. I can’t do everything so we have to share the duties. You will have to start also washing and ironing to help me.”

“But I can’t wash.”

“You don’t want Aunty Botho who does it for us meaning you don’t mind doing what she does.. you are going to have to start cooking too.”

“But I don’t know how to cook.”

“I don’t know what you will do but you will need to cook. You don’t like Aunty Botho who does that right? You will have to do it.”

Tears filled Lomo’s eyes. “I don’t know how to cook.”

“Then you are going to stop with your attitude. I don’t like it. You are going to respect Aunty Botho as someone who’s helping us. I don’t know where you get to tell your mother the things you tell her but maybe that’s why she won’t come this side.”

Lomo sniffed as tears rolled down.

“Aunty Botho is just doing her job, she is not trying to be your mother, she is trying to help you but feel free to start washing your own clothes, ironing your own clothes, cook your own food, clean and everything else. If not you are going to show Botho the respect she needs. You are going to be a good girl, a well mannered girl. If I catch you being disrespectful to her, you are going to start helping yourself. I really don’t like your behavior. You are rude and disrespectful. I don’t know who taught you that behavior but I don’t like it.”

Lomo put her hands on her face crying. “I just want mama.”

Atang took a deep breath in then walked to her with the brush and gel. He did her baby hairs then put everything away. He looked at her face then grabbed a small towel and wiped he tears away.

“You are running late to school. Come and eat.”

He picked her up and walked to the sitting room with her. He put her on the dining table. Botho walked over with her plate and put it before her.

“Her bag is packed.”

Atang looked at his daughter as she reached for the spoon.

“Why are you not saying thank you?”

Botho looked at him then smiled. “Its ok-“

“Lelomo!”

Her lips shook as her lips curved tearfully. “Thank you.”

Botho looked at her sadly as Lomo’s tears rolled down. She wiped them away with the back of her hand. Her little hand shook as she reached for the spoon.

“Let me help her eat.”

Atang angrily looked at her. “You want to feed an eight year old?”

Botho swallowed at his angry tone. “I just want to help.”

“She is fine. She can eat, she has hands.”

Lelomo slowly ate while wiping away her tears. Minutes later she got up and got her packed bag.

Atang looked at her. “You didn’t pack that bag yourself.”

Lomo tearfully looked at Botho. “Thank you.”

Botho smiled. “You are welcome.”

Atang walked to his bedroom and came back with his car keys. They walked out together. She got in at the back as Atang jumped in on the driver’s seat. Botho pressed the gate remote keys, the gate slid open then Atang reversed out. He joined the road and drove off headed to the school.

He looked at his daughter through the rearview mirror. Her

reddish eyes made him sad. He parked the car at her school.

“Be good.”

She sniffed. “Thank you.”

“Lomo you can’t have everything you want because you want it princess.” He turned to her. “I am disappointed in your behavior towards aunty Botho. I didn’t even know that you could be mean and rude. Not everyone wants to be your mom. We know you have one mother. But these people are only trying help you. Aunty Botho is just like Aunty Kelly. You don’t treat aunty Kelly rudely, why? Botho is only helping just like aunty Kelly. I want you to think of your behavior today. When you come back from school, your rude attitude should not be there. Am I clear?”

She sniffed nodding. Her teacher walked over smiling.

“Hello...”

Atang smiled as Lomo got out of the car with her bag while sniffing. Her teacher looked at her then at her father.

“Is everything ok?”

“Yes. Bye princess... I love you.”

Her little voice broke as she spoke. “I love you too.”

She greeted her teacher and walked to her class. The teacher smiled.

“Should I be aware of something?”

“No. She’s fine. How is she doing?”

“She is a brilliant student. Very smart and friendly. But I have been picking some tiny things from her. Is her mother there?”

“Yes. But she is not here with us. She lives abroad.”

“I think her absence is having some effects on her. We did an exercise a few days back. Something about moms. And she refused because she said her mom doesn’t like her.”

Atang swallowed. “Her mother is studying medicine in Harvard. She’s always under pressure and busy. We do get to visit every holiday but because of her shifts, she doesn’t get to see her as often as she wants and when she does, it’s brief but we will work on it.”

“Ok... but we can work together. As much as I am only a teacher, I am Lomo’s parent at school. I can give you a hand. Try find ways we can raise a beautiful nice girl. I have to go. Bye!”

She turned and hurried to her class in her heels. Atang drove off then looked at the time and called her. His heart skipped as the call went through.

“Hello?”

“Hey... are you home?”

“Not yet but I am knocking off.”

“So you are still not coming?”

“Its already too late Atang. The wedding is tomorrow. What time would I have arrived?”

“You don’t have to just come for the wedding. You can come for

us. We miss you. Lomo misses you.” He took a deep breath. “I need you. Our daughter needs a mom.”

“Atang what should I do? I just can’t up and leave. I am doing my second year resident. It’s hard. I want to be there but circumstances won’t allow it.”

“Lomo wants your attention. She needs your love and I can see she’s doing everything to try and get whatever she can. I am not even sure if I am raising her right. I feel like I am failing her.”

Thabi sighed. “This is why I didn’t want to have kids back then. You see now I seem like an incompetent parent? She probably thinks I don’t care about her. I work tirelessly. I am always on call. I can’t afford to miss anything. That’s why I had said if you want to move on, move on. I didn’t expect it to work. I don’t so feel free to find someone else who can love you and give you everything you need. Because it’s not me at the moment.”

“What about Lomo? Should she also find a mom?”

“Single parents never complain. They do everything. Why can’t you be her mom? I never felt my father’s absence because mama worked hard to also be a father to me. You are not even trying Atang. You are just leaving that gap open knowing that I am unable to fill it at the moment. You said parenting was about assisting each other. Assist me. I need your assistance.”

“A call won’t hurt you. Just a call to check on her. If I don’t matter to you, find but don’t you think Lomo deserves a little from you because you are there and she knows it... a simple VN so she hears your voice won’t take anything from you. Just you checking

up on her. I am sure she is will love it. Anything... as little as it can be. Maybe just you saying you love her.”

“Is she there?”

“She is at school.”

“Ok... I will do a VN.”

“Thank you.”

“I love you. It’s not that I don’t. I do. But I am failing you. I know it’s not fair. I want you to be happy. Even if it’s not with me. The hospital I am working at is a good hospital. They pay well once you are now a real doctor. I was thinking of... settling once I am done. Maybe then I can take Lomo. She-”

Atang cut the call and swallowed..

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Apologies, I dosed

Yours Truly

#78

In L.A, Thabi walked out of the locker room already changed holding her handbag. A nurse walked past her smiling.

“Bye Dr. K!”

Thabi smiled. “Bye.”

She walked down the corridor going to the reception.

“Thabi...”

Thabi turned and looked at her attending walking over. She took a deep breath as he approached and walked with her.

“You are doing very well. I am actually happy I got one of the best residents in my team. You are definitely swimming with the sharks.”

Thabi smiled. “Thank you Dr. O’Neill.”

“You did marvelously on the operation you did today, we have been observing you and you have it in you Dr. Harvard. You have everything in you to get this. You are starting third year soon, meaning you are now a senior resident, you are going to have the new interns shadow you. And no, I am not saying you are now the best thing after sliced bread.” He turned to her and smiled. “But you could be. You will still have me with you but you are going to be a force on your own. Congratulations, Dr. Harvard.”

Thabi smiled happily. "Thank you so much Dr. O'Neill. Thank you."

"No. Thank your hard work. You have been gearing the 48hrs shifts the past weeks, you need to rest. Go home, go to your daughter. When you come back, you are a senior resident. I need you ready Dr. Harvard. I need you ready to take over."

He walked past the reception going to the right wing of the hospital. Thabi put her hands on her face happily. One of her colleagues rushed over and smiled.

"What did tough guy say?"

Thabi smiled. "I get to be with my daughter. I am going home. See you."

She rushed out taking out her phone. She went online checking for late night flights. She twisted her lips staring at the 23:05 flight I. She hailed down a cab and jumped in.

Thabi took off her shoes and walked to her bedroom already booking her flights. She went on the air Botswana flights and sighed not finding anything flying to Maun from Gaborone tomorrow.

She smiled then called Atang but the call didn't go through. She excitedly called Batang.

"Thabi..."

"Hey, are you guys going together to the wedding?"

"I want to but it's in Kasane and I have a group assignment tomorrow. I don't want to delay Uncle A. He's leaving tonight and I

don't want him to spend more money on me. He paid my rent last week and helped me buy food."

Thabi smiled. "He paid your rent?"

"Yes. When are you coming? He misses you. We all do especially Lomo."

"I am getting in the flight tonight. I will arrive tomorrow in the afternoon."

"Yes!"

Thabi smiled. "I will call you. Maybe we can go together. I will talk to Zaza so she can borrow me her car."

"Ok, I will try and push the group work in the morning."

"Sharp. Don't tell them."

"Cool."

Thabi hung up and called Zaza getting off bed. She opened her closet and threw some clothes on the bed.

"Dr. Kaisara..."

Thabi smiled. "Hey, thamma I am coming home. I need a car to Kasane."

"You are coming?"

"Yes. My attending just released me. I thought I will be working throughout."

"I can't wait to see you. It's been years. Bathong wherever Atang

is he can't contain himself."

"I didn't tell him. Kana things have been tense between us lately. I have been telling him to replace me because I don't see him being patient for much longer. I barely get time for anything, you would think that maybe I can spare ten minutes but if I am not at the hospital, I am case studying or I am at the library. Or I am on call. It's hard. When I get that ten minutes of my time... I dose off because I am so exhausted. It gives him the impression that I don't care and it's not fair on him."

"Eish, I get you waitse. Medicine is demanding."

"I thought it would be a walk in the park. But... next year is my third year as resident. I will be a senior resident. And maybe after that, I can finish off at home. I am sure if I apply to finish off my program at one of the hospitals back home, they will agree. I am a general surgeon, I am not specializing so it should be fine."

"I am sure Atang would like that. Men like him are difficult to find Thabi.. once you lose him, getting him again is difficult. Tota we fall in love once in our lifetime.. proper pure love. I don't want to lie to you, as much as you want to get this degree with everything in you, don't lose everathing else while st it. Find your balance."

"I am coming home. I won't be able to start the wedding with them but I will finish with them. I love Attie... sometimes I get do frustrated too. I say what I don't mean. He's been so patient. After next year, keta mo nnela Junior."

Zaza laughed. "Maybe marry him first. Secure the man."

Thabi smiled. "Get married... we are half way married. Officializing it is a good idea. Pearl o toka a tsaya monna wame."

"Mxm, have you seen that Kelly is pregnant again? Ebile she's getting married looking like a hippo. Koore I wonder what she's thinking. Who on earth gets married looking like that? Her nose takes most space on her face, she's fat and dark. Koore everything is all over then she decided to get married."

Thabi laughed. "You need to heal."

"I am fine with my unhealed heart. I hate them so much. I pray they divorce, tota I can't wait till she finds him cheating. Kana Agang is a senior cheatist! I hope he has AIDs."

"We don't say that anymore."

"Mxm... anywho, I hope they divorce."

Thabi smiled. "Will you borrow me your car tomorrow?"

"Yes Mrs Daniel."

Thabi massaged her temples as her headache started.

"I will call you once I land. My head has started."

"I read somewhere that headaches are symptoms of brain tumor. Am I paranoid?"

Thabi laughed. "Yes. Not everything is cancer. I am not resting enough and drinking enough water, I am always stressed. That contributes to it."

Zaza laughed too. "I am crazy. But you should just get checked."

"Its not cancer. I always check."

"Thank God."

"Let me pack. Bye."

Thabi put down the phone and grabbed her medication. She frowned looking at the almost empty container then drank two, she thought of Zaza's theory, she brushed it off, it was the 48 hr shifts killing her but then, it was part of success. She took two more to silence it and started packing.

In Kasane, later that day, Kelly looked at her big nose on the mirror and sighed tearfully. Her cousin smiled.

"Your nose is fine."

"Its big. I wish I can postpone the wedding. Batho ba tsile go ntsega."

"They won't , make-up will cover it."

"I look ugly."

The cousin looked at the big flared nose that looked like it was taking so much oxygen leaving nothing for everyone else. Kelly's swollen eyes made everything worse especially that layer of darkness on her face. She took a deep breath trying not to laugh and smiled.

“You look beautiful. You are glowing. Pregnancy looks good on you.”

Kelly looked at herself on the mirror, the big nose being the first thing she was seeing. Tears filled her eyes as she thought of Agang’s bachelor party that was tonight. He was obviously going to see better looking women. A tear rolled down, she wiped away with the back of her hand then called him.

“Babe...”

“Are you still going to your bachelor party?”

“Yes, why?”

“Do you think it’s a mature decision to go to bachelor parties when tomorrow you are getting married?”

“Didn’t you have a bridal shower?”

“I wasn’t looking at naked men at it. Gape something is wrong with the baby. Can you come?”

“I will call a doctor for you. I am going to enjoy myself like you enjoyed yourself. I love you. I will see you tomorrow. I am switching off my phone.”

“If you go to that stupid party, we are done.”

“I love you too. Bye.”

He hung up. Kelly broke down crying, her getting even more uglier. Her cousin pressed her lips together staring at her fighting not burst into laughter.

Her phone rang, she quickly picked sniffing.

“Hello?”

Kelly’s best friend spoke. “Kelly mma, I missed the 5p.m bus. I just arrived from Jwaneng. I am at the hiking spot but eish... thamma don’t you have anyone coming there to assist me? I am stranded now.”

“Uh... let me talk to Agang’s brother.”

“My dancing partner? He’s still here?”

“Yes. If he hasn’t left yet, he can help you.”

The friend giggled. “Ok.”

“He has someone in his life. Don’t try anything. He is faithful.”

“I don’t try anything. Thank you.”

“Wait there, if he hasn’t left, he will come and pick you up.”

“Ok.”

In Gaborone, at Taung hiking spot, Atang stopped the car. Kelly’s best friend walked over with her overnight bag and opened the back door.

Atang turned to her as Botho and Lomo who were at the backseat looked at her.

“Jump in on the front passenger seat.”

“Ok.”

She closed the door and got in at the front seat. She smiled and spoke quietly as she looked at him.

“Dumelang...”

Atang looked at her and smiled back. “E kae basi?”

Letty laughed. “I missed it. I knocked off a bit late, I was in a meeting.”

“By the way, that’s my daughter, Lomo and her nanny.”

Letty turned to them. “Hi guys!”

Lomo looked at her with a frown. Botho smiled.

“Hi.”

Letty turned back to road as Atang joined the road.

“Thank you. I don’t know what I was going to do..”

“It’s ok. Who knew you would ever get stranded with the way you are so loud.”

Letty laughed. “I am not loud.”

“O modumo. (You are noisy.)”

Atang drove through the filling station and parked the car. His phone rang then he stepped out holding it. The fuel attendant walked over as the foreign number called him.

“Full tank.”

The fuel attendant nodded. “Yes Boss.”

Atang walked round the car looking at his wheels then picked.

“Yah?”

“Hey... uh I borrowed a phone. I am in London.”

“So?”

“I... I am sorry for how I spoke to your hours back. I was out of line and just tired-“

“You know what? I am sick and tired of you always being the victim! We all get tired, I get tired too but I don’t talk to you like that.”

“Babe-“

“I don’t think I can continue with this nonsense anymore. Clearly I am forcing myself into your life and I am tired of always begging. I am fed up of always chasing after you. I don’t think there is anything left to fight for.”

“I know I have been difficult. But it’s not because I don’t love you. I love you, I am just under pressure. I want to be there for you and our daughter but it’s hard. You don’t want to understand-“

“I have been nothing but understanding. You don’t see the importance of doing the small things for your daughter. You don’t see the need of loving your own daughter.”

“I can’t be fully in her life now because of circumstances. Attie it’s

hard. This was one of the reasons I didn't want kids then. But it doesn't mean I don't love her."

"You are very immature or maybe you just don't understand what being a mother is. You are not in her life at all. A simple phone call shouldn't hurt you. This is your daughter. This is your child. But I guess this is the results of growing up without a father. I just thought you would want better for your daughter but then this is you. You are all about you. I am done with you. I will gladly find someone else because there's no future in you. There never was."

He hung up and got back in his car as the fuel attendant finished up. Atang opened his wallet and handed him multiple P200 notes then drove off. His phone rang again. He picked annoyed.

"You are angry. I understand. I want better for my daughter that's why I work hard. And maybe this is the results of growing up without a father but I try. I love you, I wish you would walk a mile in my--"

"Wah ndisturber. I am driving. Stop calling me, the world doesn't revolve around you.."

Atang hung up and switched off his phone. He leaned back on his seat, his hand on the steering wheel. He looked at his phone wondering if he had been too hush but then how much begging and chasing was he supposed to do? What kind of a relationship was that? Letty looked at his pissed face and quietly looked out through the window.

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.Yours Truly

#79

The following day early in the morning, Atang drove in Kasane. He looked at the time as light droplets of rain fell on the windshield. He looked at Letty who was sleeping then turned to the back and looked at his daughter also sleeping. He sighed then drove to the lodge where Kelly was. He parked by the gate.

“Letty...”

She slowly woke up then looked around. She smiled.

“We have arrived?”

“Yeah...”

“Thank you.”

“Yeah sure...”

“See you later.”

He nodded and watched her step out. Atang reversed and drove to his parents house. He drove through inside that gate and parked besides his brother.

He stepped out of the car then opened the back door and picked his daughter.

“Botho!”

Botho snapped her eyes open then yawned. She got their bags

and followed him inside the house as the showers of rain continued.

Mmagwe Atang smiled as Atang put Lomo who was awake now down.

“My baby...” She hugged her. Atang kissed his mother’s cheek and walked to Agang’s room. He opened it and looked at him sleeping across the bed.

“Agang!”

Agang jumped waking up. He touched his head.

“Fuck!”

“Wake up, wa nyala mister!”

Agang got off the bed. “What time did you arrive?”

“Now. You need to bath. You are stinking.”

Agang nodded rubbing his eyes. “Did you talk to Thabi?”

“I am done with her. I am moving on. I have been wasting my time. I thought if I was being patient with her but I am in the relationship alone.”

Their father walked in and looked at Atang. “I told you.”

Atang sighed. “Yeah.”

“Your problem is you are pushy. She doesn’t love you, not enough for anything. Maybe if you were not pushy, you could have seen that. You have wasted eight years over a woman who doesn’t even love you. Sometimes love is not everything Atang. A lot of

things have to make it work. Now at your stage, the goal is to find someone who understands you have a daughter, someone who can love your daughter and take care of her. Your goal is to find someone who can love and respect you. Who can help you conquer. We all have been in love, crazy in love like you but when you understand that love is not everything, you will know just right woman for you.”

“Eerra.”

Agang sighed. “I really liked Thabi.”

Rragwe Atang nodded. “I did too. But we can’t always have what we want. Go and bath. O bata gore dia. You hired a yacht so we can enjoy the wedding inside.. I don’t want to be delayed.”

Agang laughed walking out. Rragwe Atang looked at Atang and smiled.

“You tried. It’s time to let go. Lomo needs a present mother. You need a real woman by your side. You need another child. Lomo is lonely. I know where your heart is... love is a funny thing my boy but sometimes you need to use logic.”

“You are right.”

“Good. We are going to enjoy today and celebrate your brother.”

Rragwe Atang hugged him to then walked out.

The make-up artist finished working on Kelly's face. Kelly slowly turned to the mirror and smiled staring at her snatched nose.

"I look better."

The make-up artist. "I told you not to worry. I looked worse when I was pregnant."

Kelly smiled. "I didn't get like that when I was carrying my older son."

"This one is a girl?"

Kelly laughed. "No. It's a boy. Thank you."

Letty walked out of the bathroom already dressed in her best lady's dress. She smiled.

Kelly smiled back. "You look so beautiful."

"Thanks."

Kelly looked at her best friend's body and smiled. "I can't wait to get my body back."

"Soon. You look beautiful."

"Thank you."

Letty got the white gown and helped her put it on. Kelly's mother walked in and smiled.

"Wow..."

Letty fixed the dresses cape smiling. She took the veil and pinned it in her beautifully styled hair. Kelly put on the block heels and

tearfully smiled.

“I look beautiful.”

Her mother hugged her from behind. “You are.”

Agang walked out of the house with his brother almost over an hour later, both of them in their slim fitting tuxedos.

One of their aunt’s ululated. Rragwe Atang walked out and stood between the boys in his tuxedo smiling as the photographer snapped pictures.

Prince drove in and walked over in his suit. He bumped fists with Agang smiling and joined them for pictures.

Rragwe Atang smiled. “Lets go to the church and get married. The yacht is waiting for us.”

They walked to their cars, Atang got in on the driver’s seat in Agang’s car. Prince walked to his car. Everyone jumped in their cars and drove off headed to church where they were going to meet the rest of the groomsmen.

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At church, Atang and Agang stepped out of the car and walked inside the church with everyone else. They walked to the alter and waited with the Reverend.

Atang's phone vibrated, he took it out and picked

"Batang..."

"Hi Uncle A!"

"Whats up?"

"Where is the wedding being held?"

"After church, we are going to a yacht. Why? Are you here?"

"No. I just getting ready to brag."

"I wish you came."

Batang laughed. "Assignments have me breathing through the stroll ebile I have been checking how much male prostitutes earn. It's not that bad."

Atang laughed. "O bua masepa."

"It's hard but I am happy this is happening."

"Yeah, me too. Uh, I am coming back tomorrow. I want us to talk about something."

"What?"

"We will talk. Do your assignment."

"Oh ok."

“Sharp.”

He hung up and put the phone on silent just as Letty walked in the long body hugging dress. She looked at him and smiled looking down. Atang smiled and looked back at the church’s entrance as Kelly walked in with her mother.

Agang swallowed staring, his heart racing. She slowly advanced then her mother handed her over. He smiled shaking. Kelly looked at him and whispered.

“You look so handsome...”

Atang stepped back and sat down with Prince. He watched as Letty got Kelly’s flowers and sat down. He noticed a couple of eyes on her and sighed leaning back on his chair.

In Gaborone, Zaza looked at the wedding pictures later that day. She took a deep breath then put down her phone as her husband walked from the kitchen holding lunch.

Zaza smiled. “Finally!”

Her husband smiled. “Chef Thuso in the house “

She smiled. Her phone rang, she took it out and picked Batang’s call.

“Batang...”

“Hi... I am done at school. Can I come and pick the car? Thabi is on her way here from SA. I was still doing my assignment, I just saw the message she sent 30 minutes back saying she was checking in to fly this side.”

Zaza smiled. “Ok. You can come.”

“I will be there in a couple of minutes.”

“Ok.”

Zaza hung up and looked at Thuso. “Thabi is coming, she asked for my car so she can go to Kasane. She’s a bride to that family.”

Thuso nodded. “That’s ok.”

Twenty minutes later, Batang reversed out of Zaza’s yard in her Porsche. He drove off picking Lebo’s call.

“Hi, are you still coming?”

“Yes. I am going to pick my sister’s from the airport.”

“Ok, I miss you.”

He smiled. “I miss you too.”

“Ok, I have to go. I am still at the funeral.”

“Cool, I love you.”

“I love you too.”

He hung up and called his other girlfriend.

“Batang..”

“Hey, I am leaving now..”

She sighed. “Ok.”

“How are you feeling?”

“I am in pain. But it should be over soon.”

“I am sorry. But you know why we decided on abortion akere?”

She grunted. “Ng..”

“I love you.”

“I love you too.”

He dropped the call. Over twenty minutes later he parked at the airport then hurried inside. His heart skipped as his sister walked over dragging her bag in her size 38 jeans and a jacket. Thabi fixed her cap as her long shiny weave fell on her shoulders.

She hugged her brother. “Hey!”

He looked at her smiling. “You look beautiful. O kare a Hollywood actresses.”

Thabi laughed. “Lets go.”

They walked out to Zaza’s car. Thabi smiled staring at the Porche then jumped in on the driver’s seat. She rolled down the window breathing in... tears filled her eyes as she thought of the day she

had last been here. How many years was that ago...? She smiled then looked at Batang.

"I haven't been here in-"

"Eight years."

She laughed tearfully. "Should we go?"

"Yes."

She started the car and drove off. She looked at the time.

"My memory is a bit jagged."

"I got you."

"Call Attie."

Batang called Atang as Thabi drove. She slowed down by the traffic light and looked on her side. A combi driver looked at her to and swallowed.

"Tlhamma o montle."

Thabi smiled. "Thank you."

He smiled at her accent then cleared his throat.

"O Motswana?"

Thabi laughed taking off. "Eerra."

Batang looked at her and smiled. "You don't look local waitse. He's not picking."

"It's ok. We will arrive really late at night."

“Yes...” He smiled. “Happiness is going to kill him.

Thabi smiled driving out of Gaborone, her heart pounding. She looked at her engagement ring on her finger as excitement of telling him she was ready for a wedding rushed throughout her body. Her smile grew as she thought of her daughter.

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Yours Truly

#80

In Kasane, later that day, Botho handed Lomo a glass of juice. Lomo looked at her.

“Can you please call my mom.”

Botho sat down. “I don’t have your mom’s number Lomo. You will ask your dad.”

Tears filled her eyes. “He won’t call her.”

“He will. Don’t cry.”

Lomo looked down, tears filling her eyes. Botho sat with her in the car as the married ladies advised Kelly in the house while the married men spoke to Agang.

Atang walked over pressing his phone and got in the car. He looked at Lomo.

“Are you ok princess?”

Lomo put her hand on her face crying. Botho took the glass of juice from her. Atang put his phone down then hugged her. “

“What’s going on?”

“I want mama.”

Atang sighed then took his phone and tried calling the number she had called him with yesterday but it didn’t go through. He

went to her Whatsapp and looked at her online status. He tapped the call icon and put the phone on his ear.

“Attie..”

“Hey, please talk to your daughter.”

“Ok.”

Atang handed Lomo the phone.

“Hello?”

“Hey baby.. “

Lomo cried more holding the phone.

“Lomo... “

“I want to come there.”

“I am coming to you. It’s ok...”

“I want to come there. You won’t come.”

“Ok. Ok... you will come. Tomorrow we will be together I promise.”

“You are buying the flight ticket for me and daddy?”

“Yes. Tomorrow we will be together. Don’t cry.”

She sniffed panting. “We are going to stay with you?”

“Yes. Yes. You will stay with me.”

“Ok. You promise?”

“Yes. I promise. I love you so much.”

“I love you too.”

Letty walked over to Atang smiling. “Hi... therra can you please drop me off at the lodge.”

Atang moved from his daughter.

“Yeah..”

On the phone, Thabi sighed. “Who’s daddy talking to?”

“I don’t know her, we came with her to the wedding.”

“Ok. Give daddy the phone.”

Lomo jumped out of the car and handed her father the phone.

Atang sighed putting the phone on his ear. “What?”

“Who are you dropping at the lodge?”

“Are you done talking to Lomo?”

“Yes, I-”

“Besides our daughter, you and I have nothing to talk about. Bye.”

He hung up and looked at Letty. “Yeah, I can drop you off.”

“Thank you.”

Atang looked at Lomo who was smiling. “You happy?”

“Yes.”

He looked at Botho. “Go inside. I am dropping her off.”

“Eerra.”

Botho stepped out of the car and led Lomo inside the house. Letty got in the car with Atang.

“The wedding was beautiful.”

Atang looked at her with a smile. Letty caught him staring at smiled shyly.

“What’s wrong?”

He shook his head with a smile and drove out of the yard.

In Francistown, Thabi waited for Batang who had went to the toilet at the filling station. She called Atang, her heart pounding.

He cut the call. Tears itched her eyes. She called him again but it just rang unanswered. She swallowed scrolling through her contacts and called Agang.

“Hello?”

Thabi sighed listening to him panting. “I am sorry. I know you are busy and-“

“Its ok. I wasn’t doing anything.”

She smiled. “O hema hema eng yaanong?”

“I was drinking water.”

She laughed. “Ok. Is your brother anywhere close by?”

“Uh... wait. Let me look for him. I will call you now.”

He hung. Minutes later he called her back.

“I think he went to get something. Lomo is at home.”

“Please call him. Tell him I am leaving Francistown, I will be there possibly by midnight. Can he not sleep with that girl he’s dropping off at the lodge? I want us to fix things. O ngadile but can he not bring another woman into this, I love him. We can work out something. I am thinking of coming back home and finishing off this side. I love him. Can we not hurt each other by bringing third parties into our relationship? I am willing to compromise. I know I have been unfair on him.”

“Let me call him. You are here?”

“Yes. Call him. I know I have been slacking on my part but I am here now.”

“Ok.”

Thabi hung up just as Batang got in the car.

“We can go.”

Thabi started the car and joined the road headed to Kasane.

Agang dialed Atang’s number but his phone was off. He called Botho again

“Who did he leave with?”

“Mmagwe Loapi’s friend. The one was di hips.”

Agang walked back inside the hotel room and looked at his wife sleeping. He kissed her cheek.

“Babe... wake up.”

Kelly opened her sleepy eyes. “What?”

“Call your friend. I want to speak with Atang. He’s with her.”

He handed her the phone. Kelly sighed and called her but the phone was off.

“It’s not going through.”

“Thabi is coming.”

Kelly sighed. “She won’t sleep with him. She knows about Thabi.”

Agang took a deep breath then sent his brother a message.

Agang: Thabi just called me. She’s on her way here, she said she’s in Francistown now. She should arrive late tonight. Please don’t sleep with Kelly’s friend and destroy whatever that is left between you and Thabi. I know you love her, o seka wa reetsa Papa. There is sadder about marrying someone you know you don’t love especially when there is someone you already love. She’s here meaning you guys can now discuss ways to do things. That woman loves you. She might not be excellent at showing it but she loves you.

He sent the message and sighed hopeful.

Just after twelve midnight, Thabi looked at the board written Maun and smiled driving.

“At last! I am do tired.”

Batang smiled. “Should I look for a Lodge or what?”

“Yeah. I will call Agang in the morning. It’s late right night. People are already sleeping. I don’t want to disturb them.”

“Ok.”

Batang took out his phone and searched for lodges while his sister drove.

“There is this one. They have two rooms available.”

“Ok. Call them. Tell them we are coming. Also get directions.”

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At the lodge, Thabi parked her car and leaned back beyond tired. Batang swallowed staring at the Ford Ranger.

Thabi looked at him. “What?”

“Uncle Atang’s car.”

Thabi looked at the Ford Ranger. "Cars look alike."

"No. That's his. That's his number plate. He's here " He smiled.

"He is here!"

Thabi swallowed then stepped out of the car, her heart pounding. She walked inside the lodge and smiled at the receptionist.

"Hi. We called you a while back. For the two rooms."

The receptionist cleared her throat going through her English in her head.

"Yes mam. They are still available."

Thabi opened her wallet and took out the money paying. The receptionists gave them the keys then led them to their rooms. Batang walked in his.

"Goodnight sis!"

She nodded then looked at the receptionist as Batang closed his door. She opened her purse and took out a \$100 note then gave it to her.

"The Ford Ranger outside... where is the owner?"

The receptionist quickly put the money in her breast and pointed at the room besides Thabi's. She smiled.

"Is it a couple?"

"Yes mam."

"Thanks."

The receptionist walked away. Thabi took a deep breath and knocked on the door. She knocked louder, her heart racing.

She swallowed as a lady opened, a towel around her body with her hair facing all directions as if she was a cartoon.

“Hi..”

Thabi pushed her out of her way and walked in the room.

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Yours Truly

#81

In Kasane, Thabi pushed her out of the way walking in. Letty looked at her.

“Excuse me, who are you?”

Thabi looked around the room then looked at his cum dripping down her leg. She looked around, her heart pounding so much, it felt like it was vibrating.

Letty fixed her towel. “Who are you?”

Thabi looked at her. “Where is he?”

“Who?”

“Where is Atang?”

“Who is Atang?”

“Love, we don’t have to do this... it’s unnecessary. Where is he? I am here for him not you.”

“O bua ka eng? I don’t know who Atang is.”

Thabi looked around but there was nothing though she could smell the sex and his cologne. The cologne she had bought him.

“I can smell his cologne.”

“Your man is not the only one with that cologne. You are harassing me. I am calling security. This is my room. Get out.”

“Honey, that perfume is limited edition, do you hear me? He is the only one with it mo Botswana. It’s a new brand. Where is he?”

Letty swallowed, her heart pounding. “I don’t know any Atang.”

“Where is your man then?”

“He left. Please leave my room.”

Thabi walked to the closet and opened. She swallowed then moved the curtains. Every part of her being told her he was in that room. Tears filled her eyes as she walked to the bathroom but there was no one. She walked back in the room and tearfully looked at her.

“Where is my husband?”

“Mma, there is no Atang here. Please leave!”

Thabi’s eyes moved around as her heart pounded so much it felt like it was about to leap out and run off.

“I am not fighting. Where is he?”

She looked at the bed then knelt looking underneath. She slowly got up laughing as a tear rolled down.

“Rraetsho, come out. Kante keng o ntira semata? Come out. I am not fighting.”

Letty looked at her and swallowed holding her towel. Atang slowly came out from under the bed. Thabi looked at him.

“Gawa apara borokgwe sente. (Your pants are inside out.)”

He looked at his pants and slowly took them off and wore them

properly.

“Why are you hiding? Do I beat you?”

“Its not what you think.”

“Is she your cousin?”

He swallowed by shaking.

“Rragwe Lelomo, is she your cousin?”

He shook his head. Letty moved to the bathroom door staring at Thabi ready to hide.

“I am talking to you Atang.”

He looked at her tearfully. “You broke up with me.”

“Why are you hiding then? Why are you hiding?”

He remained quiet. Thabi looked at him, her heart breaking. She swallowed holding her tears.

“Why are you hiding Atang? Akere we broke up? What are you doing under the bed?”

Thabi looked at Letty. “Introduce us rra.”

He looked at Letty. “This is my wife.” He turned back to Thabi. “I don’t know her.”

“What are you doing here if you don’t know her?”

Tears rolled down her cheeks as the pain weekend her.

“Where are the condoms you were using?”

"I didn't sleep with her."

"I am not stupid Atang! Tsis di condom!" She angrily looked at Letty. "Did he use a condom?"

She shook her head. "No."

"You didn't use condoms?"

He swallowed looking down. She angrily picked the side lamp in the room and threw it at him angrily.

"Ke bua le wena dammit! (I am talking to you dammit!)"

He put his arms on his face as it crushed breaking on him. Letty got in the bathroom and locked the door shaking with fear.

She looked at him. "Why didn't you use condoms?"

"I am sorry."

"Why didn't you use condoms?"

He put his bleeding arms down. "I wasn't thinking straight. I am sorry. It doesn't mean anything."

"Is that all you have to say?"

"Babe o ntswere, o bata ke reng? (You caught me, what do you want me to say?) I am sorry. I was stressed. I needed a distraction. You said I should replace you."

"So you replaced me?"

He rubbed his eyes. "I love you but you were breaking up with me yesterday."

“I am asking you if you have replaced me! Bua !(Talk!)”

“You broke up with me. I was going through a lot. After 8 years you tell me you want to settle in L.A. I was stressed.”

“Is she your girlfriend?”

“She is a nobody.”

Her heart raced so much as pain choked her.

He looked at her tearfully. “I am sorry. You were breaking up with me. I have been nothing but patient. I have done nothing but love you the best way I can. I have given you everything and have been faithful. I was frustrated. I just wanted to forget. I have no more excuses. It was just sex, it meant nothing. I love you but if you want to dump me for her, it’s ok. You have been wanting to do it for a while now.”

She nodded. “Ok. Goodnight.”

“I love you.”

She turned and opened the door just as the lodge security walked over. He looked at her.

“I was called to this room.”

She walked past him and got in her room. She sat on the bed for minutes as her brain processed. She put her hands on her face crying. Her heart ached so much, she gasped as a sharp struck her chest.

Thabi put her hand on her chest crying, her chest tightening. She slowly slid to the floor gasping, tears rolling down. She grabbed

the sheets fighting to breathe, the sharp getting more worse. She weakly laid down making sounds, her hand on her chest then finally stopped, her body remaining still with no movement.

In the next room, Atang picked his things while Letty watched.

“Is she going to sue me?”

Atang walked out and put his things in his car. He switched on his phone and opened Agang’s message. He closed his eyes feeling even more weak.

He looked at her room then slowly walked over then paused halfway. She was too angry. He sent back to his car and sat down. She needed time to calm down. His phone rang, he picked with a sigh.

“Yah?”

“Did you see my message? Thabi is coming. Mister, where are you?”

“She caught me.”

“So you slept with that whore because she has hips? I hope you used a condom because she has HIV!”

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Yours Truly

#82

“So you went ahead and slept with that whore with hips? I hope you used a condom because she has HIV.”

Atang’s heart skipped. “What?”

“Did you use a condom?”

“It happened in the rush of the moment.”

“Kana waaka Atang. You knew you were going to fuck her. Why can’t you just love Thabi right? What does it take from you to love her right? Is it hard for you to love her right? I just don’t believe it should be hard for you to love such a woman.”

“Agang you wouldn’t understand.”

“I understand you are a piece of shit. I hope she doesn’t take you back and you live to watch another man love her right. Wa bora, she was willing to move for you. All that was needed was patience. You don’t deserve her. You never did.”

“I know I fucked up-“

“Fucking up is your specialty. Nxla msunu! I hope she doesn’t take you back. Soon enough she won’t just be Thabi, she will be Dr. Kaisara, a surgeon. But you won’t enjoy the feeling of having a smart woman who’s capable on your side, wena you can’t relate to that, akere wena your type is low class HIV infested vaginas.”

“O ra mang ore msunu?”

“Who else am I talking to if not you. O marete gape. Nxla! Dithala!”

He hung up. Atang stepped out of the car and walked back to Letty’s room. He paused about knock, now he would seem like he was back for more. He turned and walked back to his car without shoes.

He grabbed his phone is about to call her then sighed realizing he didn’t even have her number. He on his hands on his face feeling as if his world was crumbling down.

That same night, rragwe Atang’s phone rang waking him up from his sleep. He reached for it on his side.

“Agang?”

“Do you love mama?”

“What? Boy you called me in the middle of the night for such nonsense? Why are you not having sex right now?”

“Answer me.”

“Yes, I love your mother Agang. What’s going on with you?”

“You know Atang loved Rethabile, why did you fill his head with nonsense earlier on?”

“Boy-“

“Why are you robbing him the chance to also marry for love?”

“I said love is not enough. 8 years is enough time-“

“Why is his 8 years bothering you? Are you the one waiting?”

“Boy who do you think you are talking to?”

“I am talking to you. You just ruined Atang’s marriage. I hope you are happy that now he can go and look for a woman he doesn’t love and settle for the sake of settling.”

“Agang... you are angry at me but I am lost. I am your father, I don’t like your tone.”

Agang dropped the call. Mmagwe Atang looked at her husband.

“What is it?”

“Now that he has a ring on his finger he thinks he can talk to me anyhow.”

Letty sat in the bathroom holding the phone.

“So you slept with him without a condom knowing your status?”

Letty sniffed. “It all happened too fast. One moment he was kissing me and the next he is pushing in his big dick. I didn’t even enjoy it. He was so rough. It was painful.”

Kelly angrily shouted. "Why did you sleep with him? Did he rape you?? Now it looks like I brought my whoring friend to ruin his marriage. Why?"

Letty sniffed. "It was a mistake. I am scared she is going to sue."

"She should. Koore o tsamekela mo manyalong a rona. This people have been together for ten no years and you just came with your smelling vagina "

Letty broke down crying ad Kelly hung up.

At the lodge, the following morning, Batang yawned walking out of his room. He paused staring at Atang's car then walked over. He smiled looking at Atang in his car shirtless. He knocked on the window confused.

Atang woke up and looked at him. He rolled down the window.

"Buddy..."

"I saw your car yesterday. I have a surprise for you."

Atang swallowed. "Yeah?"

"Yes. Wait in the car. I am coming."

Batang hurried to his sister's door then knocked. He waited a couple of seconds and opened the door knowing she was probably still sleeping.

“Thabi, I told you. It was uncle...”

His voice trailed as he looked at Thabi on the floor. He swallowed at her position.

“Thabi!”

His heart pounded as he looked at her. He slowly knelt before her and touched her face.

“Thabi...”

She remained still. He shook her as a cold chill ran down his spine.

Atang slowly opened the door and looked at her. His heart dropped.

“Thabi!”

Batang looked at him crying. “She is not waking up!”

He walked over and touched her unconscious body.

“Babe...”

Atang got up and picked her up. Batang rushed to the car and opened the door. Atang put her inside then jumped in. Batang jumped in at the passenger seat. Atang started the car and drove off.

At the hospital, Batang’s heart pounded as he waited with Atang.

Somehow sitting there just reminded him of his mother. He never seem to forget the fear... the fear whenever he visited his mother at the hospital.

Atang looked at him. "She's ok."

Batang nodded. "I am just scared. I get scared."

"It's ok to be scared."

He forced a smile. "She said she is coming back. And that she wants to marry you. Act surprised when she tells you. I am so happy. It feels like each puzzle is finding it's place."

Atang blinked. "She wants to get married?"

"Yes. She is coming back. Lomo is going to be do happy. She gets to grow up with both parents."

Atang nodded. "Yeah..."

The doctor to walked over to them minutes later.

He looked at both of them.

"I would like to speak to the family."

Atang stood up. "I am her husband. This is her brother. Is everything ok?"

The doctor looked at both of them.

"Unfortunately she suffered a major heart attack."

Atang swallowed. "And? Is she ok?"

The doctor swallowed unsure of how to explain to them.

Yours Truly

#83

At the hospital, the doctor sat with them in his office.

“Rethabile had a heart attack, a severe heart attack. Is this her first time?”

Batang shook his head. “No. She once had a heart attack before. But it was mild. It was due to intense pain. What’s going to happen then?”

“Her heart stopped. Completely. She had sudden cardiac arrest. But it started again I assume in seconds. Sometimes if the heart stops completely, it will restart itself within a few seconds and return to a normal electrical pattern. But we are not sure how many seconds or minutes Thabi went on without oxygen to her brain and this means there is a possibility of brain damage. And we will only know just how severe it is when she wakes up. The good thing is that she is not brain dead. There is hope.”

Atang swallowed. “And when will she wake up?”

“I don’t know. It might be today. It might be tomorrow. Next week. Next month... it depends on her.”

Batang looked down then put his hands on his face. Atang hugged him.

“She is going to be ok.”

“I should have be checked up on her.”

“You wouldn’t have known. She will be fine.”

The doctor sadly looked at them. “I am sorry.”

Atang nodded. “Can we see her?”

“Yes.”

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At Thabi’s room, Batang held his sister’s hand tearfully. He opened his mouth to say something nothing came out, rather tears rolled down. He wiped then with the back of his hand unable to believe that this was happening.

He walked out minutes later sniffing. Atang looked at him.

“You can wait in the car. I am coming.”

He nodded getting the car keys and walked away. Atang walked in the room. He slowly walked over to bed, knees weak. He touched her hand, tears filling his eyes.

“Hi... ”

She remained still. He swallowed, guilty making it hard for him to breathe.

“I am sorry. For everything I have ever put you through. I don’t deserve you. You are here today because of me. You deserve better. You deserve the best. You are not perfect but you deserve better. I am so sorry.”

A tear fell on her head. He wiped it away then kissed her hand. "I love you. I love you more than anything. I am having you transferred. You will get better help."

He sniffed kissing her forehead then walked out. His phone rang as he walked to his car, his head slouched.

"Papa..."

"What is going on?"

"I messed up. She's never going to take me back."

"What did you do? Agang called me last night. He was angry he spoke to me like I was his friend. He was disrespectful."

"I am sorry. I am the problem."

"What happened?"

Atang took a deep breath and briefly explained.

"So she's at the hospital right now?"

"Yes. She was going to compromise and move here. She wanted us to get married. If only I had been just a little more patient. Just a bit more patient."

"I am sorry my boy. I was the influencer. I just thought I was looking after you. "

"I have lost her. I have lost her for good. What do I do? She's on that hospital bed because of me."

"Do what you feel is right. Whatever decision you take, I will stand with you."

Kelly looked at Agang walking out of the bathroom after taking a bath.

“Babe, are you ok?”

“Yeah...”

“Why are you upset? I swear I didn’t know Letty was going to do that.”

“But you knew your friend is a whore. You knew she had a crush on Atang.”

“Agang-“

He dropped the towel. She looked at his weapon and put her thighs together. Just staring at it had her soaking.

He dressed up and sighed. “I am going to see Thabi. She had a heart attack.”

Kelly looked at him. “Because of Letty?”

He picked his car keys. “I will come and pick you up then we can go.” He kissed her cheek and sighed. “I am not angry at you. I love you.”

She held his hand. “Kea kopa. (Can I please have.)”

He stared at her bump then sighed. “I am not comfortable doing it

when you are this far. I feel like I am poking the baby.”

“You are not poking the baby.”

He swallowed. “Can we just do it after you give birth?”

“I will be going on maternity leave then. We won’t be having sex.”

“I know. I will wait. Bye.”

He hurried out. Tears filled Kelly’s eyes as her p*ssy throbbed.

Zaza held her phone talking to Batang.

“What are the doctors saying?”

“He said he won’t know just how damaged her brain is if it is because he’s not sure if after how long did her heart restart itself.”

“And Atang?”

“He spoke with his friend in Gaborone. She’s getting transferred there.”

“I have read about the heart restarting itself. It takes a few seconds for it to happen. Less than ten. I am sure that’s not too much for her to have brain damage so don’t worry. She will be ok. Atang is on top of this.”

“We are going home to see Lomo.”

Zaza smiled. "You what? Thabi hearing Lomo's voice will be the motive she needs to wake up."

"I hope so."

"Ok, we will talk."

"Bye."

She hung up and continued watering her plants. She looked at her hand shaking then paused thinking of Thabi. She got even more worried then walked to her garden chairs and sat down.

At the hospital in Kasane, Agang walked in Thabi's room and sighed staring at her connected to machines. He stood on the be side of her bed staring at her.

He stood by just staring at her for minutes then slowly reached for her hand unsure of what to even say... where to begin.

His phone vibrated. He took it out and looked at his father calling. He let go of Thabi's hand picking.

"Rra?"

"Can you come home so we can talk. Your brother is on his way here."

"I have nothing to say to Atang."

“Agang... come. Be here in twenty minutes.”

He dropped the call then looked at Thabi for minutes holding her hand then finally walked out.

Botho finished bathing in the bathroom then turned off the water in the shower. She quickly dried herself then put on her clothes and walked out. Atang looked at her as walked over.

“Where is Lomo?”

“In the room.”

He walked over and opened the door. He looked at her already dressed up.

She jumped off the bed smiling. “We are going to mama now? She said we will be together today.”

Atang took a deep breath. “Yes. But not right now. I have to bath and change. But uncle Batang is here.”

She gasped. “He is also going?”

“Yes. Botho please take her outside to Batang.”

“Eerra.”

He walked out pressing his phone and went to his father’s study room. He knocked and walked in. The old man looked at him.

“Sit down. Where is your brother?”

Agang opened the door walking in. Their father sighed staring at two grown men, tall and big. He took a deep breath.

“Are you just going to stand? Sit down.”

They both sat down.

“Maybe I am to blame. I know you are looking for someone to blame Agang, and maybe I am to blame. When I said Atang should find someone who will love him and respect him, I said it looking at the situation. Maybe if I also knew that mmagwe Lomo was coming I would not have said anything. I was looking out for your brother but I understand your frustration. What happened has happened and-“

“What happened should not have happened. Do you fall out of love that quickly?”

Atang looked at Agang. “What exactly is your problem? Do you want Thabile? Are you after my wife?”

Agang paused then smiled sadly. “So you think I want mmagwe Lomo? That I want the woman you love? Koore you just can’t see your faults, you want to turn it on someone.”

Atang sighed. “I am having her transferred to my Gaborone.”

“I don’t want your wife. I care about her because you love her. I just want you to be happy. I know you love her, no normal human being can stay 5 years getting bear minimum unless you are really in love. I am sad instead of putting your foot down with Rethabile,

you went to a new vagina. How do you unlove a person so fast?"

"It was a mistake. And I love her. It was just sex."

"You fucked her round after round. And you are disrespectful to the level of not using a condom. You don't deserve Thabile. When she wakes up I hope she realizes you can't tame a wild animal.... It will always go back to the wilderness."

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Yours Truly

#84

Their father looked at them.

“Agang, we get that you are angry-“

“I am talking to Agang. Did you get the treatments? Areye mister, at least let’s deal with your unfaithfulness only. Did she see you didn’t use a condom?”

“Yeah...”

“O jele error. You have lost her. After this don’t even bother yourself. Just stay away.”

“Kana Thabi dumped me already. She’s been wanting to end our relationship for a while now.”

“She thought she was doing what was best for you. But she was coming for you. Traveled thousand miles for you. Then drove for over ten hours for you. Now imagine someone enjoying her... and trust me... someone is going to enjoy her. Let’s go.”

Their father sighed standing up. “Le ta isota akere?”

The brothers walked discussing getting tested. Mmagwe Atang walked in.

“What were you talking to them about?”

“They were talking between themselves. I was just here for display.”

"I long told you to stop involving yourself in their issues. They always sort it out. They have been like that since they were born. Now you are the one that looks like an idiot bone ba ile."

Agang smiled at his niece who was standing besides Batang holding his hand.

"You look beautiful. I love your hair."

Lomo smiled. "We are flying to America. We are going to see mama."

Agang looked at Batang. "All will be well. You know your sister is strong. She jump started her own heart. How many people do you know do that?"

Batang smiled. "She is strong. Maybe it was exhaustion. She didn't let me drive. She drove all alone for hours."

Atang walked out of the house now clean. Botho followed behind him holding her and Lomo' small bag. Agang got in the car with Lomo then Botho sat at the front passenger seat.

Agang looked at his brother. "I am behind you. I already spoke to someone to assist you as soon as we arrive."

"Ok. Thanks."

Agang nodded and walked to his car. He dialed Letty as his

brother drove out.

“Hello?”

“Hey, it’s Agang. Where are you?”

“I am waiting for the bus to Maun. I am sorry for what happened. Please tell him that my viral load is undetectable. But he can go and get treatment if he has doubts.”

“No... wait. Don’t go yet. Can I come and pick you up? I want to give you something.”

“Does Kelly know about this?”

“Wait for me. Or go back to the lodge. I will come and give it to you there.”

“Agang Kelly is my friend-“

“I will meet you at the hotel in maybe an hour. I am still doing something right now.”

He hung up and drove behind his brother.

At the hospital, Atang walked with his daughter in Thabi’s room. Lomo looked at her mother lying still on the hospital bed. She walked over and held her hand.

“Mama...”

Atang swallowed and walked over. "Lomo... remember what I said? She won't be able to talk to you back but she can hear you."

Tears filled her eyes. "Is she going to die."

"No. She is not going to die. She is not dying. She won't die because she loves you."

Lomo sniffed then turned to her mother and touched her hand.

"Mama..."

She climbed on the bed and touched her mother's face. She laid on her side, her hand over her mother. Atang sat down and held Thabi's hand.

Lomo looked at her father. "Are we going to America?"

"Not now. She wanted to surprise us so she came to us."

"When she wakes up we are going home right?"

"Yes."

"I can't wait to show her my room. And our house. Is she going to leave?"

"Yes but one day she is going to take you and you will live in America with her. You will love it."

Lomo smiled happily. Atang looked at Thabi and sighed sadly. He kissed her hand, she moved her hand slightly.

Atang's heart skipped, he stared at her hand wondering if he had imagined it. He waited staring at her hand but nothing happened. He took a deep breath moving closer holding her.

Agang walked inside the room and looked at Letty. She stood up putting her hands behind her.

Agang took out the emergency pills. "I got you these. Drink the first one."

"I was going to buy them."

"Good thing I have saved you money."

He handed her the bottle of water. She drank the first one and sighed.

"I will drink the other one. I have to go."

"Open your mouth."

Letty opened her mouth. Agang looked.

"Lift your tongue. I want to see underneath."

She lifted her tongue then moved it around so he could check every corner.

"I swallowed. I don't want a child. She will sue me."

"You will go tomorrow. I will come later so you can take the other one. I don't trust you. If you could open your legs and let him fuck without a condom, what will stop you from wanting to keep his child?"

“I don’t have money to pay for accommodation here.”

“I will pay for it. If I don’t find you here, I will hunt you down and find you.”

He walked out. Letty slowly walked to the bathroom and pulled down her panty to pee.

“Ahh!” She flinched as her warm pee burnt her already burning sore meat. Tears filled her eyes as held her pee. She took a deep breath and let it out. The pain had her tears rolling down her cheeks as she sat on the toilet seat.

Agang got in his car picking Kelly’s call.

“Babe...”

She started crying.

“Hey... what’s wrong?”

She continued crying. Agang started the car and drove off headed back to the hotel. He rushed inside and knocked on the door. Kelly opened naked while sniffing.

Agang walked inside hugging her then closed the door with his foot.

“Hey... what happened?”

“How was Thabi?”

“She is not responsive at the moment but she will be fine.”

“Am I too ugly?”

He sighed knowing where it was going.

“Kelly...the doctor said we should take it easy. We had sex last night.”

“I feel like you don’t love. This is your child. I didn’t make myself pregnant. Why do I have to suffer?”

He smiled. “I am suffering with you.”

She put her hand inside his pants and touched it. Agang laid her on the bed staring at her belly. He laid her on the side and laid behind her taking it out. She stuck out her butt breathing heavily.

He parted her butt stroking himself and pushed in. He paused with only had dick in and gently tapped her careful not the go in way deeper.

The nurse smiled at him handing him his PEP medication.

“You have to get tested again after three months so make sure you test again.”

“Yeah thanks.”

Atang stood up and walked out going to the car where Batang was already waiting with Lomo and Botho.

“Mr. Daniel!”

Atang turned and looked at Thabi’s nurse who was running over.

“You need to come back.”

He frowned. “What happened?”

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Yours Truly

#85

The nurse opened the door to Thabi's room. Atang walked in and found the doctor with Thabi who was awake. His heart raced as he rushed over to her side.

"Babe..." He looked at the doctor. "Is she ok?"

The doctor smiled. "Yes. It means it took her heart just seconds before it restarted itself. It doesn't always happen, it barely happens."

He touched her hand and smiled. "Hey..."

The doctor touched her shoulder. "You have to take it easy. Keep calm."

He smiled and walked out. Atang touched her cheek.

"You scared the shit out of me."

She looked at him and sighed. "Where is my daughter?"

"They are outside in the car. I am sorry."

She smiled, tears filling her eyes. "But how is it easy for you? You always say you love me... how is it easy for you to hurt someone you love? It comes naturally to you or what? How is it easy for you to hurt me? I don't understand."

He swallowed. "I am not going to make excuses. I was frustrated. I was angry. Angry and frustrated because you don't seem to see

my efforts if you find it easy to say the way things you say sometimes or just the way you say it. And I took it all because I messed up things to begin with. I told myself I would be patient with us. Take it day by day but sometimes you don't seem to be on the same page with me. Nkare ka go forca and maybe I am and it was all because I love you. You are always telling me to replace you... do you realize that every argument we have had... it ended with you telling me to replace you? I don't think it's fair that after I give you my all, you get to throw that on my face. I knew your program would be demanding. We all knew it would be demanding babe... we discussed this..." He smiled tearfully. "And we had a plan in place. But just a call seems to take so much from you. Just a text... it takes away so much from you."

He rubbed his eyes. "I was angry, frustrated and hurt. Because I also get hurt... I am human. I might not show it but I get hurt. She was a distraction. And you caught me. I am sorry. I am sorry for all the hurt. I am sorry for Lomo. I am sorry that I got you pregnant and now it makes you look like an incompetent parent."

He sighed. "I am sorry that you have had to put up with me and my nonsense. I am sorry for the heart attack. I know it's because of me. It's not easy for me to hurt you. I love you but I don't think I am loving you the rightful way.. You deserve better babe... I love you so much but there's just too much that happened. A lot has happened. I want to make this work but I can't live with the fact that I hurt you to a point of you almost dying. I don't think things will ever be the same. I believe in us but... maybe we met at the wrong time."

She looked at the tears in his eyes. He held her hand. "You look so beautiful..."

Thabi's tears fell on the pillow. He wiped them away with his hands.

"And you are going to be the best surgeon. I can see it." He smiled. "I love you."

She put her arm over her forehead and let out a loud cry. Atang pulled her up and hugged her. He held tightly wiping away his own tear.

He let go minutes later and kissed her.

"I will go and tell Batang to come with Lomo. She's going to be so happy to have you responding to her. I had my cousin collect Zaza's car. I will ask him to drop it off in case you need it. Should I book you into a hotel?"

She sniffed and nodded.

"I will do that. They will be here in minutes."

He laid her down. "Take it easy."

He walked out and went to the parking. Atang smiled looking at Batang.

"Thabi is awake. Lomo, mommy wants to see you."

"She is awake?"

"Yes... Batang, go in with her. I am going to book a hotel room for you guys."

“Ok.”

Batang walked inside the hospital with Lomo. Botho remained in the car staring at him.

“Mmagwe Lomo will be with her while she is here. You can go home. I will get you a bus ticket from here to Gabs. Or....”

Atang took out his phone and called Prince.

“Atang...”

“Have you left yet?”

“We are about to. Why?”

“Themonna can you give Botho a lift..”

“Yeah.. what about Lomo?”

“Her mom is here.”

“Thabi is here?”

“Yes. Where should I bring Botho?”

“Let me send you my location.”

Atang hung up starting the car. He opened the location then drove off.

In the hospital, Thabi tightly hugged her daughter.

“Hey baby.. “

“I missed you.”

Thabi smiled. “I missed you so much too.”

Lomo wiped her mother’s tears. “You didn’t tell me you were coming here...”

“I wanted to surprise you.”

Batang looked at her. “I was so scared.”

“I am fine.”

He sighed. “Something is going on between you and Atang. What is it?”

Thabi looked at Lomo and smiled. “Nothing.”

Batang’s phone rang. He took it out and looked at Lebo calling.

He walked out answering.

“Hey babe...”

“Hi. How is your sister?”

“She is awake now.”

“Thank God. I passed by your grandfather’s farm today and helped him clean. I cooked for him too.”

Batang smiled. “Thank you. He’s going to tell me all about it when I call him.”

“Yeah... I love you. I don’t have much airtime..I can’t wait to see

you..”

“If she gets discharged today, I will come tomorrow.”

“Ok. Bye.”

She hung up. Batang transferred the last airtime on his phone to her then turned getting back in the room.

He looked up putting his phone away and walked back in the room. He smiled staring at Thabi and Lomo whispering while laughing.

Batang took out his ringing phone and picked.

“Hello?”

“Hey, let me talk to Thabi..”

Batang walked with the phone to Thabi. Thabi put it on her ear.

“Atang...”

“I booked you guys into a presidential suite. Are you getting discharged today?”

“Yes, but later.”

“Ok. Call me if you need anything. I will pass by before I leave. I am going to Gaborone.”

“Ok.”

There was silence as no one hung up. A minute went by then Atang sighed.

“You will call me when you need something.”

“Ok.”

He hung up then called back immediately but hung up before she could pick.

Batang shook his head. “What’s going on?”

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Yours Truly

#86

Later that day in Kasane, Thabi looked at her doctor and sighed.

“I want to be discharged.”

The doctor sighed. “Thabile, I am keeping you here for observations.”

“You are not going to keep me here. My child can’t sleep here. Either way, you have been observing me the whole. I am a doctor. A surgeon. I am fine.”

“Good thing you are a doctor, there is no one who can understand why you have to remain here other than you. Please find someone to come and collect them. I will discharge you tomorrow morning. Do you want a phone?”

“I feel fine.”

He smiled. “I need you feeling more than fine..”

Batang nodded. “I agree. Please listen to the doctor.”

The doctor smiled. “See? He agrees. Thabi a heart attack is not a panic attack.. I want to monitor you meaning you are sleeping here tonight.”

She laid down defeated. Batang smiled. “I will call uncle Atang.”

“Maybe he left. He said he is going back to Gaborone.”

Batang dialed his number and put the phone on his ear. The phone rang thrice then Atang picked.

“Buddy...”

“Are you still around? The doctor is not discharging Thabi today.”

“Yes. Do you want me to pick you guys now?”

“Yes. Thank you.”

“I will be there on 15 minutes.”

Batang smiled dropping the call. “He is coming.”

Thabi nodded. “Ok. I will see you guys tomorrow then. We will go to the Chobe river then maybe go home. Elang said our house is the only house which still looks the same. I want to extend and renovate it.”

“Has Farai married her yet?”

Thabi shook her head. “Not yet. Gatwe he’s saying he is not yet ready.”

“How many kids do they have?”

“Two.”

“So they are staying together?”

“Yes, I have to call her or else I will be accused of being fake. I don’t think Farai loves her. I feel she pressured him to be with her. Farai never liked her. He actually never wanted the first baby but you know how Elang is.”

“She won’t leave him even if she knew. I always see her family goals pictures on Facebook.”

Thabi laughed. “By the way, how is Lebo?”

“She is fine.”

“I am happy for you. Don’t hurt her.”

“I won’t.”

“I am serious. If you really love her, don’t break her heart.”

He nodded.

“And please use condoms!”

Batang laughed. “Why do you always throw this in whenever we discuss Lebo?”

“I don’t want you to have kids when you are still at school. You cannot afford a baby. I want you to get your degrees, get a job then get married and have kids with one woman. I am looking out for you.”

“I know... are you breaking up with... you know who?”

They both looked at Lomo who was taking pictures with her mother’s phone. Thabi sighed.

“You and him can remain close.. Us parting ways does not mean you are involved. He will still be there. Just not with me. It’s not working.”

“Why is it not working?”

“A lot of reasons Batang.”

“You just can’t say a lot of reasons when you have also put me in this relationship. I deserve to know those reasons.”

“The distance is taking a lot from us.”

The door opened then Atang walked in. Batang looked at him then at Thabi.

“What did distance do? You are almost done. Can’t you just be patient? Soon you are coming back home. I thought you said you were going to compromise and get married. What happened? You said you were going to finish off your residency here. What happened to that? To everything you were planning on our way here. What happened to that?”

“Batang, Lomo is staring. Please go. We will talk.”

“I want to know.”

Atang looked at him. “Buddy... we will talk. Let’s not do this in front of the child.”

He tearfully looked at Atang then forced a smile turning to Lomo.

“Lomo, give mama her phone.”

Lomo walked over and handed the phone to her mother. Thabi smiled hugging her.

“I love you.”

“I love you too.”

Batang held Lomo’s hand and walked out.

Lomo turned. "Bye mama..."

"Bye baby... see you tomorrow."

She walked out. Atang gave Batang the car keys then walked inside Thabi's room.

"Bring them back in the morning. I will be getting discharged... I want to take for a road trip."

"Ok. Do you need a bigger car? I am sure Zaza needs her car back."

"She never said anything but I can hire-"

"You can use the Ford. I will take Zaza's car back."

She sighed. "Ok. Thank you."

"Do you need anything else?"

"No. I am fine. Just Lomo's clothes."

"She hadn't brought a lot. We were supposed to have went back yesterday."

"It's ok. I will buy some."

"I can give you my card."

"You don't need to. I am fine."

He looked at her, Thabi turned to him. "What is it? Please go. They are waiting for you. I saw your medicine in the morning. I hope you take them faithfully. You have a child. I just wish you used condoms. Do they irritate you? Do they make your dick itch that

you can't wear one? Or you don't know how to use one?" Her heart as raced as her anger rose. "Or you want children? You are disgusting! You even left our child with a nanny so you can go stick your dick in whatever whole you find, as long as it has two legs and a vagina!"

Tears filled her eyes. "You go around collecting dirt! Koore o rata leswe akere? You don't care about anything but your dick. The least you can do is think for your child if you can't do it for you. Get out!"

He slowly turned and walked out. Thabi took a deep breath and released. Her heart ached so much she put her hands on her face crying.

Minutes later she pulled herself together and laid on her side, her eyes closed.

Over an hour later, Pule walked inside the hospital . His friend smiled as they bumped shoulders.

"Where is she?"

"Come. You owe me for keeping her here. She wanted to be discharged."

"Thanks."

He led her to Thabi's room.

“In here.”

“Thank you.”

Thabi’s doctor nodded then walked away. Pule knocked then opened the door walking in.

He looked at Thabi who was facing the other side then closed the door.

“Hey...”

Thabi turned. Pule smiled. “Surprise!”

She smiled shocked. “Hi!”

“So you come and you don’t tell us?”

He walked over to her. Pule looked at her beautiful face smiling.

“You look... wow..”

Thabi laughed. “You too. How did you know I was here?”

“Connections. I can’t believe I am seeing you.”

“Me room”

Pule looked at her reddish eyes. “Are you ok?”

Thabi nodded. “I am fine.”

“Your eyes are puffy and red.”

A wayward tear rolled down. She quickly wiped it away looking down.

“Talk to me... what’s wrong?”

He touched her cheek, his cold wedding ring touching her skin.
“What’s wrong? Talk to me.”

Her lips trembled, she put her hand on her face tearfully. Pule cupped her face.

“Talk to me...”

More tears rolled down, Pule hugged her hurrying her in his warm arms.

He rubbed her back then wiped away her tears.

“What happened?”

“I caught him cheating.”

Pule looked in her eyes. “He doesn’t deserve you. He doesn’t love you. You see what I meant? He will never stop. Maybe he once loved you but I don’t think that love is still there. I wish you can see it...”

He wiped away a tear that had rolled down and smiled.

“You deserve far much better.”

He moved closer. “You deserve way better...”

Pule tilted her chin and kissed her as another tear rolled down her eye.

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Yours Truly

#87

Thabi closed her eyes receiving the kids. He kissed her more owning her mouth. He paused then pulled away smiling.

"I came as soon as I heard you were here."

She smiled. "I didn't know you are married."

Pule laughed then took it off. "Ladies love the ring. I told you I was getting one."

Thabi laughed. "Is it working?"

"Not really." Pule smiled. "It should not be like this... I wish you can leave him."

"We are done."

He smiled. "You ended it?"

"There is nothing left. He didn't even use a condom and I suspect the girl is HIV positive because he had PEP in the morning."

"I am happy you are walking away. When are you going back?"

"In two weeks. I am going to be a senior resident."

Pule smiled. "I told you... you are destined to be a bright star. And Lomo?"

"He will stay with her while I finish off. I can't take her with me. She needs proper attention."

Pule touched her hand then rubbed her lips. "What are your plans?"

"I want to take Batang and Lomo for a boat ride then maybe from there go home. To Shakawe."

Pule looked at her lips as she spoke, he leaned over and kissed her again. The door opened followed by Agang walking in holding a fast food paper bag.

Pule moved as Thabi rubbed her lips. Agang stared at both of them then looked at Pule. He angrily walked over and punched him.

"Agang!"

Pule staggered back then stood upright.

"Bona mister, I don't want to fight with you."

"Wa twaela wena?"

Agang punched him again, Pule threw a punch back. Thabi screamed pressing the emergency button.

Two nurses came rushing in as Pule punched Agang again. Thabi got off the bed.

"Pule!"

The male nurse pulled Pule back just as security walked in and held both men.

Agang looked at Pule breathing. "O tsile go nyela wena!"

The nurse looked at Thabi and helped her back on the bed.

One of the security guards sighed figuring what the fight probably was about.

“Gentlemen, this is not a boxing center. It’s a hospital and you are disrupting the peace.”

Pule sighed. “He started it. I don’t even know why he is fighting. I was here and he walked in fighting.”

The security guard looked at Thabi.

“Do you know him?”

Thabi swallowed. “Yes. He is my ex’s brother. Agang please go.”

Agang looked at her. “You are hurting. Please don’t let your anger influence you.”

“Nothing is influencing me. Your brother and I are done. I don’t appreciate the violence you are bringing here. Pule is my guest. You found him here. Please leave. I don’t want drama.”

Agang looked at Pule then walked rubbing his bleeding lip. The nurse and security guards followed. Pule touched Thabi’s hand.

“Are you ok? I am sorry about that.”

“I am fine. It’s ok. I am sorry. He’s never been a violent person... at least not in my eyes.”

“Its ok. Let’s forget it.”

Pule’s phone rang in his pocket. He took it out then switched it off.

“It’s work. Do you want me to stay?”

She nodded. He sat down holding her hand.

At the parking lot, Agang got in his car and sat still for a while before starting his car and driving off dialing her number.

Her phone rang for a while. "Agang..."

"I want to tell you he loves you because I know he does."

"I am done with your brother Agang. He moved on. I hope she is worth it."

"I don't know what to tell you... or how to tell you just how much he loves you."

"I can't be with a man who runs to the nearest vagina when things go south in the relationship. Now he's going around collecting diseases. He doesn't use condoms, because he's so careless he wants to give me his viruses. I am not going to stay for that. I forgave him once, not again."

He swallowed then put away his phone. He parked his car at the hotel's parking lot and went to his room. Kelly looked at him holding the remote control in her hands.

"What happened?"

"Nothing."

He walked to the bathroom then walked out minutes later. He laid

on the bed with her. Kelly worriedly touched his lip.

“What happened?”

“Thabi has already moved on. I lost it.”

“You fought her new boyfriend?”

“He is that one guy who’s always been there.”

“But Thabi is not your business. I don’t like how you are jumping around for her. I understand she is your brother’s baby mama but let Atang deal with his own mess. Please... the way you are behaving one would think you are the boyfriend. Stop. I don’t think I even like her anymore. Hela from the day she called you at night. Why does she think it’s ok to call you after midnight? She knows you got married. I didn’t like it. I don’t think I still like her. Please stop.”

Agang looked at his wife. “There is no need to dislike her. I am sorry I have been jumping around for her. I will keep my distance and let Atang deal with his business.”

Kelly smiled. “Thank you.”

“But who moves on in one day? I don’t think she’s ever loved your brother. I think at first she was with him for stability. She loved the things he did for her. The car, the house...everything. Then when she moved to the states, she didn’t really need him anymore and now she really doesn’t. She’s a doctor and what not in Harvard. Atang should just move on. You should stop encouraging him to fight for someone who can’t compromise for her man. Someone who holds grudges for years. Abandons her daughter. We know

she is at school but from what you tell me it seems like she will choose herself over everything. She's selfish and self centered. Atang deserves much more better."

"You don't know Thabi-"

"I know enough to know the kind of person she is. She expects everyone around her to lick the ground she walks on. It's her way or no other way at all."

"Can we stop talking about her? She doesn't know you exist, you don't even know her that much except from seeing her on weekends the days she was still around. Besides that and what I tell you, you don't know her. I am not going to talk about her and tell you about the person she is because it will make it look like I am belittling you. Let's stop."

The following morning, Atang parked the car and looked at Batang who was not talking to him since last night.

"I will go and get her. You guys will be going with the car."

Atang's phone rang just as he stepped out of the car.

"Hello?"

"Hi, please bring my brother and daughter. I won't be taking your car. I have made a plan."

“I am here, where are you?”

“I am coming.”

She hung up. Minutes later she walked out laughing holding Pule’s hand. He swallowed watching them laughing, his heart beating uncontrollably.

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Yours Truly

#88

Atang watched as Thabi walked over in an orange flared short dress that showed her thick thighs. Her butt lifted the dress while the wind blew it more. She let go of Pule's hand who stood by his car while she walked over.

She had taken off the wig and had tied her hair into a bun. She walked over in her heels and smiled staring at Batang and Lomo.

"Hey guys, let's go."

Batang looked at Pule then back at her sister. Atang sighed.

"Can we talk?"

"Can I please have my daughter. Batang, let's go."

Lomo looked at her confused. "What about daddy?"

"Lelomo please let's go. We are going to ride a speed boat. It's going to be fun. Let's go baby..."

"I want to come with daddy too."

Thabi looked at Atang.

"Did you tell them?"

Atang closed the car door and pulled her to the side.

"Can you not do this to the kids? It's too soon. They are trying to accept that we are no longer together."

“What am I doing to them? I didn’t do anything. That’s Pule. My friend. What am I doing?”

Atang looked at Pule then at her. “Agang told me. Don’t you think it’s too soon for the kids?”

“You didn’t think of Lomo when you were riding your girlfriend without a condom. Batang is a grown man, he will understand. Pule is only a friend.”

“So you kiss your friends now?”

“Same way you kiss your cousins. At least he is not my relative.”

Atang smiled sadly. “You never forgave me for Pearl, did you?”

“Atang-“

“No. If you resented me deep down in your heart, why did you take me back? Or were you waiting for the rightful opportunity to hurt me back? Because that was your plan.”

“I don’t hate you.”

“You do. Deep down you know you hate me for hurting you. Deep down you know you hate me for our daughter. That’s why it’s easy for you not to call me or your daughter. You hate me. Why did you agree to take me back if you didn’t love me? I know I was persistent but you could have rejected me all those times. I was going to give up at the end. You didn’t have to lie underneath me while you hated me.”

“I didn’t hate you. I loved you. All that was needed was patience. You failed at it. Pule is only a friend. Lomo will get used to him.”

Batang understands what's going on. You and I are done. Who I am friends with or who I kiss is not your business. Tell your brother to keep his distance. I don't appreciate what he did last night. Why can't he punch you for sleeping with that woman? I didn't come here for drama. Give me my kids."

He looked at her shrinking his eyes. Thabi took a deep breath knowing he was going to cause a scene.

"Do you think it's fair to move on with the same guy you told me you were friends with?"

"Yes."

He took a deep breath as a block painfully sat on his throat. She looked at him waiting for it.

"I love you. I don't know what else to say. Ke feletswe. I love you so much." He rubbed his tearful eyes. "But if it's him you want, it's ok. I won't make your life a living hell. I failed to cherish you."

Atang turned and walked back to his car. He opened the door for Lomo.

"Princess... I told you that mama and I are no longer boyfriend and girlfriend right? Meaning me and mama can't always be together like we used to be together. But I will still be your dad and mama will still be your mom. We both love you the same way. Batang I know you are angry. I know you are disappointed. I could have been better, could have done better or I should have never made the decisions I made. But I am human. I mess up sometimes. But I learn. I will learn and be better next time. Your sister is here to

spend time with you and Lomo. Please go with her. I am going to Gabs. We will meet there. Lomo, I will meet you at home.”

He kissed his daughter’s forehead and hugged her. She sniffed.

“I love you.”

Atang smiled. “I love you too.”

He let go and put her down. Thabi held her hand. Batang also stepped out of the car. Atang bumped fists with him.

“Be nice to him. She’s your sister’s friend. I don’t want her thinking I am influencing you.”

Batang nodded. Atang looked at Thabi.

“Tell me when you are bringing them. Have fun.”

He got in his car and drove off. Thabi watched as he went away without even attempting to fight for her. She turned away disappointed.

“Lets go.”

She led them to the car. Pule smiled.

“Hi...”

Batang glared at him then looked away. Thabi opened the door for Lomo.

“Get in.”

“I want daddy.”

“Lelomo, you heard your father akere? Get in the car.”

“I want us to be a family. I just want to have a normal family.”

“Well that is not going to happen. Your father and I are not in a relationship anymore.”

Tears rolled down Lomo’s eyes “Why do you hate us so much?”

“Who said I hate you?”

“I heard you the other day on the phone with daddy. You said you didn’t want me.”

Thabi swallowed. “Your father made you listen to that?”

“I overheard you. I know you hate us. I don’t want to go with you.”

“I don’t hate you. I love you. Lomo please...”

Pule smiled. “Lomo-“

“Don’t talk to me, I don’t like you!”

Thabi angrily smirked her face. “Stop it! Get in the car! Now!”

Lomo turned to Batang in shock. She slowly curved her lips crying. Batang opened the car door and helped her inside.

“It’s ok. Don’t cry.”

“I want my dad.”

“After this, she is going back and you will go back to your dad. Don’t talk or she will beat you.”

Thabi looked at her hand shaking. Batang closed the door and looked at her.

“Maybe I too wouldn’t stay with a woman who don’t love me as much as I love her. Who’s not committed and who is unforgiving but pretends to be. He told me everything. And yes, he was wrong to have cheated on you the first time but the second time not so much... you told someone who’s been chasing you, trying to love you for years to find someone else. You had no hope for the relationship. You said that. He didn’t cheat on you, for it to be cheating he should have been in a relationship but he was not. He was all alone. Lomo is right. You hate them. I wonder why you even try to begin with. I hope he makes you good. Stop beating her because you want her to like your new boyfriend. I don’t like him too. You can’t force us to like him. I am going to catch a bus to Maun. I am not going with you. I am going to see Ntatemogolo then go back to Gaborone.”

“You don’t understand-“

“No I do understand. I understand perfectly. Be happy. Bye.”

He turned and walked away. Tears filled Thabi’s eyes. Pule hugged her.

“It’s ok.”

“I can’t believe I beat my daughter.”

“Apologize. Batang is right. You can’t force them to like me.”

She sniffed crying. They finally got in the car. Thabi turned to Lomo.

“I am sorry for hitting you.”

She remained quiet looking out through the window. Thabi sighed then turned ahead.

Pule started the car and drove away.

At the Chobe river, Thabi smiled getting in the speed boat. She smiled helping Lomo who had a long face in and smiled.

“You are going to love it Lomo.”

“Can I go home after we are finished then you can go back?”

“We are going to spend time together Lomo. Work on your attitude and stop sulking.”

Lomo sat down and folded her arms, air in her chubby cheeks. Pule smiled.

“Let her be. It’s ok. She’s a child.”

Thabi sighed. “I don’t know how to handle her....”

“It will take time... take it easy with her.”

Pule started the boat. Thabi watched as he struggled to maneuver it further into the water.

“You know how to sail?”

“Yes, it’s been a while.”

She slowly sat down and watched as the boat moved. She caught herself recalling the time Atang had taken them for a boat ride in Shakawe. He had been in control the entire time. Pule looked at her as he sailed the boat. He picked up speed, Thabi smiled then looked at Lomo who was now smiling holding on while staring at the water.

Thabi looked at Pule smiling. "Can I try too?"

"Come."

She stood up and walked over then held the wheel excitedly. She took a sharp turn laughing, Lomo lost her balance sliding to the side. Her heart pounded, she slowly got up to walk over to her mother. Lost in excitement, Thabi turned the wheel making a huge splash. Lomo screamed falling on her side, her head hitting the corner of the speed boat then fell into the water.

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Are we still awake for another one?

Yours Truly

#89

Thabi laughed and looked at Pule.

“I love this.”

He hugged her from behind. “There’s this trick know.”

He increased the speed going down the river with her standing in front while she smiled. Minutes later she laughed as Pule finished showing her his old trick.

He quickly stole a kiss. “You are a natural.”

Thabi smiled. “Thank you.”

She turned smiling, her smile slowly dissolved, fear trickling down her spine. Her heart skipped as she looked at the blood on the boat.

“Lomo!”

She let go of the wheel. Pule slowly stopped the boat.

“Lomo!”

Thabi looked in the water screaming. “Lomo!”

Pule looked at the water too. “Fuck! I think she fell in the water.”

Thabi shook her head panicking. “No... Lomo!”

“Lelomo!”

Pule quickly took out his phone. "Let me call help..."

"There is blood. She's in the water... she... Lomo!"

Thabi looked around then started taking off her shoes as her heart pounded.

"There are predators in the water."

"My daughter is in the water!"

"You don't know where she fell in the water. I am calling for help. Babe listen-"

"My daughter is in the water! She's in the water!"

"Thabi-"

She pushed him as he touched her. "My daughter is dying! She's drowning! I am not waiting for no goddamn help!"

"There are crocodiles in the water Rethabile."

"And she inside! She is inside with the crocodiles!"

She jumped in inside without thinking twice. The cold water had her instantly freezing as body temporarily got paralysed. She swam around going down the water while looking around. She swam even more further but the unclear water made it difficult to see. She swam up and coughed gasping.

Pule looked at her still in the boat. "Help is coming. There are crocodiles in the water..let professionals look for her."

Thabi dipped under the water again still searching for the pink dress. She went further down into the water fighting to see.

Something touched her legs, she turned, her heart beating way faster. She opened her mouth and swallowed the water. She panicked even more trying to swim up but the water felt more heavier to swim through. She pushed her body up, fear and panic exhausting her.

Hands touched her then helped her up as she slowly lost consciousness. Pule swallowed as the rescue guard swam up with Thabi.

“I saw crocodile and it’s coming. Help us.”

The rescue boat got closer then helped both of them inside. The man looked at Thabi then started doing chest compressions while Pule watched from his boat.

“Is she ok? I am a doctor, I can help.”

The rescue team got closer to his boat and the man who had rescued Thabi picked her up and jumped to Pule’s boat.

“Let’s go! She needs help. My colleagues will continue searching for the child. What dress did you say she had on again?”

Pule looked at them trying to remember. “ Uh... red. Orange.”

“Ok.”

The man continued doing chest compressions as Pule sped off headed to the dork.

Thabi gasped then coughed out water. She continued coughing out the water just as Pule pulled the boat to a stop. The man picked Thabi and got out with her. He hurried with her to one of

the ambulances that was already on standby.

Thabi opened her eyes and looked at him.

“My daughter! My daughter!” She screamed. “My daughter.”

The man put her on the stretcher in front of the ambulance and held her down.

“My team is in the water looking for her. I need you to calm down... we will find her. We won't stop looking till we find her.”

Tears rolled down her cheeks. “I want my daughter. Take me back! Something touched my leg in the water. It's in the water and she is inside the water. I need to get my daughter.”

Pule stood by and held her hand. “Babe let them do their job. They will find her. The ambulance is already here to get her to the hospital as soon as they get her out.”

Thabi shook her head crying. “Something is in the water! It's going to attack her.

The man held her hand. “I am going back. We will find her I promise. My name is Teko.. what's your name?”

“Rethabile.”

“Ok Thabile. You are right. There is something in the water. There are a lot of things in the water. I can't name them all. It's water after all. I want to get you your daughter but I cannot do that if you want to go back in there because my concern won't be your daughter only. I want her to have my full attention. I want to look for her... let me do that and wait for me here. I am going to do

everything I can to get you your daughter.”

Thabi nodded crying. Teko walked back to the speed boat and sped back to his team.

Pule looked at Thabi. “They are going to find her.”

She got off the stretcher as tears rolled down. “She might die... I wasn’t looking. I should have been looking after her. Maybe if she had on a life jacket. I didn’t even bother giving her a life jacket. How could I be so careless.”

“You just wanted to forget your stresses. They will find her.”

“She’s been in there for maybe more than twenty minutes now.. she swallowed a lot of water then stopped breathing. Her heart stopped. She-“

“Don’t think about it. She is fine. She’s fine.”

He hugged her as she cried scared. Her phone rang in his pocket, he took it out and looked at ‘Husbae’ calling.

“He’s calling.”

Thabi looked at her phone, her heart beating even more.

“He is going to be so angry.”

“Don’t tell him then. At least till she’s found.”

“He knows people. Maybe then can help. They can help looking.”

She grabbed the phone and picked.

“Atang...”

“Hi. I sent you a list of her allergies in case you forgot. You wanted to take her for a boat ride, it’s a bit cloudy. She has sinuses and the wind can make them start. Please just be with her. She forgot her present for you in the car. Can I talk to her?”

Thabi swallowed shaking. “Something happened.”

“What?”

“Pule got us a speed boat. We were riding in the Chobe river. I thought I would just take the wheel for a couple of seconds. When I turned she wasn’t there.”

“What do you mean she wasn’t there?”

“She fell into the water.”

“What are you talking about?”

“She fell in the water.”

“How when someone was with her? Did he push my daughter?”

“No. Pule was holding the wheel with me. She was seated alone.”

“She was alone? What do you mean she was alone?!”

“I was just going to take a couple of seconds then-”

“But she is only 8!”

“I made a mistake... I didn’t think she would fall.”

“She is eight years old. Why would leave her alone? In her speed boat? She’s a child.”

Thabi put her hand over her mouth crying. “It was a mistake...”

“Let me talk to her. I hope you are still not in the water. Let me talk to her. Where is Batang?”

“He refused to come with.”

“Let me talk to my daughter. Is she ok?”

Thabi pressed her lips together crying.

“Rethabile, give her the phone. I want to speak with her.”

“I jumped in to look but I couldn’t find her. The rescue team is still searching.”

His voice got faint. “Thabi... babe please stop playing like this. Please stop. Let me speak to her.”

She started crying. “They are looking for her.”

“Thabi please... please stop. Come on babe ... when did we start putting kids into our fights? Let me speak to my daughter. This is not funny.”

“They said they are going to find her.”

“Rethabile... where is my daughter?”

“They are looking for her... he said they will find her. I am sorry.”

Atang took a sharp U-turn speeding back. Thabi cried through the car’s speakers.

“They are looking for her...”

He hung up and stepped on the accelerator speeding. His phone rang again.

“Agang...”

“I am in Gaborone. I am going. I will be back in a week.”

“Thabi took Lomo in the morning with her boyfriend and now she’s telling me they went for a boat ride and Lomo fell in the water. They can’t find her...” He swallowed, his heart racing. “My daughter is still in the water...”

“Fuck!”

“She was seated alone in the boat while they had fun. I know how she gets when excited. She forgets everything. It’s only been an hour...”

“Should I come back? I am coming back.”

“I will never forgive her if she did something to my daughter. I will kill her. I will kill them both.”

In Gaborone, Kelly folded her arms as Agang spoke on the phone. He dropped the call and looked at her.

“Lomo is missing. She fell in the water in a speed boat in Kasane.”

“Ok. So?”

“Atang is alone-“

Her big nose flared as she shook her head. “You are not going back Agang. Your brother will sort it out alone.”

“Kelly-“

“No. You are not going back Agang. We are going for our honeymoon. You are not going to ruin it because of a woman who probably killed her own child to focus on her degree. How does a child fall in the water while under supervision? Le wena can't you just see it's a fishy story. Only a couple of hours after Atang gives her the child she doesn't care about then that child is now missing. It doesn't make sense.”

Agang looked at her. “My brother needs me. I am not going to enjoy myself while his daughter is missing, probably dead. This is not about Thabile. It's about Lelomo, my niece. I am going back.”

Atang parked the modified Ford Ranger with big wheels and walked over to where Thabi was standing with her boyfriend.

“Where is she?”

Thabi looked at him still crying. “One moment she was there and the other she wasn't. I had been with her the entire time.”

The rescue team walked over. Thabi rushed over

“Where is she?”

“We have been looking for an hour now and we can’t seem to find her. We have asked for help to search for her but at this stage, we are looking for the body. She’s dead if she’s still in the water. Chances of also finding her body are slim because there are crocodiles in the water meaning they could have eaten her by now. I am so sorry.”

Thabi shook her head crying. “No... no... please mo.. “

Teko sighed. “I am sorry. Maybe if she had on a life jacket, locating her would have been easy but now we are looking for a red dress-“

“Pink! It’s Pink. A pink dress. PINK!”

“Your boyfriend is said red or orange but it doesn’t matter. We are going to keep searching for the body. And we are now involving the police making it a police case. There’s a dead person involved now.”

Atang slowly looked at her feeling weak. “Thabile what happened to my daughter? There is no way a child can just disappear like that. I don’t believe that. I don’t believe you would get in the water with her without her having a life jacket on because you know she’s not a good swimmer. She’s scared of water. There is no way you would leave her unattended.” Tears filled his eyes. “There is no way you would do that babe. Come on... call off this joke. Where is my child?”

Yours Truly

#90

Atang tearfully looked at her begging her with his eyes.

“Come on babe...”

“I... I had been with her. I just looked away for a second.. she’s in there.” She looked at Teko. “She is in there... she’s not a body... she’s in the water. We need to get her.”

She tried to walk to the water but Teko pulled her back.

“Thabile...”

Atang shook his head. “Stop crying and tell me where my daughter is!”

Pule looked at him. “Stop shouting at her, she’s-“

Atang angrily punched him so hard that he fell then crushed his balls with his shoe.

“O bua le mang o marete! (Who the f*ck are you talking to?)

Pule groaned at the pain. Teko pushed Atang back.

“Atang...-“

“TK, I want my daughter. Batho ba ba tsamekela mogonna! (These people are playing.) I want my daughter!”

Thabi cried more. Atang breathed heavily.

“Wa thodia! (You are making noise!)Where is my daughter?”

Teko pushed Atang back. “Atang-“

“I want my daughter! Take me where she fell. Let’s go back. Le ene wa marete o ate..le tsile go nnela mgwanake.”

They walked back to the boat and jumped in. Thabi put her hand over her mouth crying.

They went back to where the other rescue team was still searching. Thabi looked around.

“It was somewhere here ...”

Atang looked at her. “Somewhere here? Point us exactly where she fell!”

“I am not sure. It’s somewhere here.”

“Yiu don’t even know where she fell! What kind of of a mother are you?”

Atang looked at Pule who was seated grunting in pain. Teko stood in front of Atang.

“Atang... the goal is finding your girl right? Right? Not fighting.”

“She doesn’t even know where my child fell!” Atang put his hands in his head as tears filled his eyes. “You can’t tell me that Rethabile!”

She cried even more. “It was here... it was here...”

Atang took off his shoes. Teko pushed him back.

“You are not going in the water. There’s a crocodile here. It’s alert. Let my team-“

“For a full fucken hour you didn’t find her! I am getting my daughter.”

“Atang, listen to me... by now we are just looking for a body.”

A tear rolled down his cheek. “Stop referring to my daughter as a body themonna TK...”

“That’s the reality! She’s dead!”

Atang shook his head then jumped in the water. TK cursed.

“Fuck!”

In Gaborone, a van dropped Kelly at Agang’s house. The cab guy helped her with her bags inside the house while she spoke to her cousin on the phone.

“He got in a flight to Maun. Ahh mma nna yaanong I don’t know. Koore we had already checked in to fly out then he just took off.”

“I don’t understand. Ware what happened?”

“Atang’s baby mama killed their daughter. There is no other explanation to this because she got that child today then all of a sudden she fell in the water and she’s missing.”

“Wait... eng?”

“Yes.”

“Waaka! (You are lying!)”

“I am telling you. Yaanong Agang has ran over to them like he usually does. One would swear this woman is his girlfriend.”

“Aow mma, his niece is missing.”

“Its not about the niece only. It’s how he always jump to help her. It’s not fair. I don’t even understand, it’s like she has a hold on him or something.”

“Ijo... I don’t know waitse.”

“She feels it’s ok to call him at midnight knowing very well he’s a married woman. It’s like she thinks because she is Atang’s baby mama, everyone around him should bow to her. I hope she goes to jail.”

“I can’t believe this. I am driving home, let me call you back as soon as I arrive.”

“Ok.”

Kelly hung up then called Agang.

“This is a free announcement from-“

She hung up then sat down holding her tears. She sniffed switching on the TV and waited for his call.

Zaza moaned softly as her husband gave her the last stroke and stilled filling her with his infertile seeds. He slowly got off her and kissed her.

Zaza smiled. "That was amazing."

Thuso smiled. "Yeah... do you want something to drink?"

She nodded. He put on his pants as his dick shrunk getting smaller. He walked out then she sighed putting her hand between her pussy lips. She rubbed her clit knowing she only had a minute till he walked back in. She laid down imagining a thick long weapon filling her canal, stretching her walls beyond.. she bit her lip going faster imagining those deep fast thrusts.

God Agang... she squeezed her breast stuck in her wild thoughts, that dick going in and out while he mercilessly fucks her. Her legs started shaking, she let out a slight moan putting her thighs together spasming. She sighed then took off her hand breathing heavily.

Thuso walked back in holding his glass.

"There..."

She smiled taking her glass. "Did you think about what I told you?"

Thuso sighed. "I am happy without kids babe. Tota I don't see myself raising a child that is not mine. I don't want us to bring home a total stranger and say we are raising him or her. Can't we

just stay like this?”

“I want a child. I am lonely. And she or he don't won't be total stranger if we both love her. Come on... I don't want to have my own kids because I know he or she will probably die of cancer. You can't have kids, I am good with that. But we can adopt... I want a child. I want us to have a child. Please..”

“I am not comfortable with the idea. Gape a child is a lot of work, too much expenses. And we are happy. Can we not ruin it with a child?”

Zaza sighed then drank her juice defeated. “Let me call Thabi...”

She got off bed then put on her dress and walked out of the bedroom dialing her cousin.

“Hello?”

Zaza frowned listening to her cousins breaking voice.

“Thabi...”

“Lomo is missing. We were in the speed boat, she fell and she's missing. I am scared.”

“Thabi.. what are you saying?”

“We can't find her.”

“Thabile.. I don't understand...”

Thabi started crying on the phone.

Zaza felt her knees getting cold, she leaned against the wall.

“Thabi... what do you mean?”

“She fell in the water and we can’t find her...”

“Oh my God...”

In Kasane, Atang swam back to the boat and climbed in, his body freezing.

He looked at Thabi who was still crying. Teko sighed relieved.

“We are going to take a look further down there along the river. If anything, we should be able to get something. Maybe something she had on.”

“TK!”

One of the rescue guards in the other boat shouted. “We got something!”

Thabi looked over, her heart racing. TK swayed the boat going over.

“What?”

Atang looked as they showed them a wet pink sneaker. He slowly sat down.

“That’s hers...”

TK sighed. “I am sorry Atang. I am calling the police. We can

assume she has been eaten. Fuck...”

Thabi shook her head dropping to her knees. “No! No! Lomo!”

Atang put his hands on his face crying silently.

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Yours Truly

#91

Teko sighed sadly then went back to the dork. Thabi shook her head crying.

“She’s inside... we can’t leave her. We can’t leave her! Lomo!”

Teko held her. “Thabile, it’s too late now.”

She shook her head. “No... it’s not. We can not leave her... go back!”

Pule swallowed as she cried hysterically.

“Go back. We can’t leave her... we can’t leave her. We can’t! Lomo!”

Teko held her tightly stopping her from jumping in the water. She pushed off his hand.

“Lomo! Lelomo!”

Teko stopped the boat. Thabi looked at the water.

“We can’t leave her... please we can’t leave her.” She walked over to Atang.

“Attie... tell him. She’s in the water... we can’t leave her... please tell him.”

He looked at her. Somehow he still hoped it was one bad joke.

She knelt before him. “Please... talk to him. She’s inside.. we can’t

leave her.”

He looked in her eyes as she cried then he got up picking her up and got out of the boat with her. She screamed crying.

“No! I am not leaving her!”

He placed her down. “Thabi-“

“Attie...please....” She cupped his face. “Please...”

“Let them do their job.”

“She is alive. We need to get her. Atang please... we can’t leave her..”

She knelt before him touching his legs. “Atang please...”

Pule slowly walked to his car and put his hands on his face. He switched on his phone. He sighed as his wife started calling.

“Hey babe...”

“Hi, when are you coming back?”

“I am not sure. Maybe tomorrow. They still need me this side.”

“Ok... I miss you.”

“We will talk. Let me handle something here.”

“Ok.”

He hung up then looked through his rearview mirror as Atang hugged Thabi who was still crying.

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Atang picked her up and walked with her to the car. Teko sighed following behind with their shoes.

"I have called the police. They are coming. You might want to get your stories straight."

Atang nodded. "Thanks."

"We are going to keep looking."

Atang sadly nodded. "Thank you."

"Just doing my job. It was good seeing you."

Atang nodded then Teko walked away. Thabi looked at him.

"I killed my child..."

He sighed. "Lets wait for the police."

"I killed my child.... I killed my daughter..."

"Why did you leave her alone?" Atang sighed. "I don't understand Thabi. Why would you leave her alone?"

She put her hands on her face crying. He sat on the ground leaning against the car hopeless.

Zaza called Thabi again but she still wasn't picking. She dialed Batang.

"Hello?"

"Hey, let me speak to Thabi? Have you found her yet?"

"I am not with Thabi. I am on my way to Maun. Found who?"

"Oh.. let me call her. Bye."

She quickly hung up and called Thabi again but there was no answer still. Thuso looked at her.

"There are crocodiles in the Chobe river."

She looked at him. "Don't talk like that."

"Sorry but chances are that she's dead and eaten."

Zaza tried calling again but there was still no answer.

At Agang's house, Kelly sighed then texted Agang.

Kelly: I don't know why you married me to run after your brother's baby mama like a headless chicken. I think it's very questioning on how you would move mountains for her. I am beginning to think maybe you have always wanted her. I am starting to doubt our marriage. I am really not happy.

She sent the message then called Atang. She quickly hung up

before he could answer. The last thing she wanted was them fighting. She called Agang again the sat upright as his phone rang.

“I just saw your message. Can we talk when I get back? I love you. Bye.”

He hung up then Kelly tearfully messaged her mother in-law.

Atang’s phone rang in his pocket. He slowly took it out and picked.

“Agang..”

“Anything?”

“We found her shoe. She’s dead. We are waiting for the police so it can be an official search.”

“Fuck..”

“I still can’t believe this is happening. I was with her in the morning...”

“I am in Maun. I am coming.”

“Where is Kelly?”

“We had to postpone..I am coming.”

“Ok.”

Agang hung up. Atang put the phone down while Thabi sat still in

the car staring at the water. She slowly went over those splashes she kept making... her daughter had probably fallen there while she had fun.

She kept her eyes at the water as if wishing Lomo would just swim out. Her daughter's cries from earlier rang in her head. She hadn't wanted to come... she had been angry. Another tear rolled down her cheek as she thought of how Lomo had asked her why she hated her.

She looked around the car then smiled staring at the Barbie skipping rope behind the driver's seat.

She slowly picked it up and got out of the car. She walked the opposite direction going to the bush with slow quiet steps. Minutes went by then the police arrived. Atang got up as Teko walked over with the police talking to them briefly explaining where they had looked so far.

The police officer looked at Atang.

"Kaisara Junior... I am sorry for your loss. I am sure it must be painful. So who was with the child."

Teko answered. "Her mother was."

"Ok, where is she?"

Atang turned to the car. "She was here minutes back. I think... Thabi!"

Teko's phone rang.

"Sure?... What?... Are you sure? Gatwe how old is she? Ok... I am

coming.”

He hung up and looked at Atang.

“A friend of mine just called. He says two fishermen are at the hospital. They brought a child who was drowning. He thinks it might be Lomo. She fits the description. Even the dress.”

Atang’s heart started pounding with hope. “Let’s go. Thabi!”

He looked around. “Thabile!”

He walked around the car. “Thabile! Did she go back to the water?”

Teko shook his head. “No. Someone would have seen her.”

Atang walked around. “Thabi!”

He walked back to the car and looked inside. He paused staring behind his seat then he looked at Teko, panic in his eyes.

“Lomo’s skipping rope is not here.”

“Shit!”

One of rescue guards walked over. “I saw her walking that direction. I thought she was going to pee.”

Atang ran over the direction. “Thabi! Thabile!”

He looked at the tall trees looking for her.

“Thabile! Thabi!”

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Pule stepped out of his car and walked over to Teko.

“What’s happening?”

Teko ignored him looking at his colleagues. “Let’s help him look. I don’t think she’s far. She probably looked for the closest tree.”

They all walked towards the bush including the police. Pule cluelessly followed behind them.

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Sweat rolled down Atang’s back as he screamed her name.

“Thabi! Thabile! If you can hear me... please don’t do this. Teko says two fishermen found a child who was drowning. I think it’s Lomo. Thabile!”

He took a couple more steps. He swallowed staring at her dangling legs from a tree.

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Yours Truly

#92

From behind, Teko's eyes also fell on Thabile's dangling legs. Atang ran over jumped on the branch grabbing it with both his hands as if he was about to do pull-ups. His extra weight on the branch broke from the tree.

Thabi's body fell together with branch as Atang landed on his two feet. He knelt before her loosening the rope around her neck.

From her struggled breathing pattern, he could tell she had only done it. Teko sighed.

"Just in time..."

Atang took off the rope through her head and picked her up as she slowly gained consciousness.

He walked with her back to the car, Pule looked at her and sighed slightly disappointed that she had actually tried to take her own life.

"Is she ok? Can I take a look at her?"

Atang looked at him. "Your family will take a good look at you while you lie in your coffin if I ever see you anywhere near her or my child."

Atang turned going to his car. He put her inside and picked his phone on the ground before he jumped in then drove off headed to the hospital. He looked at her as she nlaid at the backseat in

silence, tears rolling down.

“Two fishermen found a girl. I think it’s her. She also has a pink dress.”

She remained still. Atang’s phone rang, he looked at her screen staring at Batang calling. He ignored the call. Minutes later he parked at the hospital and got out.

He helped Thabi out and looked in her eyes wiping away her tears.

“Let’s go.”

He held her hand and led her inside the hospital. His heart racing. He briefly spoke to the nurse by the reception who directed him to the children’s ward.

They both walked over. Thabi let go of Atang’s hand, her eyes skimming through the kids in the ward.

She swallowed staring at the doctor attending her daughter, her feet surged her forward.

“Lomo!”

Lomo turned, her little heart skipping a bit. Thabi ran over and pulled her in her arms tightly holding her while crying.

“Oh God... oh God...”

Lomo sniffed hugging her mother. Atang pulled them both in his arms as relieve cooled down his body. Thabi looked at him crying.

“She is ok...she is ok... oh God thank you...”

Lomo smiled in her parents arms. Thabi cupped her face then

looked at the bandage on her forehead. The doctor walked over.

“You must be Ms Daniel’s parents.”

Atang and Thabi turned to the doctor. Thabi looked at Katlo in surprise and smiled.

“Hey...”

Katlo smiled then hugged Thabi. “Jesus Thabi!”

Thabi laughed. “Ahh mma, you are here.”

“I am here... you look... like a mom who had a missing child.”

Thabi laughed sniffing. “You don’t know how many times I have died and woke up in the last two hours.”

Atang looked at them holding Lomo’s hand. Thabi smiled.

“Uh Katlo... remember Atang?”

Katlo nodded. “I always saw him from a distance but I remember.”

“He is Lomo’s father. Atang this is Katlo. We were at UB together.”

Atang nodded. “Nice meeting you.”

Thabi sighed. “How is she?”

“She’s fine, the cut on her forehead is not that serious. The men say they saw you and Atang spin with the speed boat and that’s when the child fell, they were a bit far, you two didn’t see them and that’s when one of them dived in and got her out. They immediately brought her here because she wasn’t moving.”

Atang looked at Thabi. “You were doing spins?”

Thabi looked down. "Thank you Katlo."

"Its ok. She's fine. Traumatized but fine."

Atang looked at Katlo. "Did you write a report. I need it for the police. They need to have an airtight case for child negligence."

Thabi turned to him. Atang nodded.

"Good thing Teko is there. He will tell the police just how dangerous it is to get in a speed boat with a minor who doesn't even have a life jacket on her then you do spins with your boyfriend leaving her unattended. Doc, I need that report. Tota we can't stay with potential murderers amongst us."

Thabi swallowed. Katlo looked at Thabi then at Atang.

"Ok."

"Thank you."

Lomo smiled. "Are we all going home now?"

Thabi sadly looked at her. "I am sorry. I wasn't looking. I am sorry..."

"I forgive you. But my forgiveness is expensive."

Thabi chuckled tearfully. "I will pay whatever amount."

Lomo smiled. Thabi touched the bandage then smiled.

"We are finished. You can now go home with daddy."

"You too right?"

"No. I will go back."

Lomo's smile disappeared. "But I don't want you to go."

"Daddy is going to take good care of you."

She started crying. "I don't want you to go. Please don't leave me."

Thabi sighed hugging her. The police walked in. They looked at Thabi and Atang.

"Can we now ask you both a few questions?"

Thabi looked at Atang. "I am starting my senior residence in two weeks. I am sorry. I was careless and irresponsible. She could have died and I am responsible for it. I am sorry. I was so caught up in my own bubble I didn't realize the damage I was causing. It won't happen again. You can take her."

Atang looked at her then turned to the police. "She had our child. Talk to her, the doctor will give you a report. Child negligence is illegal right? Please do the right thing."

Thabi tearfully looked at him. "Atang--"

Atang kissed Lomo's cheek. "Hey... we are coming. We are going to talk to the police. I love you."

Lomo watched as they both walked away with the police. The police officer looked at Thabi.

"You can start talking or we can take it to the police station."

Thabi looked at Atang who had his arms folded waiting for her to talk.

"I went for a ride in a speed boat with her. I was so excited I forgot

everything else. I started spinning the boat. She lost balance and fell into the water. I was careless and irresponsible. I was wrong and I am sorry. It won't happen again. I made a mistake."

The police officer sighed. "What you did is child negligence and attempted murder. No mother behaves like this. She could have died and you would have been responsible for it. Other women are crying for babies while others attempt to kill theirs."

Thabi swallowed. "I was wrong. It won't happen again."

"It won't because we are locking you up."

Thabi looked at Atang. "Atang--"

"I am beginning to think you wanted to kill my child. You never wanted her in the first place."

Thabi shook her head crying. "If I didn't want her I would have never kept her. I would never try to kill my child."

One of the police officers took out the handcuffs.

"We are arresting you. You will tell us exactly what you were trying to do at the police station."

They dragged her away. He sighed and walked towards his daughter. Lomo looked behind him.

"Where is mama?"

Atang smiled. "The police took her to ask her more questions.."

"Ok..."

Atang looked at her unable to believe he had almost lost her.

A while later Agang walked towards the children's ward. His eyes immediately fell on his brother who was seated besides Lomo's bed.

He walked over and smiled staring at Lomo who was sleeping.

"She is ok?"

"Yeah... just traumatized."

"Where is Thabi?"

"At the police."

"She was arrested?"

"Rightfully so."

Agang looked at him. "I am sure she didn't do it on purpose. Sometimes we get overexcited and forget same way we get frustrated and find ourselves cheating without condoms getting diseases. You both messed up. If this is not a wake up call, I don't know what is. Can you just get your wife and stop this?"

"I am not sure about the relationship anymore but she's going to sleep in a cell tonight. She needs to understand the consequences of her actions. Maybe two nights. Two nights are perfect for her."

"What if that doctor guy goes to-"

“If he has a death wish he will try it. Mme ene o tsile go nyela. Thabi is yet going to pay for what she did today, was ntwaela. I am going to put her in her place, after I am done, she is going to hate me but she will be back in line.”

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Yours Truly

#93

At the police station, Pule sat in the interrogation room and sighed exhausted.

"I didn't see the child fall. Such mistakes happen. Come on..."

"Or maybe you pushed to eliminate anything connecting her to Atang."

Pule looked at him and frowned. "Why would I try and kill her joy? Are you out of your mind?"

"This is an attempted murder case. We are not playing games here. You two almost killed a child through recklessness or maybe it was on purpose. You are going to talk one way or the other. You are going to talk. You think this is a game?"

Pule looked at the time, it was now two hours of being asked the same questions over and over again.

"I want to call lawyer. I am not saying anything else till my lawyer gets here."

"This case is not going to favor you. You were with a woman who's probably bitter because she was hurt. Maybe you too planned this together.. matter of fact, I believe you two planned this together so you can get rid of this child because there is no way anyone would leave a child unattended, with no life jacket. Call your lawyer, you will need him because you are looking at jail

time.”

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In the other room, another police officer grilled Thabi with questions.

“So what was the plan? To get rid of her?”

Thabi tearfully sniffed. “I would never kill my child. I love her.”

“I don’t believe that. Your boyfriend is saying another story. You are going to jail for a very long time.”

She nodded. “Ok. I would never try and murder my own child. I work hard so that I can be the parent she needs.” Tears filled her eyes. “I was just trying to have some fun. I was reckless and careless but I love my daughter. I have nothing else to say. My chest hurts and my head is aching. Please just take me to my cell. I have nothing more to say.”

The police officer looked at her as she cried silently.

“She could have died.”

Thabi leaned back on the chair. “I don’t deserve to be her mother. Atang will take good care of her. She could have died because of my carelessness. Please take me to my cell. I am tired. Lock me up. I have no fight left in me.”

“When were you supposed to go back?”

“Next week.”

“Mistakes happen, I know that better than anyone. But mistakes that happens because of silly things get us the most. What makes it worse is the fact that you chose fun instead of your daughter. The least you could have done was let her wear a life jacket. I know you wouldn't kill your own child but if she died, no one would listen to that. She was your responsibility in that boat. Imagine if it had been Atang in your place with his girlfriend. Him spinning with the boat and your child drowning. What was going to be your reaction?”

“I have no excuse. My head is really aching. Please take me to my cell and lock me up. I have nothing to say. My head is aching.”

He nodded then stood up. Thabi stood up and followed him to the cell. He let her in, she walked to worn out form and laid down closing her eyes as her ached so much it felt like it was about to explode.

The police officer walked to his office and called Atang.

“Yah?”

“Your girlfriend looks sick. I am keeping her here tonight but tomorrow if she's worse, I am going have to involve my bosses. Wa lwala. (She's sick.)”

“What is she feeling?”

“She's been saying headache. My mother died the same way. Tota I should have her taken to the hospital but for you I will keep her.”

“She just wants to be released. Let her stay there. I will see her after two days. Don’t let her get to you.”

“Atang, I know a sick person when I see one.”

“She will be fine tomorrow. Gape hela how can her head not ache after all the crying she did today.”

“She didn’t mean it.”

“I will see her after two days. And her boyfriend?”

“Ene we don’t have a case tota. We are going to have to release him because he’s saying she didn’t see her fall. And it comes back to Thabile, she is the mother.”

“Ok, we will talk.”

“Sharp.”

Later that night, Atang laid his daughter on the bed at the hotel after she had fallen asleep watching TV.

He walked to the sitting room in the Presidential suite and sat down taking his phone. He leaned back calling Batang.

His phone rang for a while, Batang picked just before it could stop.

“Hello?”

Atang frowned at the hurried breathing. “Where ate you?”

“At the farm.”

“Let me speak to the old man then.”

“O robetsi. (He’s sleeping.)”

“Batang, did you use a condom?”

“I am at the-“

“I send someone to the farm right now! O seka wa bata go nkaketsa. Did you use a condom?”

“Yes.”

“You better have because if you have a child then you better start making plan on ways to take care of that child. You are only twenty! You are too young to be a baby daddy or to be getting diseases.”

“I used a condom.”

Atang sighed. “Since when do we lie to each other?*

“I know I went against the rules-“

“The rules are there to protect you. I told you to carry a condom wherever you go. You should always have a condom to avoid mistakes being done.”

“Yes.”

“Good. You are at her house?”

“Yes.”

“Don’t get caught. Her father will hate you for the rest of your life.

E monate kuku but don't let it get to your head.

"Yes. I have been trying to call Thabi."

"An incident happened today. We are trying to find ways to deal with the matter."

"I don't like how you always hurt my sister."

"I know. I am sorry. I know this affects you two."

"What now?"

"We are going to have to accept the new arrangements."

"I am really sad."

"So am I. After you are done, leave."

"Ok."

Atang hung up then looked at the police officer's number thinking of Thabi's headache. He sighed getting up then looked at the time walking over to Lomo.

He shook her gently. "Hey, I am you to get something downstairs. I am coming now."

She nodded sleepy then closed her eyes turning while snoring with her mouth open. Atang picked his car keys and wallet then hurried out.

In Gaborone, Agang walked in his bedroom and found her sleeping hugging the pillow. He undressed the laid behind her holding her.

“Hey...”

Kelly opened her eyes then sighed. “Hi...”

“I love you. More than you think. There was no way I would have celebrated in peace with Lomo missing. Lomo is my niece, my brother’s only daughter. I was bound to get worried. I saw you posted what’s going on on some Facebook page. Prince’s wife saw it. I am disappointed you would take our person matters to the public..I am sad of everything you said about Thabi. You might have not stated names and remained anonymous but it’s quite clear whom we are talking about. To call her a murderer was extreme considering how she likes you. I wish you took your time to understand her but I won’t say much in fear of my private matters being broadcasted on Facebook.”

He slowly lifted her butt stroking himself and pushed his weapon inside her wetness.

At the police station, Atang handed the medication to the police officer..

“Thabi’s medication for her headache.. please keep an eye on her.

In case she tries killing herself.”

“Ok. Are you sure you want us to keep her?”

“Yes. I will get her after two days.”

“Ok.”

He walked out of the police station, a female police officer looked at him then looked away smiling while pressing her phone.

Atang got in his car and picked his father’s call.

“Atang, what is this we are hearing about Lomo drowning? I bumped into Molefe...”

“Papa, let me deal with my family issues alone. I don’t need you or anyone getting involved.”

“Atang, I keep loosing more hope in this woman. She’s going to kill you one day. Might not be physically but she will drain you so much till you die.”

“That won’t happen. This was the last stroll. Lomo is going to have the mother she needs and deserves. Her mother will be that mother. She needs straightening up.”

“I don’t k know my boy. Obviously you won’t listen to me. Do what’s right for you and that child. Sometimes we have to accept that some things are just not meant to be... I hope you realize that soon before you lose yourself because I swear to you, you are going to end up killing her then yourself. Think carefully about what you want. Like I told you, sometimes love is not enough.”

TWO DAYS LATER...

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Yours Truly

#94

TWO DAYS LATER...

Atang parked his car at police station early morning then stepped out of the car. He looked at his daughter at the backseat.

"I am coming. Two minutes."

She nodded. Atang walked inside the police station and looked at Thabi who had already been released. She looked at him and signed a document.

She got her phone back. Atang gave the police officer a nod then looked at her.

"Let's go."

She walked behind him barefoot. He opened the door for her. She looked at him.

"I want to go home. You can take Lomo."

Atang closed the door staring at her.

"Didn't you come all the way here for her?"

Tears filled her eyes. "I don't want to try and murder my own daughter again whom I gave birth to and kept. My own daughter who I just decided to wait till she is eight years old to kill."

"Did you want me to praise you for what you did? What did you expect? A round of applause? What you did was stupid and reckless and it almost cost us our daughter. You deserved to be in prison for more than two days because I don't even know what you were thinking.. or maybe you were just thinking of yourself and your own enjoyment."

She sniffed as he spoke getting pissed. "That's why I am saying you can take her. It's fine. Please stop yelling at me."

He sighed and spoke calmly yet firmly. "You came here for her and you are going to spend time with her. I have allowed you to do as you please for too long, you are going to do what's needed from you. She expects your attention and you are going to give it to her, I don't care if I have to force you or what, tsena mo koloing."

He opened the door again. She slowly got in the car and sat on front seat. He strapped the seatbelt on her then closed her door.

Lomo smiled happily.

"I missed you. Did you heal the people in the police station? Daddy said you were helping the police. I missed you. I thought you left."

Thabi smiled turning to her. "I missed you too. I missed you so much."

Atang walked round the car and jumped in the car as Lomo took

off her seatbelt and hugged her. Thabi smiled tearfully.

"I love you..."

Lomo giggled. "I love you too. I don't want you to ever go."

Thabi touched her face and kissed her. Atang turned to Lomo.

"Princess, let's sit. And put on your seatbelt."

Lomo moved back and put on her seatbelt. He started the car and drove to the hotel. He parked the car then they stepped out.

They walked to their suite. Atang looked at Thabi.

"Freshen up while I order food. We are going for a road trip.."

She nodded then pulled her bag inside the bathroom. Lomo walked behind her. Thabi closed the door and filled water in the bathtub while Lomo took out her mother's bathing things. She took out Thabi's perfume and sprayed it.

Thabi undressed and slowly got in the water while Lomo smiled staring at her.

"You have tattoos. Sasa's mother said it's evil."

Thabi chuckled. "She is lying."

"Your breast are big. Bigger than aunt Botho's."

Lomo touched her mother's breast then smiled. "I want to bath with you."

"Ok."

She quickly undressed, Thabi smiled as she got in the water. She

laughed.

“Hot!”

Thabi laughed. “Come...”

She moved closer and put her head on her mother’s chest.

Atang knocked on the door. Thabi sighed.

“Come....”

He opened the door and looked at his girls.

“I am going downstairs. Do you guys want anything?”

Thabi shook her head. Lomo shook her head too smiling.

“Ok. I will be back just now.”

He closed the door and walked out. A while later Thabi stepped out of the bathtub with Lomo. Thabi got the white towels and dried Lomo. She helped her lotion then Lomo put on her clothes and smiled walking out of the bathroom smelling like her mother.

Lomo smiled as her father walked back in.

“I smell like mama..”

Atang smiled. “That’s nice. Food is coming. Where is she?”

“In the bathroom.”

He nodded. Atang opened the door as someone knocked on the door. Lomo smiled as their food got pushed in. The hotel lady quickly put it on the table then walked out. Almost twenty minutes went by, Atang looked at the bathroom door then got up.

He walked to the door and knocked walking in. Thabi turned holding the little brush she was using to lay down her baby hairs.

Atang looked at her baggy t-shirt then her shorts that exposed her smooth thighs. He swallowed putting his hand in his pocket.

“We are going way inside the bush. There are things that bite. You might want to put on jeans.”

“I will put on jeans when we arrive.”

He looked at her thighs again his dick stirring in his pants. She turned back to the mirror and finished up. She bended putting her things back in her toiletry bag. She tied her shoe laces and looked at him.

“I am done.”

He stood by the door staring at her. “Don’t you think your shorts are way too short?”

“I like them. They are not too short.”

She walked past him dragging her bag. He turned and looked at her thick butt that had filled the shorts. She sat down and reached for a muffin.

She quickly ate then stood up.

“We can go. I am done.”

Atang took her bag and walked out with it while Thabi followed behind with Lomo. They all got in the car, Atang looked at her thighs as she put on her seatbelt.

Unbothered, she put on her sunglasses rolling down the window. Atang started car and drove off. His eyes landed on her thighs again then he took a U-turn.

Thabi looked at him. "You forgot something?"

"Yes. Lomo, stay in the car. Thabile, come."

She looked at him confused as he stepped out. He opened the boot. Thabi took off the seatbelt and got out of the car. She walked over and looked at him rampaging through her bag. He grabbed a pair of jeans then closed her bag.

"Atang what are you doing?"

He closed the boot and pulled her back to their room.

"We are not going with you looking like that. Please change."

"I am not changing. I like my shorts."

"Thabile I don't want to argue with you."

"I am not changing!"

"So you want to walk around looking like a prostitute?"

"I am not looking like a prostitute. I look good."

"You look half naked! I can see your butt cheeks."

"Why are you looking at my butt?"

"Even if I don't want to look at it, it is out in the open to be seen. If I can see it, it means everyone else is going to see. Is that the kind of attention you want when we are with our daughter?"

“Why are you bringing Lomo into this?”

Atang sighed. “Thabi please...”

“I like my shorts.”

Atang picked her up and placed her on the bed. Thabi laughed pushing him off.

“Atang... you are overreacting. My butt cheeks are not out. Just because you are imagining them out doesn't mean they are out. Other women wear shorts-“

He sighed. “I am human. I have feelings too. It doesn't help that I still love you and that in my heart you are still my girl. I want Lomo to enjoy this. I want to enjoy this with her without having to think about men looking at your butt and thighs. I get that you like your shorts, and that there is nothing wrong with them but please... please meet me halfway.”

She looked in his eyes. “Ok.”

He smiled. “Thank you. I will help you change.”

He untied her shoelaces. Thabi laid back. He unbuttoned her shirts then pulled them down her legs. He looked at her lace thong then took a deep breath. He swallowed got the jeans. Thabi got off the bed and put on the jean before putting on her shoes. She looked at the tent in his pants.

“Gase gore o founele your new girlfriend. You have a situation there. You might want her sorting you out before we go.”

“I don't have a girlfriend. I am single.”

Thabi walked out with her shorts now in jeans. She threw the shorts back in her bag and got in the car. Minutes later Atang got in and started the car.

He reversed and drove off. He continuously stole glances at her as she looked out through the window.

Pule parked the car at the police station and walked inside. He went to the front desk.

“Dumelang, I want to see Rethabile Kaisara.”

“She was released in the morning. She’s not here.”

“She was released?”

“Yes.”

He frowned taking out his phone and called her.

“Hello?”

“Hey, where are you?”

“I am with Lomo and her father. We are going for a road trip.”

“You are going with the same man that cheated on you? Why would you go back to someone who obviously doesn’t love you and just wants to hurt you? What are you hoping to get from that? How do you repeatedly go back to someone who always cheats

on you?"

"This is about my daughter. He's coming with to make sure she is safe at all times. I came here for her. My relationship with her father has nothing to do with her. And she also gets to enjoy our attention at the same time. Don't talk to me as if I can't think for myself. I am doing what's best for my daughter. She almost died with you and I. I am not going to repeat the same mistake again. Just because I let you kiss me doesn't give you the right to interrogate me like your girlfriend. I am not. Know your place."

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Yours Truly

#95

Thabi hung up staring at Atang as he stood beside the road buying Moretlwa (Wild berries) from a hawker. She sighed recalling the days she had stood beside the road selling under the hot sun. The sun hadn't mattered back then. It had never mattered to her mother too.

Pule started calling again, Thabi cut the call and switched off her phone. Atang got back in the car and handed Thabi a plastic full of Moretlwa.

"Thanks. I haven't eaten this since high school."

"Kana kea lebala gore o village girl."

Thabi smiled. "Shakawe a tourist attraction area. We have the Okavango river passing through us. Gona cheese boy ke mathata."

"Cheese boy ke mang? Ke goletsi mo Kasane. I used to swim in the river where you almost killed my daughter."

She looked at him and laughed. "Ija.."

"Papa used to beat us everyday because of getting in the water ebile at the end I wouldn't even feel pain ya go bitswa."

Thabi laughed. "Doing things you shouldn't be doing started way back for you akere? It starts when you are small."

He smiled then chuckled starting the car. Thabi opened her plastic and started eating. She looked back at her daughter struggling.

“Lomo, do you need help?”

“No. I am fine.”

“Ok.”

Atang took a turn further into the bushes. Thabi sat upright wondering where he was taking them. He drove for another hour then slowed down as they approached a Safari Camp.

Thabi sat upright. He slowed down and parked. Thabi looked at him then back at the camp.

From a distance she caught eye of three Zebras.

“We are here... let’s go.”

He jumped out of the car. Thabi followed and held Lomo’s hand. An elderly man walked over to them wearing jeans an a long sleeved shirt tucked in.

“Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, welcome. You can come through, my name is Edward. I am the overseer here. I will help you with your bags.”

Atang shook his hand. “Thanks. I will carry the bags. It’s ok. This is our daughter. Lomo.”

Edward smiled. His accent was different, he sounded very much foreign. He led them to their thatched roof chalet. He unlocked the door and let them in. They walked in, Thabi smiled at the wooden floor then the bed.

She took out her phone and switched on. It complained of battery low at 5%.

“Where are the plugs?”

Edward smiled. “Like I had explained to Mr. Daniel, here we don’t have electricity. We are all about taking you away from the city life and just enjoying nature. There are candles through out the room to light it up at night.”

Thabi looked at Atang who seemed unbothered.

“We also don’t offer food. Since you are our guests at the moment, the fire place is yours alone. The river is down there but avoid going there at night.”

Atang smiled. “Thank you.”

Edward smiled and walked out. Atang turned and found the girls looking at him.

“What? We are going to enjoy this without life outside. So no phones. We will work together to make sure we eat. I brought us some meat. We will be fine.”

“But I wanted to watch my movie.”

Atang looked at his daughter then took the tablet from her.

“You will watch it when we go home baby. Right now we are going to watch ourselves.”

Thabi looked at her phone as Atang opened his hand. She slowly gave it to him and sighed.

“I hope you are not expecting me to cook. I am not cooking. You brought us here knowing the situation. I am sure you had a plan in place.”

He put away the gadgets and smiled. “Lomo and I will braai. We are going to have fun.”

Thabi walked out and turned to Atang. He put his hands on her waist.

“We don’t need electricity and our phones to have fun.”

“I saw a Zebra. What if there are Lions too?”

“There are no Lions. Relax. Want to see the river?”

“NO!”

He smiled. “Ok... there a nice gazebo outside. It’s hot in here. We can go and sit outside.”

“Lomo and I are going to sit by the Gazebo. We are going to take a shower then put on our bikinis while you bring cold juice. I like mine with ice. And we are hungry. Lunch won’t hurt. Right Lomo?”

Lomo nodded. “Yes. I want orange juice. No ice in my juice. But cold.”

Atang sighed. “Guys, we are working together-“

Thabi walked to her bag. “There is no we. It’s only you.”

She opened her bag and took out her blue bikini. She also took out the pink bikinis she had bought for Lomo.

“Lomo, come... let’s give daddy a chance to get our food. Can we

please find out juices ready? I like mine with ice and non for Ms Daniel. Make it cold though.”

He watched them as they walked inside the bathroom. Minutes later they walked out in their bikinis. Thabi opened the door and looked outside.

“Come Lomo..”

They walked to the gazebo where Thabi smiled looked at their drinks in disposable cups. Atang looked at her and took a deep breath.

“You look beautiful.”

“Shame you had to replace me.” She whispered. “This little getaway would have been ours you know... and now instead you are treating potential diseases.”

She reached for her cup and took a sip. “Thank you for the juice.”

She sat down and closed her eyes enjoying the cool breeze.

In Maun, Elang opened Thabi’s profile picture. She zoomed in the picture staring her and Lelomo. She opened Thabi’s status and looked at all the pictures she had posted of herself and her daughter. She paused at the last picture of Atang’s hand holding the steering wheel.

She went to Thabi's inbox and started typing, her heart getting heavier with each word.

Elang: Hi, I see you are around. It's funny how our friendship has slowly died in the past years, I thought I was imagining things but if you can come back without telling me to a point that I have to find out through your status it says a lot. I just don't understand what happened.. is it something I did nemma?

She sent the message but it ticked once. She sighed tearfully all alone in the house. With her children gone, the loneliness got even more worse. Farai's car drove in. Elang stood up and put the cushions nicely..

He walked in minutes later then he looked at her.

"What?"

"You are home earlier than I thought." She smiled. "Not that I am complaining."

He walked past her going to the bedroom. She followed behind him.

"I came here to change my t-shirt."

Elang looked at his t-shirt. "What is wrong with it?"

He changed into another t-shirt and sighed. "Nothing."

"You seem off. Is it because of the pregnancy?"

Farai took a deep breath. "I just don't understand why we keep having kids? Didn't we agree that..." He sighed. "It's exhausting. A lot of kids are expensive especially if the other person in the

relationship is not bringing any income.”

“Farai what do you want me to do since I can’t get a job?”

“You have two hands and feet! You can surely do something. I don’t want this baby and you are not going to keep it. You can’t keep getting pregnant like you are paid to. I don’t even believe you forgot your shot. You just wanted another a child. Another child is not going to save this sinking ship.”

He walked out. Elang followed him sniffing. “Farai-“

“By the way, my mother is coming. She doesn’t know about us cohabiting so make sure by tomorrow you should be back at your house. Sharp.”

He walked out and got in his car then drove off. A tear rolled down Elang’s cheeks. She put her hands on her face crying.

Meanwhile in Gaborone, Pule’s wife got an envelope from her PI.

“I took pictures. Everything is in there.”

She took out the pictures and stared at him kissing his so called student. She has long suspected something was going. She swallowed staring at all the pictures then she looked at the PI.

“Thank you.”

He nodded and walked out. Pule’s wife took her phone and called

her lawyer.

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Yours Truly

#96

At the Safari Camp, later that day just after dusk, Thabi sat by the fire in her sweatpants and a long sleeved top while Atang braaied the meet with Lomo narrating something that had happened at school.

She scratched her neck looking at the darkness surrounding them. Atang laughed with his deep voice making her smile relaxing. She tried to listen to the conversation but found herself staring at him.

There was just something about this man. He wasn't your usual type of men, no... Atang was different. Or maybe she just loved him. He lifted the corner of his lips smiling. She swallowed thinking of him under the bed hiding from her. The cum dripping from that woman's inner thigh.

Tears itched her eyes as she stared at him wondering just how he managed to cheat... she thought of Chris... she had never fully opened to him because she kept comparing him to Atang.

She looked at the ground as a tear rolled down. She took a deep breath hugging her legs sitting on the stool. Somehow she felt as if a heavy load was on her shoulders.

"Mama!"

Thabi raised her head and looked at Lomo who was holding a plate full with meat. Thabi smiled and looked at Atang.

“Thanks.”

“Are you ok?”

She smiled. “Yes. Thank you. Smells nice.”

She picked the meat and started eating. Lomo got her plate and sat down. Atang looked at her as she ate in silence. Lomo continued talking loudly. Thabi looked at her and smiled.

“Mama, are you listening?”

Thabi nodded. “Yes Ms Daniel. I am listening. What did teacher say after you said that?”

She sighed then went on talking. They finished eating then Lomo looked at her father.

“Daddy tell us fork tales. Don’t repeat the ones you already told me. And don’t make any up.”

Atang laughed. “Ok, come closer.”

Lomo moved closer. Atang looked at Thabi. “You too babe...”

Thabi moved closer. He looked at them and smiled.

“Ene erile gona le mgwanyana o montle montle... (Once upon a time there was a very beautiful girl.)”

Lomo looked at him listening curiously.

“She was so beautiful.. more than the stars. She had the most beautiful smile and she was very intelligent... like you. She stayed in the village with her mother and brother. One day she-”

“Daddy what was her name?”

Atang sighed. “Uh Metsi.”

“Daddy that’s not a real name?”

“It is, just because you have never heard of it doesn’t make it unreal.”

“Ookay..”

“Should I continue?”

“Yes.”

“Ok. One day when she was walking, she saw an old ugly woman.”

“Daddy, no. Where was she going? Did her mother send her?”

“Lomo, can’t she just walk without being sent?”

“You sound like you are making it up.”

Thabi smiled as they continued arguing with each sentence he said. She finally kept quiet leaning on him. Atang continued as she silently listened till he was done.

Atang looked at her and sighed.

“And here I thought she was actually listening. O robetsi. (She’s asleep.) I will put her down.”

He picked her up and walked to the chalet with her. Thabi looked around ready to run if anything came from the darkness.

Atang walked back over to her and sat down staring at her.

“Talk to me...”

She smiled, her head on her knees. “What do you want me to say?”

“Anything...”

She blinked. Atang walked to the car and came back with a camping air mattress together with the pump. He quickly pumped it then looked at her.

“Come....”

She got up and walked over. She took off her shoes and laid down with him. They looked at the stars. Atang turned to her.

“I am happy you are here. I have never seen our daughter this happy in a while.”

Thabi smiled. “I have been a shitty parent. I know.”

“Not shitty but better could be achieved.”

She looked at him and smiled. “You are amazing at this Dad business.”

He smiled shyly. “Thanks.”

There was silence as she looked at the stars.

“I love you. I don’t expect you to believe me when I say I love you more than anything. At this point I know we have reached the T-junction of whether we keep trying or just end it.” He turned and looked in her eyes. “I know you are hurting. I have caught you crying twice since we got here. I hate that I am the reason. Not

that I am excusing it but it didn't mean anything. It was just a moment influenced with anger and pain. You deserve better-

"No.." Tears filled her eyes. "You are the one who deserves better. You were patient long enough. You are human after all. I have been the worst.. I have taken out my frustrations on you... on us. You are right. I can afford a call everyday. I didn't call on purpose sometimes because I... kept hoping you just find someone else. Someone who will be there. Someone who is present. Someone who will love you just right... someone you can depend on. It's hard for me to be that person right now. I am going back... I have worked so hard for this.. and I don't think you should even put up with it. I want to set you free because I can't promise anything. You are growing old. You can't keep chasing me. I love you but I can't help but feel we met at the wrong time. I don't want us to keep hurting each other. I also don't want to keep crying. It's painful... I also don't want you to keep begging. I love you enough to let you go."

He looked at her as her tears fell. Atang wiped away her tears.

"You want to end this for good?"

Thabi smiled. "I know there is a woman out there for you. Someone who will love you and put you first. You won't have to beg or to compromise a lot more and receive way less."

"If that's what you want ok. I am not fighting this time around babe. I think we are past that. I am going to give you what you want."

She looked at him nodding and buried her head on his chest

crying. Atang hugged her kissing her neck. He closed his eyes holding her tightly. She finally kept quiet and breathed heavily panting while sniffing. He moved her head slightly and smiled.

“Can I kiss you?”

She laughed wiping a tear. “Make it good. It won’t be happening again...”

He leaned over and kissed her. Thabi closed her eyes as his lips touched hers, he french kissed weakening her as her heart raced. He slowly got on top of her, his dick getting hard as she touched his chest.

Atang opened her legs with her knee breathing heavily on top of her. Thabi pulled out his t-shirt. He took it off quickly and kissed her again as she ran her hands on his broad chest.

He slid his hand underneath her waist pulling her up and grinded his erection against her.

Thabi moaned softly touching the back of his head with her other hand on his back. He grinded his erection on her again letting out a grunt. He moved his lips from her lips going to her neck. She rubbed his head moaning, her p*ssy throbbing.

Atang moved his lips further down sucked her nipples on top of her thin texture long sleeved top.

Thabi threw her head back. “Ataang....”

He slowly lifted her top and took it off. He breathed heavily touching her breasts and squeezed them. He sucked her nipples

again going a bit harder. She cried out in pain mixed with pleasure. He sucked even harder that her p*ssy throbbed even more as her panties got even wetter.

He kissed her going down her belly button and pulled out her sweatpants.

Thabi slowly opened her eyes and looked at him weakly. He took off her panties and looked at her clean thick p*ssy.

He leaned over and parted her p*ssy lips with his tongue and grazed her swollen clit with his tongue. Thabi let out a moan, her eyes closed. Atang sucked her eating her p*ssy. Thabi squeezed her breast moaning. Her moans got louder getting closer.

He lifted his head and kissed her. Thabi slid her hand inside his pants then she touched his hard weapon. She took it out and stroked him.

“Did you bring condoms?”

He paused and looked at. “Uh yes. In the car.”

Thabi put his dic back in his pants. “Go and take them.”

He quickly got up not wanting to negotiate anything and ran to the car. He quickly connected his phone to the car and played a song to kill any sounds that could wake up his child. Khoisan’s Sethubege played as he rushed back to her. He took out a condom and quickly opened it with his teeth while Thabi took out his hard dic. He slid the condom on his weapon and pushed her down pulling her closer.

Thabi closed her eyes as he pushed himself inside. She closed her eyes feeling him stretch her walls.

“Look at me babe...”

She opened her eyes and looked at him as he slowly pushed himself inside.. He leaned over kissing her sliding out then he pushed back in again. She bit his lip moaning. He moved his waist filling her up in every angle. She closed her eyes at the unexplainable pleasure. She pushed down his pants with her toes.

Thabi moved beneath him moaning. Her p*ssy narrowed on him, she sank her nails into his skin while he continuously drilled her.

She threw her head back as a strong urge to pee came over her. She tightened her muscles trying to hold it in. Atang grunted at the feeling of her pussy clamping hard on him. Fuck it was too soon but it felt way too good he couldn't stop to give himself a second. She could barely feel the condom, it felt like it was his meat on hers and each deep stroke he gave her touched her soul. It got way sweeter, Thabi rolled her eyes, their sweaty bodies grinding against each other.

His dick pushed way deeper into her that he tapped a tender spot that sent her body into multiple explosions as she squatted, her p*ssy spasming.

“Ataaang! Ohh I love you....”

Her p*ssy gripped his dick tightly as he pushed back inside, he groaned squeezing her waist as pleasure had him vibrating on top of her. He gave another thrust pushing deep inside then flattened

himself in her pumping out his cum. He stilled on top of her drained.

Thabi wrapped her arms around him. Minutes went by then he slowly slid out. Thabi weakly lifted her head and looked as he slid out, the condom still intact. She sighed and relaxed. He took off the condom and pulled her in his arms.

He kissed her. "I love you, I will never stop loving you.."

She smiled exhausted then touched his beard. "I love you more..."

She laid her head on his chest. They held each other while the flame slowly died down. He sighed closing his eyes wondering if his heart was ready to accept reality.

Khoisan's Sethubege played on repeat as they held each other.

'Ntu ntu se thubege

Se thubege

Ntu ntu se thubege

Le fa e kana se thubege

Ntu ntu se thubege

Se thubege

Ntu ntu se thubege

Le fa e kana se thubege

Boroko bo ne bo le thata bosego

Go be go le thata o seyo
O mpithetsi ke sheleketa
Wapha moriti was ntshireletsa
Wa mpha lesedi
I feel better
Ke na lewena go ya goileng
E ja serati
Kenna Le wena
Ao so se Lerato
So so sena lerato'

The song continued playing till they both fell asleep.

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Yours Truly

#97

A WEEK LATER...

In Shakawe, Atang drove through the gate at Thabi's house and drove through the short grass. She took a deep breath looking at the house. Lomo looked.

"This is your house mama?"

Thabi smiled. "Yes."

"It looks old."

Thabi smiled stepping out of the car.

"It is."

Mmagwe Mavis looked over seated by her veranda and fixed her long expired spectacles staring at Rethabile.

She squinted her eyes as Thabi looked around the yard smiling, a man and a child also stepped out. She slowly put her plate of Tsabana down then stood up and walked over the fence.

"Rethabile!"

Thabi turned and smiled tying her long braids she had plaited a day back.

"Mmagwe Mavis, how are you?"

Mmagwe Mavis smiled. "I am fine... it's been years. You long left and decided to abandon us."

Thabi laughed. "I was at school."

She frowned. "All these years?"

"Yes. I am studying to be a doctor."

"Woow! If Mavis could see what other children are doing maybe she will stop having kids every year. You look beautiful my girl."

"Thank you."

"Is that your husband and daughter?"

Thabi nodded knowing she was giving the entire community something to talk about. "Emma."

"That's good. I am happy to see you."

"Me too."

Thabi walked to the door as mmagwe Mavis walked back to her veranda. She sat down watching closely as the man offloaded bags then last the plastics of groceries.

Thabi unlocked the house and walked in. She looked at her mother's picture frame on the wall. She tearfully smiled like she could actually see her standing right there.

She looked at their old green couches then the small CRT Tv. She smiled, it was dusty but everything was in place. Trust Batang to visit and not move anything. She slowly walked to the kitchen and looked at their green kitchen unit.

She walked over and opened it. Her mother's favorite glasses were still there. A tear rolled down as she touched the green bread bin.

Atang walked over holding their groceries. He put everything down and touched her waist. "Are you ok?"

She laughed tearfully. "It feels like home. I miss her. The wound never heals."

"She is watching over you."

Thabi smiled. "I hope she is proud. She always wanted me to either be a lawyer or doctor... though she loved the idea of a lawyer more. Where is Lomo?"

"Taking a grand tour."

Thabi sighed. "Can she please stay behind with me? I will drop her off when I come."

Atang nodded. "Yes."

"Thank you."

Lomo walked in the kitchen and smiled. "There is a swing at the back. Was it yours?"

"No baby.. it was Batang's. Don't get on it. It's old."

Atang smiled moving his hands from Thabi. "I can fix you guys something before I go."

Lomo smiled. "Yes."

He walked outside with Lomo. Thabi walked to the bedrooms. She

opened her mother's room and took a deep breath. She slowly walked in and stood by the door watching Atang laugh with Lomo while inspecting the swing.

She smiled then walked out going to her room. Minutes later she started cleaning wiping off the dust. Atang walked in as she finished up.

"I made a new swing."

"Thank you."

"By the way I have been thinking of getting Batang a small car, maybe a Golf. He's really doing well at school. I think he deserves it."

Thabi smiled. "Thank you. He will love it."

"He's my boy."

She smiled. "Thank you for being a father figure to him."

Atang touched her chin. "There is no need to thank me. We met for a reason Lorraine."

Thabi laughed. "Ija."

"I have to go. I am flying tomorrow morning. I will see you when you come."

"Yes."

Lomo walked in the house. He looked at her and smiled.

"I am going now. See you when mama drops you off."

“Ok.”

He kissed her cheek and put her down. Thabi walked him to his car and stood by smiling as he jumped in. He started the engine then winked at her before reversing and driving off putting on his cap.

Thabi walked in the house then took her phone and called Elang.

“Thabi...”

“Hi, I am at home. You can come over.”

“Are you sure?”

Thabi smiled. “Yes. Thamma I am sorry. I know you feel abandoned but it’s not only you. You know I love you. Come...”

Elang laughed. “I am coming.”

At Elang’s house, Elang looked at her kids watching TV then picked her phone putting on her flip flops. Her mother walked from the kitchen.

“Mmagwe Mavis just passed by. She says Thabi is back and she is thin like she has HIV.”

Elang laughed. “She had already arrived? Waitse this old hag ija. I am coming. I am going to see her.*

“Tell her she should come by sometime. I will cook a marvelous meal just for the doctor. Her mother must be so proud. A whole surgeon. Imagine... some people are blessed. I just love how she is focused. I should call the principal at the senior school. Thabi should go and motivate those kids. They should know that your situation doesn't define you. And the fact that she has only one child and is focused on her future is lovely. I mean she's not having 100 kids cohabiting like other people...”

Elang sighed as her mother went on praising Rethabile shaming her at the same time. She walked to her room and opened her handbag then took out some pills. She put them in her bra and walked out.

Minutes later she walked through the gate and walked inside the house.

Thabi smiled and hugged her. Elang laughed wrapping her arms around her.

“Friend!”

Thabi laughed. “Wow... you... are you pregnant?”

Elang smiled. “Farai wanted the last one.”

“He did?”

“Yes he did.”

“That's nice.”

Lomo walked from the bedroom holding her tablet.

“Mama, is there WiFi?”

“No baby.”

Elang looked at Thabi’s beautiful daughter. Lomo smiled.

“Hello..”

Elang smiled. “Hi..”

Lomo looked at her mother. “Should I call daddy and ask him to get us one?”

“No. We will manage without WiFi. Go and take out your dirty clothes so I wash them.”

She turned and walked back to the bedroom. Thabi smiled. “Sit. I haven’t cooked. Let me pour you juice.”

Thabi walked to the kitchen and came back with two glasses of juice. She placed them on the table. Elang took out her phone.

“Can you please charge my phone for me?”

“Yes.”

Thabi stood up and took her phone to the bedroom. She paused staring at Lomo talking to the phone with a low voice. She put Elang’s phone on the charger and walked out like she is didn’t hear her talking to her father.

Elang looked at her already drinking her juice.

“So how is school?”

Thabi sat down reaching for her juice then took a sip chatting.

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Yours Truly

#98

Thabi catching a smell from the juice, the taste itself making her spit out the juice immediately. Elang looked at her.

“What’s wrong?”

“It tastes funny.”

“What?”

“It has funny taste and smell. It doesn’t smell like Orange juice. There something on this juice.”

“Mine is fine. Check the expiry date.”

“Ng Ng, it doesn’t smell spoilt. It smells like something was put inside.”

Elang’s heart pounded. Thabi took a small sip then about it out getting up. “There is something in this juice. Let me taste yours. Maybe it’s me.”

Thabi took Elang’s glass and sipped just a bit. “Yours is fine.. something is on my juice.”

Thabi walked to the kitchen with her glass and opened the bottle of juice then sipped. Elang’s heart pounded so much as she stood up.

Thabi walked back from the kitchen. “Did you put something in my juice?”

“What?”

“Your juice tastes fine and so is the one from the bottle. Why is mine different?”

“Maybe it’s your cup.”

“My cup that did what? I washed these cups.”

Elang swallowed sweating. “Nnemma what are you accusing me of? Did you call me here to fight with me?”

“Who is fighting with you?”

“I am going.”

“You are not going anywhere Elang. What did you put in my juice?”

Elang walked to the door. Thani pulled her bag.

“What did you put in my juice? Ke bua le wena!”

“Leave me alone Thabile.”

“Not till you tell me what you put in my juice. What are you hoping to achieve?”

“Leave me alone.”

Thani locked her door and put the keys in her jean pocket. She walked to the kitchen where she walked back holding a knife. Elang stepped back.

“If you hurt my baby and I you are going to jail.”

Thani walked over then tore her dress with the knife. The sachet of pills immediately fell. Thani picked them up and took them out.

She looked at them carefully and looked at Elang.

“Elang what is this?”

“Those are my blood pressure pills.”

Thabi took a deep breath and handed her two. “Then take them. Drink your pills.”

Elang’s heart pounded so much as sweat went down between her breasts.

“You can’t-“

“Put those pills in your mouth.”

Elang’s voice broke as she cried. “I don’t want to. Open the door.”

“You are going to drink your pills. I will make you swallow them myself.”

Thani pulled Elang’s arm. Elang screamed.

“You are not going without telling me what these pills are for! You are going to drink them.”

Elang angrily looked at her crying. “I hate you! I hate you do much I wish you can die just like your mother died. I pray for nothing but your misery every night Rethabile. I hate you.”

Thabi laughed. “You are crazy.”

“Maybe... maybe I am crazy Rethabile but don’t you think you would be if you grew up all your life being compared to someone? Was it school or anything, I’d get compared to you. I have never lived my life in peace because of you. Everything I do gets

compared to what Rethabile would have done. Even now! I have no peace. My boyfriend has a crush on you. Imagine how that is. Everywhere I turn it's Rethabile that Rethabile this! So yes I am crazy! I am crazy because I am not happy. I have never enjoyed my life because of you."

Thabi stepped back tears filling her eyes. "So what? You wanted to kill me?"

"Yes I wanted to kill you. You were going to die and it was going to look like suicide. I bought them on my way here from Shakawe just for you because I am sick and tired of you."

"I feel sorry for you."

Thsni threw the pills on her face. "And Farai doesn't love you. He never did. You trapped him with kids hoping he will love you. It's a shame that you would think children keep a man. Get out of my house..."

Thabi unlocked the door. Elang picked her pills sniffing and walked out. Thabi looked at her sadly.

"Get help. You need help."

She continued walking. Thabi closed her eyes and stood against the door, her hands on her face.

In Namibia, Kelly sat in the 5 star hotel room taking pictures. She

uploaded them on her Facebook and Instagram. Agang walked from the bathroom and reached for his phone.

“We are going home tomorrow morning.”

Kelly smiled. “This was nice.”

He kissed her. “I love you.”

Kelly smiled. “I am sorry about my behavior. I just didn’t like that you were jumping around for your brother’s wife forgetting me.”

Agang sighed. “It’s ok. Somehow I feel you had your friend sleep with my brother on purpose but it doesn’t matter now because Thabi and Atang broke up.”

“I swear I didn’t tell Letty to do that.”

“It doesn’t matter.”

Kelly looked at him tearfully. “I had told her to stay away from him I swear.”

“Ok.”

He kissed her then dressed up. Kelly put her phone down and laid besides him.

“I would never plan for your brother’s marriage to fail. I don’t hate Thabi, it was just jealous talking. I love you.”

Agang smiled. “I love you too.”

She smiled relieved but then guilty weighed her down as she thought of the fact that her best friend was the reason Atang and Thabi had broken up.

In Maun hours later, Atang stopped at the filling station then rolled down his windows looking around. He caught sight of the Audi on the other side with two ladies inside. The one driving stepped out in her white formal pants and a white blazer.

Atang watched as she kicked her tires with her long stilettos, her long hair over her shoulders. She turned looking over while holding her phone and whatever she seemed to be saying seemed serious.. she walked inside the filling station store. Atang sighed and looked at the fuel attendant who had been staring too.

“Laitaja, tsenya full tank then wipe my windshield. I am coming.”

He stepped out and walked inside the store. He picked two cans of energy drinks and queued behind her while she continued talking on the phone.

“Its either you take it or you don't. What you do is not my business but trust me, you don't want this taken to court. If you think just because you are a man, you will oppress me the same way you probably do to your wife then you have another thing coming for you. My name is Rebantle Mosweu, don't forget my name.”

She dropped the call and pushed the chocolate to the cashier. Atang pushed his energy drinks to the cashier.

“I will pay for everything.”

She turned. "I can pay for my own chocolate."

"Thamma kea go tshaba, don't kill me."

She paused then chuckled, her face softening. "I can pay for it."

Atang smiled. "I won't forget your name. You can trust me on that." Atang paid.

She took her chocolate. "Thanks."

He walked out with her. "I am Atang."

She smiled. "Thank you for the chocolate that I could have paid for myself."

He walked with her to her silver RS7. He opened the door for her, she got in. Atang reached for her business card on her dashboard and smiled staring at her name and her job position.

"Makes sense."

Rebante laughed starting her car then drove off. Atang looked at her business card again and walked to his car smiling.

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Yours Truly

#99

Later that same day after dinner, Thabi face Lomo the laptop in the bedroom then walked out and went to the sitting room in her pyjama shorts and shirt.

She sat down dialing Atang. She listened to it ring for a while then he finally picked.

“Hey...”

She smiled. “Hi, I hope I am not distracting you?”

“No. What’s up? How are you guys settling?”

Thabi leaned back on the couch. “I heard her talking to you about Wifi.”

“She will get used to it. There is WiFi at home but she doesn’t use it everyday.”

“She is watching movies now. We miss you already.”

“I saw a beautiful someone.”

Thabi paused then smiled. “So soon?”

“My eyes are not closed.”

“What’s her name?”

“Rebantle.”

“On a scale of ten, how beautiful is she?”

“She’s beautiful. She is a judge.”

“Uhu... ele gore how old is she?”

“She is older than you.”

“So she’s now your new Chicken? Hopefully you catch her this time around.”

Atang laughed. “I think I want to go thinks differently.. if I choose to chase her. O lebege a le bodipa nyana.”

Thabi laid on the couch then put her legs up.

“Don’t sleep with her the first night.”

“I won’t. I want to do things differently in my next relationship. First thing is accepting the end of you and I. I think that will make things easier for me if I have no hope that you and I can ever be. To accept that you are only Lomo’s mother.”

“Ok. That’s a good first step. Nna tota right now I don’t think go jola ke priority. I want my degree do bad sometimes I don’t see anything but that. I almost there. I wanted to stay there for a while after my residency... when I become an attending but I want to come back home. I want to open a private clinic after I work a bit to see how we do things.”

“I am proud of you. I have never seen a hard worker like you. A go getter. I love that about you. When you want something, you go for it.”

Thabi smiled. “Thank you.”

“I have been thinking about the plot we were going to get. And I think I should put it in Lomo’s name. Maybe build a house there. Not as big as I wanted but... something.”

“Or give it to me. Kana Atang you married me. I know I walked in that marriage with nothing and now I am going to walk out with nothing again?”

He laughed. “You have started.”

“Atang wee... do the right thing. Gape if I am staying there it means Lomo will also be staying there. I gave back the car. Give me the plot. Please... think about it. We will talk when I come back to Bots.”

Thabi’s phone vibrated ringing. She looked at the unsaved number calling then sighed cutting the call.

“Elang wanted to kill me.” She put her legs down narrating what had happened. “I think that time I went crazy she had put something in the drink she gave me because it was the only thing I consumed that day.”

“I long told you I don’t like that person.”

“I know. But you know when you grew up with someone, completely cutting them off is hard. I am glad this happened. Now I can close off this chapter for good.”

“I hope you mean it.”

“I do.”

Her phone rang again. “Attie let me call you back. Someone is

calling.”

She hung up and picked the call.

“Rethabile Kaisara speaking, hello?”

“Hi. You are talking to Kaone Taole, Mrs Kgosi’s lawyer. Mrs. Kgosi is suing for home wreckage after she got evidence of you and her husband kissing. We are going to have documents delivered to you. I realize you are an aspiring doctor who has a reputation and I am sure this is not the kind of publicity you want to your name. I want us to settle this out of court. No one had to get humiliated.”

“I am sorry, you lost me. I am being sued for what?”

“Home wreckage. You are having an affair with Puke Kgosi.”

Thabi laughed. “I am not having an affair with Pule.. I didn’t even know he was married. He said the ring was for fun.”

“So in your brain you believed he is just wearing a ring for fun? How stupid are you? Does a man like him look like he would just wear a ring for fun? She wants P100k. Either we sort it out of court or drag you to court... your choice. You have until tomorrow morning to give us your response.”

The lawyer hung up. Thabi stared at her phone for a while in shock then called Pule.

“Thabi-“

“I just got a call from your wife’s lawyer.”

“I am sorting it out. Don’t worry about it.”

“Sort it out and stay away from me.”

Thabi hung up and blocked him. She sighed still in shock then called Atang again lying on her side relaxing her body.

At Elang’s house, Elang sat on her bed at the backroom while her children played on the floor. She submitted her CV through email to a company that was looking for someone with her qualifications.

Meanwhile her oldest daughter opened her mother’s handbag and took some pills. She smiled walking to her younger sister.

“Lets play... was lwala and I am a doctor. Drink your medication.”

She gave her brother one medicine laughing. They continued playing while eating the pills.

Elang scrolled through her Facebook timeline passing people celebrating their achievements. She swallowed taking a deep breath then called Farai. His phone rang a couple of times before he finally picked.

“Elang...”

“Hey, how are you?”

“Fine. What is it?”

“I just called to check up on you.”

“I am fine. I have something I need to tell you.”

“Ok, what?”

“I had a wife back home and she’s officially moved this side. I will be staying with her and our kids meaning you can’t come back to the house.”

Elang frowned. “What?”

“My wife and I will be staying together.”

“What wife Farai?”

“You and I are done. Please don’t bother us.”

Elang slowly got up. “Farai, what wife?”

“Her name Monica and she’s already here. She’s beautiful and also a hard worker. She will be helping me financially. She is carrying our second child and I don’t want her to have a difficult pregnancy. So you can’t come back. Also please get a job.”

“We have kids Farai! I am coming there. Do you think this is a joke?”

“Don’t bother coming because no one will open for you. I am done with you. We are done. Get a job because you are going to need it.”

That same night in Maun, Batang jumped through the wall at Lebo's house. He walked to the backdoor where Lebo was standing. She quickly let him in and led her to her room.

He smiled kissing her. He gently laid her down getting on top of her. Lebo took out a condom from underneath her pillow. Batang took off her night dress and touched her breast.

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From the next room, mmagwe Lebo be woke up pressed. She got up leaving her husband sleeping then walked out of the bedroom. She walked down the passage passing Lebo's room. She sighed staring at Lebo's bedroom light that was still on.

"God this girl..."

She opened the door walking in.

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Yours Truly

#100

Mmagwe Lebo screamed as Batang jumped off her daughter. He quickly pulled up his pants putting away his dic.

Mmagwe Lebo staggered back then walked to her bedroom.

“Rragwe Lebo! Wake up!”

Lebo’s jumped off bed putting on her night dress then threw Batang’s shoes at him.

“Run! Run!”

Batang ran out through the backdoor as rragwe Lebo woke up.

“There is a man in the house!”

He looked at his wife and quickly got up. He ran out in his blue and white boxers, his big belly shaking. He swallowed as Batang jumped out through the wall.

“Ke legodu? (Was it a thief?) How did he even get in? Did he take anything?”

Mmagwe Lebo shook her head. “He was in Lebo’s room.”

“Doing what? Lebo!”

He rushed to her room and looked at his daughter. “Did he do anything to you? We are calling the police.”

Tears filled her eyes as she looked at her mother begging her with

her eyes not say nothing.

“No. Maybe he was about to take my phone.”

Her father sighed. “How did he get in? Where all the doors locked? Lebo did you lock all the doors?”

Lebo nodded. Her father sighed walking to the door but there was no sign of a struggle. It was probably one of those thieves who really knew their jobs. He sighed worriedly and turned to his wife and daughter.

“Let’s lock. We will deal with this in the morning..I will sleep in the sitting room tonight.”

Mmagwe Lebo looked at her daughter then sighed.

“I think you should set free Bobby free.”

Rragwe Lebo nodded then walked outside and set their dog bulldog loose. He looked around the yard and walked back in the house locking behind him.. Lebo walked back to her bedroom and kicked Batang’s t-shirt under the bed. Her mother walked in and looked at her angrily.

“Lebogang-“

“I am sorry.”

She walked over and slapped her across the face. Lebo pressed her lips together in silence.

“You bring men with animal things in my house! Under my roof! Huh?”

Lebo swallowed staring at her mother's angry face.

"Do you pay rent here?"

"I am sorry."

Her mother slapped her again and banged her head on the wall multiple times.

"You bring men in my house?!"

"I am sorry."

Her mother stepped back then walked out. Lebo touched her head in silence standing against the wall.

Batang limped as a cramp weakened his right leg. It got so painful he stopped trying to handle the pain but it was so much he sat down leaning against a wall. He closed his eyes breathing heavily still shaking..

His phone rang, he took it out and picked.

"Hi, where are you?"

"I got a cramp. I am close by. What's going on?"

"Papa thinks it's a thief. Mama is angry but it's ok. Should I call you a cab?"

"Yes. Thanks."

"I am sorry. I will come to the farm kamoso. I have to drop off a couple of things at my aunt's house."

"Ok."

"I love you."

"I love you too. I am calling a cab. Where exactly are you?"

In Gaborone Pule's wife angrily looked at him, fuming.

"So you cheat on me and threaten to divorce me?"

"I said if you sue her then we might as well get divorced."

"You are not even sorry."

"Who said I am not sorry? I only said if you sue Thabi then we will meet in court finalizing our divorce..I am sorry I kissed her. But that's all I did. I didn't sleep with her. I love you but if you want to walk away, go ahead. We are married out of community of property so everyone walks away with what's theirs. I am sleeping."

Tears filled her eyes as he turned sleeping. She got off bed holding her tears filling defeated. It wasn't just that he had cheated but also the amount of arrogance and pride in his voice.

It's like he didn't even care. He pressed her phone and called her number. It rang twice then she picked.

“Hello?”

“Please stay away from my husband. We have kids. Can you not destroy my family... kea go kopa.”

“Hi. I didn’t know your husband was married. He goes around saying he is single. I don’t even want him. I have never slept with him. Tell him to never call me again.”

Rethabile hung up

Atang drove inside his house that same evening and walked inside his house. Rebantle’s business card fell in his hands. He bended then picked it up knowing obviously a call would annoy her.

He smiled walking to his bedroom dialing her number. Her phone rang for a while then she answered.

“Hello?”

“Your honor...”

Reba paused for a second and sighed. “What do you want?”

He smiled picking the unfiltered annoyance from her feisty voice.

“I have a friend who is in need of a lawyer so I thought since I have a judge if a friend, you could hook us up with a good lawyer. His baby mama won’t let him see his daughter. It’s been two

years of running around.”

“You need me to get a good lawyer.”

“But you can help.”

“I can’t help you. You look like a criminal. I don’t know what makes you think you can call me and strike a conversation with me as if I am in your league.”

Atang laughed. “Rebante weeh, calm down. You will die alone with that attitude. You are too old to be picky. You need a dick. A good one.”

“You-“

“Calm down... breathe. No one is fighting you. I am not a thief... I am just a gun man. Legal one. So relax...I am not out there stealing. Just killing.”

“What?”

“S.W.A T.”

“Oh.. sorry. I just-“

“You need a dick.”

Thabi’s incoming call came through, he dropped it and continued talking to Rabi. “I don’t... I am hanging up.”

“Wait. Next week is the Mantshwabisi desert race... let’s go together. Unwind... have fun. You need it.”

“You must think-“

“I am not thinking anything other than fun. Come with me. Let’s have fun. I want to have fun. No expectations. Just innocent fun.”

“I am a very busy woman-“

“Where do you stay?”

“I have responsibilities. I can’t just up and leave like a headless chicken. Find someone else.”

“I want you. Stop fighting. It’s just fun. Innocent fun.”

“Bye!”

She hung up. He smiled then received a message from ‘Babe’.

Babe: Hey, just checking if you have arrived.

Atang: Yes I have. I am tired, I am going to sleep, good night.

He sent the message then thoughtfully changed her name from ‘babe’ to ‘Rethabile K’.

At Elang’s house, Elang woke up in the middle of the night to take her kids to the toilet. She shook them. She paused staring at the white foam coming from her children’s mouth.

“No... wake up!”

She shook them then off bed stepping on the empty sachet of pills. She looked at her kids then screamed for help.

Yours Truly

#101

Rethabile rushed through to the gate holding at Elang's house where they were already putting the kids in the car. Elang looked at her crying.

"They drank the pills. I didn't see them, they were playing."

Thabi put her fingers over her daughter's neck feeling for her pulse.

"What is the name of those pills?"

Elang shrugged crying. Mmagwe Elang smiled.

"Thabi, I am so happy to see you. You look beautiful. I was disappointed earlier on when you had someone sent over with Elang's phone. But you are here now."

"Mama, we need to get my kids to the hospital! They are dying!"

"That's if they are not already dead. I don't know why you are making so much noise because these kids dying will be of much help. They eat a lot and are expensive. You can't keep having kids and expect other people to take the burden you brought upon yourself. Look at Thabi... her daughter does not live on handouts because she actually works."

Rragwe Elang walked out and smiled staring at Thabile.

"Thabi how are you?"

“I am fine. We should go to the hospital.”

They all got in the car then rragwe Elang started the car and drove off headed to the hospital. Minutes later they stepped out with the kids and hurried inside.

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Thabi sat with Elang on the bench waiting for the doctor.

“Did you want to kill your kids?”

Elang turned to her. “Why would I want to kill my children?”

“I don’t know Elang...”

“I would never hurt my children. They are the only people I have in my life. Farai dumped me. He said his wife now stays with him and I should stay away from him together with my kids. My parents prefer my friend other their own daughter so why would I kill the only people who love me Rethabile?”

Thabi sighed then stood up. “What the kids drank is not poison. Just medication for patients with schizophrenia. I could smell it from my juice. It was not going to kill me so you were scammed. It definitely won’t kill the kids. They obviously overdosed but it will be pumped out. They will probably be here for a day or two but nothing intense. I am sorry you have turned into the person you are. I heard what your mother said. I am sorry that this has been your life. I wish I knew, if I did I would have stayed away. Just

because you can't get an office job doesn't make you incapable. You are a good cook. You can get into that line. Start something. Sell magwinya at schools. At the rank. You can go far. And Farai won't abandon his kids because you are not going to let him. Go to court so that he gets to pay a certain amount of maintenance. He is now a business owner so trust me, he won't be paying anything less than 1.5k. And he wouldn't want to dodge the court."

Thabi took out some money from her pocket. "Take. It's not much but a good kickstart. You need be a hustler Elang. You need to sweat for your money. I am going. Good luck."

Thabi turned and walked out. Elang sniffed counting the notes of money. Tears rolled down as she counted the lady P200 of the P2600. She put the money away and out her hands over her face crying.

Zaza laid on her bed that evening unable to sleep. She reached for her phone and went on Facebook where one of her old friends had posted a picture of her and her baby.

Zaza smiled then reacted with a heart. She moved on scrolling down to distract herself. She paused at Agang's pictures of him and his wife at their honeymoon. She rolled her eyes opening all the pictures. She looked at Kelly's huge nose and laughed. She sent him a message.

Zaza: Congratulations!

She looked through the rest of the pictures and carried on scrolling down her timeline.

The messenger notification pinged. She clicked on his message.

Agang: Thanks.

Zaza: Ke maaka, nna ke bitter (I am lying. I am bitter.)

He replied then put her phone on silent.

Agang: Bitter for what?

Zaza: a lot of things. I am still waiting for your karma.

Agang: Satan ke wena

Zaza: mxm, leswa leng tota? (When you dying?) Your wife is finishing oxygen. I can't breathe properly.

Agang: waaiii

Zaza: Are you back in Gabs?

Agang: Yes, why?

Zaza: I thought I would wish you an unsafe journey. Tota nna la ntena (You annoy me.)

Agang: Calm down... gape what karma? You cheated on me remember?

Zaza: I cheated because you were not serious about me nor did you love me. It felt forced for three years. You were not happy. And I was still hurt over the fact that when I cried for my son, you

were busy having sex. But I have gathered you are God's fav.

Agang: Ok... you do have a point there. Did I ever apologize?

Zaza: No. Never. And I am good with that. I want to hold on to my bitterness 🦴

Agang: Where is your husband?

Zaza: Sleeping.

Agang: I am sorry. I am sorry I never apologized for what I put you in the first place. I hurt you a lot, I know our son's death still hurt you. I know it hurts you that I was not there most of his life. I know you think his death didn't hurt me as much as it hurt you. But it did. It hurt me and it still does because if I had been a present parent, maybe he wouldn't have died. I am sorry for Pearl. It was disrespectful. To you and our son. I am sorry I never had the confidence to tell you that I didn't love you, not that there anything wrong with you but I just didn't love you. You are an amazing woman. I am happy you are happy now. And yes, you can hold on to your bitterness. I don't even blame you. I deserve you hating me.

Tears filled Zaza's eyes. She sniffed then switched off her phone and laid on her side crying silently.

A WEEK LATER...

In Gaborone, Atang parked his car in front of her gate and stepped

out. He pressed the intercom. The gate slid open. He jumped back in his car not seeing anyone then drove in. He parked behind her Audi then jumped out. He paused hearing laughter coming from the backyard. He walked to the back and paused staring at a group of ladies wearing t-shirts printed BRIDE MAIDS, only one lady was in a dress.

They all looked at him. Atang smiled taking off his cap and looked at Reba who was also wearing a BRIDE MAID printed t-shirt holding a glass of wine in her hand.

Without the formal clothes, she looked actually simple and beautiful. She slowly got up and walk over to him.

“What are you doing here?”

She pushed him in the house as the ladies stared in silence. Atang smiled.

“Hi...”

“How did you find my house?”

“I have my ways. You look cute your honor.”

“Are you stalking me?”

“No. I plead not guilty to that. You blocked me.”

“For a reason.”

Atang looked in her eyes. “Lets go to the desert race. Let’s go and have fun. You are not doing anything this weekend. You don’t have to date me. I don’t want a relationship too.”

“I don’t even know you.”

Atang smiled. “My name is Atang. You know where I work. I have one child. A daughter. She is 8. Her mother and I broke up but I think she had been done with the relationship for a couple of years now. She stays in L.A where she is studying. I stay with my daughter here. I have a twin brother. He doesn’t have tattoos and I don’t have a friend who needs a lawyer. I lied about that. I know you are one of youngest judges in Botswana. You have two sisters. You have no child. You are beautiful and smart. You are a law abiding citizen. I am not much of that but I have a legal job. Look, we don’t have to date to go to the desert race. I don’t even have to fuck you. It’s just fun. Innocent fun.”

“I am busy.”

“Ok. I will go alone. Bye! By the way, you look beautiful.”

He walked out then smiled.

“Bye ladies!”

“Byeeee!”

He walked to his car and jumped in. Reba’s older sister walked in the kitchen.

“Is that your new boyfriend? He’s so hot. Heelang! I never knew we had that type mo Botswana. Waitse o na le that thing! Yeeerrr man!”

Reba laughed. “He is not my boyfriend.”

“What?”

“He is that guy I told you about. S.W. A. T.”

“Serious?”

“Yes.”

“If I were you I would have long said yes. He is the type of man you barely find. Imagine having kids with him. Girl!”

“He has a child.”

“So what?”

“I just don’t like him.”

“You are 32 years old Reba. Your type is him. At this age, most people have kids. Mostly three or two. The goal would be to find one who doesn’t have a crazy baby mama.. you are not going to find a man who doesn’t have a child. Maybe if you were in your twenties but now waaaii. And you low-key find him attractive. He has this aura with him... I would chest with him.”

Reba laughed. “Wena kana.”

“If you play hard to get, he will leave. These days they don’t chase after us for too long. They let go and look for someone else.

What’s his name?”

“Atang.”

“What was he saying?”

“He wants us to go to the desert race.”

“Go.”

“I can’t. It’s D’s bridal shower. I can’t just-“

“Call him. Go. Go and have fun. He seems like a fun man. You only live once Reba...”

Thabi held Lomo’s hand walking out of SSK airport. Zaza smiled then hugged them both. Thabi smiled.

“Hi...”

Zaza looked at her. “You look wow...”

Thabi laughed. “Thanks. You look beautiful too.”

“Mxm.. where?”

They walked to Zaza’s car. Zaza put the bags in the boot while Thabi called Atang.

“Thabi...”

“I am coming to your house. Zaza is dropping us off. We just arrived.”

“Uh I am not home. Drop off Lomo at Agang’s house.”

“Oh ok... where are you?”

“I am going to the desert race.”

Thabi smiled. “Lomo can go too.”

"I have company."

"Oh..."

"Yeah."

"So you are not going to see me before I go? I am going today."

"I am sorry but she just called me to come and pick her up."

"Are you with her now?"

"No. I am on my way to pick her up."

"Can't you just come so you can see me off?"

"No. I think it's best this way. Seeing you will make things harder for me. I will probably fuck you and start getting hopeful again. Akere we agreed that our ship sank? Right?"

She swallowed. "Yes."

"Ok. We will talk. Thank you for coming and spending some time with Lomo. Good luck on your senior year."

"Yeah..."

"Bye."

"Bye."

He hung up. Thabi took a deep breath and got in the car.

At Reba's house, Reba walked out holding a traveling bag. Atang stepped out and smiled taking it staring at her. She had one tied get hair. He put her bag in the boot.

"Thank you."

"Before you have high hopes and get way ahead of yourself, I need to tell you something."

"What?"

She sighed staring at him. "I am HIV positive. I was born with it."

Atang smiled. "Ok. Can we go now?"

He opened the door for her. "Shall we?"

Reba smiled then got in the car.. Atang closed the door and walked round the car. His phone rang, he looked at Rethabile calling then cut the call getting in the car.

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Yours Truly

#102

In Gaborone, Thabile sighed as Zaza parked at Agang's house.

"Let me take her in."

"Ok. I will wait here."

Thabi stepped out of the car with Lomo who was quiet. Thabi looked at her cheeks with air then smiled.

"Hey baby... are we ok?"

"I want to go with you."

"Go with me to school?"

A tear rolled down. "Yes.."

"Lomo..."

Lomo put her hands on face crying. Thabi hugged her. Lomo cried for a while. Thabi smiled wiping away her daughter's tears.

"It's ok. I am going to be calling you a lot. Everyday. You can't come with at school because I am always busy and no one will be with you. But I am coming back after a year. We will stay together forever. I love you so much."

Lomo sniffed. "I don't want to be away from you."

"You won't be. I will call everyday."

Thabi got her daughter's bag and rang the intercom to Agang's big house. The gate slid open then Thabi walked to the door with Lomo just as Kelly opened the door.

Thabi smiled. "Mrs Daniel... hi!"

Kelly smiled staring at Thabi's smile. "Dr. Kaisara."

Thabi laughed. "Waai! Forget me being Dr. Kaisara mma."

Thabi hugged her then stepped back. "You look..-"

"Like hippo."

Thabi laughed. "You look like a very beautiful whale."

The both laughed. Kelly looked at Lomo.

"Hey Lomo..."

Lomo sniffed holding her mother's dress. Kelly looked at Thabi.

"You are going to have a problem today."

"I know. It would have been easier if Atang was taking her."

"I know. You look gorgeous. I saw your pictures on Facebook."

Thabi smiled.. "Thanks. Congratulations on that ring. I am happy Agang got you. I always liked you."

"You liked me or my cleaning?"

Thabi laughed.. "Thamma I adored you. You know that. How far are we?"

"8 months."

“Almost there. I am happy for you and-“

“Mrs D!”

Thabi looked at Agang and laughed. “Married man!”

He waved his ring smiling. “Ssup?”

“I brought your daughter.”

Agang hugged her then picked Lomo.

“Hey baby!”

Lomo sniffed. Agang paused. “Talk to daddy..”

Lomo buried her head on his shoulder crying. Thabi sighed.

“I wanted to tell Atang that it seems we are going to have a problem today, he didn’t pick my call. Koteng he thinks I am trying to ruin his happiness with his new girlfriend.”

Agang sighed. “I don’t think that’s a real thing. He just-“

“Its ok.. we got you at least. Let him be.”

Agang hugged Lomo then walked in the house with her. Kelly looked at Thabi and sighed guiltily.

“I know you must be thinking I brought Letty so she can sleep with Atang.”

“Letty?”

“The lady who Atang-“

“Oh! Her name is Letty?”

“Yes. I swear to you, I didn’t even know that that’s what she was planning. I would never destroy your marriage of purpose.”

“Its ok. It’s not you. If Atang didn’t want to sleep with her, he would not have. He wanted her as much as she probably wanted him. It’s in the past. Of we are meant to be, we will be. If not then it means there are people out there for us.”

“I am sorry.”

“Don’t be. You have nothing to be sorry about.”

Kelly smiled just Agang walked back with Lomo who was now laughing.

“Ok, let’s say bye to mom.”

Lomo walked over and hugged her mother. “Bye. I love you.”

Thabi smiled. “I love you more. I love you.”

“Call me everyday.”

“I will.”

Thabi smiled. Lomo let go and stood beside Atang smiling. Thabi moved back.

“Ok.. bye!”

Agang smiled. “Bring it home.”

Thabi smiled. “It’s coming. Bye Kelly.”

Thabi turned and walked back to her cousin’s car. Kelly sighed smiling. Agang kissed her neck and whispered.

“See?”

“I feel guilty.”

Agang smiled nodding then watched as Zaza reversed her Porsche Cayenne and drove off.

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Thabi looked at the time as Zaza drove her back to the airport. Thabi looked out through the window in silence. Zaza smiled.

“Are you ok?”

“I miss my daughter already. I wish I can take her with. I wish my brother was here. I didn’t even get to spend time with him.”

“You know he loves you right.”

“I know but... God I need to finish and come home.”

“You are done. You are approaching the finish line. Which is why I think you should hold on to your man.”

“I think Atang and I are done. He’s moved on too.”

“He still loves you. There’s still time to say I love you. I want us to make this work.”

“It’s unfair on him to keep holding on like this. We want different things right now. He deserves better. I love him so much, I won’t lie and say I don’t because I do. But it’s just unfair to want him to

keep holding on. He keeps giving and never get something back.”

“He will soon get back.”

Thabi looked at her. “If I get a green card maybe I will take Lomo and Batang. We can all stay in America. It’s an option.”

“I don’t want you losing a good man.”

“I don’t want to keep taking advantage of his love. He deserves better.”

Zaza parked the car at the airport. “Hey... sometimes a bit of selfishness won’t kill. Nna I will never like any girl he dates.”

Thabi laughed. “Zaza!”

“I am telling you.”

They stepped out of the car. Thabi dragged her bag inside the airport and hugged Zaza.

“Thank you.”

Zaza hugged her back. “Only a pleasure. Bye...”

“Bye.”

Zaza walked out. Thabi turned and dragged her bag walking away. Tears filled her eyes. She took a deep breath checking in. A while later she got in the plane headed to South Africa.

Tears burnt her eyes as she looked at her phone. Somehow she found her heart breaking, not that she was against him moving on but... it still felt like the time she had left.

She sniffed then called her brother. His phone rang for a while then he picked.

“Thabs, I am on my there now.”

She sniffed. “I am leaving. The plane is about to take off.”

“Shit! I am in the cab.”

“Its ok. I love you. Please take care of yourself. I am proud of your marks. I am so happy you are taking your school things seriously.”

“I am sorry. I should have left earlier on yesterday.”

“Its ok. It’s ok.”

“I love you too. I love you.”

Thabi smiled. “Ok. I have to go. I will call you when I arrive.”

Batang sniffed. “Ok.”

“Bye...”

She hung up and thoughtfully looked at Atang’s number. She tapped it and started typing a message. She is paused halfway and put down her phone not wanting to seem jealous or ... perhaps bitter.

Tears filled her eyes again. She sniffed there was no one next to her.

The flight attendant started talking.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to take off but our flight is going to be delayed with only two minutes..”

Thabi sighed leaning against her sit. A flight attendant walked over to her.

“Ms Rethabile Kaisara?”

Thabi nodded. She moved then Atang walked over. Thabi held her breath in surprise. Atang smiled.

“Hey...”

A tear rolled down her cheek. He pulled her up and hugged her tightly. Thabi wrapped her arms around him crying. Atang kissed her neck squeezing her body. He pulled away and looked in her eyes.

“I don’t think I can ever get over how beautiful you are.”

She chuckled blushing. He wiped her tears away and kissed her. Thabi closed her eyes receiving the soft gentle kiss in front of other passengers. He pulled away and bit his lower lip.

“Chase after your dreams. You are almost there.”

She nodded smiling. Atang rubbed her soft lips with his thumb then dropped a baby kiss on her lips.

“Bye..”

She nodded, her hands on his waist. “Bye.”

He let go and walked away. Thabi slowly sat down. Minutes later the plane took off. Thabi put on her earphones listening to Alicia Keys.

'Have you ever tried sleeping with a broken heart?
Well you could try sleeping in my bed
Lonely, own me, nobody ever shut it down like you
You wore the crown, you made my body feel Heaven-bound
Why don't you hold me? Need me
I thought you told me, you'd never leave me
Looking in the sky I could see your face
Then I knew right where I fit in
Take me, make me
You know that I'll always be in love with you
Right, 'til the end, ohh

So tonight, I'm gonna find a way to make it without you
Tonight, I'm gonna find a way to make it without you
I'm gonna hold on to the times that we had
Tonight, I'm gonna find a way to make it without '

Atang walked to the parking lot where Teva was waiting in the car.

He jumped in and looked at her.

“Ok... we can go now.”

Reba nodded smiling. “Ok.”

He smiled starting his car and drove off.

In Maun, Elang walked in the tiny room she had rented then looked at her kids sleeping on the small mattress. She turned and looked at everything she had bought for her business. She took a deep breath.

“Ok Elang... time to make money.”

She sat down jotting down her target market and how she was going to schedule herself between the schools, ranks and the bars.

Meanwhile in Gaborone, Prince got in his car at the BDF camp, his phone rang. He looked at the unsaved number and picked with a frown.

“Hello?”

“Hi. It’s Pearl. We need to talk.”

“Who?”

“Pearl. The nurse. We need to talk.”

“The fuck? About what? I am happily married.”

“I know. I have a child. I am not sure who she is for but I am not well and there is no one in my family who can-“

“Never call me again. I have no child with you. I used a condom. If you could let three men fuck you, who knows how many other men you let fuck you. I don’t have a child with a prostitute. If you call me again, I will personally take you to your maker before your sickness does.”

Prince hung up, his heart pounding. He quickly blocked her and took a deep breath. He took a minute to calm down and drove off.

TWO YEARS LATER...

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Let's quickly participate and get more

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Yours Truly

#103

TWO YEARS LATER...

Agang finished up his meeting with the shareholders at AG Insurance. He walked talking of the boardroom and out of the building loosening his tie then jumped in his car. He took out his phone and called his wife.

Kelly picked the call after a couple of rings. "Hey babe..."

"I am done with the meeting. I am on my way home to take the kids to your mother's house. Should I pick you from there?"

"Yeah. Thanks. Can you pass by collecting my dress from Hellen?"

"She was still not done?"

"Ng Ng, she was fixing a couple of things."

"Ok. I will get it."

"Thank you."

He hung up and started the car driving off headed home. About half an hour later, Agang parked the car at his house then walked inside the house where his kids where busy playing with the nanny.

His older daughter stood up, her face brightening. Agang smiled

picking her up.

“Hey..”

His younger daughter screamed running over. He picked her up too.

“Ladies... are we ready to go to Granny’s house?”

“Yes.”

“Lets take our bags.”

He put them down then they ran over to their rooms. Minutes later they walked out holding their bags, their nanny behind them.

“Mr. Daniel...”

“Hi Tsitsi. Everything is packed for their weekend?”

“Yes sir.”

“Thanks. You can come with us so I drop you off at your house too.”

“Ok.”

Tsitsi grabbed her bag and walked out with her boss. She sat at the back with the kids

Agang got in the car and looked at the time before driving off. He dropped the nanny first then the kids in at their grandmother’s house.

Mmagwe Kelly smiled. “Son..”

“Mama, I brought you friends.”

Mmagwe Kelly laughed. "I missed them."

She hugged her grandkids. Agang put their bags down.

"I will pick them up late Sunday."

"Ok. I heard your brother wants to go the right thing."

Agang smiled. "He does. It's been long overdue."

"I am happy he's getting his happy ending."

"Me too."

They chatted for a bit then Agang walked out and drove to the tailor to pick his wife's evening gown before going to pick her up.

At Kelly's Printers, Kelly helped her team pack the printed books in their boxes for shipping. They finished up then she smiled proud. She turned to the door and locked eyes with Agang. She smiled as he walked over without a tie.

He wrapped his arms around her kissing her then turned to the boxes of books..

"The 5k books?"

Kelly nodded. "4k are already gone. Only one thousand is left."

Agang smiled. "I am happy for you guys."

Kelly giggled. "We can all knock off."

Her workers screamed happily.

"Thank you boss lady."

They all took their belongings and walked out. Agang looked at Kelly in her shirt formal body hugging dress. He picked her up and put her on top of the receptionist table getting between her legs.

"Babe... we need to go and prepare. I still have to do my make-up and it takes long."

Agang kissed her unzipping his pants. He shifted her panty to the side taking out his dick.

Kelly swallowed as he...

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Agang slid out his wet dick after the quick steamy session and kissed her.

"Let's go."

He picked her up throwing her over his shoulder and walked out carrying her and her handbag. He locked the doors and walked with her to the car where he placed her inside.

Kelly sighed. "I feel guilty. I feel like I should tell Thabi."

"I told you to stop talking to her. You talking to her is why you feel

the way you are feeling.”

“She is Lomo’s mother. I don’t think it’s possible to stop talking to her. Her daughter is always here under my care.”

“Her daughter being here doesn’t mean you now tell her Atang’s business. If there is anything she needs to know, Atang will tell her personally.”

Kelly put on her seatbelt and nodded. Agang kissed her lips then walk round his car and jumped in.

In Maun, Lebo packed her bag in her room then called Batang. His phone rang unanswered then she looked at her phone wondering why he wasn’t answering.

Her mother walked in and looked at her. “I hope you get the job.”

Lebo smiled. “Me too. I have done my research on the company. I just hope it’s not an oral interview.”

“Even if it is, you will be fine.”

Lebo smiled then hugged her mother. “I love you. Thank you.”

Mmagwe Lebo smiled. “I hope there is really a job interview and that you are not going to that boy’s house.”

Lebo smiled. “I am going to the interview and I will be at mmagwe Neo’s house.”

Her mother smiled. "Ok."

Lebo took her bag and walked out of the house going to the bus rank.

At Elang's kitchen hut, Elang dished for her customers in the late lunch hour. The aroma of her food called everyone who passed near. She continued selling for a while till everything was finished.

She put her money in her breast then cleared everything putting it in the car. She got in and drove to her house. She stopped in traffic and leaned back singing with her radio.

Elang turned her head as a familiar voice spoke. She looked at his three kids at the back then his wife on the passenger seat. She watched as they laughed at something, a somehow a burning urge to just yell at him trying to overpower her.

She took a deep breath wondering how he could just love his other kids yet wouldn't even see his other kids...it had now been two years since he last saw them. He drove off as soon as the traffic light changed to green. Elang drove off too headed to her house.

In Court, Reba listened to the lawyer who went on talking for a while. She listened to him keeping a neutral look then looked at the accused while journalists took pictures.

Reba finally gave her verdict then walked out of court. She got in her car and smiled taking her phone but there was still no message from Atang to say happy birthday or something.

She called his number but it was off. She got on her car and drove to his house. She pressed the gate remote and drove in knowing she was about to deal with his spoilt brat daughter.

Her phone rang as she parked her car. She smiled picking her younger sister's call.

"Hi..."

"Reba, where are you?"

"At Atang's house."

"Doing what? Can we go out?"

"Where?"

"Somewhere quiet and nice. It's your birthday today."

"Ok. I am coming to pick you up."

"I am getting in Atang's house to deal with his spoilt brat."

"Reba..."

"What? Waitse mma this child is just a set back and Atang spoils her too much. I don't say anything but I feel some things are too much. I love this man but his daughter gets in the way. I am just

waiting for her mother to take her so she can stay with her wherever she is so that lenna I get to enjoy this man. I have no problem with kids but this one is something else aii....koore whatever she cries for, she gets. There no limit to anything.”

Her sister laughed. “If you and Atang ever get married, you should have her sent to her mother if it’s like that.”

“I am telling you. Let me check on her then come. I guess this why I never wanted a man with kids. It’s just a lot of work. It’s hard mothering a child who is not yours. I just don’t connect with her. I just don’t have the step mother bone in my body. I think it’s because I want my own kids. Anyways, I am coming. Bye.”

She hung up and walked in the house.

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Yours Truly

#104

Reba walked inside Atang's house. Lomo walked from the kitchen holding a glass of juice in shorts and a Barbie top.

She looked at Reba almost dropping her glass. She stood still just staring but then Reba sighed.

"Hi, where is your nanny?"

"Bathing. Daddy is not here."

"I know." Reba looked at her oily fresh chips on the couch then back at her fat body. She looked so far she couldn't understand why Atang kept feeding her junk.

Botho walked over then smiled staring at Reba.

"Dumelang..."

"Why are you feeding her oily chips?"

"She wanted them."

"So what? Can't you see how fat she now is? She doesn't even look her age and I bet with that body she is not even bathing properly."

Lomo looked at her body holding her glass tightly as daddy's friend yelled.

"Please take away those chips. Let her eat health Lana not at all."

This eating is not normal kana mmagwe o ja hela yaana?"

Botho slowly walked over to the chips and picked them up.

Reba looked at Lomo again. Her fat body making her just wonder how much she was eating.

"Please make her a salad or something else. Stop giving her junk food. It's not healthy for ngwana. She's oversized. Kids her age are not as big. She's just fat and it's not even cute."

She turned and walked back to her car. Lomo walked to the couch and sat down quietly. Botho looked at her and smiled.

"Lomo... remember what today is? Don't cry. It's almost time."

Lomo smiled remembering then jumped off the couch.

"Should I go and change?"

"Yes."

Lomo rushed to her room excitedly.

Reba parked the car at her younger sister's house then walked inside the house still in her heels. Her younger sister smiled in an evening dress.

"I got you a dress too."

Reba smiled. "Uhu..."

“Yes. We are going somewhere nice. The make-up artist is almost here. Come and freshen up. How did it go with his daughter?”

“Fine.”

“What’s happening with Atang’s daughter?”

Reba turned as her older sister walked in. “I just don’t connect with her. Apparently her mother had said she would taking her some time back but she never did. I am not fully enjoying my relationship. Atang let’s this child control him. He is an amazing man and I love him but the way he puts her first in everything makes me feel like he would choose her over me.”

Abaleng looked at Reba. “Kana mme you knew he had a child when you started seeing this man.”

“I didn’t expect it to be like this. That’s why I never liked men with children because if not the fact that they are busy sneaking with their baby mamas, their children just take too much attention. It’s hard to relate if lenna I don’t have a child of my own. My expectations of the relationship are not fully met. I have to most of the time compromise for his daughter. Not that I hate his child but she makes it difficult for me to enjoy the relationship because of how her father treats her.”

Abaleng put her handbag down and looked at her sister. “Such issues are sensitive Reba. Raising them will make it look like you can’t accept his child and make him question the relationship all together. I get your point, tota there are people who just find it hard to accept their partners children and it doesn’t make you a bad person but your approach over such issues can be very tricky.

It's been over a year with this man. You had enough time to learn him before you started dating him. He gave you a chance to know the type of man he was before having you decide. You had already fallen for him by then but you knew that besides just being Atang, he's Rragwe Lelomo. You knew and met his daughter months after starting the relationship. You should be careful. Don't mess up a good thing. You have a good man who loves you, spoils you and does everything a man can possibly do for a woman. You know his goals in life and you know what he wants. Don't be your own witch Reba."

"You are right. I don't want to separate him from his child but again I am failing to accept her. If ever we get married, I want to stay with my man and my kids alone because I am telling you, I won't be able to love Lelomo because already I don't. I don't hate her at the same time. I am just hoping her mother takes her."

The younger sister looked at Reba. "Where is she?"

"She was in New York or something I don't know."

"Ke mathata. Who stays so far and forgets about her daughter? Then she expects other women to do her job? Basadi! (Women!)"

Abaleng smiled. "Enough about absent mother's. Reba needs to get dressed. Issa birthday!"

The sisters laughed walking to the bedroom.

Earlier in the evening, Prince walked in at the beautiful decorated hall. Lone smiled getting a glass of champagne from an usher. She looked around and smiled impressed.

“Atang is serious about this.”

Prince nodded. “He is.”

Lone smiled. “I don’t want to see Thabi coming back and claiming her man back.”

“Atang is over Rethabile. That ship long sank and nna I like Reba. O na le that thing. Gape she’s smart and focused. That’s the kind of woman Atang needs by his side.”

Agang walked in with Kelly. They bumped shoulders as the ladies hugged whispering.

More of Kelly’s friends and colleagues walked in. Agang’s phone vibrated in his pocket then he picked Abaleng’s call.

“Hey...”

“Hi, we are coming. She is still in the dark. Is Atang there already?”

Agang looked at the time. “Almost here.”

“Ok.”

Outside the building, Atang sat in his car talking to his father wearing his suit.

“Your uncles are on the standby just waiting for you to give us the go ahead.”

“Eerra.”

“Are you ok?”

“Yes.”

“Talk to me Atang.”

“Reba is amazing. She’s smart, intelligent. When they said behind a very successful man, there is a woman, they were right. She’s that kind of woman. She’s financially stable, she brings a lot to the table other than beauty. She is a judge but respects me as her man. When I first saw her I thought she would be the opposite. I can see she tries with Lomo but...”

“But what?”

Atang looked at the ring. “Deep down it doesn’t feel right. I know you said love is not everything but I feel like I am just settling because I have to. I love her but I don’t think it’s enough for marriage.”

“Atang, that is what growing up means, you need to accept that you won’t have everything. She’s everything you need in a woman. She’s driven. I like this woman. She’s on the same page as you. Love will find you along way. Love is not everything but you will learn to love her even more with time. Don’t lose her. You won’t

get anyone like her again.”

“You are right.”

“Do the right thing. I am in full support of this.”

“Eerra.”

Atang hung up and took a deep breath stepping out sliding the ring in his pocket.

He walked inside the hotel going to the big conference room. Agang smiled.

“They just arrived.”

“Ok.”

“You good?”

“Yeah...”

Agang grabbed the mic.

“She is here. We are switching off the lights. Le ready?”

The crowd cheered. Seconds later they switched off the lights. Atang took a deep breath waiting somehow trying to remember how people usually proposed. Minutes later the ladies walked in the dark conference room, the lights immediately came on and everyone screamed.

‘SURPRISE!’

Atang’s phone rang from his pocket as Reba walked in wearing a beautiful sparkling red dress. He looked at the number and

disappeared to the rest rooms as they sang for Reba who was still in shock.

“Hello..?”

“Hi, it’s Thabi. Can we talk? Did I catch you at the right time?”

“Yes, what is it?”

“I need to tell you something. I am around. I just spoke to Botho. I am outside at the hotel. Can we talk?”

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Yours Truly

#105

Atang swallowed. "Where are you?"

"Outside at the parking."

He put his hand on his chest, his heart pounding. "I am about to propose. Ke bata go nyala. And settle down. Reba is a good woman. I love her."

"I never asked you about that but good for you. I am happy you love her and you want to do right by her."

"You are happy?"

Thabi laughed. "Come here."

"You are happy that I am getting married?"

She laughed even more. "Yes. Therra ta kwano. (Please come here.)"

"What makes you happy about me getting married?"

"Atang, keng?"

"I just want to know."

"I am happy you found the right woman for you. O bata eng?"

"What's making you happy about that?"

"Please come. I will tell you."

“I am coming.”

He hung up and walked out the restroom then walked to the other exit door as Reba’s friends hugged her.

From a distance Prince watched as his friend walked out in a hurry. He kissed Lone’s cheek and followed after him.

Outside at the parking lot, Thabi flashed her white Maserati levante trofeo once. Atang swallowed staring at the car. He slowly walked to her window. Thabi rolled it down and smiled pushing her curled hair behind.

She looked at him in a suit and smiled. He swallowed staring at her.

“Get in.”

He took a deep breath and got in the car. She turned to him.

“Why are you so scared?”

“I am not scared.”

“Then what’s wrong?”

“I am getting married. I am going to get married.”

“Good for you. You deserve to be happy.”

“You said you are happy for me.”

"I am happy you are happy. I really am. You deserve nothing but love."

"You are back?"

She nodded. "Yes. I am back. You look handsome."

He smiled shyly. "Thank you."

She leaned over and fixed his tie. Atang's heart pounded so much as she touched him. She looked at him and smiled.

"You keep your beard now?"

"I haven't had time to go to the barber."

She touched his beard, his heart raced so much that he gasped. Thabi locked the doors then smiled.

"Lomo told me she is scared of your girlfriend."

"Had you asked her? If you ask children such things wanting to be low key spies-"

"Shhh... I am not fighting." Thabi smiled. "I am not fighting. I am not here to ruin your life or your happiness. No need to be defensive."

He sighed. "I am not being defensive."

"You should be happy to know that one day I will probably be dead and then you won't have anything to worry about."

He looked at her. "You look nice."

"I got a job at GIPS. They approached me months back. I want to

take Lomo. And stay with her.”

He took a deep breath. “You are really moving?”

She smiled. “Yes. It was about time.”

“Your residence?”

“I am now an attending surgeon. I am graduating later this year.”

“You made it.”

Thabi smiled. “I did. I want to start a clinic while I work. It will be in Maun. It’s closer to home. I want to be closer to home.”

“That’s a good plan.”

She looked in his eyes and smiled. “I just wanted to see you.”

He licked his lips. “Why?”

She smiled. “I missed you. Can I take Lomo tomorrow?”

“Yeah.”

“Go and ask her to marry you. And good luck.”

She unlocked her doors. He looked at her for a while then stepped out and walked back in the hotel.

Thabi stared at her staring wheel for a while then started her car and drove off holding her tears.

A tear rolled down, she wiped it off then looked at the hotel. She dialed him again. It rang once then he picked.

“Thabi..”

"I want a baby. Lomo is lonely. She needs a sibling. One she can fully relate to."

There was silence for a couple of seconds. "What?"

"Can we give our daughter a sibling? She is lonely. She needs someone to play with."

"I am getting married. You want me to cheat?"

"I want you to give your daughter a sibling.. someone she can relate to fully. You don't know where life will take us Atang. She needs a sibling. I want her to have a sibling. I want us to have a baby. We will talk tomorrow. Think about it."

She dropped the call and sighed driving to the hotel she was staying at. She walked inside going to get room then sat on the bed taking off her shoes. She took a deep breath then called a number.

"Hello?"

"Hi.. it's Thabi..."

Dr. O'Neal chuckled. "Hey, I have been trying to get hold of you. Are you home?"

Thabi smiled. "Yes. Uh... are my results back yet?"

"No. Not yet. But my guess is that even if it's brain tumor, it's not that big. It's manageable. It's nothing we can't deal with."

Thabi nodded. "Yeah. You are right. It's probably nothing."

"Exactly. You have nothing to worry about Thabi."

“Thank you.”

“How is it?”

“I just arrived. I am going to see my daughter tomorrow. Her father is getting married.”

“Are you ok?”

Tears filled her eyes. “Yes. I am happy for him.”

“Ok. We will talk.”

“Thank you.”

She hung up and laid on the bed closing her eyes.

Atang hugged Reba at the party.

“Happy birthday babe...”

Reba smiled. “Hi, thank you. For all this. I thought you forgot.”

Atang kissed her. “I would never forget.”

“Its beautiful.”

He looked in her eyes as she smiled. She was perfect, probably the right woman to wife. His father was right, he couldn't get it all. He had to just... settle.

But then Thabi was finally back. A second child would just perfect

everything. They will be perfect. Him, her, Lomo and their second child. His family didn't like her anymore but they didn't matter.

And maybe Maun wouldn't be such a bad place to move to..away from the city and everything else. A fresh start for both of them. He could already see it.

Reba giggled. "What?"

He snapped out of it and locked eyes with Reba. It had taken her time to give in. And she loved him. He had seen it and breaking her heart wasn't something he was willing to do. Not after she had given him her all.

Ed Sheeran's Thinking out loud started playing. His heart raced as he looked at her. Fuck Atang... just do it. Don't mess up a good thing because of a woman who will probably decide to move back if she wants to. You tried with Thabi... it didn't work out. Time to officially move on.

Either way, he figured it'd make everyone happy. And he will stop getting asked when he would get married.

He slowly went down on his knee going through his words. Reba froze staring at him on his knee.. he took out a ring. She looked at him.

"Attie..."

Atang took a deep breath. He opened his mouth to talk but nothing came out.

Reba screamed. "Yes! Yes! Oh my God! Yes!"

She knelt down hugging him. Atang looked at his friend then his brother as they just stared. The caught sight of the camera on him and forced a smile hugging her back.

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Lets quickly participate for another bonus

Yours Truly

#106

They got up from the floor hugging. Atang slid the ring on her finger. Reba showed everyone her ring crying happily while they clapped.

Atang kissed her. "I love you."

"I love you more. I love you."

Abaleng rushed over and hugged her sister. Agang walked to his brother and hugged him smiling.

"Thabi is here?"

Atang nodded. Agang moved back smiling as the camera guy continued shooting.

Botho walked in the conference hall with Lomo. Atang smiled walking over to his daughter.

"Hey!"

Lomo hugged her father. "I missed you."

Atang smiled.. "I missed you too."

Reba looked over at Lomo and her father. She looked away hugging her friends and colleagues. Atang picked his daughter up and placed her on the chair. He looked at Botho.

"Hey..."

“Hello.”

“You look nice.”

She smiled. “Thank you.”

Atang sat with Lomo. “Its aunty Reba’s birthday today.”

Lomo nodded. Atang held his daughter’s hand. “Aunty Reba and I are going to get married. And she’s going to stay with us.”

Tears filled Lomo’s eyes then she nodded.

“Hey... look at me.” He tilted her chin. “What’s wrong?”

“Why can’t we be a real family with mama?”

Atang sighed. “Mama and I love each other but not as boyfriend and girlfriend anymore. I told you this Lomo.”

“I don’t want you to marry aunty Reba. She is scary.”

“She is not scary, it’s because you just don’t like her. She’s a good person. And she likes you. She is not going to be your new mom.. your mom will still be your mom.”

“I want us to stay with mama. Why don’t you like mama anymore?”

From a distance Reba watched as Lomo cried. She sighed sipping her wine then she walked over smiling.

“Hey guys, Lomo, are you ok sweetie?”

She buried her head on her father’s shoulder crying. Atang sighed.

“I am sorry babe.”

"It's ok. Maybe we should go. I ate the cake. I am good now. Maybe Agang can take her."

Thabi held her father tightly crying. He looked at Botho.

"Go to the car. I am coming to get her. Lomo, we are going. Go to the car with aunty Botho."

Botho got her from Atang then walked out with her. Atang sighed.

"I am sorry. She's a bit emotional."

"She wants mommy and daddy together right?"

"Babe-"

"She is a child Attie... we can't expect her to just accept reality. Maybe she should stay with her mom. You know, she needs her mom. I don't want to make her unconfirmed in her own home."

Atang looked at her. "Uh her mom arrived here. Maybe I can drop her off at the hotel where her mother is."

Reba nodded. "Ok. We can go together then we can go home and celebrate."

"We can't both leave our guests. They gathered here for us. Let me drop her off. Her mother will make her understand better. I will come back."

"Ok. I love you so much. I love my ring."

He smiled and kissed her. "Ok, I will be back."

He turned and walked out following Botho. He looked at Botho standing by his car with Lomo. Atang unlocked the car and put his

daughter inside.

“Thank you.”

Botho smiled. “Congratulations.”

He sighed. “Thanks.”

He walked round his car and jumped in. He looked at Lomo who was still sniffing. Atang sighed starting the engine and drove off calling her.

“Hello?”

“Which hotel are you at?”

At the party, Reba smiled staring at her ring. Abaleng smiled.

“Where did he go?”

“Mmagwe Lomo is back. She just arrived. He is dropping Lomo there.”

“Ok.”

“He said yes to Lomo staying with her mother.”

“Good. But le wena don’t act like you wanted to get rid of his daughter.”

“I won’t.”

“I am happy for you.”

Reba smiled happily.

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From a distance Agang looked at Prince.

“I can’t believe Thabi is back.”

“She is driving a Maserati levante trofeo!”

Agang whistled. “Serious?”

“Yeah. She was definitely making lots of money. I saw her touch his beard. She’s back to cause confusion in his life.”

“He loves her. If only love had a manual then he would know how to unlove her. He is not happy but papa is putting him under pressure.”

“Nna tota as much as I like Thabile, I don’t think she’s the right woman for him. She’s not marriage material. She can just leave him if it suits her. Look how far he’s come with Reba..”

Prince’s phone started ringing. He took it out and looked at the caller.

“I am coming...”

He stepped back picking Pearl’s call.

“Hello?”

“Hey, are you still coming tomorrow?”

“Yes.”

“Ok. I am packing our things.”

“Where is she?”

“Eating.”

“I will call you guys later.”

“Bye Daddy!”

Prince smiled. “You have started.”

Pearl giggled. “Sorry. I can’t wait to see you.”

“Me too.”

“I love you. Bye.”

She hung up then he walked back to Agang.

Atang parked at the hotel where Thabi was. He stepped out of the car and opened the door for Lomo. He helped her out then locked his car and walked inside. He briefly spoke to the receptionist then they went up to the second floor at the hotel.

Atang took a deep breath to calm himself down but it didn’t seem to help. He looked at the door Numbers and finally approached 19.

He gently knocked.

He stepped back holding his daughter's hand. Footsteps approached. She opened the door. Lomo screamed letting go of her father's hand and threw herself in her mother's arms. Thabi laughed hugging her back.

"I missed you."

Thabi smiled. "I missed you too."

She wiped away her daughter's tears smiling. "I love your dress."

Lomo smiled. Thabi looked at Atang with her reddish eyes.

"Thank you for bringing her."

"Are you ok?"

Thabi nodded. "Yes. I feel much better now that she's here."

"Ok. Uh I am going back. She was crying. She said yes."

Thabi smiled then looked at Lomo. "Get inside sweetie."

Lomo looked at her father. "Daddy come..."

Thabi smiled. "Lomo... let me talk to daddy."

She nodded and walked inside the room. Thabi smiled leaning against the wall. "I am happy she did "

Atang looked at her. "I wouldn't be happy if I was you. I would be angry right now."

Thabi laughed. "You need someone by your side. It's not me. I know that. I have accepted it."

Atang nodded. "I am going."

She looked at him.. "Atang-

"I..." He put his hands on his face then turned. He looked back at her. "Your eyes are red. Why were you crying?"

"I wasn't-

"Can we be honest? Please... why?"

"What do you want me to say Atang? We broke up two years back so that we can move on."

"I want you to tell me you love me!" He roared angrily. "Dammit Thabile! I want you tell me you want me, you want us! I want you to be straight forward with me!"

She tearfully looked at him, her emotions rising. "I want to a baby.... Please..."

She touched him. He stepped back.

"Until you are honest about us, forget the baby."

He turned and walked away.

"Atang I love you... I love you."

He turned and looked at her as she cried.

"But I don't want you to leave her. Come.. come to me."

"I can't divide myself between two people. Stop playing with my feelings!"

She sniffed. "You won't have to. At the end it will just be her. Stop

fighting me. Come... rragwe Lomo... come to me..."

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Yours Truly

#107

At the party, Reba looked at the time then called Atang. His phone rang unanswered. She called him again but it just continued ringing.

She sighed figuring he was probably driving back. Kelly walked over to her smiling.

“Hey...”

Reba smiled. “Hi..”

“Happy birthday and congratulations!”

“Thank you.”

“Lucky you didn’t have to wait for that long for marriage. Some of us waited years.”

Reba laughed. “I guess if you know you know.”

“Yes. I am happy Atang finally found the rightful woman.”

Lone walked over. “Hi... congratulations!”

Reba smiled. “Thank you.”

Lone smiled. “Lomo can sleep over at my house. I am sure you two will be busy tonight celebrating.”

“Atang went to drop off Lomo to her mother.”

Kelly paused. "Thabi is around?"

"Yes."

"And Atang is with Thabi?"

Reba shook her head. "No. He went to drop off Lomo. He is just dropping her off."

"Oh.. well congratulations nonetheless."

The ladies turned and walked away. Lone sipped her wine.

"The future is blurry."

Kelly laughed. "Nna I want them to get back together. I don't like this woman. Botho says Lomo fears her."

"Ene she is fierce but not bad. She's nice and smart. She intimidates me because of the woman she is, not that I dislike her anyhow."

"She should be getting close with Lomo."

"Not everyone clicks at first sight with kids. It will probably take her a while."

"Thabi should just take back her family. They should raise their together."

Thabi smiled staring at Atang. The unsureness and doubt in his

eyes made her sad, not that she blamed him. He walked over and cupped her face.

“Why are you doing this to me?”

“Lomo needs either a sister or brother.”

He leaned over and kissed her lips. Thabi closed her eyes, her eyes thudding. He kissed her more, she put her hands on his waist receiving the kiss. His hands went down her body as he caressed her breasts then her stomach.

His phone started ringing again just he slipped his hand inside her pyjama pants and inside her stomach. He grunted on her lips touching her wetness, his dick grew do hard in his pants then more he continued.

She let out a slight moan as his precum wet his briefs. His phone started again. He took out his hand from inside her panty and peeled himself from her. He took out his phone and looked at Reba calling.

Thabi smiled. “Bye, thank you for bringing our daughter.”

He watched her get in the room and closed the door behind her.

Atang picked the call walking to his car.

“I am coming.”

“Its been an hour. What are you doing?”

“Driving. I am coming.”

He dropped the call getting in the car then he drove off.

Reba waited for him at the parking lot holding her phone. Minutes later he parked his car. She be walked over and got in.

“Hey...”

Atang looked at her. “You want to go home?”

“Ng... I am tired.”

He started the engine again and drove home. Rena took off her heels and put her feet on the dashboard. She looked at her ring then smiled. He parked at his house and walked inside with her. Reba took off her dress and bra remaining with her G-string.

She stood on her toes and kissed him. Atang touched her waist.

“I am tired. I need to rest. Can we do this tomorrow?”

Reba laughed. “Since when do you say no?”

“I haven’t been resting properly. I am so exhausted. I just need to bath and sleep. I am sorry.”

He turned and walked inside the bathroom. Reba slowly sat down. His phone rang, she reached for it and answered the unsaved number.

“Hello?”

“Hi. This is Rethabile, can I please speak to rragwe Lomo.”

“He is bathing. Can I pass on a message?”

“Yes please. I am coming by tomorrow morning to collect Lomo’s clothes.”

“Ok.”

“Thanks.”

Minutes later Atang walked out of the bathroom. Reba smiled.

“Rethabile called. She says she’s coming by tomorrow morning to collect Lomo’s clothes.”

“Ok. Anything else she said?”

“No. That’s all.”

He nodded then put on his sweatpants before getting under the covers. Reba joined him.

“Are you ok?”

He nodded. “Just exhausted.”

Reba laid down putting her arm around him.

The following morning, Reba walked from the bedroom in her black suit and heels. Her formal wear always gave the confidence she needed. She looked at Atang who was pressing his phone.

“I am done.. let’s go.”

They walked out, Atang sliding his phone in his pocket. He pressed the remote then the gate slid open.

Reba stepped back as the white Maserati drove in. Atang watched as Thabi parked her beast of a car. She opened the door and stepped out. Atang looked at her hips in that white slack. Thabi walked over in heels, her makeup slightly done but she looked beautiful as ever..

Reba looked at her car then at her. Thabi smiled.

“Hi, you must be Reba.”

Reba stretched her hand shook Thabi’s. “Judge Rebantle Mosweu.”

Thabi shook her hand. “I am Thabi. Lomo’s mother. I like your suit.”

Reba smiled. “Thanks.”

Thabi nodded then turned to Atang. “Hi...”

“Hey.”

She smiled. “I am here for the clothes.”

He walked back in the house and came back with the bag. He walked to her car and put it at the backseat then looked at Lomo.

“Hey...”

Lomo smiled. “Mommy and I are going to our new house.”

“That’s nice.”

Thabi got in the car and looked at Atang smiling. “She is pretty.”

He looked at her and smiled back. “Wa ntwaela wena.”

Thabi started her engine. “You look hot. Bye.”

She reversed and drove off. Reba sighed.

“I am running late, can we go?”

He nodded then unlocked the car and jumped in. Reba looked at him getting in the car.

“What were you guys smiling about?”

“What?”

“I saw you guys smiling at each other. What were you smiling about?”

“She said you are beautiful.”

Reba looked at him as he drove then sighed. “Do still love her?”

He looked at her, Reba smiled.

“I am sorry..I just... I love you.”

“I love you too. You have nothing to worry about.”

Reba nodded assured.

“Though you didn’t have to introduce yourself like that. You sounded immature and childish. I didn’t like it.”

“I am sorry. I didn’t expect her to come driving that. I low key felt

intimidated. It was childish.”

He drove for a while and finally parked his car at her work place.

“Bye.”

Reba leaned over and kissed her. “I love you.”

“Me too.”

She stepped out of the car and walked away. Atang drove off picking his father’s call.

“Papa ..”

“Congratulations my boy. I am so happy. I just spoke to your uncle. He will call rragwe Reba so we can set a date.

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Yours Truly

#108

Atang sighed.

“Papa wee, did you ever tell bo malome to go the Kaisara family?”

“No. I did call her uncle though.”

“So nothing official was done?”

“Nothing official like what?”

“Kana Thabi and I didn’t properly breakup. Akere ke duetsi magadi.”

“Did you want your 90k back from that family?”

“No. I am just asking.”

“No. But we can sort it out.”

“No. It’s ok.”

“How much do you have saved for Reba?”

“Not much..I think we should wait a bit so I can put more money into it.”

“Ele gore how much do you have?”

“Not much.”

“How much do you have?”

"I only have 10k. I just finished the flats so I am bit broke gape with Lomo's fees, I am left with only 10k."

"I understand. Do you need help? I can sell a couple of cows then you will refund me once you get the money. It's nothing big."

"No. I want to marry with own money. It won't feel proper if I take your money. Can we just wait?"

"Atang, kana your uncle's are ready. I know you have been buying and building a lot of property. I want to assist you as my son."

"I know. Give me a week. If I don't get anything by then, I will accept your money."

"Ok."

Atang hung up driving to his flats where the contractor was waiting for him. He drove in through the gate staring at three blocks of flats, each with 18 two beds apartments. He stepped out of his car and walked over to the contractor.

"Moyo, everything is done?"

"Yes. We are good to go. The parking spaces are also done."

Atang looked over at them. "I like it. I will ask my guys to come and have a look then we are good to go. I will finish off the rest of the payment as soon as I get report from those guys but good job."

Moyo smiled. "You know you can always count on me."

"I know. I want to build my house but I want my wife to be part of it or everything we will be doing so let's talk next week about that

so we can make a plan.”

“Ok, I will be ready.”

They walked to the first block and walked inside the apartment. Atang looked at the tiles then the ceiling. He took a look at the big sitting room then the open plan kitchen together with the two bedrooms.

“I like this. It’s neat. Let me go Moyo. I will call you.”

“Ok.”

Atang walked to his car taking out his ringing phone then he picked his brother’s call.

“Agang...”

“Papa just called me.. he says you are in a financial situation.”

Atang laughed. “Ignore that one.”

“What is Thabi saying?”

“She wants us to have a baby.”

“A baby?”

“Yes. She says Lomo is lonely and needs a sibling.”

“So she wants you back?”

“She says she just wants a baby. Kana Thabi was ntwaela. I think I gave her too much power she thinks she can just command me around.”

“Neela ngwana se a se batang Mister. O seka wa mo sokodisa.

(Give the child what she wants. Don't be hard on her.) (Ebile nna I agree with her. Lomo gets lonely, ever wondered why she likes it here? She gets to play with the girls this side.)

"Kante o thola o suppota eng?"

Agang laughed. "Nna ke suppota Thabi rraetsho."

"I just can't drop everything because Thabi decided to come back. I can't hurt Reba like this. As much as I love Thabi I won't embarrass Reba."

"I am sure she wouldn't want to be your second best le ene. Mister you have a chance of getting your family back. A second child is what you need at this stage in life. Your girl is back. Reba will be fine."

"She won't be. What you need to know is that behind that feisty woman you see, the fierce judge... there is actually a fragile woman beneath. She's been hurt before. She has been through so much. I promised I would be different. I promised I would love her. She opened her heart and let me in. And to a certain level I love her. Not as much as Thabi but I love her to a certain level."

"So you would sacrifice it all for a woman you don't even love that much? You are making a mistake. Lu are fine now because Thabi le ene is still single. The moment she finds someone you are going to die. Heartbreak is a real illness mister. We don't want to burry you after you have collapsed and died."

"I am driving. We will talk."

Atang hung up then tapped his phone slowing down at a red

traffic light. He went to the GPS phone tracking app then on the connected devices and looked at Lomo's GPS.

Prince put his bags in the boot then turned to his wife.

"I will see you in a week."

Lone sighed. "I miss you already."

He kissed her and smiled. "Only a week and I'm back. I love you."

Lone stepped back as he got in his car then he reversed and drove off. She walked back in the house and sat on the couch sadly calling Kelly.

"Hey..."

"I never thought not having kids would bother me but it's getting to me Kelly."

"You have an understanding man."

"Prince sees his friends have kids. O bata bana. Our marriage is no longer the way it used to be. Things are different. And he's always traveling. O kare there is something out there for him because he's always traveling."

"Don't think like that. He loves you."

Lone sniffed. "He doesn't look at me the same anymore. I can feel

him pulling away and I am scared.”

“Come over and let’s distress nyana. The kids are not here. Ebile I feel like swimming. Come let’s skinny dip.”

“I am coming.”

Lone hung up and walked to the bedroom where she changed into a shirt backless dress then walked out holding the keys to her red convertible.

Lomo smiled as they viewed the house. Lomo looked at the big pool at the backyard. Thabi walked over.

“Do you like it Lomo?”

Lomo smiled. “Are we going to stay here mama?”

Thabi nodded. “Yes.”

“Its huge!”

Thabi’s heels echoed as she walked out answering an incoming call.

“Hello?”

“Hi Thabi...”

Thabi swallowed. “I have it right?”

Dr. O'Neal sighed. "It's not the end of the world. It's just a hump along way.... A hump you can overcome."

Tears filled her eyes. "My mother had it. It's hereditary. How bad is it?"

"Stage 3. A surgery and chemo, maybe radiotherapy also will sort it out."

A tear ran down. "How far has it spread?"

"It's manageable. We have detected a bit early. You have nothing to worry about..."

"Thanks..."

"You need to start the treatment or else it will keep spreading."

"Yes."

"We will talk. Stay strong."

He hung up. A car drove in outside. She quickly wiped her tears and walked outside putting on her sunglasses to hide her reddish eyes.

She watched as Atang parked besides her car then stepped out and walked over.

Thabi looked at him as he closed the distance between them.

"How did you buy that?"

She looked at him and smiled. "I went to the car dealership and got it."

"Its expensive." He stood before her and took off her sunglasses. Thabi looked down. He tilted her chin and looked in her eyes, his eyes softening.

"Hey... what's wrong?"

She shook her head. "Nothing..."

"Talk to me..."

A tear rolled down as she looked at him. She smiled tearfully.

"Nothing... I am just happy to be back."

"Its not nothing. Talk to me."

Her lips quivered as she looked at him. She looked down and broke down crying. Atang worriedly hugged her as she cried even louder.

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Yours Truly

#109

Atang wiped away her tears and held her waist.

“Please talk to me.”

She sniffed. “I want you to enjoy your life without me holding you back every chance I get.”

“Who said you are holding me back?”

“If it weren’t for me you would have the family you’ve always wanted. Maybe you would have met Rebantle instead. You would have a lot of kids right now.”

Atang wiped away a tear that had rolled down her cheek. She laughed crying.

“You could have had it all... everything...”

“I have everything I need. Maybe I would have had a lot of kids but maybe then I would not be where I am today. I am happy with my daughter. I am content. A second child would just perfect it all but I wouldn’t change a thing even if I could.” He cupped her face. “I made this child with someone I love... I love my daughter so much because she is a result of love. If it weren’t for you, I would not have Lomo. I am happy with where I am.”

He leaned over and kissed a tear that had rolled down.

“I love you. I don’t regret you. I don’t regret us. Talk to me...”

She tearfully looked at him. "When mama got diagnosed with cancer, I was scared but she... she said it was nothing. She told me the doctors could heal her and even though I had been there when the doctor broke the news that it was now at stage 4, I believed it. I was desperate to believe it. Each day I watched as she succumbed to the pain and torture. Some days were worse and some were better. The better... were the best. It would feel normal. We would laugh... we would play. And on days it was worse, it was unbearable. Batang and I would sleep at the hospital with her. I would not sleep the entire night but just watch her because I was scared to sleep and wake up to my dead mother.." Her tears rolled down going down to her neck.

"Sometimes they gave her strong medication, she would sleep like she was dead. I would cry so much but I could never do it in front of Batang. He was just a child then. When she died... she said she was coming home. She said she was coming home..." Thabi looked at him crying. "I don't want to leave my daughter. She is still young... she needs me. I don't want to die. I am so scared. I don't want to go home.... Not the way mama went home. I don't want to die..." She paused then laughed. She laughed so much till her laugh turned into a cry. "Isn't it just ridiculous just how I worked hard only to have stage 3 brain cancer? Isn't it just crazy how I limited myself from enjoying anything and told myself it was going to be different... isn't it just crazy Attie just how I gave my all to a badge I will never even get to enjoy... I feel stupid... I should have just been a drunkard.."

Atang held her in his arms as she cried. He blinked holding her tightly while she sobbed. He looked up blinking away his own

tears.

He picked her up and walked with her to the car. He put her at backseat and sat besides her before placing her on his lap. She put her head on his chest panting, her tears just rolling down. Atang wrapped his arms around her and remained still.

They remained still for a while then he kissed her neck.

“You are not going to die. I won’t let you.”

She remained still straddling him. “Don’t let me... don’t let me die... I don’t want to die... don’t let me die.”

Lomo walked out holding her tablet. She looked at her father’s car then rushed over.

“I took a lot of pictures of our new house.”

Atang smiled. “You will show me. Did you take the bedrooms?”

“No. Should I?”

“Yes. I want to see everything.”

“Mama-“

“She is sleeping. We are coming.”

Lomo turned with the tablet. Atang rubbed her back. He moved her head and looked at her.

“I love you. You are not going to be alone.”

“You are getting married. I am happy we parted ways. Imagine after waiting for years then I happen to die... that would be tragic.”

“You are not dying. You are not dying when I am here. I am not God... but I am not letting you die. I love you. I love you so much... And there can only be one you... I will make things right... I will make it right.”

“You can’t leave her... what if-“

“I don’t care. I am choosing you. I am choosing us. I low-key thank cancer... because that’s going to be my excuse to get the woman I love back.”

“The chemo is going take away my hair. I am going to be bald. And in constant pain.”

“You would look beautiful bald. And you don’t be alone.”

“I won’t be able to have sex.”

“I can survive...”

He laid her down and pushed her hair from her face.

“I love you...”

Thabi smiled as he got on top of her. “I love you too... I love you more...”

He leaned over and french kiss. He kissed her harder, his heart racing as his dick hardened in his pants. She touched his back as he opened her legs with his knee caressing her on top of her clothes.

Reba walked out of court pressing her phone. She dialed Atang and put the phone on her ear smiling. It rang for a while then stopped. She called him again but there was no answer still.

She sent him a message.

Reba: Hey, just finished with the trial. Should we do lunch? Where are you? I miss you already. I love you. I can't stop looking at my ring by the way. I feel like telling the world that I have finally gotten my happily ever after. It could only be you who could love me the way I am and more. You have been nothing but amazing to me. I can't wait to be yours forever. I am sorry about this morning. I feel so embarrassed. It was childish, you were right and it will not happen again. I trust you and love you with everything in me.

She smiled then walked to her car glad her PA had brought it. She started the engine calling him again. His phone continued to ring unanswered. She put down the phone and drove to his house.

At Batang's apartment, Lebo walked through the gate then towards the gate holding her handbag. She smiled passing his white Golf that was parked by the bedroom window. She opened the door and walked in.

A woman walked from the kitchen in only his shirt holding a metal

spoon.

“Uhu? What are you doing in my house?”

Lebo’s heart pounded so much as she looked at the girl in her man’s shirt. She put her hand on her chest then walked to the bedroom. The girl followed behind her

“Heela ausi nyana, what do you think you are doing parading in my house? I am calling the police, are you mentally disturbed?”

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Yours Truly

#110

Lebo turned to the girl who was still looking at her. Anger took over as she stood in the middle of the bedroom.

“This is my man’s house. O kae Batang? (Where is Batang?)”

“Excuse me?”

“Hey wena mmago was lebelele! O kae Batang?”

The girl looked at her. Lebo walked to the kitchen and got in the jug of hot water.

“O kae Batang? (Where is Batang?)”

Batang walked inside the house holding a small plastic. His heart skipped as she locked eyes with Lebo. His knees went weak.

The girl looked at him. “Babe-”

“You have to go.”

Lebo shook her head. “Go where? Where is she going? No one is going anywhere till you tell me what’s going on here!”

Batang put down the plastic. “Babe-”

“Don’t call me babe. Talk!”

He swallowed. The girl looked at Batang who was panicking. She folded her arms.

“Batang, what’s going on?”

“What’s going on is you sleeping with my man, I am going to cook you with this water today!”

Batang swallowed wetting his dry throat. “Babe... I... it’s not what you think.”

Lebo walked over to him, he moved the opposite direction. Lebo locked the door. “I am going to cook both of you with this water.”

“Lebo, let’s talk about this. Let her go. Please..”

Lebo opened the lid ready to splash him with hot water.

“Her name is Maduo..”

Lebo looked at Maduo who now looked terrified. She opened the door.

“Out!”

“My clothes-“

“Out!”

She hurried out. Lebo closed the door and looked at Batang. She silently looked at him.

“I am sorry... please put down the water... let’s talk.”

“What makes you think you can cheat on me?”

“Babe, can-“

“What makes you cheat?”

“I am sorry. Please put the water down. I love you-“

Lebo splashed half the water burning his hands.

“Fuck!”

“Its those hands that make you behave like you have dics for brains.”.

She threw down his electric kettle breaking it then walked out.

Atang parked the car at the hotel then picked Thabi who was sleeping and walked inside the hotel with her.

He gently placed her on the bed and took off her heels. He looked at her beautiful face and dropped a kiss at the corner of her lips. Atang looked at her hips trapped in those pants then took his t-shirt.

He got on top of her and kissed her lips while she laid still sleeping. He took off her top and kissed her touching her breast. Thabi slowly woke up as he rubbed himself on her while kissing her neck.

She weakly laid under him, he kissed her lips unclipping her bra then he squeezed her breasts. His phone started ringing.

“Answer it..”

“Its not that important.”

“Ng ng answer it. She’s been calling.”

He pulled out her pants and her panties together. He rubbed himself on her grunting. He took out his dic and #removed.

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Thabi vibrated with her back against the wall and her legs around his waist convulsing. Atang rammed himself deep in her grunting and offloaded more of his cum inside her.

He walked with her to the bed and laid down then he slid out from her pussy leaving a trail of his cum behind. The laid on her side exhausted then fell asleep.

Atang picked his phone from the floor and looked at the 6 missed calls from Reba and two from his uncle. He put on his brief and walked out to the balcony calling his uncle back.

“Atang...”

“Malome.”

“How are you my boy?”

“I am fine. Le teng?”

“Yes, I am fine. I got a call from your father and he’s telling me you don’t have enough money for magadi. I don’t believe that. You would not have proposed if you didn’t have enough money.”

“I was expecting some money. I thought I would have gotten that money by now.”

“Atang, talk to me. Do you really want to get married because it sounds like you are trying to delay the process.”

“Mmagwe Lomo is not well. She’s been diagnosed with cancer.”

“And how is her cancer your business? You still love her don’t you?”

“She gave me a child. “

“So you want to stop the negotiations because she’s sick?”

“I want to take care of her. And our daughter. I won’t freely do it if I have paid magadi.”

His uncle laughed. “Your father is not going to buy that. Start working on a better excuse. He really likes this girl. He wants her for you. If it’s mmagwe Lomo you want, that’s fine but do it rightfully. Whatever this girl fed you is dangerous.”

Atang smiled. “She didn’t feed me anything.”

“Waaka, she fed you something.”

Atang laughed. “I will call you when the money is ready.”

“Ok. By the way, if you are already married lawfully, no one can force you to get pay magadi because now it will be unlawful.”

“Rra?”

“I am talking to myself. Bye.”

He hung up. Atang thoughtfully looked at Thabi then made a call.

Later that day Reba parked her car at Atang's house then stepped out with her files and laptop bag. She unlocked the door and walked in the empty house.

Reba put her things down and dialed him again now worried. She slowly sat down as he picked.

"Hey..."

"Hi. I have been calling the whole day."

"I am sorry. I was busy."

"Ok. Where are you now? I am at home."

"I am coming."

"Ok. I love you."

"Me too."

"Me too keng yaanong? Say it properly."

He laughed. "I love you too."

Reba smiled. "Is Lomo still with her mother?"

"I had to drop her off at mmagwe Kelly's house where her cousins are. Her mother had to do something."

"So she took this child to give her back?"

"She got busy. If she knew she would have taken her."

“Ok. So she is going to be staying with her full time right?”

The gate opened. Reba hung up as he drove in. Seconds later he walked inside the house.

“What do you mean stay with her full time?”

“I mean will Lomo be now living with her mother?”

“Yes but it’s a flexible situation.”

“I think you should have a proper arrangement for her. Like us taking holidays and her taking school days.”

“That will only apply if Thabi moves somewhere far. Right now she stays in Gaborone, we can easily move the child around depending on the situation.”

“How much was she paying for maintenance? Was she even paying anything?”

“What’s going on?”

“I just want to know. Since we are getting married I think we should be transparent about everything. That includes Rethabile and Lomo.”

“There is no exact amount. She sent what she could afford each time. As much as I hear your point about transparency, I also think it’s too soon. We will discuss everything once I pay magadi and it’s not now. I am going through a financial strain. I am going to wait till I have enough for proper magadi.”

“How much do you have?”

“I have 8k. It was 10 but I used the 2k on paying the expenses from the party.”

“How much did you want to budget for magadi?”

“Maybe 100k. You deserve more. I don’t have that kind of money now. We will need more for the wedding itself too. That can go up to 200k costs. I am still paying that loan I took from the bank. It’s hard right now.”

“I can lend you some money for magadi. I can give you the 100k. I know you have been putting all your money into property. Soon you will get your returns and even more. The wedding can wait. My family is expecting a call from your family. I don’t want to be that person who gets engaged for years before magadi is paid. I am not trying to rush you but I want you to know you can count on me for backup. I can be a team player. I don’t even mind a small wedding. I love you... that’s what matters.”

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Yours Truly

#111

Atang frowned staring at her.

“You want me to pay magadi with your money? I should marry you with your money?”

“No. I am lending it to you and you will later return it.”

“I am not going to marry you with your money, you might as well marry yourself. I am not broke, just going through a financial situation. As soon as I have raised the money, I will pay magadi. Gape there is no rush. It’s not like I was planning to do it next week.. I will send my uncles to your family when I am ready.”

Reba looked at him sadly. “Ok. I am sorry for suggesting it.”

“Babe can you just let me be the man here? You are not going to be engaged for donkey years but right now is not a financially good time for me.”

“I understand. I am sorry.”

He kissed her cheek. “Its ok.”

She looked at him. “I have been thinking of kids. I want us to start trying for a baby. I feel like I am getting too old and I still don’t have a child. I want one.”

“Ok. Can we do that after we get married? I don’t want to have anymore kids outside marriage.”

Reba nodded. "I will start cooking."

"I am going to freshen up."

He walked away taking off his shirt. She looked at his broad sexy back as he disappeared down the passage. It had been a while since he had touched her, the last time was before he had travelled out and her period which was approaching made her hormones rage even more. She took off her heels and picked her handbag then walked after him. She undressed listening as listening to the shower in the ensuite.

With her tippy toes, Reba walked inside the bathroom and looked at him under the shower. She slid the shower glass door open and walked in. Her body shivered as the cold water thrashed her body. She hugged him from behind, her breast against his back.

Atang turned. "I-

"I miss you."

"Can we do this later? I need to make a phone call."

"Babe... please..."

"I have a lot on my plate. Can we do it later?"

"Atang what's wrong? Did I do something yesterday?"

"No. I just don't feel like sex right now. It has nothing to do with you."

"You have been offish since you dropped off your daughter at the hotel yesterday. What happened?"

He looked at her. "What do you mean?"

"Something was different. Are you having second thoughts?"

"Reba-"

"Ebile I am Reba."

He sighed. "Babe..."

"Something happened. I can tell from your behavior. We have been together for more than a year and not once have you ever went the entire day without talking to me no matter how busy you can be. You never say 'me too'. It was the first time you ever responded to me like that. The sad thing is that I have been here before. I know how it goes. She is back. Things were fine while she was away. I asked you if you were really over her and you looked me in the eyes and said yes." She took a deep breath as tears filled her eyes. She looked down not wanting him to see the tears in her eyes.

Atang looked at her guiltily. She smiled like a big girl taking his shower gel.

"It's ok. Go and make your call."

"I am sorry. I am just worried about Lomo. Ke ta ipakanya. I am sorry."

"Have you changed your mind?"

"I just need time."

She stood on her tippy toes and kissed him touching his weapon. She stroked his dick as her pussy throbbed. He pushed her

against the glass walls kissing her back as his dick slowly got it's erection.

He slid his hand between her p*ssy lips then rubbed her clit. Reba moaned with his big body against her.

He pushed in a finger and tapped her g-sport. Reba sank her nails into his skin throwing her head back. He pushed in another finger and continued fingering her as she moaned pushed up against the mall.

"Attie..."

Atang picked her leg curving his back and pushed in with his semi hard erection. He gently eased his weapon out and pushed back in again. He thought of Thabi , his dick got soft the more he thought of her, it felt like he was cheating on her.

He stopped and slid out putting his hands on his face.

"I am sorry... I am having erections with my dick. I think I have erectile dysfunction. It started a while back. I have been taking Viagra to get it up. I am sorry."

"How long has it been happening?"

"A month now."

She touched his soft weapon and looked at him now feeling guilty of cornering him like that.

"I am sorry. You should have told me. Did you see a doctor?"

"I am embarrassed."

“I will go with you if you want. I am here. Don’t beat yourself up for it.”

He smiled. “Thank you for understanding.”

Reba smiled then watched him walk out while her pussy throbbed still.

At Moremi Game Reserve, Okavango, Prince gave Pearl the last thrust and stilled deep in her filling her hot pan pussy with his cum.

“Fuck!”

He slid out and stared at her sweet pussy. He could never get enough of her. He leaned over and kissed her then touched her bump.

“Are you ok?”

She slowly opened her eyes exhausted, her pussy burning.

“Ng...”

“I love you.”

Pearl smiled. “I love you too.”

He touched her breast. Pearl got off bed.

“I am tired. The baby is tired too.”

Prince laughed. "Did he tell you that?"

"Yes. What was Lone doing all along?"

She wrapped a towel around body. Prince looked at her and smiled.

"We are not discussing her."

Pearl sat down. "I feel you are never going to leave her and at the end I am the one who is going to suffer."

"Lone and I are married in community of property. If we get a divorce, she gets half of everything."

"Didn't you think of that before you started giving me kids? We have kids Prince. With this one, three! I am the mother of your children. I deserve better than to be hidden o njela mo plastiking."

"Can you calm down? The doctor said your blood pressure is high."

"How can it not be high when I am alone?"

"Babe, please understand where I am coming from."

"I understand that you love your wife and you won't leave her for anything, not even your sons! After I give birth to this one, I am breaking up with you."

"Babe... look at me... I love you. I love you so much. And I would give anything to be with you. You know what I stand to lose if I take the divorce route. I am working on it with my lawyer. I am not just sitting."

Pearl looked at him. "I said what I said. I am four months pregnant right now. You have five months to set things straight."

Prince kissed her. "Ok."

"Please go and see what the kids are doing."

He got up and put on his pants then walked out. Pearl stood up and locked herself in the bathroom crying.

The following morning, Thabi slowly opened her eyes as Atang filled her pathway with his hard dick. He pressed her down kissing her neck and took her to the heavens.

He grunted as her pussy spasmed clamping dick. He pushed deeper into her pussy as his cum came rushing through.

He kissed her back letting the last drop in then he eased out and turned her around. He smiled kissing her.

"Hey beautiful..."

Thabi touched his chest smiling. "You should be at your house with your person."

Thabi's phone rang from her bedside. She reached for it and picked while he kissed her neck.

"Hello?"

“Hi, it’s Reba. I am sorry to call so early in the morning but I need to talk to you.”

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Yours Truly

#112

Thabi's heart skipped as she held the phone properly.

"Hi Reba."

Atang looked at her.

"Uh... I wanted to apologize for the way I came across yesterday. To be honest I have been expecting a bitter baby mama or something along those lines. I have been feeling so ashamed about the way I introduced myself. Ke feela bo childish hela, worse when you didn't respond with same attitude."

"I didn't take offense. Lenna if I were a judge, I would introduce myself like that."

Reba laughed. "Nevertheless, I don't want you thinking I am that person because tota I am not."

"Its ok."

"I hope we never step on each other's toes. That's all. Have a good day."

"You too."

She dropped the call. Atang kissed her. Thabi touched his beard.

"She's nice."

"Don't do that. Please don't do that."

“What did I do?”

“Can we focus on us while I work on letting her go gently?”

“Cancer is tricky. I don’t think-“

“I know what I want. And it’s you. Also you getting better. I am not walking away from you. From us...I am not letting us down. I will be deal with Reba.”

“She is going to be heart broken. It’s going to break her. She has loved you, accepted your child. Let you in her heart. All of that to just be broken. It hurts.”

He laid besides her and pulled her in his arms.

“I love you. I am not going nowhere. I know she is going to be broken, I am aware of that but if I marry her we are both going to be miserable. She’s everything but not for me. It’s nothing to do with you, it’s everything to do with me. Don’t feel guilty. Marrying her was already questionable.”

Thabi relaxed in his arms.

“There is a doctor in South Africa. He wants to diagnose you so we can start with your treatment plan.”

“Ok.”

“We will go next week..”

Thabi moved closer to him by laid her he head on his chest.

In Kasane, Rragwe Atang called his younger brother

“Hello?”

“Did you talk to Atang?”

“I did. He is saying the same thing. I think we should just give him space. When he has the money, he will talk to us.”

“I am thinking to lend him some money. I will sell a couple of cows to raise something.”

“He says he is going to get some money soon. Let him do it at his own pace. Let’s not corner him.”

“No one is cornering him. Atang is a grown man, it’s time he settles down. His age mates have been married for years now.”

“Let Atang do things at his own speed. Gape asking that girl if she wants to marry him didn’t mean he wanted to do it tomorrow. He will call all us when he is ready. Obviously it’s not now.”

“He is going to start delaying.”

“If he delays it then we will talk to him. For now it’s way too early. Let’s just wait to hear from him. I called him. When he is ready he will talk to us. For now let’s wait.”

He hung up. Rragwe Atang called his son. His phone rang for a while.

“Papa...”

“I was thinking maybe we should go to the Kaiaaras so that le

wena when you marry Reba, there won't be any previous commitments you are involved in."

"Just leave it. I don't mind."

"It's the right thing to do."

"Papa, let them be. Gape akere everyone knows that Thabi and I broke up."

"Ok. How is Lomo? You should bring her sometime."

"She is fine. I will make a plan."

"Ok. I hope you don't think I am putting you under pressure. I just got excited to know that you have found someone to finally settle with."

"I am going to marry the woman I love, you don't have to worry. I will see the rest after I have married her."

Rragwe Atang smiled. "Ok. We will wait for you."

Later that day Batang watched as the nurse bandaged his hands.

"You will be fine on a week or two."

"Thank you. You are beautiful."

The nurse looked at him and laughed. "Thank you son."

Batang smiled naughtily. "O seka was thola o mpitsa son, o ta re kgolega."

"You are old enough to be son."

"And you are old enough to get bended on this table then get fucked till you can't walk."

She looked at him speechlessly as he stared at her as if daring her. He stood up and walked out with a smile. The nurse put her hand over chest as her heart pounded. She stood up and walked to the bathroom to change her panty liner.

Batang picked Atang's call getting in his car.

"Hello?"

"I just git a call from Lebo. O irang yang yaanong Mister?"

"It didn't mean anything. But nna tota distance ya mpolaya."

"I thought you loved this girl?"

"I do but distance is slowly killing everything. Long distance relationships are not for me. I long told her this. "

"I am coming there. We will talk when I get there. Thabi is here with me. We are having dinner there."

"Thabi is here?"

"Yes. We are coming.'

Batang put down his her phone and started the engine and drove off.

That evening, Reba finished her dinner set up then lit up the candles before switching off the lights. She took a deep breath staring at the romantic set up. She sat down waiting patiently in her red lingerie.. Thirty minutes went by then she called him.

“This is a free announcement-“.

She cut the call and texted him. An hour went by as she sat alone. She called again but there was no answer then she called Agang.

“Hey...”

“Hi. Are you with your brother? I have been trying to call him.”

“He is here, we are watching a match.”

Oh, let me talk to him then.”

“Right now he went the toilet. I will ask him to call you now “

“Ok, thanks.”

He hung up. Minutes went by then she called Kelly instead.

“Hi..”

“Hey, has Atang arrived there?”

“Arrived here? No. Not yet. He is coming?”

“Yes. To see Agang.”

“Ng ng, he’s not here yet.”

“Ok, thanks.”

She dropped the call and took a deep breath waiting. Her nose flared with each breath she took while her heart raced.

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Yours Truly

#113

At Batang's house, that evening Thabi watched as Batang and Atang watched a soccer match. With both of them supporting the same team, they made so much noise she found herself laughing.

"This guy doesn't know what he's doing. He's selfish!"

They continued watching, Thabi looked around Batang's house. On the wall was a picture of a frame of him with Lomo. She nibbled on her food getting lost in her thoughts while lying on a couch.

From the other couch Atang looked over at Thabi who was staring at the nothing. The match went on half time. He stood up and sat with her.

"Hey..."

Thabi slowly looked at him. She smiled. "Hi..."

He kissed her. Batang looked at them then stood up and walked to the kitchen.

Thabi smiled. "They are on halftime?"

"Yes. Are you ok?"

Thabi nodded. "Yes. Just tired. My head is aching too."

"Should I go and get you something at the pharmacy?"

"No. It's ok. Watch your match."

"I won't take long. I am coming. I will go with Batang."

"Attie... it's ok."

He kissed her. "We are coming."

He walked to the kitchen. "Lets go."

Batang looked at him. "Where are we going?"

"You will see. Let's go."

They walked out. Thabi laid on the cushion on the couch staring at the TV. Her vision got blurred the more she stared, she sniffed tearfully.

Her phone rang from the small table. He slowly reached for it.

"Zaza..."

"Hi, where are you? I am bored."

"I am with Batang and Attie. They are watching soccer."

"Atang? You guys... isn't he engaged now?"

"He is."

"What are you guys doing then? Didn't you break up with him? Kante mme gone why do you do this to people? You two ended things under the pretext of the relationship not working out and now you are back at it again hurting other people in the mix."

"My head is aching. I am hanging up."

"I am just concerned."

“Thank you. But I am fine.”

“What’s going to happen now?”

“I don’t know Zaza. But I am sure she will have him at the end.”

“I don’t support this. It’s unnecessary. I don’t even understand why you two broke up if it was to get back together again.”

“You are the last person to judge anyone Zaza. You have done worse things in life. We will talk. I have enough on my plate to be lectured and judged. Good night.”

Reba tearfully spoke to her sister.

“He has changed.”

“You said he had erectile dysfunction. What if that’s what stressing him?”

“It started the night he dropped off his daughter at the hotel.”

“Reba...”

Reba sniffed. “I think he’s changed his mind or something.”

“I doubt it. Not after what he went through to even propose to you.”

“I will kill myself this time around.”

“Can you nit talk like that.”

She sniffed. “If he plays me I am going to kill him then myself.”

“I don’t like what you are saying.”

“I am telling you. Atang is not going to leave me. Not after everything. Not after wasting my time.

“You sound crazy. I don’t like it.”

On the way to mall, Atang looked at Batang while driving.

“What happened?”

“I don’t think I can manage a long distance relationships. I find myself looking for someone who is there when I need her. Lebo is not always available.”

“Did you tell her that? Don’t you think she deserves to know?”

“I will talk to her.”

“Do that. Be with the woman you love. Gaborone is tricky Batang. Don’t leave the woman who was with you when you had nothing. She saw something in you. Loved you. Every girl has a different kind of p*ssy. They don’t taste the same. You will never finish all the women. Lebo is the one you love. Don’t lose her.”

“Ok.”

He nodded. Atang parked at the mall.

"I am coming."

He stepped out of the car and walked inside the mall. He took out his phone and switched it on getting Thabi's headache medication.

He looked at the two messages from Reba and called her back.

"Hey..."

"Where are you? Please don't say with Agang because I know you are not there neither are you with Prince. Don't lie to me. Where are you?"

"I am with Batang."

"Your ex's brother?"

"He needed help."

"Why are you still in contact with Rethabile's family?"

"Because I have a daughter there."

"I have been calling you. Your phone has been off. What's going on Agang?"

"I was busy. I am sorry."

"Where does Batang stay?"

"Reba-"

"I am not comfortable with the set up. It feels like you are still holding on to Rethabile."

"I am his father. I raised him."

"So what if you raised him? I am not comfortable with the set up. I have never been. You pay his rent, you bought him a car, you send him money every month. It's a lot. I am not comfortable with it."

"I raised this boy. I can't just drop him because you are not comfortable with it."

"Would you like it if I were still taking care of my ex's brother? Please come home. I have been waiting for you. Ke kopa o tle lapeng. (Please come home.)"

"Reba-

"Atang please..." Her shook as she spoke like someone who was crying. "Please come home."

"Ok."

He hung up and paid. Atang walked back to his car and jumped in.

He started the car and drove off holding the medication.

At Batang's house, Atang helped Thabi drink her pills.

"Let me drop you off."

Thabi hugged her brother. "I like your house."

"Thanks. I am happy you are back."

They walked out and got in the car. Thabi looked at him and smiled before looking out the window while he drove. He parked at the hotel and walked to her room with her.

"I am moving to my house tomorrow."

He kissed her. "Ok."

"Can you go home and give your fiancé some attention? Don't come in the morning. Stay at home."

"I love you."

Thabi sat down as he walked out.

At Atang's house , Reba paced up and down holding her phone then she called him.

"I am coming."

"Where are you?"

"I am driving home. I am almost there."

"O tsamaya ha kae Atang!"

"I am ten minutes away."

Reba hung up and looked at the time.. Exactly twelve minutes later he drove in. She took a deep breath as he walked in.

"Where are you coming from?"

"I told you where I was."

"The whole day where were you?"

“What’s going on?”

“Answer me!” She yelled losing it. “Where were you the whole day Atang?”

“I was viewing the flats.”

“That you forgot you have someone in your life?” Tears filled her eyes. She looked up to keep them at bay but one still rolled down.

“What’s going on?”

“Don’t talk to me as if I am your child.”

“I will talk to you however I want when you behave like a child! You have changed. Where is my Atang? Because this is not him.”

“Babe-“

Another tear rolled down. “What happened to my man? Why are you hurting me neerra? What did I do? Please tell me what I did. Is it your ex?”

“No. I am sorry-“

“Things were perfect before she came then she came back...”

“Can we calm down?”

“If you think you can play me Atang you are wrong. Not after everything. I will kill you then myself. I promise you I will kill you. After you are dead then I will kill myself. Trust me on this. You won’t play with my feelings and get away with it. Everything was fine till she came back. I have done nothing but love you. You will not humiliate me Atang.. you will not embarrass me. I will kill both of us if you try it. I swear to you. She will burry you. I swear on my

mother's grave. If you have always gotten away with hurting people, this time you will get away with it in your grave."

"Are you threatening me?"

"No. I am telling you. It's a promise."

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Yours Truly

#114

Atang looked at her as she breathed heavily trying to hold her tears back. He put his hands on her waist.

“Hey...”

She looked at him tearfully.

“It’s ok. Calm down.”

“You are hurting me. I didn’t anything.” Her voice broke as she spoke.

Atang wrapped his arms around her. She sniffed in his arms. Atang picked her up and walked to the couch with her then sat down, her on his lap.

“I want to be honest with you. Can I?”

She nodded. “When I met you I had broken up with Thabi. I was ready for a fresh start because my relationship with her had failed. I know it took time for you to let down your walls and let me in. I know it took you a while to love me. I was patient enough with you but I realized something the last couple of months. You’d rather I leave Lomo with Agang so we can be together. Which is not wrong when we want to spend quality time together but it happens all the time. You don’t want my daughter around and I don’t even know why. Two months back you asked me why I can’t give my daughter to stay with my mother. I asked you why

and you said so it makes things easier for me yet you found me with a child. I know my daughter but she is also not free around you. You never try to connect with her. You are distant. You'd rather play a game on your phone than talk to her. It doesn't have to be hectic conversation. Just a simple talk to get her to loosen up. Exactly five months ago, I was sure it was you I was going to marry. I spoke to my father about and I took you to Kasane to meet my parents. Now I am not sure because already you want Lomo to stay with her mother under some lousy excuse."

"You never told me I had to play step mother to your daughter."

"I didn't expect you to play step mother to my daughter, I.. either way, if I am marrying you, I expect you to. If you never connected with her, how are you going to do it now?"

"You are just looking for reasons to shift blame."

"I am trying to let you see where we are having a fall out."

"You are lying! You want to say it is the reason you have been acting funny. You are trying to blame me for your actions. You want me to apologize for your behavior because now all of a sudden it's my fault that you act different. O tswa kae? (Where are you coming from?)"

"I was with Batang."

She got up and looked at him. "You are lying!"

"Call him and ask him.."

"I want to see your bank balance... you are lying to me about the

8k. Rethabile is the reason you are not sure anymore.”

“You are the reason I haven’t been sure anymore. Rethabile did nothing but you know what? I would rather marry her than you because I know she loves my daughter. My daughter will always come first to me. If you can’t relate with her then we might as well end it. I am tired of walking on eggshells with you. I am not any of your ex, I constantly have to prove myself to you and get threatened. I am sick of it. You need to realize that not everyone is your ex.”

“So now you’d rather marry her?”

“Yes because she loves my daughter. If you can’t accept a men’s child then forget the relationship. My daughter will be where I am. I will never part with her. Be it we get married, she will be staying with us. That’s one thing that you won’t ever change so if you can’t love her now, forget it.”

“So now Lomo is your excuse for not calling and being God knows where? She is the excuse?”

“I was with Batang. Batang is not going anywhere. He’s been in my life long before you. You found him there and he will forever be there.”

“Things were fine before she came. Do you still love her?”

“I am not answering that.”

“You are not going to hurt me and get away with it.” She sniffed crying. “You are not going to get away with it. You came after me. You made me love you. I have been nothing but good to you. If

you had a problem with how I was interacting with your daughter you could have said something. I'd rather be dead than get humiliated and embarrassed by you."

"Then let's end it now before we go far. Let's break up. And to be honest I don't think we are right for each other. My daughter and I are not for you. Let's end it."

He walked to the bedroom leaving her standing in the middle of the sitting room crying.

The following morning, Lone finished with her yoga exercises and stood up from the mat. She picked her phone and stopped the music then called Prince.

"The number you have-"

She dropped the call and walked to the kitchen where she made herself a smoothie going through some pictures with her husband.

She smiled at their wedding picture then changed her social media profile pictures.

She quickly blended her ingredients then sat down scrolling through her Facebook. She paused coming across a post on a page that posted people's problems. She sat upright seeing that it had only been posted 30 minutes back but already it had 3.5k comments.

'Hi admin, please post me anonymous. I have a problem, I met the man I am with two years back. I am someone who's been hurt a lot in the past. When this man approached I rejected him for months and finally gave in though I had explained to him why I would rather be single. I am someone who's dated baby daddies and have thoroughly been hurt so I don't like men with kids. Unfortunately this one has a child he stays full time with. I have never connected with his child, I tried but failed upon realizing that this child looks exactly like her mother and I now started feeling like I was competing. I have always kept distance between myself and this child. I don't hate her but after my past experiences, I just want to be safe rather than sorry. And I also just want to give my first love to my children. I stayed with him not concerned about the child because he had said the child's mother was going to take her child and live with her, the mother was based outside Botswana. All along everything has been fine till the ex came back. Guy has been acting funny. He used to call me or text me during the day. Now he doesn't anymore. I am at a stage where I have reached the edge. He says we should break up because I don't connect with his child but I can see he wants his ex back. I had asked him if he was over his ex before we started dating, he said yes but his action say otherwise now. My heart is breaking. I don't know what to do, I feel played and used. I am thinking of killing the both of us. I love him so much, I am not psycho, if he wasn't over his ex, I wanted him to just tell me instead of lying to me, mind you, we are engaged.'

Lone took screenshot and sent to Kelly.

Kelly responded.

Kelly: Heee

Lone: It sounds familiar

Kelly: I doubt though, kana Reba is a woman of class. I doubt she even has Facebook gape hela woman like her don't talk about killing themselves. It's rare tota. She has everyone she can ever need.

Lone: You are right though. But for a second there I was gone

Kelly: No. It's not her.

Lone: Prince's number is still not going through.

Kelly: He is working. He's a soldier. I doubt he had time for his phone. Thamma can you just wait for your man?

Lone: Eish ok. I am doing a vlog today for my YouTube channel. Want to feature?"

Kelly: Yes. Count me in.

Lone: maybe we can go for shopping for content.

Kelly: Ok. Let ask Agang to send me some money.

Lone: By the way I have been thinking if going back to school..nna mma I am bored here at home. Maybe if I had kids like you it wouldn't be so boring.

Kelly: What's the use of going to school if you won't get a job? It's been years ebile nna I gave up. I am good being a house wife because Agang provides for me and he loves me. You will waste

your time at school only to be unemployed.

Lone: I just want something to do. Even if I don't work at least I'd have something. I was in my third year ar varsity when I dropped out. I want to continue.

Kelly: You will be wasting your own time but

Lone: Come let's start shooting.

Kelly: Coming.

Thabi finished typing her business plan for the clinic then smiled going through it. She fixed a couple of errors and saved the document.

Her phone rang as she closed her laptop.

"Hello?"

"Good morning Ms Kaisara. Your furniture is ready for delivery."

Thabi smiled. "Ok. I am sending you the address."

"Eemma."

She sent them the address to her house then got off bed and put on her shoes before walking out holding her handbag and car keys.

She got in her car and drove off picking Atang's call.

“Hey.. “

“Do you have plans today? I want to take you somewhere.”

Thabi smiled. “Somewhere where?”

“Somewhere alone.”

She smiled. “Ok. I am on my way to house now. The furniture is being delivered.”

“Ok. I am coming there. By the way, I have put up our names at the DC’s office. Bye.”

He dropped the call. Thabi looked at her phone in shock slowing down to the morning traffic.

At Atang’s house, Reba tearfully laid on the bed hugging the pillow. Her sister continuously called her while she laid still crying. She slowly got up a while later and made a call.

“Hello?”

“Hi, I want anti-freeze. How soon can I get it?”

“Anti-freeze?”

“Yes. How soon can I get it?”

“Today.”

“Thank you. Can I pass by collecting it?”

“Yes.”

“Ok, I am coming.”

She put on her clothes then walked out. She drove off looking at the time.

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Morning, this is our morning insert.

Yours Truly

#115

Thabi smiled staring at her new furniture in her house. The men from the furniture shop smiled at her.

“We are done.”

“Thank you. I love it.”

“Eemma.”

She walked out with them. Her phone vibrated in her pocket as she stood by the door watching them drive off.

She took it out and picked the landline.

“Dr. Kaisara, hello?”

“Hi.”

Thabi paused then laughed. “I told you to never call me.”

Pule chuckled. “I don’t blame you.”

“Where did you get my number?”

“I saw you listed under motivational speakers who are supposed to speak to first year medicine students at UB.. your number was listed under your name.”

Thabi smiled. “What do you want?”

“I want to see you. I am a single father.”

“I don’t believe you. You want your wife to sue me.”

“Our divorce was finalized three months back. It’s over. I saw your ex is now dating a judge.”

“Good for him. I am sorry about your divorce.”

“I am over it. It was not meant to be.”

Atang’s car drove in through the open gate. He parked next to her car then stepped out fixing his cap.

He was more buffed up, she wondered if it was work or him just going to the gym. She looked at his t-shirt which was holding on to his muscles then that broad chest.. that chest she laid under while he breathed heavily on top of her.

He walked with intention, she took a deep breath as he closed the distance between them like a jaguar coming for it’s prey. Her eyes went down to that zip, she took a deep breath staring at that bump. Baby daddy wasn’t just an ordinary man... no, he was way past just being ordinary.

He looked in her eyes approaching, his veined tattooed arms already open. He wrapped them around her pulling her in his arms and squeezed her that she let out a slight moan. Yeeerrr! What a macho man.

He kissed her neck letting his beard caress her skin. Goosebumps erupted from her skin as she put her hand over his biceps feeling his weapon on her stomach.

“Hey...”

“Hello? Thabi?” Pule spoke over the phone.

“Hi, I have to go. Bye.”

She hung up and sighed in Atang’s arms. He let go and kissed her lips, he turned the kiss into a french kiss as his hands went to get butt.

Her phone started ringing again. He sealed the kiss with a baby kiss then looked at her screen.

“Who’s that?”

Thabi looked at her screen. “Pule.”

“You still talk to him?”

“No.”

“Why is he calling?”

“I don’t know. He says he got my number at UB.”

Thabi picked. “Hi. I would appreciate it if you and I don’t communicate at all. Please respect my space and thank you.”

She dropped the call and smiled looking at his annoyed face.

“O ngadile? (Are you upset?)”

He pinched her cheek then kissed her. “Can he be out of lives for good?”

Thabi nodded. “Yes. Where are you taking me?”

“We never went to Vic Falls. I want to take you there.”

Thabi smiled. "Do they do bunjee jumping?"

"Yes."

"Are we going today?"

He squeezed her breasts. "Yes. We are driving."

"You never said anything about the baby..."

"I read about Chemo. It's not good for the baby and I don't want anything that can jeopardize you getting the help you need to get."

"We can find a surrogate. Someone to carry our baby. All they need is your semen and my eggs."

"Babe can we just have our baby once you are well? Can I just worry about you only?"

"We don't have to worry about anything. We just need someone who is healthy."

"I want to be able to connect with my child freely. Can we just deal with the cancer for now? As soon as we are done with your treatment and you are cancer free, I will give you the baby."

"It might take years till I am cancer free. Or don't you want a child?"

"You know I do. Right now is not the right timing. You are not dying. We still have time to make the baby."

A tear rolled down. Atang wiped it away with his thumb.

"Babe..."

“You don’t know how this will go. Stage 3 cancer is no child play. It’s aggressive. It can take me two years to win the battle. I don’t even understand your reasoning anymore. If you don’t want to have a child with me say so.”

“Ok.. it’s ok. We can have the baby.”

Thabi sniffed smiling. “Thank you.”

“O lelelang? (Why are you crying?)”

She smiled. “You are making me cry.”

He kissed her. “Sorry autwa?”

Thabi blushed and spoke softly. “Eerra.”

Atang’s phone rang in his pocket. He took it out, Thabi looked at Reba calling then turned and walked inside the house.

Atang answered.

“Yah?”

Reba sniffed. “I am sorry I was distant to Lomo. I guess loving you means loving everything that comes with you. I should have tried harder. I don’t hate Lomo. I just fear loving someone’s child then have her taken away from me. I fear being labeled by the child’s mother. I could have been better, I agree. I could have done a lot better. I should have communicated my fears with you . Ke ipona poso and I want to fix it. I don’t want to separate you from your child. You are a good father, I do feel like you spoil her too much sometimes but I think it’s because I don’t have a child so I can’t judge you or be opinionated. I am sorry. I can fix it. It’s nothing I

can't fix."

"We will talk. I am going for a work trip up north. I will be back next week "

"Ok. Can I see you before you go then? I don't want you going feeling the way I feel. I feel like I am losing you. I am scared. I am so scared. I feel suicidal. I don't know but maybe it's because I have loved you with everything in me."

"I am leaving now. We will discuss everything once I come back."

"I feel like you are lying. Are you taking her with you?"

"Don't you think it's best we just break up because this back and forth business is starting to bore me."

Reba sniffed. "I am sorry. It's ok. I am sorry."

"I am going with Raps. You can call him if you want but be careful of his wife. She doesn't like women who call her man."

"No. It's ok."

"Ok. Sharp."

"I love you Atang." She paused crying. "I love you so much. Ke ireng neerra? (What should I do?)I will do anything. What should I do?"

"We will talk when I come back. I love you too.."

He hung up and walked inside the house.

Reba sat in her car crying holding her phone. She looked at the anti-freeze in her car then sniffed taking it. She opened the bottle of orange juice then poured antifreeze inside. She closed the bottle then shook it before looking around the street. She looked at Lomo playing with her cousins outside mmagwe Kelly's gate.

A school kid walked past her.

"Hey.. come..."

The school kid turned and walked back carrying her heavy bag filled with books.

"Dumelang.."

"Hi, do you see that child in the blue dress? She is my daughter visiting her grandmother. I don't want her to see me, she will cry for me if she does. Give her this juice."

She handed it over together with a P10 note.

"Get yourself magwinya."

The school kid smiled. "Eemma. Should I tell her it's from her mother?"

"Yes."

"Ok."

The school kid walked away and went over to Lomo. Reba started the rental car and drove off.

Abaleng started calling. Reba picked. "Hello?"

"Hi. O kae?"

"I am going home."

"What did he say?"

"He is going on a work trip. I apologized."

"Good. Now you have to learn loving his daughter. "

"Yes."

"Its not hard. Just open up your heart to it."

"Thanks."

"I have to go. We will talk."

"Ok."

Reba joined the A1 road driving back home.

Lomo got the juice and spoke with her English medium English.

"My mom was here?"

The school kid nodded. "But she left. She said I should give you that. Bye."

Lomo smiled opening the cold juice while her cousins also waited

to drink.

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Yours Truly

#116

Lomo opened the juice and sipped smiling. Her cousins swallowed as she swallowed.

“You can drink too.”

Mmagwe Kelly walked over.

“Lomo, what are you three drinking there?”

“Mama bought me juice.”

“Where is she?”

“She went.”

“Give me that. I will pour for you in glasses. How can your mother just come and go without greeting people?”

She took the juice and walked inside the house with the kids following behind her. She took out her phone and called Atang.

“Mama..”

“Kante yaanong mmagwe Lomo comes and doesn’t greet

people?”

“Mmagwe Lomo?”

“Yes. She just dropped a small bottle of juice for Lomo. I just don’t understand why she would come and leave without greeting people kana ke dilo tsa go America?”

“Mama wee, mmagwe Lomo ke mang yaanong?”

“Rethabile.”

“Rethabile is here with me.”

“Then who came if not her. Kana Lomo is here with juice that was brought by her mother.”

“I am here with Thabi. Did Lomo see this person?”

Mmagwe Kelly looked at Lomo. “Lomo, did you see mama?”

“No. She asked a child to give it to me. I only saw a car.”

“What car?”

“One like mmagwe O’s.”

Mmagwe Kelly spoke on the phone.. “A Honda Fit.”

“I don’t know who that is. Did she drink?”

“Judt a sip. Not much.”

“Her mother is here. I don’t know who drives a Honda Fit. Please don’t let them drink it.”

“Ok. Let me throw it away. Kana there is a Honda Fit that kidnaps

kids. I think she was trying to lure the kids with juice. I am not letting them out of my sight anymore.”

“Thank you.”

“So if Thabi is with you, where is that other woman?”

“Mama bye.”

He hung up before she could say anything. She shook her head and spilled the juice in the sink then poured them a fizzy drink from the fridge.”

Reba walked inside the house, her heart pounding. She wondered if Lomo had drank the juice. Her guilt made her stand up and pace around.

Her heart pounded so much that she felt a bit dizzy then she slowly sat down. She swallowed shaking. When had she become a murderer?

She swallowed then stood up pacing again. What if they questioned that student? Obviously he would describe her to the police then she would go to jail for murder.

Reba unlocked her phone thinking of calling Kelly to ask for her mother’s number. But if Lomo does, her phone call would make things suspicious.

She put her phone down and put her hands on her face

Tears filled her eyes. Was this the person she was now? She tries to think of the person she was before Atang... a tear rolled down.

She should have known that it had been too good to be true. She was just meant to get hurt from time to time again. That was how it always went. She would love unconditionally and have her love thrown on her face.

She stood up and paced tearfully. She just couldn't understand why he had made her taste happiness only to snatch it away.

She had been different this time around. She had given it all. More tears rolled down then she paused unlocking her phone. She locked the screen and sat down.

She sat still for minutes then called Kelly.

"Reba.."

"Hi. Can you please forward me your mother's number.. I got Lomo something she might like."

"Ok. I just spoke to her now."

"Oh.. dis you talk to the kids too?"

"Yes. They are happy. Mama was just telling me someone tries to lure the kids with juice. This world mma."

"Juice? Did they drink?"

"Gatwe Lomo took a tiny sip. Mama threw it away."

Reba breathed out relieved. "Good. Eish we just need to be extra

careful.”

“We do.. anyways let me forward the number.”

“Yeah. Thanks.”

“Good night.”

Reba hung up and put her hands on her face relieved.

In Maun, later that day Elang finished counting the money she had made that day.

She put away the 2k under the bed and smiled taking her phone. She went on her Facebook, she paused coming across Thabi’s new profile picture. It was her feet on the dashboard. Elang smiled at the caption.

‘There is something about road trips with the right people...’

She liked the picture and commented.

Elang: it’s everything!

She continued scrolling don her timeline. She paused coming across a government 1 million tender post needing a catering company. She read through the details and jumped off the bed almost falling. She got her laptop from the wardrobe and sat on the bed switching it on to send her application glad she had register her business.

She took a deep breath then closed her eyes.

“God I know in the past I wasn’t the greatest person... but I need this. I have three kids. I want them to have everything they may ever need. Please help me...”

She opened her eyes and sent her application to the email address.

She closed her laptop and laid on the bed continuing on Facebook.

She came across one of her male Facebook friend. He always posted pictures with his two kids. She smiled liking his new profile picture. She leaned back going through his timeline. She hadn’t done that in a while. He was one of those handsome mature men in their forties. He just had that thing in him... that... Elang smiled liking the picture of his two kids.

He was an eye candy. She went back to her timeline and continued scrolling down.

Her messenger notification pinged. She opened her messages. Her heart skipped as she looked at his message right at the top.

She opened it.

Leatso Atso Zaba: Good evening, my name is Leatso Zaba. I am a business owner, I own Zaba Logistics. I am 45 years old and I have two kids. A daughter, 8 years old and a boy 5 years. I have been following you for a while now and I think you are a very beautiful self driven woman. I am interested in getting to know you better. I would like to take you out for dinner some time and maybe we can be to know each better. That’s if it’s ok with you.

Elang's mouth dropped open. She pinched herself wondering if really it was happening. She took a deep breath then typed.

Elang: Evening, my name is Elang, also a business owner. I run a catering company. I have three kids, the father is absent. I think dinner would be nice.

He started typing.

Leatso: Perfect. How about tomorrow? We can meet at the restaurant or I can pick you up. Whatever works for you.

Elang: Tomorrow is fine. We can meet there.

Leatso: Ok. Goodnight. Thank you.

Elang blushed then threw her head back on the bed like she was a child.

Later that night, Atang held Thani against the car that was parked on the side. He grunted in her ear fucking her. Thabi closed her eyes convulsing moaning.

Atang continued hammering her then groaned as his dic jerked spurting out his cum inside her.

He kissed her then slid out and put her leg down fixing her panty.

"Lets go."

He opened the door for her as a car sped past them. She slowly got. He closed the door and went to his side and jumped in. He started the car and rejoined the road. Thabi closed her eyes regaining her energy. Atang looked at her and smiled. She was beautiful, even more beautiful from the first time he had met her.

Thabi opened her eyes and smiled.

“What?”

“Kea go rata... (I love you.)”

Thabi smiled. “I love you too.”

Always by Gavin James played on Yarona FM. Thabi increased the volume and smiled singing along.

‘You’re in my head

Always, always

I just got scared

Away, away

I’d rather choke on my bad decisions

Than just carry them to my grave

You’re in my head

Always, always, always’

Atang looked at her and smiled driving. His heart content.

A WEEK LATER...

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Quickly participate and let's get the next bonus at 2240hrs.

Yours Truly

#117

Two Weeks Later...

At the District Commissioner's Office, Thabi smiled in a long white gown that hugged her curves, her hair styled beautifully.

She faced Atang who was in his white formal suit. He squeezed her hands, she tearfully smiled, her heart racing as Atang repeated after the officer.

"I, Atang Daniel, take you Rethabile Kaisara to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part."

Agang smiled watching as his brother marry the woman he loved. Kelly who was seated next to her man watched recalling the time she had stood where Thabi was standing saying those vows. She smiled as Thabi blushed while Atang promised to love her till he died. Prince and Lone watched sitting behind. The other side was Thabi's uncle who couldn't stop smiling seated with Atang's young uncle, his wife besides him. Batang took pictures seated next to Lomo who was in her white dress too.

Thabi repeated after the commissioner too. He smiled at them.

"Now that you are husband and wife, you may kiss the bride..."

Atang smiled then leaned over and kissed her, his wedding ring on his finger. Atang's uncle stood up.

"That's my boy!"

Thabi shyly broke the kiss looked down. A while later they walked out as the ladies sang wedding songs. Thabi laughed as Atang's aunt sang even louder celebrating the secret wedding.

"A ruri le boleletei malome

A ruri le boleletei malome moja dithogo

Gore setlogolo se a nyalwa

Gore setlogolo se a nyalwa molapeng'

They all joined in singing going to their cars. Thabi got in the car with Atang in her white gown then smiled staring at her ring. Atang got in and kissed her.

"Are you ok?"

She smiled. "I am your wife. Legally."

"At least that's now out of the way."

"Do you think the rest of your family will accept me?"

"I don't care what they do. You are my wife and that's it. There is no changing that. I would choose you and Lomo if I have to."

He kissed her then started the car and drove to where they were going to have their mini reception.

In Prince's car, Lone smiled as Prince drove behind Atang.

"That was beautiful."

"Yeah.."

"I feel sorry for Reba though. No one deserves this."

"She will be fine."

"There is no recovering from this. I feel for her.. imagine being played for a fool. She posted Atang yesterday talking about how much she loves him. Imagine now finding out that he is a married man and you stand a chance to be sued."

"Life is not fair."

"Ke mathata."

"Yeah.."

Lone looked at him and smiled. "Maybe it's time we got married again."

Prince looked at her then back at the road. "I need to tell you something."

She turned to him. "What?"

"I am not blaming you for this. I love you. I am happy with you. But the issue of us unable to have children bothered me. Of course I understand that there is nothing you can do but you know my

dream is to have kids.”

Lone stopped smiling. “Are you divorcing me?”

“No. I love you. I don’t want to leave you.”

“Then what?”

“I know this is going to hurt me but I had no choice. I have kids with another woman. She is... I love her and our kids as much as I love you. I don’t want to have to choose between you and her because I love you both the same way. We have two kids and now expecting our third. I don’t want to keep lying anymore or making up stories every time I have to see my children. I want to love them in the open. You couldn’t give me what I wanted so I got someone who could. I am sorry for doing it behind your back but it is what it is. I don’t want a divorce. I love you. I want you. But she’s now also part of the picture.”

Lone looked at him in silence. Her mind slowly trying to process but failing.

“What?”

“There is someone else. And I want her. I also want you. We are going to find ways to make it work, it’s going to have to work because I don’t want to choose between you and her. You are my wife and she is the mother of my children.”

Lone’s knees went cold as he spoke without hesitation.

Behind them, Kelly posted a picture of herself in her traditional wear on her Whatsapp status.

“Baby wee, is Prince cheating?”

Agang looked at her. “No. Why?”

“Therra tell me. I know you know.”

“I don’t know though he acts funny sometimes.”

“Kana Lone suspects he is cheating.”

“I don’t know. Even if I knew I wouldn’t tell you.”

“Why?”

“Babe you share everything with Lone. You two are like twins.”

“I wouldn’t tell her that.”

“You have a loud mouth.”Ao baby rra!”

Agang smiled. “It’s the truth. You can’t keep a secret.”

“I can!”

“You are a loud mouth. You always tell Lone. But I don’t know.”

“I don’t believe you.”

Agang laughed. “I am serious but if he is, maybe he’s bored.”

“Bored of what?”

“No spark. Kana it can be a bit boring to have someone who does

nothing but waits for you the whole day. Who offers the same thing every night. Who doesn't put much effort into making the relationship fun."

"What do you mean?"

"Kana baby sometimes go bata Prince a tsena molapeng and find her wearing something sexy that shows skin. I don't know who told married woman that you don't wear thongs and lace panties when are married when I fell in love with you while you wore those. Tota it's boring."

"Lone does that?"

He shrugged. "I was just giving an example of why Prince can possibly cheat. Might be that. Might be she has now turned into a boring wife. It's a turn off coming home to someone who just doesn't care anymore."

She smiled. "Baby... do you mean me?"

He smiled. "Are you that?"

"I have stretch marks. They make me uncomfortable. I am trying to lose weight but my stomach is still big. My breasts have fallen, they are saggy, I look like I breastfed 100 kids. I am not happy with the way I look and that's why I prefer my full panties instead of a thong. I like tucking in my stomach in my panty. I don't wear short things anymore because I don't want people to see the dark pigment between by my thighs because of the thighs rubbing against each other. I like sex in the dark, it makes me feel better that you are not seeing the way I am now."

“I know you have a flabby tummy. My children did that. It’s not that bad. I don’t have a problem with your stomach. Your stretch marks make you look sexier especially the ones on your ass. Your inner thighs don’t bother me. You didn’t cause it on purpose. I still love you like that. You still look beautiful and sexy. I hate sex in the dark. I want to see my dick deep in that p*ssy. I want to watch p*ssy take it then watch you cum. I want to look at your breast while they bounce. I want to see every part of you. I like you on thongs and other sexy things.”

Kelly smiled. “I am sorry I was now boring.”

“Don’t be.. we will work on it. We can start going to the gym together.”

Kelly smiled. “I would love that. Is Prince cheating?”

“I don’t know.”

“You should ask him.”

“He is secretive these days. I will ask Attie but I won’t tell you.”

“Baby don’t do that. I am curious. They seemed off hela.”

Agang drove behind Prince while his wife tried fishing gossip from him.

At Atang’s house, Reba finished setting up fir their outdoor picnic

on his green lawn then she took a picture smiling.

She got her phone and sent him the picture. She walked back in the house getting them the tickets to Paris. She looked at the time, he had left early morning to deal with a leakage at one of the flats. He was obviously almost back. She rushed to the bedroom and changed into a summer dress and let down her hair. She opened her Whatsapp then viewed Kelly's statuses. Reba smiled then replied to the picture.

Reba: That dress! Who's wedding is it?

Kelly responded.

Kelly: Thanks, it's my friend's wedding

Reba opened more of the pictures and smiled at the décor of the reception. She took screenshots saving them for her own wedding.

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Yours Truly

#118

At the wedding reception, Atang switched on his phone in the toilet. He looked at Reba's picture and sighed calling her.

"Hey..."

"Can we not do this?"

"Atang..."

"I told you I need a break. You won't leave my house and you are in my space."

"Atang you are hurting me.. What you are doing to me is not fair. Even you may say it's because of your issue with Lomo, it's not fair. You are hurting. You are breaking me. A month ago we were fine and in love and today you are treating me as if I cheated on you. You are destroying me Atang. If I had done something, I would understand. Tota I just don't understand why I am being treated like your enemy."

Atang took a deep breath. "I just need space."

"What did I do to make you want space? Please give me a reason. Atang we have had times we got angry at each other but it's never been like this."

"We will talk tonight. There are things I need to tell you."

"Tell me now."

"I need us seated. I will see you tonight."

"Ok."

He hung up then called a number.

"Atang..."

"Themonna I want to give those other flats to Reba together with my house and 500k. How soon can we make that happen?"

"Why do you want to give her those things?"

"I want to officially break up with her. She deserves more. If she demands for more tota I am ready to give it all to her for wasting her time. Or maybe instead of my house I can get her the G-wagon she's been wanting."

His lawyer whistled. "Bashimoney!"

Atang laughed. "Tsek! Themonna can this happen as early as possible. Ebile let me call someone who can get me the G-wagon. I can get her that, 300k and the apartments instead of the flats."

"Ok. Let me work on the ownership documents."

"Thanks."

"Congratulations by the way! It's been long overdue."

"Thanks my man. We will talk later..let me go and be with my wife."

"Sure..."

He hung up then thoughtfully texted Reba.

Atang: Please remain at home. I will be there around 5 so we can talk. I am switching off my phone, I am doing something.

He switched off his phone then went back to his reception. He looked at his wife walking over, Thabi smiled locking eyes with him. He sat down next to her and kissed her lips.

Around lunch hour, Elang served her customers in her movable shop in her uniform. Her workers helped her on the other side trying to reduce the long queue of customers who patiently stood under the sun waiting for her food only though from a corner there was someone who cooked too.

Thirty minutes later the queue had reduced, she continued working till lunch hour was over then she sighed sitting.

Her workers looked at her with a smile.

“That only was over 3k.”

Elang laughed. “I am so tired.”

“Me too.”

The worker looked at the big Jeep parking near the shop. The driver stepped out in jeans and a t-shirt. She smiled as he walked over looking at his watch.

“Dumelang...”

The man smiled. He was not that good looking but with his cleanliness you could hardly tell.

“Hi... can I have two hotdogs and two cans of coke.”

The worker nodded. Elang opened her eyes at the voice then stood up.

Atso looked at her and smiled. “Hey...”

Elang smiled and quickly took off her apron and hair cap.

“Hi...”

“I figured if I couldn’t take you for lunch then I would come to you for lunch. Are hotdogs ok?”

She laughed. “They are fine.”

She stepped out of her movable shop. Atso put his arm around her waist and kissed her.

The worker gave them the hotdogs then walked to his car. Elang looked at his watch , she had never seen a watch look so sexy on a man.

“I came earlier on and found the longest queue ever here.”

“Its month end. People have money. It gets really busy.”

“I have a trip to Gabs tomorrow. I know you are busy but I was wondering if we could go to together.”

Elang smiled. “Yes. I would like that. I haven’t been to Gaborone in years now. Ever since I left that place, I never went back.”

“Why?”

“Gaborone is not for everyone. Gape by that time I was unemployed. I was struggling.”

Atso laughed. “Nna I left Gaborone after they hurt me. It’s beautiful mme hela ke bitter gore.”

Elang laughed. “What did they do to you?”

“I used to date this girl wa slay queen. I thought her family was rich. She drove CRV, by then it was a huge car. She would drop me off to work with that car. I used to wash that car everyday making sure koloji ya ga baby e skoon. She introduced me to her father. Ke ipona ke setsi ke nyetsi. I would wash the father’s car whenever we visited him. He would give me some money to thank me. I would get sent around and in my head I am thinking I am doing it for my father in-law kante I don’t know. I walked in on them fucking. Ka utwa nkare kea swa, kesa hemi sente...”

Elang threw her head back laughing.

“Heels, koore I died and resurrected. The pain was unbearable.”

“You saw it all.”

“The following day I got in the bus and came home.”

“Where is she now?”

“Married to her old man. They are rich and they are always traveling. They have two kids and they are happy. I prayed for their karma for years and it’s like God kept blessing them even more. After a while I realized that I was the problem.”

“Nna baby daddy dumped me saying his wife has moved in together with their kids. All along I thought I was the one. He left the kids and I. He has never seen them. He just sends madi a maintainance and that’s all..the kids don’t even know him. And he is happy. His other kids are happy.”

“That’s life.”

“I have been through so much in my life. I am not all innocent it either but I am happy with where I am in life.”

“No one is innocent. I think we all have a past. So since your baby daddy, you have been single?”

“Yes. And focusing on my business and my kids. And also I was looking for someone who can accept and love my kids. It’s hard these days. I have two girls and a boy. I need someone who I can trust to love my kids. To treat them with care and love because I believe loving me means loving my children same way as loving you means loving your children. They are part of you. They come with you.”

Atso looked at her in admiration. Damn where had this mature beauty hiding? She continued talking staring at him, she was so beautiful and looked younger than her age. The way she spoke so much sense it turned him on. Right there was his wife.

“You are right.”

She sipped her drink. “So your ex?”

“We broke up months back..she was married.”

Elang laughed. "Sorry."

"Its ok. Le yond chemistry ya teng was weak."

"Your baby mama?"

"She is married. We broke up when our second child was born. We are very civilized and we raise the kids together. Her husband is a very good man. I am happy she met someone like him. Tota hela there's no bad blood between me and her."

Elang nodded eating hotdog. They continued chatting for a while then finally stepped out of the car laughing. He wasn't tall, a bit below the average height of a man. She found herself staring at his zip trying to locate it but then, she was just too old to be judging dicks.

Whatever he had, as long as he was a good man. Atso caught her staring then laughed.

"You can touch it and see if it will work for you."

Elang laughed embarrassed. "I wasn't-"

He kissed her pushing her against the car then out her hand on it. Elang unbuckled his belt and unzipped his pants then put her hand inside touching it. It grew in her hands, she swallowed then took out her hand.

"Is it ok for you?"

She laughed. "Yes."

"When am I seeing your p*ssy."

She smiled walking back to her store. "In Gaborone!"

Atso smiled fixing his pants staring at her as she walked away.

At the wedding reception, later that day, Lone walked out of the toilet sniffing. Kelly looked at her.

"Are you ok?"

"Ng... why?"

"You have been looking sad the whole day. What happened?"

"He is cheating and has three kids outside."

"What?"

"He says he wants her so now he will be seeing her in the open."

"I am sorry.."

"Let's not ruin Thabi's wedding. Let's go back."

"I want to pee. I am sorry. I didn't expect this from Prince."

Lone nodded and walked out sniffing. Kelly got in the toilet and wiped the seat then pulled her panties down sitting on the toilet seat. She unlocked her phone replying her Whatsapp messages.

She opened her cousin's message.

Rere: Hey wena, who is getting married?

Kelly: A friend

Rere: Waaka, I saw you leave the molaodi's office

Kelly: Ijo

Rere: after God, fear men! Isn't he dating the judge?

Kelly: O bata go nkolega wena

Rere: Aren't they engaged?

Kelly: pelo e ja sarati

Rere: FEAR MEN Not an entire judge being played

Kelly: Bye!

Rere: and you all smile with her? Waitse y'all are snakes

Kelly: Ijo, sharp mma

Kelly's cousin took screenshots of the messages and sent them to one of her friends.

Rere: Mma remember that handsome guy wa di apartments tsele in Phakalane? He just got married to another woman, men!"

Friend: Waaka!

Rere: Kana he's engaged to Judge Mosweu, that lady o kare Judge Faith Frenkins

Friend: He got married behind her back?

Rere: go maswe, waitse men are made to embarrass us.
Kana moghel posted a long thing on Facebook about their
relationship and love yesterday. FEAR THAT OTHER GENDER!

Friend: When are they dying?

Rere's friends took screenshots of her messages and went on her
Facebook and posted them including Rere's screenshots with
Kelly.

Friend: After God, fear men! Haai

Comments started rolling in as people shared the post.

Comment: Waaka!

Comment: This other gender is evil

Comment: Ijoweee!

Comment: Gatwe they are cheating on judge Judy?

Comment: if judges can get played, WHOMST ARE WE?

Comment: What?

Comment: As I bring my popcorn

Comment: Mjolo the dating

More comments came through while people shared the post.

One of Reba's cousins came across the shared post that was trending. She read through the screenshots and read through the comments, her heart pounding. She mentioned her sister in the comment section.

Cousin: Is it her?

Her sister replied to the comment.

Reply: MODIMO!

The cousin thoughtfully saved the screenshots and sent them to Reba over Whatsapp.

Cousin: Hi, this is trending on Facebook. Are they not talking about you?

The message ticked once then seconds later twice.

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Yours Truly

#119

Elang parked her car and walked inside the house calling Farai.

“Hello?”

“Hi. Can we talk about the kids?”

“I am with my family.”

“They need more than just money. They need your presence in their lives. You can’t just send money and expect everything to be well.”

“Look, I am with my family. I am not going to jeopardize my family’s happiness because of you. You wanted those kids do you be their father.”

He hung up. Elang took a deep breath closing the door then smiled at her children watching their favorite soap. The nanny walked from the kitchen

Good evening.”

“Hi Rose. Have they done their school work?”

“Yes madam.”

Elang smiled. “Rose, it’s Elang. Stop calling me madam. You make me feel old.”

Rose laughed. “I am sorry mmagwe Benah.”

Elang walked to her bedroom and sat on the bed pressing her phone. She thoughtfully called Thabi smiling.

“The number-“

Elang cut the call. She would just talk to her tomorrow and apologize for everything. She smiled getting up and started packing for her trip tomorrow.

In Kasane, rragwe Atang called his brother staring at his cows.

“Hello?”

“Hello, have you spoken to Atang?”

“Yes. I am coming there tomorrow so we can talk “

“Has he found the money?”

“I am coming there.”

“Ok.”

He hung up and looked at his cows getting rebranded. He stepped back and opened his message from a form 5 student.

Her: Hi baby, I am on my way home. Where should we meet? I hope you got me my phone.

He smiled excitedly then called her.

“Hello?”

“Hi. Where am I meeting you?”

“I am at the farm. Go and wait at the lodge. I am driving back right now.”

“Ok daddy.”

She hung up. Just him calling him daddy had his dick getting hard in his pants.

Atso walked in his house later that day talking to his brother on the phone.

“I want to see this woman.”

Atso smiled. “She’s beautiful, petite too. She’s amazing. We are going to Gaborone together tomorrow. I want to introduce her to the girls when we come back.”

“I am happy for you. Love her right. Mostly single mother’s want serious men in their lives. They know what they want. They are not confused. I mean single mother’s eseng di baby mama.”

Atso laughed. “I know. She is special. She is smart and intelligent.”

“She’s the one. I can’t wait to meet her. I hope you don’t wait too long le wena monna.”

“I won’t. Look, we will talk. Let me call my person.”

His brother laughed then he hung up and called Elang.

In Gaborone later that day, Atang parked the car at Thabi’s house then looked at her. She smiled.

“Today was beautiful.”

“It was. I am going to my house. I want to talk to Reba then I will come back.”

Thabi nodded. “Ok.”

“I am thinking of compensating her for wasting her time. She’s been wanting a G-wagon for a while now.”

“You want to buy her a G-wagon?”

“To compensate her. What do you think?”

“I think a G-wagon is extreme. She is not the first woman to have her heart broken. At the same time I understand. She opened herself up to you and you broke her. If you feel a G-wagon will sooth her heart then do it.”

“I was thinking the G-wagon and some money.”

“No. A G-wagon is fine. Nothing else.”

“Ok. I have sorted out our flights to Capetown for your surgery

tomorrow.”

Thabi kissed him. “Can we not think about anything else except that tonight is our wedding night. The rest will come tomorrow. Go and sort out your fiancée. I will wait for you here. I love you.”

Thabi stepped out of the car and lifted her dress walking towards the door. She unlocked and walked inside as he reversed and drove off.

Lana walked inside the house with Prince and took off her shoes. She silently walked to the bedroom and undressed.

Prince looked at her.

“I am sorry.”

“You are not sorry. Don’t apologize for the things you are not sorry about.”

She walked to the bathroom and took a shower. A while later she walked out with a towel around her body.

Prince stood up and tried touching her but she back.

“Please don’t touch me.”

“Are you angry?”

“No. I am happy. Thank you for asking.”

“I hope you are not thinking of divorce because no one will want a barren woman.”

“I am thinking of it. To be honest you have never really been into this marriage right from the start. I wonder who you came after me in the first place.”

“I did you a favor-“

“What favor wena dog dick? O ntwaela mogo maswe, you did who a favor with a small dick? How do you feel being between two men with machine guns in their pants? Men who should be cheating are the likes of Atang. Have you taken a good look at Atang? While you get paid peanuts he invested his money. Buys property. Builds property. He has big dick energy and it suits him. You with the disability you are the one who is busy yet you have nothing to your name. I long saw that you treat me differently, have you seen how Kelly is treated? You embarrass me and yes I am divorcing you to just show you that you ain't shit. I am going to marry an old man who doesn't want kids. Therra I am beautiful and sexy. It won't take me long to replace you and you know what's the nice thing about this is? I am walking away with half of everything you own.”

She grabbed her bag and walked out then jumped in her car. She started the engine and drove off, her heart pounding.

Pain blocked her throat as tears blurred her vision. S

At Atang's house, Reba took a deep breath after setting up dinner. She looked at everything and sighed fixing her engagement ring.

She looked at the time then looked at her phone. She hadn't touched it to avoid calling him to annoy him further.

More minutes went by. She stood up and took it then switched it on. She sat down as tons of messages came through. She opened her Whatsapp then opened Abaleng's message.

Abaleng: Reba, where are you?

Abaleng: Reba, are you home. Please stay there. I am driving from Ghanzi right now. I am coming.

Abaleng: your number is not going through. I know this must be painful. I can't believe Atang would do this.

Abaleng: I am coming. I love you. He never deserved you

Reba frowned confused and opened her cousin's message.

Cousin: Are they talking about you?

Reba opened the screenshots. Her heart stopped as she read through the screenshots. She sat upright as her heart beat way too fast she put her hand over her chest. Her phone started ringing.

"Aba..."

"Hey, he doesn't deserve you."

"What makes you think it's him?"

"It's not?"

"Its not. Kelly is attending a friend's wedding. I don't even understand why people would drag my name like that."

"Reba.... Someone saw him at the DC's office."

"My man is not married! Abaleng, Atang is on his way home right now and we are going to discuss everything."

"Ok... I thought... God I was so scared."

"Attie would never do that."

"I guess. Ok... I am sorry for assuming."

"Its ok. I am calling Kelly so she can put these lies to rest."

"Yah because it's trending."

"Ok."

Reba hung up and called Kelly.

"Reba..."

"Hi. Can you please put those lies to rest that are trending. I have a reputation and I don't want my me mixed together with such things. Kana everyone is assuming it's Atang."

"Oh... uh ok."

"Can you do that now?"

Kelly sighed. "I need to tell you something."

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This our morning insert, sorry I am late, I et's quickly participate and get our bonuses.

: Yours Truly

#120

Kelly closed the door in the bathroom and took a deep breath.

“It was Atang. He was marrying Thabi. They are now legally married. I am sorry. No one deserves this but it is what it is. They have tied the knot and they are now husband and wife.”

There was silence for a couple of seconds. Reba started laughing.

“Ok. Nice try. Thamma please address these lies. I have a major case in my hands right now. I don’t need my name dragged like this.”

“I am sorry. I know it’s hard to believe but I will send you the wedding pictures. I think you should just leave because now Thabi can sue you for seeing her man. You are a Judge, you know how this goes. They are together at Thabi’s house right now.”

“You are lying.”

“I am trying to help you here.”

“You are lying.”

“Ok, go to Thabi’s house in Phakalane.” Kelly directed her to the house. “That’s where they are. Look, save yourself the tears.”

“Stop it.”

Kelly hung up and forwarded the wedding pictures and videos to her. Agang knocked on the door.

“Babe..”

Kelly flashed the toilet and walked out. Agang kissed her cheek.

“The kids are sleeping.”

“Even madam best girl?”

She was tired. Have you seen my charger. Kana Lomo never stops taking pictures even if she sees that the battery is dying.”

Kelly took his phone and walked with it to the bedroom and put it on the charger. She looked at Agang knowing the screenshots were going to find their way to him.

“I think I made a mistake posting my pictures. Rere tried to fish gossip from me. I just brushed her off but she connected the dots and she says she saw us leaving the commissioner’s office. She sent our messages to her friend and now it’s all over social media.”

“You told someone?”

“No! Why would I? I didn’t.”

“Kelly-“

“I just brushed off not wanting to say anything.”

“I don’t like this behavior of yours.”

“Agang-“

“I am talking!”

She kept quiet.

“I don’t like how you can’t keep anything to yourself. Your mouth just can’t keep quiet. You always have to be spreading people’s private matters sticking your nose on things that have nothing to do with you. You are a gossip, everyone knows that my wife is a chatterbox. It’s not cute. I don’t like it. Mind your own business! Stay out of people’s things. Knowing you, you already told Lone’s business to people.”

She looked down. “I didn’t.”

“Its only a matter of time. Can you stop and just behave like mother... like a wife. I don’t like your ratchet behavior. I am not going to have a wife who’s a gossip and likes spreading people’s business.”

“I am sorry.”

“Stay away from people’s issues. Focus on our business. Take that energy and put into our family.”

“Yes.”

He sighed.. “Let’s go and bath.”

She followed him like a wet puppy. She got under the shower with him. Agang kissed her picking her up. He held her in the air his dic pointing right at her entrance then he...

At Atang’s house, Reba stared at the pictures in silence. Tears

dropped off her screen as the video of them kissing played. Him in his tuxedo and her in a white gown. Not the usual wedding gown... it looked more like an evening gown but it hugged her curves and butt.

She watched as they hugged, her heart slowly breaking into a million pieces.. Tears rolled down her cheeks. She unlocked her phone and called him.

"Hey, I am filling up my tank. I will be there in ten minutes."

"You married her?"

There was a pause. "I am coming."

She whispered. "You married her..."

"Can we discuss this once I get there?"

"You married her... you married her." She gasped then put her hand over her mouth. "You married her?"

"Can I please explain when I get to you?"

"You married her.. I saw the video... you married her."

"I love her."

Her tears rolled down. "You love her? You love her? What about me? Are you also going to marry me? What about me?"

"I am sorry for wasting your time. I know an apology won't make it right but if I had married you I would have been unhappy."

"Why?"

“You are an amazing woman Reba. You are beautiful, self driven. You are everything any man wants and marrying you would have hurt you more because I was in love with someone else. I really thought I was over her. I am sorry. I love you too but not as much. I am in love with Thabi. It’s always been her. There is nothing wrong with you. You are perfect but you are just not for me. I would not have made you happy if I married you. You have a chance of finding someone who loves you the way you deserve to be loved.”

“You were after me for months, you made me fall for you and I did. I love you. What am I supposed to do with my love? What did I do to deserve this? Tell me what I did!”

“I am sorry...”

She broke down crying. “Atang I love you. Eade don’t do this to me... Atang please... you can marry both of us under customary marriage. I am sorry... I pushed you to her. Baby I am sorry. It can work...”

“You deserve better than being a second best and Thabi would never agree to that. We are already married so there is no turning back now. You will find someone-“

“I want you! I want you. Atang you are breaking me... God help me... God please help me. I love him...”

“I am sorry..”

“Atang... people are going to laugh at me... I am going to be a laughing stock.”

“I will take all the blame. I did this.”

“My heart... Atang please... why can't you love me too?”

“I am coming there. We will talk.”

“You won't get away with this Atang. You won't live happy after hurting me. I won't allow it... I'd rather be dead..”

“Reba –”

She cut the call and went to the bedroom, tears rolling down her cheeks. She looked at his safe then unlocked it and took out his gun. She took a deep breath staring at it then walked out. She got in her car and drove off.

Abaleng passed Jwaneng in her car while listening to gospel songs.

Her phone vibrated. She slowly reached for it and opened Reba's message.

Reba: Aba Atang has hurt me. I don't think I will ever recover from this.. I am already a laughing stock. He got married after asking me to marry him in front of people. I did nothing but love him... where did I go wrong Aba? It can't be because of Lomo. It can't be. He married his ex after I faithfully loved him. Am I crazy to feel the way I feel? I have reached a breaking point. I can't do this anymore. I can't be that one woman men use and dump to marry

women they love. I can't carry on with such bad luck. I won't be able to face anyone tomorrow. I'd rather be dead than have people laugh at me while Atang lives happily ever after. He has to feel what I am feeling. I love you. Always and Forever.

Abaleng swallowed then called her sister but it didn't go through. She stepped on the accelerator more speeding while calling Atang.

"Hello?"

"My sister is killing herself. Please save her. I think she is at your house."

"I am almost there."

"Let me talk to her when you get there."

Abaleng overtook a truck headed to Gaborone.

At Thabi's house, Thabi finished with her romantic set up. She turned on her speaker and started playing a romantic song.

Her phone rang as she put the bottle of wine in ice in her lingerie. She picked Zaza's call.

"Hello?"

"You married him?"

"Huh?"

"Its all over Facebook. So why wasn't I invited?"

"There is an incoming call. Wait."

Thabi hung up and picked the call.

"Hello?"

"Hi. Uh it's Reba. I came to drop off Lomo's doll. Uh she forgot it at home. It's her favorite. I am at the gate."

"Ok."

Thabi pressed the gate remote and opened her gate quickly putting on her silky gown.

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Yours Truly

#121

She walked to the sitting room calling Atang.

“Hey...”

“Hi babe, how did the conversation go with Reba?”

“She knows. I haven’t seen her. I am at home and she’s not here.”

“She is here. She’s bringing Lomo’s doll. She-“

“My gun is missing don’t open for her. Press the emergency button! Shit!”

The door opened then she walked in holding the guy. Thabi swallowed, her phone on her ear.

“She’s here.”

“I am coming. I am on my way.”

Reba smiled tearfully. “Please hang up and put the phone down.”

Thabi hung up and put the phone down. Reba smiled tearfully.

“You are beautiful. I see why he would run after you again... I didn’t even know you were a doctor...”

Thabi watched as she spoke calmly. Tears rolled down Reba’s cheeks.

“When I met Attie... I told him I had been hurt before..that I had

given up on love. I told him that I had played a million times. I wasn't even lying..I was focused on my job. He kept coming after me. You know how he is don't you? How could I not fall for him Thabi?" She sniffed. "How could I not? I fell harder than I thought. And I gave it my all. I didn't hold back. I should have. I should have held back but he made me believe in love. I was happy. For the first time I was happy. He proposed to me. I never said anything about marriage. We have never had conversations about us being married though he had long said he wants to get married one day. I thought maybe it would after 5 or 7 years. You know how it goes. Then you came back.. everything changed that night.. when he came back, he wasn't Atang anymore. Now you married him."

Thabi looked at the gun in her hands and took a deep breath.

"I am sorry for the hurt you are going through. Please put away the gun."

Reba laughed crying. "I am not putting the gun down because I am going to kill you today. I am going to kill you and kill myself. You are not going to live happily after with the man I love. I am going to make him feel what I'm feeling. He's going to burry the love of his life."

"Its not worth it. You have a lot to love for. You are a very successful woman. You have broken records. You are strong. It doesn't have to end this way."

"Its going to end like this. You don't go around hurting people and expect us to just be strong." Tears rolled down as her voice broke. "He should have left me alone. But he went and married behind

my back. I am the one who now has to pick up the pieces while you enjoy happily. It doesn't work like this."

"Reba please... you can have him. I will divorce him."

"You said your vows and said till death do us part. You will honor those vows. Imagine finding out that your man is married through social media. He said he was going to deal with a leakage in the morning."

Thabi's phone started to ring. Reba cocked the gun walking over. Thabi stepped back, her heart pounding.

Reba picked the phone and answered.

"Hi..."

Atang sighed. "Please don't do this. She didn't do anything. It was all me. Deal with me."

"I am dealing with you. Through her. You will cry for her for the rest of your life, you will be miserable and at the end you will kill yourself."

"Please... I know you angry.. you are justified but this is not worth going to jail for."

"I am killing both of us tonight."

"I will marry you both. I can do that. We can make a plan."

"Lies! You are just saying it because you are scared."

"What do you want me to do? Because I will do anything."

"Start preparing for a funeral."

Thabi looked at her. "Let me speak to him. Please.."

Reba gave her the phone. Thabi held it with both hands.

"Hey..."

"Hey, I am a minute away. There are people coming. It's ok. Just delay her."

Thabi looked at Reba tearfully. "I love you. I want to tell you I love you in case I never get another chance to."

"I love you too. You will get it another chance."

"Please use my eggs."

"Babe-"

"Tell Lomo I love her so much and I will forever do."

"Thabi-"

"I love you."

She put the phone down. Reba sniffed.

"Tomorrow we will be headlines but non of it will matter because we will be dead."

Thabi looked at the gun in her hands, her heart pounded. Without thinking twice she reached for gun trying to take it from Reba.

Atang drove in the open gate speeding and parked behind Reba's car. He stepped out then froze as a gunshot went off from inside the house. His knees went weak just his colleagues van drove through. The second gunshot went off. He ran to the door and opened running in.

His eyes landed Reba who was holding the gun on her hands in shock. Atang looked over at Thabi who was on the floor lying in a pool of blood. Her gown covered on blood. He slowly staggered towards her and pulled her body in his arms weakly.

"Babe..."

He looked at her face shaking. His tears fell on her face.

"Babe... come on...babe ... you are alright. "

He bit his lower lip standing with her in his arms. His colleagues walked in holding guns. Atang staggered out with her and put her in the car.

He jumped on the driver's seat and drove off headed to the hospital.

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Reba dropped the gun and knelt staring at the blood. Her hands shaking. One of the S.W.A.T guys stared at her.

"You should have killed yourself too because he's definitely going to finish what you started.

She looked at him emotionless.

At the hospital, Atang sat waiting for the doctor. Agang rushed over.

“Is she ok?”

“They have not said anything.”

The doctor walked over. Atang quickly stood up and looked at him, tears in his eyes while his heart thudded.

“Is she ok?”

The doctor looked at the twins and sighed sadly.

FIVE YEARS LATER...

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Yours Truly

#122

Five Years Later...

Kelly walked inside her office early in the morning in a short flared dress and heels. She sat down talking to a client.

“Kelly’s décor comes with different packages. We can give you the Full package that comes with everything, all you will need us just the guests and your catering company.”

“Ok, I think I would like that package. I don’t want to stress over anything.”

“Ok, you can send me a few ideas you have do we can work on something. The full package nevertheless goes for P6800. That includes the tent too. You deposit 4k into our account.”

“Emma, should I do it now?”

“Yes. We will send you our bank details.”

“Ok, thank you.”

Kelly hung up sitting and called one of her employees.

“Hello?”

“Olivia, how is it going?”

“We are almost done with the set up.”

“Ok. Please finish up everything. We are trying to sell our business there.”

“Yes mam.”

Kelly hung up and sat opening her laptop to watch the court trial. It was funny how this woman could even think to apply for parole after what she had done. She looked at the time then went on her Facebook and opened the page where the live was being broadcasted at court.

She smiled staring at her man on the screen sitting next to Atang in their suits. She looked at the perverted comments as the live continued.

Comment: shnak

Comment: bathong

Comment: These men yoweee!

Comment: Atang ke soulmate yame bathong. God had a plan for me when he made that man

Comment: Waitse this womam deserves to rot in jail. What she did was more than evil. She deserves everything coming her way and more. She was not the first woman to have her heart broken neither is she the last. I hope she is sentenced to death after this attempt

Comment: Hee bathong! Is this woman serious? She can't be serious. After what she did?

Comment: kill her! Let them hang her. She doesn't deserve parole.

She is dangerous to the country

Comment: Men will make us do the unthinkable, it's sad to watch. This woman was fine before she met this guy. He went after her, broke her walls. Made her believe he loved her. I have been there before. I know the hurt. The confusion. Cheating is one thing but to go and get married? No!

Comment: She's beautiful. She could have found another man.

Comment: will make you do the unthinkable I tell you

Comment: Lock her up for good. Evil woman.

More comments rolled in. Kelly continued watching, she took off her heels leaning back against her chair listening as her lawyer started talking.

At the high Court, Lina stood in front of the judge talking.

"Before any of us are anything we are, some bring lawyers, judges, doctors, business owners and so fourth, we are human. We live to make mistakes and learn. I don't believe there is anyone who was born evil. From the time Rebantle was born, she was born into rejection. Her mother hated her. She blamed her for the poverty they were in to a point where she abandoned her at her sister's house. The sister who had two daughters already. Rebantle was hated by the aunt and the aunt's wife took that to his ad

advantage and started raping her since was only two years old. And that's how she got HIV. From there it was the rape, the abuse, both emotionally and physically. When she was 12, she got pregnant and was forced to abort. She only escaped this when she went to university. Her first week in Gaborone she was raped by a taxi driver. She had it rough from the beginning. Then she meets a man who claims to love her only for him to humiliate and embarrass her in front of the nation. My client was not in the right state of mind when she incident happened. She was angry, hurt and damaged. Emotions had been building up. She didn't wake up and plan shooting Mrs Daniel. It happened due to emotions. Due to a lot of emotions." Luna continued talking turning to face the court while the media houses took videos.

Reba sniffed in her orange jumpsuit. She slowly turned and looked at her sisters. Abaleng tearfully smiled staring at her sister. A tear rolled down, this was once a power house woman. A force. Now she was just another convict in an orange uniform. She had lost weight, she was so thin it looked like the wind could just blow her away.

Reba turned and looked at Atang and Agang seated besides each other. She turned back to the judge trying to hold her tears but they still rolled down. She looked down and sniffed, her hands chained together.

Lina sat down a while later then looked at Reba.

"Its ok. We have a fair shot."

The judge looked at everyone. "This court is adjourned as we go

into deliberation. Court resumes at 1100hrs. Court adjourned!"

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Outside the court, Agang sighed.

"I hope she's not let out."

"If she is I am going to kill her."

Atang out his ringing phone and picked Batang's call.

"Champ..."

"I am a man."

They both laughed.

"I am watching the case. I hope she dies there."

"Yeah."

"I wanted to tell you something."

"What?"

"Lebo is pregnant."

Atang took a deep breath. "Ok. What's your plan?"

"I want to marry her."

"Do you have money to get married? I mean money for magadi. For the wedding and everything else."

“Eerra.”

“How much do you have?”

“200k.”

“Ok. We can make it work. I will talk to your uncle so we get the ball rolling.”

“Thank you.”

“I am proud of you. I didn’t think you would bag the tender. I was thinking maybe you can start running the business.”

“Really?”

“Yes, you have what it takes. I am proud of you. Anyways from here we are going to the venue. Are you at the airport already?”

“Yes. I can’t wait to see her. She’s going to love what you planned for her. She’s going to cry.”

Atang smiled. “Yeah. Themonna bring my girls in one piece or ke ta go gata molala.”

Batang laughed. “Yes commander!”

Atang hung up smiling.

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In court at 1100hrs, everyone looked at the judge as thehe gave out the verdict.

“The defendant committed a crime, a big crime we can’t just overlook because she was emotional. Everyone gets emotional because at the end, indeed we are human. But if everyone acted out of emotion, we could be dead. The defendant yes gas a rough and be difficult upbringing but once older she could have sought for help. She could have seen someone. Yes, she was deceived, lied to, heart broken but that didn’t mean she had to do what she did. The first gunshot as in the evidence was a result of a struggle. The second once, the victim was on the floor and she shot her again. However we do understand that sometimes we do act impulsively but Ms Mosweu took a 25 minutes drive to Mrs. Daniel’s house. She had enough time to think things through and so the court still finds her guilt of the charges as she had every intention to kill and end life. There is no excuse for her actions. And because of that, we took a second look into her sentence and therefore we sentence her to death through hanging. Court case closed!

Everyone gasped in shock as the judge gave a harsh sentence.

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Yours Truly

#123

Lina gasped in shock as the judge stood up and walked out. Reba looked at Lina.

Lina shook her head. "Don't worry. I don't let that happen. I will take it further."

Tears filled Reba's eyes then rolled down.

"All I did was love him. That's all. That's all."

The prison guards came and dragged her out as she cried. The media houses continued taking pictures as she cried. Atang remained still. What had just happened?

Zaza got up from behind them.

"She deserves it."

Atang got up and walked out. He got in his car and put his hands on his face. His phone started ringing. He slowly took it out and picked his father's call.

"Hello?"

"What did the judge say?"

"They found her guilty. They are going to kill her."

"You must be happy then."

Atang swallowed. "No."

"You wanted justice."

"Not like that."

"You hurt her. Of course she would react. Maybe not to an extent of shooting mmagwe Lomo but you never know what someone will do in the midst of pain. I am not saying mmagwe Lomo deserved it but you caused this."

Atang remained quiet.

"You caused her heart ache. You hurt her. You could have left her when you saw that you didn't love her."

"I didn't want to break her heart "

"Well you still did. Now you know. I am sorry."

"We will talk."

"Have they arrived yet?"

"Batang is picking them up. They should be landing in thirty minutes."

"She is going to love everything."

"I hope so."

"We will talk."

"How is mama?"

"Busy in her garden."

"Ok.."

Agang walked over to his car.

“You good?”

“Yeah.”

“She did this to herself. Imagine if we were to kill everyone who hurt us... others have been through worse than her. I am talking about kids who were sold to be sex workers and never have an escape. Their only escape is death. Yes she went through so much but it doesn't give you the right to go shooting people.”

“I never knew she was raped. She told me she was born with HIV. I didn't know that side of hers. I didn't know her mother is actually her aunt or that her two sisters are actually cousins. She never told me all in that.”

“Don't think about her. Focus on today.”

Atang nodded. Agang walked to his car and drove off. Atang also started his car and reversed from the parking space.

Zaza rushed over and knocked on the window. Atang rolled down the window and looked at her.

“Hi, I am sorry. I didn't bring my car. Can you please drop me off at home so I can get my car.”

“Yeah. Jump in.”

Zaza got in the car, her bag on her lap. Atang turned on the radio to kill the silence. Always played, he took a deep breath recalling that faithful day on their way to Vic Falls with her singing along

He increased the volume.

'What am I supposed to do without you?

Is it too late to pick the pieces up?

Too soon to let them go?

Do you feel damaged just like I do?

Your face, it makes my body ache

It won't leave me alone

And this feels like drowning

Trouble sleeping

Restless dreaming.

You're in my head

Always, always

I just got scared

Away, away

I'd rather choke on my bad decisions

Than just carry them to my grave

You're in my head

Always, always, always'

Zaza looked at him wondering how he had done it all these years. His beard had grown out though his haircut still looked good. He looked handsome... definitely maturing like fine wine.

She thought of the possibility that could have arose... him and her again. She could have taken care of Thabi's kids, loved them like hers. She could have taken care of him. Or maybe it could happen.

She touched his hand...

"You are strong."

Atang looked at her.. "Thanks."

"I am happy justice will finally be served."

"Yeah..."

"You need a haircut. You look way too old."

Atang pulled away his hand and scratched his beard.

"I like my look."

Zaza smiled. "It does look good. You look handsome Mr. Daniel."

Atang chuckled. "Thanks."

"Take your second right."

She looked at his hands as he turned the stirring wheel. His nails were short and clean. And those hands... come to think of it, she had met Atang first. She saw him first. He had been hers.

She tucked her hair behind her ear directing him.

He parked the car by her gate..

“Thank you.”

Atang smiled. “Ok.”

“See you later.”

Atang nodded. Zaza looked at his lips then licked her own stepping out of the car. She walked towards her door as he drove off.

Kelly called Agang driving from work.

“Babe...”

“Hey. I was watching. I don’t know, is it fair that she is sentenced to death? She made a mistake-“

“A mistake? That was not a mistake. She had every intention to do what she did..and you are the last person to say such things after you directed her to Thabi’s house.*

Kelly sighed. “Ate we ever going to move on past that?

“We have but I can’t help but think that maybe if you didn’t Thabi’s residential address to her. “

“I know you blame me for what happened. I know I gave Reba Thabi’s address but I didn’t want what happened to happen.”

“You wanted drama.”

Kelly sadly sighed. "I have changed."

"Have you realized that no one likes hanging out with you because of that?"

"I do. I am going home. I will see you when you come back."

She hung up and continued driving home holding her tears. It was enough people blamed her for what happened but to have her husband remind her all the time always drained her that sometimes she wondered why she was still married to him.

Elang passed the lady village before Gaborone driving. She leaned back then looked at her husband next to her sleeping and smiled. She hummed to an old school song. The song reached it's peak as she sang loud waking him.

"I am walking on sunshine! I am walking on sunshine! I am walking on sunshine!"

Atso looked at her as she sang horribly while smiling.

"Its time to feel good!"

She hit the steering wheel moving her upper body. Atso laughed. Elang looked at her.

"I am walking on sunshine!"

He took out his phone and took a video to send to the kids as she

continued singing while driving and dancing. She clapped her hands, her ring sparkling.

The song ended as she overtook a small car in their huge Land Cruiser. She laughed happily. Atso saved the video.

“Do you know where the venue is?”

Elang nodded. “Yes. But I want us to check into a lodge and freshen up. Kana almost everyone will be there. I want to look good. Batang already sent the location.”

Atso nodded. “Ok.”

Elang took a turn driving to a lodge.

In Prison, Reba laid on her bed crying in silence. Her friend sadly looked at her.

“I am sorry.”

“I loved him. That’s all. Was I wrong to love him?”

“No. You just loved the wrong man. What happened happened. Hopefully your lawyer at least gets you life sentence than death. Tota nna I would rather be here than out there. The world is unfair Reba. No one will ever see that you were pushed to do what you did. The one who was shot is the victim and you are the bad person.”

Reba looked at her crying. The friend hugged her tightly.

"It's ok."

Reba cried so much till her body ached.

At the airport, Batang waited patiently waiting for them. He caught sight of Lo walking over in her jeans and a top while holding her younger sister's hand. They looked so much like his sister it was like he was staring at a younger vision of Thabi.

They spotted him too and rushed over. Batang hugged them tightly as they screamed.

"Hey!"

Lomo smiled. "We are back!"

Batang laughed. "You look beautiful."

Lomo pulled up her size 32 jeans that her hips be and butt had filled. Batang looked at Riya who was just smiling. He picked his three years old neice smiling.

"Hey sweetie..."

Riya smiled, Batang looked at her dimples as she shyly looked down. Unlike her older sister, she was quiet and shy. He smiled then looked as she walked over slowly dragging their bags. A huge smile broke on his face, tears filling his eyes. He slowly put

Riya down and walked over then hugged her, tears rolling down. She wrapped her arms around h smiling as silently cried holding her.. his grown man demeanor lost in emotions.

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Yours Truly

#124

At her lawfirm, Lina spoke on the phone.

“Death sentence was too much. We want another trial.”

“Lina-“

“That woman... death sentence?” She sighed. “She didn’t do it on purpose. The twenty minutes drive could have been the time she got even more upset.”

Her friend sighed. “Look, go and plead guilty under insanity. I know someone who can help. I will connect you with him. This will be the lady chance. The Judge was harsh. More than just harsh. Of cause a big crime was committed by it was a crime of passion. I know this woman. Loving the wrong person cost her so much but she doesn’t deserve the death sentence. It’s too much.”

“Connect me with the person you know.”

“Ok.”

Lina hung up frustrated feeling like she had failed.

Lone parked her car at the mall and stepped out in her hot pants

and flip flops. She put on her glasses locking her car. She turned as the car beside her got unlocked then Prince walked over holding plastics.

He locked eyes with her and swallowed as she stared pushing her long Brazilian weave behind.

Lone smiled. "Hi..."

Prince smiled back nervously staring at her sexy body out in the open.

"Hi."

"How are you?"

"I am fine."

"You are not at court?"

"Only a minimum number was needed there."

"Oh I see. You look good."

He smiled. "Thanks."

"Sharp!"

She walked away, her butt cheeks showing. She walked confidently with no care of who was staring or not.

He put the plastics in his car then got in. He unlocked the screen and looked at the missed calls from Pearl. He called her back.

"Babe..."

"Hey, I just wanted to ask if you are taking the kids?"

“Yes. I am on my way home now.”

“Ok. I am the only one not wanted?”

“Can we not do this? You know exactly why they don’t want you.”

“Their wives hate me.”

“No one hates but you slept with all my friends. I don’t want them feeling uncomfortable.”

“Ijo ok.”

“I am driving back home now.”

“Ok.”

He hung up and drove off.

Elang finished her flawless makeup then got up and put on her dress. Atso walked from the bathroom then paused smiling.

“You look beautiful.”

Elang blushed. “Thank you.”

Elang’s phone rang from the bed. She walked over and picked.

“Hello?”

“Hi. It’s Farai. Look, I need some money. I need to go back to Zim tonight. The police is after my ass over that issue.”

“What issue?”

“The 5 million from the insurance company. I am under investigation for scam and theft but I promise you, someone is framing me. They have frozen all my money. I need to escape.. please help me.”

“Help you? Wena Farai?”

“I just need a thousand so I can get in the bus. Mu cars have been taken.. Dealing with it once in Zim is better than here.”

“I have no reason to help you considering it’s been three years since you last paid maintenance.”

“I know. I will pay it all once I get it.”

“Let me discuss it with my husband first.”

She hung up and looked at Atso.

“Farai needs help. He’s asking for 1k.”

“No. Let him find other people to borrow him money because here it’s not happening.”

She smiled. “Ok.”

He kissed her then picked her shoes and placed them in front of her .she slipped her foot inside smiling.

In Orapa, mmagwe Kaelo laid under the tree with her flat chest as the cool breeze caressed her skin. Her husband spoke on the phone smiling.

“If he is ready, I will get everyone ready too.”

“Thank you. But the girl is already pregnant.”

“Its ok. He will have his wife as soon as he is ready.”

“Thank you.”

“I want you to be present. I want you to be there as his father. You have raised this boy and turned him into a man. May God bless you my boy.”

“Thank you. We will talk.”

He hung up and smiling staring at his wife.

“Batang wants to marry.”

She looked at him and nodded unable to talk. He sadly looked at her still wondering what happened. He didn't understand how she had now gone from two no breasts and stroke and crippled.

He kissed her cheek then sat down happily.

Atang parked his car and walked around at the venue. It looked so beautiful. He took out his phone picking Zaza's call.

“Hello?”

“Hi. Are they here?”

“Yes. Uh I was thinking if you need any help, I can help you. With house chores. With cooking and cleaning.”

“Ok?”

“Even to help with the kids.”

“I will keep that in mind.”

“You don’t have to deal with it all alone. You have been strong for far too long. You need someone to help you with the load. I know they are coming but I am sure you will still be expected to do everything. You deserve better than that. I know the situation but you also deserve to be taken care of.”

“I am doing fine.”

“Have you eaten yet?”

“Zaza, I think I am fine. Thank you for carrying. You are Thabi’s cousin. I think you are crossing the line.”

“I think you need help.”

“I am fine. Bye.”

He hung up laughed calling Batang.

“Hello?”

“How far are you guys?”

“We are coming.”

“Ok. Most people have arrived.”

“Almost there.”

Atang swallowed. “How is she?”

“Beautiful. She looks tired. She hasn’t said a word..” His voice shook. “Did we lose her somewhere along the line?”

“No. It’s the effect. It’s ok. Just bring them.”

“Ok.”

Atang slid his phone in his ear taking a deep breath.

Batang got back in the car and joined the road. He looked at Lomo and Riya watching videos at the back seat then turned to her. She slowly looked away from the window and looked at him, a smile slowly covered her face then she opened her mouth and spoke softly.

“You look grown...”

Batang smiled as a tear rolled down. He looked away wiping it off then turned to her.

“You look beautiful.”

She smiled then looked out through the window again with a deep sigh.

Yours Truly

#125

At Prison, Reba looked at Abaleng and smiled.

“Hi.”

Abaleng smiled back. “Hey, how are you?”

Reba smiled. “Fine. I am fine.”

“I spoke to Lina. That judgement is going to be reversed. She’s working on this. She won’t let you die. She is not going to let it happen. She’s going to appeal again. That woman is just evil.”

“No. Sometimes it’s to set an example. I really wanted to kill her. The first time I shot, she wanted to take the gun from me. There was a struggle. I pulled the trigger. My hand had been on it. Then I saw her breathing still after I shot her, she was moving slightly so I shot again aiming for her chest. I had every intention to kill her. If Atang didn’t walk in when he did, I was going to shoot her again. I wanted to end her.”

Abaleng sighed. “It was influenced by emotions.”

“Atang must be happy.”

“I don’t know but you are not dying here.”

“I am here and he gets to live happily ever after.” Tears filled Reba’s eyes. “I am suddenly the bad person but he pushed me to my limit.”

“Karma will deal with him.”

Tears fell down her cheeks. “While I get hanged.”

“Its not going to happen. Lina is good.”

“They don’t deserve to be happy Aba...”

“There is nothing we can do.”

“There is. She can still die.”

“Reba-“

“You can befriend her and poison her to death or burn them in the house.”

“Reba!”

“All you need us to lock inside and start the fire. Nobody ever investigates fires.”

“You want me to be caught on cameras.”

“Then you can poison her to death. You mix it in a fruit blend or smoothie. Maybe smoothie. Mix a lot of things including garlic then put Arsenic chemical inside. It’s colorless and has a mild garlic odor but that’s if you really sniff it, no smell or taste.”

“If I give it to her then people will know it was me.”

“You monitor her movements so you catch her alone or find a way to make it seem like it’s from someone she knows. Make sure you put a lot together with something sedative so that he she passes out and dies in her sleep.”

Abaleng took a deep breath. "I have never killed someone."

"Atang deserves to burry her. Not after everything he has done."

"They have something going on today. Maybe I can bribe the waiter."

"Exactly. You can have it put in her juice."

"Ok. So where do I get it?"

"I know someone who can help."

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Abaleng walked our and got in her car calling Lina.

"Hello?"

"What are her chances?"

"Way up. She's not going to be hanged. We are taking it way up so we can appeal again with a different judge. She's obviously not going to come out in a couple of years. It's going to be sometime but they are trying to set a tone the same way they do for men. I am just going to get her off the death sentence. Maybe if she behaves in prison..."

"If it happens that..."

"That what?"

Aba shook her head. "Its ok. Please keep me informed."

“Ok.”

Abaleng hung up and reversed calling her you her sister.

“Aba..”

“Reba wants to finish off what she started.”

“She wants to kill...-*

“Yes. With Arsenic poison. I am going to collect it now. It will be put in her juice then she will die.”

“And who will do it?”

“Me. But I need help.”

“And where are you getting this poison from?”

“Some guy she knows.”

“I can’t believe you are even considering this.”

“They hurt her!”

“We all have been hurt. And I don’t even think he loved her. It was all too good to be true. He told her multiple times that he was done with her but she still stayed. Kante why don’t we like taking responsibility for our actions? Of course she was hurt and broken but is she the first person to be heart broken? She deserves to be in jail if she can still plan murders. I am ashamed you are part of this. Don’t you know that jail is real. Look at Reba... that should tell you that prison ain’t your mother’s house.”

“I am going to help my sister. Atang deserves it and more.”

“Ok. Please never call me to involve me in your murder plans.”

The younger sister hung up. Abaleng put down her phone driving to the guy’s house.

At the police station, the younger sister walked inside the police station holding her phone.

“Dumelang, I am here to report people who are trying to commit murder.”

The police officer looked at her as she played the recorded call between herself and Abaleng. She also played the one that had been recorded months back of Reba begging her to kidnap Lomo.

The police officer looked at her.

“Come this side.”

She held her bag properly and followed the police officer.

At Lina’s office, she received a call.

“Yeah?”

“Hey, your client’s sister is here with recordings of your client still trying to continue and finish off what she started through her sisters. It’s not looking good for you. The judge’s decision may get a pass considering that even today she’s still trying to kill people.”

Lina swallowed. “What recording?”

“Her has recordings from phone calls.”

“What if she made them up. It’s not viable evidence.”

“Her voice can be heard loud and clearly.”

“Thanks.”

Lina slowly sat down exhausted from Reba.

Agang walked inside his house and found Kelly cooking in the kitchen. He hugged her from behind rubbing his dick on her butt.

“Hey...”

“Hi...”

She moved from the stove and went to the sink then started washing dishes. Agang lifted her dress and pulled her her panty to the side. He curved his back and pushed his dick inside.

Kelly closed the tap and closed her eyes as he...

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Agang grunted filling her canal. He slid it out and turned her around.

He leaned over and kissed her.

“Hey...”

Kelly smiled. “Hi.”

“I thought we were going together.”

“No one likes being around me and you are also going to leave me busy with your people. Every time we go out together to join other people, I end up alone while you chat with people who don’t like me possibly labeling me bad. You never defend in public and I have realized that deep down you have this hate growing. You hate me, I have tried to ignore it but now I see I am not happy. Yes, I was wrong for telling Reba. Yes I take the blame for not being able to keep quiet. But sometimes I need you on my side. It never happens and I just think if you can’t be with me anymore, maybe then let’s get a divorce. Let’s part ways and just coparent.”

Agang looked at her. “I don’t hate you. I love you.”

“It doesn’t feel like it Agang. It feels different.”

“I am guilty for teasing you about you being a charter box but I love you. I do defend you, most of the time you are not there to witness it. I am sorry for abandoning you when we go out but I never label you. You are wife. I think I can do better as a husband. Yes you were wrong for telling Reba and everything else. It gets to

me still that you did it but it doesn't make me hate you. I love you. I want to be with you."

Kelly sighed. "When you want a divorce just say so. I will gladly free you."

Agang picked her up and put her on top of the kitchen counters.

"I love you. No one is getting a divorce. We don't mention divorce in this house... ever. If you are unhappy about something, say it so we can find a way to fix it."

He kissed her opening her legs.

"We should go. My brother is waiting for me."

Batang parked at a building. He looked at her.

"Stay here. I am coming."

"Batang-"

"Just two minutes. Lomo, Riya. Let's go!"

The girls stepped out of the car. He walked inside the building with them. Atang smiled as his kids ran over to him. He picked them up at the same time. Lomo laughed.

"Daddy put me down."

He put them down then he looked at Lomo.

"I like your hair."

She smiled. "A white lady did it."

He chuckled. "Nice."

"Daddy my hair too..."

He looked at Riya's hair and picked her up. "Its beautiful. I love it."

Riya smiled. "Is this our house?"

"It's not a house but after here, we are going to our house."

He kissed cheek and put her down staring at Batang who now had the same height as him. His gym body looked good.

"Take them where everyone is.."

"Ok. She's in the car."

"Ok. O isa kae kodu themonna?"

Batang laughed picking Riya then he walked away with the girls. Atang took a deep breath staring at his daughters. Trust God to give him girls only so he can just live in fear.

He sighed and walked out. His heart raced as he approached the car. He opened the driver's door and got in.

She slowly turned the him, her weight loss was so visible it brought tears to his eyes. They looked at each other in silence, she finally smiled fixing her doek that had covered her bald head. She smiled tearfully. Tears rolled down her cheeks then she laughed.

“Have I ever told you that I love you?”

Atang nodded smiling emotionally. “Yes. I love you too. I love you more than anything. I love you more than life itself.”

She smiled and touched his beard. “36 rounds of chemo later, so many surgeries later...rounds of radiotherapy sessions later... I am tired. Atang I am tired. I want to be happy.”

“Babe-“

“I want to be happy. I don’t want to live in pain anymore. The kids don’t deserve all this. It’s traumatizing. I don’t want you to live like this anymore. Sometimes I wish I had died that day. At least you would have cried and moved on. I am holding you back and I am sorry.”

He shook his head then pulled her on his lap as she cried. “I’d lose it all for you. I’d lose everything for you. Don’t be sorry... when I said in sickness and in health, I meant it. I meant every word. Don’t be sorry, you have nothing to be sorry about because I would not have it any other way. I would still stand by your side even if we rewind the time. I would stand by you and hold your hand. I would still stay up at night and make sure you are breathing because I am paranoid about you. I would walk on glasses for you because I love you. There is no Atang without Rethabile. I would choose you babe... I would choose you over anything because I am truly only yours. And I won’t stop fighting for us. And if anyone has a problem with it, they can go and hang themselves. I am honored to actually be the one to love you babe.. I wouldn’t have it any other way. I love you.”

Thabi buried her head in his neck crying.

Abaleng got the little bottle from Reba's person then got in her car. She started her engine and drove off headed to the venue.

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Yours Truly

#126

Atang kissed her neck, his arms around her.

“I planned something for you.”

Thabi breathed out, her hot breath hitting his neck.

“It’s inside.”

She opened her eyes and looked at him then touched his beard.

“You need a proper haircut and also you need shave.”

He smiled. “Eemma.”

“Batang is so big.”

“He wants to get married.”

Thabi smiled. “To who? Lebo?”

“Yes.”

“She is a good girl. A bit crazy but good.”

“He is the one who drives her crazy.”

“What’s waiting for me inside?”

“People. Who love you. And what I got for you.”

“Can you take me home after this? I want to sleep. I am tired.”

“Yes.”

They stepped out of the car, Thabi in a long dress with long sleeves. She took her scarf from the car and put around her neck to cover bones. The dark circles underneath her eyes were much visible.

Atang took off the doek from her head to fix it, she looked at him, her seeming way too big and heavy for her.

“I look hideous. I know.”

Atang kissed her. “You look beautiful. You look like a fighter.”

She smiled. “No need to lie to me.”

Atang wrapped the doek around her head and smiled. “I don’t need go to lie to you. You are beautiful.”

“Let me apply lipstick.”

“E kae?”

“In my handbag.”

Atang took out the lipstick from her handbag and ran it on her lips.

“Do this..” He rubbed his lips together. Thabi smiled rubbing her lips.

Atang put bag the lipstick then walked inside the buia with her. Thabi looked at the reception. It looked like a hospital, the white made it feel like a hospital though there was nothing.

They walked past the elevator headed to the backdoor. He held his hand and opened the door and walked out with her.

Thabi gasped staring at her family and friends, each holding a

paper board with a sweet message written on it.

Tears filled her eyes as she read Agang's board.

'Team Thabi All The Way!'

She looked at Prince's.

'Cancer ain't sh*t if you are Thabi'.

She laughed and read everyone's short message and paused at Kelly's.

'I am sorry.'

Thabi smiled. "You did nothing wrong."

Kelly shook her head tearfully then walked over and hugged.

"I am so sorry."

"Don't be. You did nothing wrong."

"I did. Maybe if--"

"What happened happened. It's all the past. Let's move on."

Kelly stepped back sniffing.

Thabi looked at everyone else, tears rolled down then she sniffed. She looked down wiping away her tears with the back of her head.

Atang put his arm around her. She tearfully looked at him.

"Thank you."

Atang kissed her. "I love you."

She turned to everyone. "Thank you. Everyone. For the support and love. I saw all your messages Agang." Thabi laughed. "And all your memes Elang."

Elang laughed. "All for a good laugh."

"You kept me cracked up. I appreciate everyone here. You have been amazing. Thank you Lomo... for taking good care of me on my last chemo, for doing my makeup and making sure I looked beautiful. Thank you Riya for also helping me."

Riya smiled. Thabi looked at her brother.

"Thank you for being there, for all the motivational emotional blackmailing videos."

Batang smiled. Thabi looked at Atang.

"And thank you for loving me. I don't deserve it. I don't know what you see but thank you for staying by my side. For paying my medical bills too. Thank you for everything. I can never thank you enough."

"I am the lucky one." He held her hands. "I know your dream was to start your own practice. Your own little clinic. And I know that cancer has delayed everything but it doesn't mean it shouldn't happen. I know you are left with a few more rounds of chemo and I believe that after this we are done because we are definitely winners. So I thought why not start setting up for you so that when you are well... you take off."

Thabi looked at him confused.

“Batang and I then decided to build you this... “

He pointed at the building. Thabi looked as two men brought out a banner in written ‘LOMO PREMIUM CENTER’.

Thabi swallowed staring in shock.

“I read your business plan. I know you dreamt of this. Maybe not exactly like this but similar. When you get my well, we can always make it what you want.”

Zaza watched as tears rolled down Thabi’s cheeks. She looked more than just sick, more like a walking skeleton. She was so thin she could barely recognize the thick girl she once knew. Talk about the almighty falling.

More chemo rounds meant the cancer was still there. Zaza sighed, it was like watching death right in front of your eyes. Her presence surprisingly didn’t bother her that much. Poor thing was on her way to her grave.

And that head... she looked like that cartoon character... that one Lomo liked whenever she visited. The cockroach in Monsters vs Aliens.

She sighed holding her glass of wine as Atang hugged her. Somehow the relationship looked forced. It was like he was just trying too hard. She paused feeling guilty of her thoughts but Thabi hadn’t cared when her son was dying. She had not even visited her, not even once to see him.

And honestly her death would just set everyone free from the constant worry. What did she even have now? Stage 4 cancer or

what? Whatever it is was just taking long to end her. She was tired of it all. Either way, why waste money getting someone who was dying an entire private practice?

She almost rolled her eyes as they kissed.

From the other side Elang stared sniffing feeling emotional. Her husband put his arm around her. With everyone with their partners, they either held hands or hugged expect the kids, Batang and Zaza.

Prince's phone rang. He took it out and picked walking away.

"Pearl."

"I wish I was there. I am seeing that Batang is taking a video."

"You slept with her husband."

"Are you embarrassed of me?"

"I am not but I am not going to take you to my friends whom you have fucked before. They too are not comfortable with the set up. I don't want to make them uncomfortable."

"When are we getting married?"

"I told I don't want to get married not after everything I lost in my divorce settlement. Can we just be like this and not complicate things? I will see you later. Bye."

He hung up and smiled as Thabi got the keys smiling.

Abaleng handed the waiter money and the poison.

“You put it in her juice.”

“Will she die?”

Abaleng frowned then the waiter smiled holding the 1k in her hands.

“Ok.”

The waiter stepped out of the car and walked inside the clinic going to the backdoor where everyone was.

She walked to the juices and poured a glass for Thabi quickly poured the contents facing away from everyone. She put the little bottle in her pocket then put the juice on a tray together with three more glasses. She walked over to Thabi and gave her a glass. She passed the other two to the kids.

Thabi smiled as everyone walked over to her hugging her.

Zaza walked over and hugged her too smiling. “Cuzy...”

Thabi smiled. “Thamma thank you for coming.”

Zaza laughed. “Now that I am divorced I have lot’s of time in my hands.”

“As long as you are happy.”

“I am. I know this must be hard on you. If you need any help, you know I always there. Be it with the kids or the house. I will always be there.”

“Thank you.”

“I know the cancer is way too aggressive. And I am happy you are fighting but don't you think it's taking everything from you because still you are not getting better. You should be enjoying your life not going through so much pain. You should be traveling. Spending time with your kids because we all know how this ends. And also I want you to know that you don't have to worry about Lomo, Riya or even Atang. I am here to help them with everything they need. You should let it be and just enjoy.”

Thabi looked at her in silence then sighed. “I feel dizzy. You can have this..” She handed her the juice sitting. Zaza looked at Atang walking over then walked away sipping the cold juice.

In Prison Reba held the phone as Lina yelled.

“How could you do this? Why are you sabotaging yourself and making me look stupid?”

“You don't understand-“

“I don't understand what? I was once married to a man who hurt me countless times. I didn't die because he broke my heart. He slept with my sister. Yes... I didn't die. The world does not owe you shit! We all have been through so much. How do you hold a grudge for years? F*cken move on! You are going to rot in prison.

We are going back to court again with a different judge. You won't get death sentence but you are going to spend the rest of your life there. You have ruined everything."

Reba rubbed her eyes crying. "He's happy enjoying his life while I suffer. He deserves to cry too. His karma is coming. And he will cry too. He deserves to live a unhappy and sad."

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Yours Truly

#127

The waiter swallowed staring at Zaza with the juice. Her phone rang in her pocket.

“Hello?”

“Did she drink?”

“Yes. What’s going to happen to her?”

“Nothing. Bye. Never call me.”

Abaleng hung up. The waiter stared at Zaza. Her heart pounded as the thought of being arrested for murder crossed her mind then having her daughter remain with her grandmother who was a witch.

Tears filled her eyes, her daughter was only two. Her grandmother won’t let her go to school the same way she had done to her. She walked to Zaza holding a tray and intentionally bumped into her. Zaza screamed as the glass slipped from her hand and fell spilling the juice on her.

“I am so sorry...”

Zaza moved back wiping her white dress in shock. The orange stain on her dress.

“I am sorry mam.”

“You have ruined my be dress!”

“I am sorry. I am sorry.”

Kelly walked over. “Lets go to the bathroom and try to clean it. Kelly took Zaza’s hand and led her to the bathrooms.

“Take off the dress.”

Zaza took off the dress annoyed. Kelly got the dress then went by the sink washing only the stain.

“I overheard you talking to be Thabi.”

Zaza looked at her.

Kelly continued talking calmly. “I heard what you told her and I find it sad that you would tell your own cousin to stop fighting for her life so you can take over her family.”

“Did you hear me say that?”

“Yes. We all know what you mean when you say you will take care of her family once she is dead. All along I thought you were Thabi’s friend as much as you be are her cousin. But to hear you be say the things you said, you defeated me. You are very evil. I don’t know what you are thinking will happen in your twisted head but it won’t happen. Not in this lifetime. Atang will never give you a second glance you bitter witch. I praise God your son died, imagine if I had to deal with your bitterness for the rest of my life. You are disgusting. If you divorced your husband thinking Thabi is dying then you have another thing coming.”

Kelly finished up handed the dress. “You can wait for it to dry or go home. If I were you I’d choose the latter before you embarrass

yourself even further.”

Kelly dried her hands and walked out her heels clacking on the white tiles as she walked moving her hips from side to side.

Zaza took her dress and put it on. She walked out going to the parking lot then got in her car. She took her phone and started typing Thabi a long message.

Zaza: Kelly was harassing me. She said a few offending things so I am going home because I can clearly see I am not wanted here.

Thabi opened the message then started typing.

Thabi: Ok. Travel safely..

Zaza started typing then stopped and read the message again and drove off angrily.

At Prince’s house, Pearl mixed her solution while talking to her friend on the phone.

“He doesn’t take me anywhere anymore. Things just changed between us. Ekare all we do is fuck.”

“You still drink your solution?”

Pearl sighed. “I fear if I don’t he will leave me.”

“But you know sex in doesn’t keep a man right? I don’t think he

ever loved you. He probably just wanted someone who would give him kids since his wife couldn't. You were just a baby making machine. That's all. Now that you gave him the kids, he doesn't see you as a wife but as someone he can fuck."

"He wouldn't have left Lone if he didn't love me."

"He did not leave Lone. She left him."

"I feel you are negative."

"I am not going to lie to you if that's what you are hoping for. You let him use you thinking he loved you. Men like Prince are not the type that could be unsure of you. If he wanted he would have married you by now."

"You are just negative."

"Pearl, it didn't take my husband five years to marry me. Prince still doesn't want to be seen with you because you are that woman who slept with his my friends getting fucked every corner. After they were done with you, they spit you out like a used condom. What makes you think he would love you?"

"He loves me. I know my man."

"Ijo mma, continue drinking things. My husband and I am are going out for some fresh air. We will talk.

The friend hung up. Pearl took a deep breath and gulped her solution. She took out the plain yoghurt and quickly ate it. She walked to the sitting room and laid on the couch holding her phone while doing kegel exercises.

Abaleng parked her car in her gate just as a police car drove in behind her. Her heart beat increased as her knees got weak. Two police officers stepped out and walked over to her.

They knocked on her window. She slowly rolled it down.

“Dumelang..”

“Mrs Thari, can you please come with us come with us to the police station for some questioning.”

Abaleng looked at them shaking with fear.

Later that day Atang opened the door for Thabi then she got in. She leaned back feeling weak.

“Mama, I have tagged you on my Facebook post. I want us to start the live video.”

“Lomo, I don’t want to be on Facebook.”

“But you have fans.”

“You are the one with fans not me.”

Atang got in the car then started the engine and reversed.

“Ok, then can we do a photoshoot tomorrow. Daddy can mommy and I do a photoshoot?”

Thabi shook her head. “Lomo..”

“It will just be a photo-“

“Lelomo I said no!”

“But-“

Atang looked at her through the mirror. “Lomo...”

She kept quiet and sadly looked out through the window. Thabi rubbed her eyes in silence.

Atang smiled. “We will have a photoshoot some day. Not now.”

Riya smiled. “I will take pictures too daddy?”

“Yes. We will all take pictures.”

He held Thabi’s hand. “Its ok.”

She nodded sniffing. Atang turned by the filling station stepped out talking to the fuel attendant. Thabi took a deep breath watching him speak. She slowly smiled then paused as his phone rang. She looked at it then reached for it. She looked at unsaved number calling then picked the call.

“Hey babe, I just landed, I know you said I shouldn’t I need a lift home. My sister couldn’t come. She got busy.”

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Yours Truly

#128

“Hi, you are speaking to Mrs. Daniel. What’s your name?”

There was silence for a second then she spoke. “I have to go. Bye.”

“Your help was appreciated, I can see he probably got someone who can help him relief the frustration but I am back now and you can back off. Ke bua le wena sente with respect akere nnaka. Yaanong ke kopa o ntsutele ke age lelapa laaka.”

“Tell Atang to call me. Ke Mamo.”

She hung up. Thabi took a deep breath holding his phone, her hands shaking. Atang walked inside the filling station store and walked out minutes later. He got back in the car and kissed her cheek.

“I got you chocolate. Our flight leaves on thirty minutes.”

“I don’t want to go to Maun. Let’s go to the house.””

Atang looked at her. “Babe our flights-“

“Take me to the house. I am tired.”

Atang started the car already sensing something was off. He drove to their house in Gaborone. He drove in through the gate and parked in the garage next to her car.

He turned to his kids who were already sleeping then carried them

one by one inside the house before finally coming back for Thabi.

"Lets go inside."

"Who is Mamo?"

Atang frowned. "Who?"

"Mamo. Who is Mamo?"

"I don't know. Who is she?"

"Atang, don't you think we are too grown for lies? Don't you think we should past that?"

"I am lost. Babe what's going on?"

Tears filled her eyes. "Who is Mamo? There is no need to lie Atang."

"Babe I don't know who that is."

"Waaka! Why are you lying? Old habits do die hard don't they?"

"Thabi-"

"You can't even tell me the truth." Tears rolled down. "Cant you just be honest?"

"I don't know who that is."

"She called you. I spoke to her."

Atang looked at her further confused. "She called me?"

"Stop making me feel stupid. I just need the truth. I am not divorcing you for that. I just need to know the truth."

"I don't know who that is Rethabile. I don't know why she would call me." He took his phone and unlocked his screen. He looked at the number then called it. He looked at her.

"It's not going through but I don't know who that is. I am not cheating on you. I wish you could have a little faith in me..I have been nothing but faithful to you. I have loved you and you only. Why would I cheat when I happy with you."

"You being happy with me has never stopped you in the past. She called wanting to be picked for the airport. I know it she is your side. I was in South Africa for two months. I know you are seeing someone considering it we are not having to sex."

"Is that what you think of me?"

She sniffed. "I just want you to be honest with me. How long have you been seeing her?"

"I am not cheating on you. Because I love you. I am sad you would still mention my past mistakes even after everything. I am more than just sad that you would actually think I would cheat."

"You are not going to emotionally blackmail me to get away with this. I know you and the person you be are. It's f*ckiiing lies that get to me but I am surprised. This is who you are."

"I am going to sleep."

"Yes! Walk away like a coward you are."

Atang took her bags and walked inside the house leaving her with the phone. He took a shower and put on his briefs just as she

walked in with reddish eyes.

He got in bed by and laid on my his side. Thabi sadly be walked to the bathroom trying to hold her tears.

Zaza drank more of the strong painkillers as her stomach ached. She looked at Mamo.

“You will call her tomorrow. But do it while I am there.”

Mamo nodded. “Ok. Are you ok?”

“Yes. Thank you for what you did.”

Mamo smiled. “Anytime.”

Mamo stepped out of the car with her handbag and walked in through the gate. Zaza took a deep breath sweating and drove home in excruciating pain. She slowly walked inside the house and boiled done water. She mixed a couple of things and drank it all before lying down on the couch grunting in pain.

She closed her eyes as the pain increased.

Later that night Prince laid awake going throughout Lone’s

Facebook pictures and she looked like she was traveling a lot though there was no picture of a man. It made him feel better.

She looked beautiful and her body looked even more toned. He continued saving her pictures in his phone.

Pearl turned in her sleep. Prince turned and continued scrolling through the pictures.

He went to her messenger and sent her a message through messenger.

Prince: Hey..."

He waited for her reply while Pearl snored loudly. He got up and walked to the bathroom holding his phone.

Prince: I miss you.

He is sent it sitting on the toilet seat.

At the police station, Abeleng sat in jail cell. She took a deep breath as she thought of being locked in prison for being an accomplice. If anything happened to Thabi she would now go to prison for murder.

She sniffed thinking of her husband. He was obviously going to replace her. She sniffed again seated with other law offenders.

At Atang's house, Thabi walked out in a gown and sat down staring at him sleeping. She reached for her phone and dialed Momo as her heart raced.

"Hello?"

"Momo?"

"Yes. Who is this?"

Thabi took a deep breath. She pressed her lips together and wiped away her tears.

"Hello? Who is this?"

"You are speaking to Atang's wife. I don't know what arrangement you have with Atang but I don't have the energy to fight. I have cancer and my chances of survival are close to zero. We have two kids. I want my kids experience what a happy family feels like. Nnaka kea go kopa..." Thabi took a breath wiping away her tears. "Please just give me a moment with my husband and kids. You will take over once I am dead. I am begging you."

Mamo sighed. "I am sorry. I didn't know. Tota to be honest I don't even know your husband. I am just a cleaner, my boss asked me to do that. Please don't confront her. I still want my job. I am not a home wrecker. I am sorry for the pain and confusion."

"Who's your boss?"

"Zaza. I am sorry."

Thabi closed her eyes. "Thank you. For being honest."

"Eemma. Goodnight."

She hung up. Thabi walked out of the bathroom and looked at Atang who was sleeping as guilty choked her.

She slowly walked towards the bed and got on bed then touched him.

"Babe..."

He remained sleeping. She shook him gently.

"Attie... rragwe Lomo..."

She shook him. He woke up and looked at her. "Rethabile I don't want to fight-"

"I am sorry... I was wrong and out of line. I am sorry for calling you names and accusing you. I do have faith in you but... I am sorry. Please forgive me.."

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. .

Do participate quickly so we can squeeze in another bonus.

Yours Truly

#129

Atang silently looked at her.

“I am sorry. I just... I thought...it’s hard not to think about it. It’s nothing to do with trust. It’s everything to do with me. I am the problem. I think... I want the best for you but I am scared of watching it happen when I know I am not the best. I am... I am not making excuses. I am sorry, I was wrong but... someone just called your phone and spoke like that... I got it scared and went out of line. I trust you. I do. And I long got over the past. I did. I...” She blinked.. “But sometimes I am only human. Ke go thokgetsi maitseo. I am sorry. Please forgive me.”

“You were so sure I am cheating. What happened?”

“I thought things through calmly. I am sorry.”

“Let it be the last time you talk to me like re ko strateng. I don’t know who Mimi kana Molly is. I don’t even know that number. I know it’s natural to assume after the phone call but to call me names is something I won’t entertain. I have never give you a reason to think I would hurt you like that again.”

“I am sorry. It won’t happen again. I am sorry.”

“Its ok.. let’s move past it.”

He pulled her light body on top of him. Thabi smiled.

“Thank you for being mature enough to walk away.”

He pulled her closer and kissed her. He flipped them gently getting on top of him getting between her legs caressing her body.

“Attie...” She looked at him underneath him.

He looked in her eyes. “It’s ok. Relax. I am not taking it far.”

He took off her night dress and kissed her more. He kissed her neck then her lips. Thabi’s heart pounded as he took off his shirt and pulled out her panty. He looked at p*ssy, his heart racing as his dic grew even harder in his pants.

He gently massaged her breasts then unzipped his pants and took it out. She fearfully put her hand on his chest as he rubbed himself on her breathing heavily trying to keep himself under check.

His dick got even harder as precum oozed out. He smeared it on her as and parted her p*ssy lips. He could barely be see her sweet hole. He pressed the tip at her tender entrance...

“Attie...”

He looked at her tiny hole already imagining the pleasure of being buried deep inside... fuck he missed it that much. He leaned over and sucked her delicately. Thabi slowly relaxed slowly getting aroused.

Atang continued working his tongue in her muffing her like a pro. She let out a slight moan, her nipples hardening.

He lifted his head and her lips running his dic up and down her now wet slit. He slowly reached for the lube on his side of the bed.

Thabi looked at him as he rubbed his lubricated dick on her. She took a deep breath as fear had her tensing. Atang kissed her neck gently massaging her clit with his dick.

She relaxed, her hands on his biceps. Atang slid down and pushed at her entrance.

“Attie-“

“Its just the tip.. I promise..”

“Attie it’s.. awww..”

He #removed

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Yours Truly

#129

#removed

-He pushed the tip forcefully stretching her tiny hole.

“Atang it’s... ohhh...”

He gave it another push then the tip popped. She pinched him.

“Babe it’s painful!”

Atang closed his eyes as her tight walls gripped his weapon tightly. The feeling could almost paralyze him.

Atang kissed her circling the tip inside. He looked at her and pushed in just a bit, her vaginal muscles gripping him so much he grunted.

Tears filled Thabi's eyes as the pain felt like he was ripping her apart. He kissed her neck gently just using an inch of his dick tapping her walls. He looked at her tears somehow feeling guilty but he couldn't bring himself to stop... not when she felt like this.

He slid out and rubbed her clit before turning her to her side. He spooned her stroking himself then slid his weapon between her thighs. He fucked her thighs, his dick gently tapping her clit. He grunted behind her, she closed her eyes relaxing further.

Her clit got more and more sensitive the more he rubbed his weapon on her.

Thabi let out a slight moan, her pussy throbbing at the pleasure. She slowly got even wetter the more he continued tapping her clit. He held her waist holding in place and parted her pussy lips with his dick and pushed sliding in quarter of his dic.

She helped trying to move away but Atang held her in place. He slid out and pushed back in again tapping her g-sport.

"Atang!"

He continued tapping her groaning at her tightness, the pleasure driving him insane. He couldn't remember the last time he had had sex and he wasn't eve sure if he was even going to last more two minutes. He ignored her screams unable to even hear a word she was saying.

The pleasure increased with each thrust pulling him to the edge as he grunted drilling her little hole. He pussy twitched as she slowly adjusted.

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He pushed in almost half his dick and stilled groaning, his juices filling her up.

He slid out and watched as her meat closed up while his cum ran down her butt. He turned her around and looked at her tears.

He kissed her. "I am sorry babe..."

She sniffed nodding. He pulled her in his arms and sighed.

“Thank you..”

Thabi smiled. “I am happy I could help.”

“By the way, Zaza offered to help me and the kids. It sort of sounded like she was also offering to help me in inappropriate ways. Maybe you can talk to her.”

“I have nothing to talk to Zachariah about. I want to cut her off. Please block her because I am also going to block her.”

“Ok. Consider it done.”

At Zaza’s house, Zaza continued sweating slowly walking out of her house holding her car keys. She locked the door. Her intestines turned as she walked towards her car, she paused and vomited blood on the ground.

Her neighbor who was smoking outside looked over as she struggled getting in her car. The pain twisted her intestines, she slowly knelt down as pain crippled her.

The neighbor jumped over the fence throwing her cigarette.

“Hi... are you ok?”

She looked at him crying.

“My stomach....”

He picked her up and put her at the backseat then jumped her car and drove out through the open gate.

He looked at her. "Hey... what happened?"

She coiled her body into a ball, pain weakening her further. He drove even faster headed to the hospital. He pulled up at the emergency room and carried her inside screaming for help.

*

At the hospital, the neighbor parked her car properly then walked back in the hospital and sat down. He took a deep breath picking his friend's call.

"Laitaka..."

"Lefika we have arrived. Where are you?"

"Remember my neighbor?"

"Which one? Tessa Thompson?"

Lefika laughed. "Yeah, she's not well. I rushed her to the hospital. Gongwe after this I will shoot my shot."

His friend laughed. "You have not been in the game for a while, o itse go posha?"

"Wa ntwaela wena."

A nurse walked over to him. "Dumelang, the doctor would like to

see you.”

He followed after her to the doctor’s office hanging up then sat down.

“Is everything ok?”

“Yes, who are you to her?”

“Her... her boyfriend. Is she ok?”

“We are suspecting your girlfriend ingested arsenic chemical. It’s very dangerous poison that causes the cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, sweating and just excruciating pain. We are going to perform bowel irrigation. A special solution is passed through the gastrointestinal tract, flushing out the contents. The irrigation removes traces of arsenic and prevents it from being absorbed into the gut. We are also going to do the chelation therapy. This treatment uses certain chemicals, including dimercaptosuccinic acid and dimercaprol, to isolate the arsenic from the blood proteins.”

“Eish doctor, those big words are for me. Is she going to be ok though?”

“Yes. But in a while. She will recover, it’s good you brought her in. We will monitor her heart and kidney function because arsenic affects those.”

“Thank you.”

“You can go and see her.”

*

In Zaza's room, Lefika stood besides her. He held her hand.

"Hi...."

Zaza slowly opened her eyes and looked at him. Lefika smiled.

"Hi. You are going to be fine."

Zaza spoke weakly. "I was poisoned at the party..."

"By who?"

"My cousin. She gave me her juice... she wants to hurt me."

"Do you want to report her to the police?"

Zaza tearful shook her head. "Its fine. Can you please borrow me your phone."

Lefika handed her the phone. Zaza dialed Atang's number and put the phone on her ear.

Thabi picked the call me as Lefika walked out giving her space.

"Hello?"

"So you poisoned me at your party"

"Excuse me?"

"I am at the hospital. I started getting sick after I drank your juice. You are evil."

"I didn't poison you. I don't even have a reason to but go ahead

and believe whatever you want to believe. I am very disappointed that you are trying by all means to get rid of me to a point of having your maid call to wreck my marriage. Not that it's enough you want me to die and take over my family. I am going to keep fighting till my very last breath and even if I were to die, you will never be with Atang."

"Even if? You are going to die. You won't be there but I will be. When I said all that I was just trying to ease your stress so that at least you know it's me with Atang and the kids. After you die, I will be there to comfort Atang for his loss and I will make sure you are forgotten. That little perfect family of yours will be mine. I met Atang first. He was mine first. Go ahead and enjoy your last moments because I can already hear your death calling for you. Don't worry, I shall sing and cry while we lower your coffin. I will take good care of him and the kids while your body rots."

A YEAR LATER....

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Yours Truly

#130

A YEAR LATER...

Atang silently stared at the grave. It had only been 8 months since her death but he still couldn't seem to full grasp that she was gone. He knelt and plucked out the grass around her grave cleaning it up. He fixed the fresh flowers he had gotten and sat on top of the grave.

He could still hear her voice in his head. Still hear her laugh or call his name. He tried to remember the last thing he had said to her. They had been laughing at how crazy in love he was. What was that she had said... something about being with the rightful person was the best gift God could ever give anyone.

Tears burnt his eyes. He hadn't seen it coming. It had taken him by shock. Somehow he just didn't understand how God worked sometime. She had been so precious...

He stared at her name imprinted on the glossy tombstone. He stood up minutes later and rubbed his eyes sadly.

"I love you..."

He blinked as tears filled his eyes. He took a deep breath then turned and walked back to his car. He jumped in and looked at the time then joined the road driving off.

His phone rang, he reached for it and picked.

"Hello?"

"O kae? (Where are you?)"

"I am on my way. I had to see her first."

Agang sighed. "I hope you passed my love to her."

Atang laughed. "She knows."

"Did you tell her I love her?"

"Yeah. I told her in my heart."

"How far are you?"

"I just left the grave yard. I will be there late at night."

"Ok. As long as you arrive before six in the morning."

"Yeah I will be there."

"Sure, you have your suit akere?"

"Yes. Ke ready."

"Have you spoken to Prince?"

"Yah, he's on his way. Is he coming with his new girlfriend?"

"He won't leave her. She's too beautiful for him. He can't breathe."

"I am happy he broke up with Pearl."

"He never loved her. Or Lone too. Ke gore hela my boy o pekisiwa ke kuku. (P*ssy drives him crazy.)"

Agang laughed. "Mme kana Pearl ene o monate. (Pearl is sweet.)"

Atang laughed too. "Exactly why he went after her. I am happy she did give beautiful kids."

"I saw that Lone is dating some Nigerian dude."

"I heard. O jola le bo whots do you wonts baby."

They burst into laughter.

"And he is rich."

"Yes. But I like the new girl.. she's young and pretty. I think he actually loves her."

"Yeah kana she's shy."

"I have an incoming call. I will call you."

"Sure."

Atang hung up and picked an incoming call.

"Hey sweetie.."

"Daddy, can you please recharge my phone? There is no WiFi here."

"Lomo, your other cousins are all there. Put away your phone and play with them."

"But they don't like me."

"You don't know that. You just assume they don't because you don't talk to them. Where is Chrissie?"

“Aunty Kelly is on her way with them.”

“Ok. Just wait for them. Put the phone away.”

“Daddy, you are killing my vibe to be honest. I sort of feel abused considering I didn’t bring myself on earth. I am your responsibility.”

Atang laughed. “And as my responsibility, I am saying put away the phone. Where is Riya?”

“Playing.”

“See.”

“Ok. Bye.”

“I love you.”

“I love you too.”

She hung up. Atang increased the speed headed to Maun.

In Maun, Lomo pressed her phone smiling as Max typed.

Max: I am driving over. I will see you tomorrow.

Lomo: Ok. I miss you

Max: Me too. But I can’t meet you in public

Lomo: I know.

Max: What are you doing?

Lomo: Nothing. Ke emetsi my close cousins to come

Max: Ok. My phone is almost off. We will talk when I arrive there.

Kelly snatched the phone from Lomo laughing. She looked at the messages then Lomo took her phone.

“Aunty!”

Kelly looked at her then closed Lomo’s door.

“Hi.”

Lomo locked her phone.

Kelly smiled staring at her. “I thought we were best friends...”

“We are.”

“Who’s Max then?”

“No one.”

“Come on...”

“You will tell uncle then he will tell daddy.”

“I won’t. I promise.”

Lomo smiled shyly. “He’s my boyfriend.”

“I saw that he drives... nice, how old is he?”

“22 years old.”

“Isn’t he a little old for you?”

“I love him.”

“I know but you know what older guys want right?”

“Max knows I am not ready for sex.”

“What if he wants it?”

“I don’t want to have sex. I am still young. And I want to be a doctor.”

Kelly smiled. “Good. If you want to be a doctor then you have to work hard. And be careful.”

“Yes.”

“But if.. when you have sex, tell me ok? Don’t be scared.”

Lomo smiled. Kelly hugged her. “I also want to see him tomorrow.”

Lomo nodded. “Ok.”

“Christie is looking for you.”

They walked out to meet her cousins.

Batang smiled staring at his son at the backseat then looked at his wife while driving.

“He’s handsome.”

Lebo laughed. "Baby, you say this almost everyday."

"Because he looks like me."

Lebo laughed. "In your dreams."

"He does. Look at his face."

Lebo turned and looked at him. He did look like his father but...

"No. He doesn't."

"He does."

Lebo laughed. "Ok.. you win."

Batang's phone rang. Lebo answered it for him putting it on loud speaker.

"Batang.."

"Rra?"

"How far are you?"

"I am in Rakops now."

"Ok. I will arrive late at night but I am coming."

"Ok. Did you see her?"

"Yes."

Batang sighed sadly. "Ok."

"Its ok. We will talk."

"Ok."

Atang hung up. Lebo smiled.

“I love the relationship you have with him.”

Batang smiled. “He is my father. Just that one father I don’t call dad but he is.”

Lebo nodded smiling as Batang drove.

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Elang finished with her makeup earlier that night while Atso watched sadly. She got up and put on her heels.

“Babe...”

“I feel like you are going to do things that you shouldn’t be doing.”

“Why would I do that?”

“Its just a feeling.”

“Tell that feeling to go away. Because I love you. I am going to be with the ladies. It’s ladies night out.”

He looked at her dress. “You look too beautiful.”

“Because other ladies will be looking beautiful.”

“Can’t you just tell them you can’t?”

“No. Goodnight.”

She kissed him leaving her red lipstick imprinted on his lips.

Elang took her bag and walked out. She walked to the playroom where the kids were playing with the baby.

She smiled then took a picture and walked out calling her best friend.

“Hello?”

“I am coming.” She got in her car. “He looks like he’s about to cry.”

Her friend laughed. “Ijo mma, hubby just called. He says before he goes home he’s coming to see what we are doing.”

Elang started the car. “Aii mma, I am coming. Is MmaD already there?”

“She is on her way.”

“Ok. I will be there on twenty minutes.”

“Farai called me yesterday.”

“And what did he want?”

“He’s asking for some money. He says things are bad.”

“I still can’t believe that this guy was a fraudster.”

“I long saw after he bought that house.”

Her friend laughed. “Wena mma, go sharp.”

“Bye.”

She reversed and drove off headed to the hotel where the party was going to be held.

The following morning, at the Riverside lodge, Prince parked his car and looked at his young beautiful girlfriend.

“Ready?”

“Yes just that your friends scare me.”

“Don’t mind them. They don’t bite.”

Tseo smiled, Prince looked at her dimples. She was so beautiful, it made him uneasy.

He leaned over and kissed her then stepped out, Prince in a suit and Tseo in a beautiful body hugging dress. They walked inside the river lodge where the red carpet had been rolled down. They followed it to the back of the lodge where the Okavango river passed by.

Prince smiled at the beautiful set up with white and gold.. the walked to the wedding ceremony set up. Tseo sat down while Prince joined his friends at the aisle.

From the guests who were already seated, some watched Prince walked admiring. Tseo looked at him, tall, buff and handsome. Was it a soldier thing or was it only him? He turned to her and winked making her blush looking down. She had me et understood the 'Age is just a number' statement till she met him. Being with him was heaven, his demented baby mama wasn't an issue, she was still going to put that oldie in her place. Momma didn't raise a weakling.

Kelly drove in through the gate at the Riverside lodge and parked her car. She stepped out of the car with the kids.

Lomo pulled down her dress that hugged her curves. Talk about being built like mama. She looked so beautiful and grown. Elang parked beside her car and also stepped out in a matching dress like Kelly's. Elang's husband waved at her then walked through the lodge.

Kelly looked at Lomo.

"Lomo, go inside."

She walked inside with her cousins. Kelly looked at Elang.

“Where is she?”

“She said she had run rush to work. Something that needed her.”

Elang’s phone vibrated. She took out from her purse and smiled.

“She’s here. Let’s go in.”

They walked in holding their little bouquets. They walked in through the Riverside lodge. Kelly smiled catching Agang staring standing with Prince and Atang. She slowly walked down the aisle with Elang. It actually was surprising that Atang was getting married considering how his mother’s death had hit him. Poor lady was just found dead. She had died in her sleep from natural causes. She looked at rragwe Atang seated at the front row smiling proudly.

They stood at the other side of the priest. Minutes later Kenny Lattimore, For you played then Batang walked over holding his sister’s hand. In her white gown, Thabi slowly walked with him holding her bouquet with her other hand.

Atang smiled watching her walk over. Her short hair had been styled into wavy style. She looked so beautiful. He had met her when she was only 18 and she was maturing like fine wine. They had defeated the cancer, they had defeated every other challenge and baby girl was still hers. Tears filled her eyes, he looked down rubbing his eyes.

He raised his head as head and smiled. Thabi looked at the tears in his eyes then she smiled emotionally.

He held her hands the cupped her face and kissed her.

“I love you...”

Thabi smiled. “I love you more... I love you so much.”

The priest smiled with everyone else. The priest started the process to renew their vows.

Zaza sat in Lefa’s house later that day going through Thabi’s wedding pictures. She looked at the pictures being welcomed into the Daniel’s family. She looked at Thabi’s German print dress and a her blanket blanket around her shoulders showing that she was now a married woman. Zaza rolled her eyes, was it necessary though considering they were already legally married.

She looked at Thabi’s waved then her body. She seemed to be gaining a lot. Zaza zoomed in the picture. She was probably back to size 34.

She swiped through looking at the pictures of her with Atang and their kids. She looked at Lomo’s grown up figure, the more she grew, the more she looked like her mother.

Zaza sighed then continued scrolling down. On second thought and unfriended Thabi. She paused coming across an article about Reba. Zaza read through just as Lefika walked back holding their glasses of juice.

“Baby can you believe Reba has been sentenced to life? And her

sister to five years for trying to kill me.”

“They deserve it.”

“I feel they are little harsh on Reba. Anyone would have reacted the same.”

Lefika shook her head. “You don’t go shooting people because someone broke your heart. She deserves that and more.”

“So you think it was right for Atang to play her?”

“No but she was wrong to shoot someone in an attempt to kill.”

“But life?”

“Yes. If it were a man what would you be saying?”

Zaza sighed. “I want to have kids.”

Lefika smiled. “Can we start trying now?”

Zaza laughed. “Yes.”

He kissed her getting on top of her. Zaza looked at him.

“Do you see us ever getting married?”

“Yes. Maybe in two to three years.”

She smiled then pulled him for a kiss.

Rragwe Atang walked inside the lodge where his young girlfriend was and smiled taking off his jacket while she laid on the bed nude.

He quickly undressed excitedly getting on top of her.

She giggled as the old man kissed her parting getting ready to push in his dic. She moaned softly as he pushed in grunting. Now that his wife was dead, he didn't have to feel guilty.

In Maun, later that evening Atang grunted on top of Thabi offloading his thick warm seeds inside.

He looked at her.

"Hey..."

Thabi smiled. "I am pregnant. I think it's a boy."

Atang slid out and looked at her, a huge smile on his face.

"Really?"

She smiled. "Yes."

"Fuck yes! Yes!"

Thabi laughed. Atang touched her belly. "Can we name him Junior?"

She nodded. "Yes."

“Fuck I love you!”

He hugged her. Thabi wrapped her around him laughing.

“I love you too...”

..THE END..

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I know it's painful but all good things come to an end. I would like to thank everyone for their support, the guys were amazing. Thank you to our breadwinners, we can't thank you enough for what you did for us. Do keep an eye on the page. Till next