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Insert 1

It's Sunday morning, which means church for me. I got out of bed and took a shower. I wore my nude bodycon maxi dress and clear chunky heels. I have freshly done braids so I let them loose. I took my black minimalist square bag and made my way to the living room.

"This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it!" I shouted.

Nkosingthandile: "The pastor's wife is up everyone, we're in the kitchen!" She shouted back.

I chuckled and went to the kitchen.

Mom: Good morning my sunflower.

Inathi: Morning sis.

Breakfast was already served. It's soft porridge. See, my mom makes us eat soft porridge every Sunday morning because apparently if we eat a full English breakfast we'd be too full and get sleepy during the service and we won't praise God well.

Me: Mom, you know oats would be much better.

Mom: You won't win that argument young lady. Now, bon Appetit everybody.

"We are so gonna grow porridge in our stomachs", Inathi mumbled. Mom gave him a side eye and he said grace and we ate.

We arrived at church just in time for the intercession and I went straight up the podium to join the praise team. We sang worshiping songs and prayed. The rest of the congregation was now here and the service went on.

Pastor Mthembu preached on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 which speaks about how everything has its own time.

"The things we go through in life are not in vain. Our situations will not last forever. This verse serves as a reminder that our circumstances will change and that is something we can come to expect in life. Whatever God takes us through has purpose, perhaps to deepen our faith or to help us achieve breakthrough in an area of life. We will get over our sorrows. We will get through hardships. And whatever season of life we find

ourselves in, it will have a beginning and it will have an end. We will enter new seasons, too. Ones that bring relief hope, or a deeper sense of faith.” He preached.

I felt myself getting emotional because this sermon really spoke to me and I’ve truly experienced God’s grace. My dad died 2 years ago during my matric year and as a result I wasn’t able to cope with my academics anymore so I didn’t get good marks. No institution accepted me because of my results and so I took an unexpected gap year. It was so tough but my older sister encouraged me to upgrade and I actually did great. In fact, I got accepted to study LLB at my dream university, University of Cape Town (UCT), I’ve received my breakthrough.

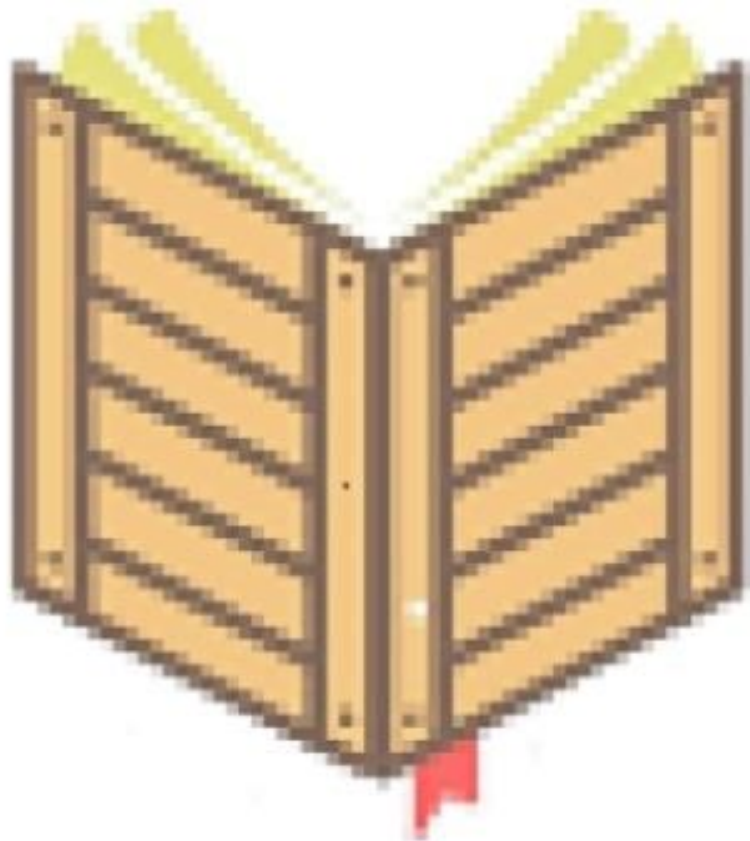
The service ended and mom was mingling with the other brethren whilst we waited for her outside.

She came back and we drove to spur. Yep that’s our family tradition, we get stuffed with soft porridge in the morning and get treated with spur in the afternoon, literally every Sunday.

My name is Zemvelo Mkhize, I am soon to be 20 years old. I live at Pietermaritzburg with my mother who’s a nurse, my sister Nkosingthandile (29) who’s a lecturer at a college and my younger brother Inathi (13) in grade 8. My dad died 2 years ago in a so called mining accident. The Directors were warned that if they keep digging, the mine will collapse but “money over people” and so they ignored the warning and instructed the

miners to keep on digging, costing us a father. This also encouraged me to become a lawyer so I can fight such bullies, fight for the voiceless and seek justice.

This is how my story goes.



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Insert 2

The week went well and today it's Friday, My siblings and I are in town to shop for things I'm going to need at varsity. Mom already bought me a plane ticket. The academic year begins next week Monday and I have to leave on Sunday, I'm so sad my Sundays will never be the same anymore but at the same time I'm excited for this new chapter of my life.

Inathi: "Sis Mvelo, I think this bed will be perfect for you" he said, pointing at a queen bed.

Me: Nathi I'm going to res not my own apartment, we're just here for beddings and pillows, focus.

Thandile laughed "my boy, if only you knew the size of the bed she's going to sleep on" we joined in and laughed and carried on taking what we need.

We were now sitting at spur, grabbing a bite. The waitress came. "Good evening people. My God! Did your father chase you out of your home? I mean I wouldn't be surprised you look so old and yet no ring on your finger, anyway great choice on those beddings, very pretty like yourself" she said that directing to my sister. Okay what level of disrespect is this?

Thandile: "listen here you little..."

My sister was about to give her a piece of her mind and knowing Thandile, she was going to cause a scene and this girl would get fired in this instant

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and I on the other hand don't like drama so I cut her off and said "you know what we'll go eat somewhere else"

We had packed the car a bit far so we decided to just carry our stuff to the restaurant, little did we know we'd be disrespected for that.

We took our things and went to Steers and decided to just order takeaways and eat at home.

Me: Mom we're home.

Thandile: oh hell no! What is she doing here?

Mom: "oh this is pastor Mthembu's daughter Emma, she was sent to fetch some painkillers and since she's working at Spur I asked her to bring me some ribs because you texted me that you'll be eating at Steers."

Okay first of all how come don't we know of her and this girl is very disrespectful for a pastor's kid, look at her acting all innocent.

Emma: "I just recently came back from the US that's probably why you all don't know me."

Did she just read my mind? She even has the nerve to open that stinky mouth of hers.

Emma: I'll be on my way, thank you Mrs Mkhize.

Mom: Greet your mother for me my daughter.

Emma swayed her flat bums and walked out.

Mom: okay somebody tell me what's going on, look at your faces.

Inathi narrated the whole story.

Mom: What? Clearly America has corrupted her.

Me: Why is she even a waitress because she must have clearly been studying something at the US.

Mom: Apparently she dropped out a while back and the parents didn't know then they brought her back and made her get a job, she is spoiled.

Thandile: And that's a pastor's kid? Wonders shall never end.
(She clapped her hands at once)

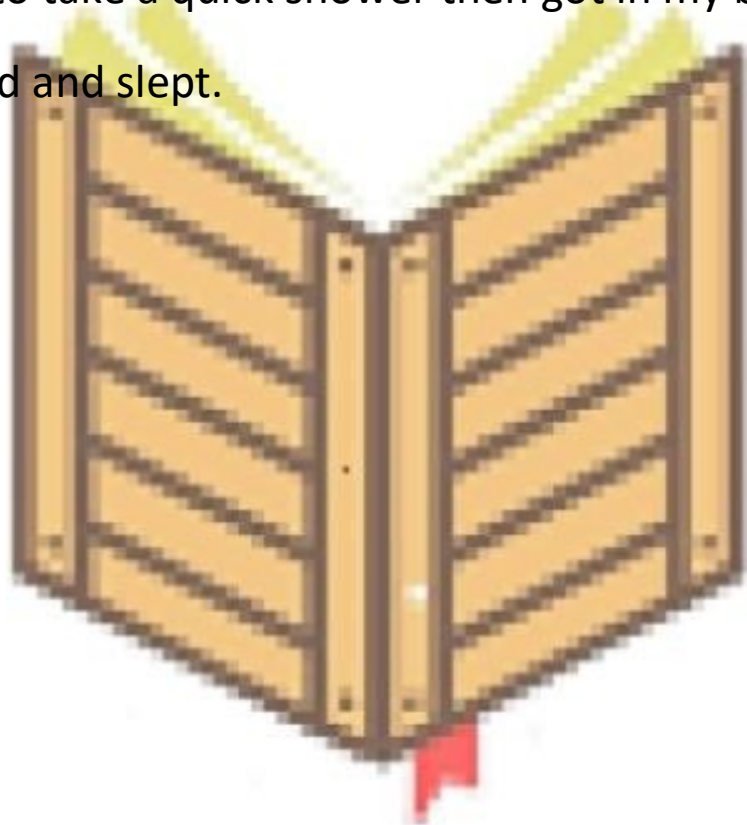
Me: yeah it's really gonna bring some bad talks about the pastor and the church. People are going to start talking 'how can he lead a church but fail to lead his family'. We'll keep them in our prayers and hopefully she changes her attitude and learns some manners.

We dished out our food and ate while having a light conversation.

Thandile: Fam, let me love and leave you, I'm so exhausted, goodnight.

Us: Goodnight.

I also went to take a quick shower then got in my bed, read my bible, prayed and slept.



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Insert 3

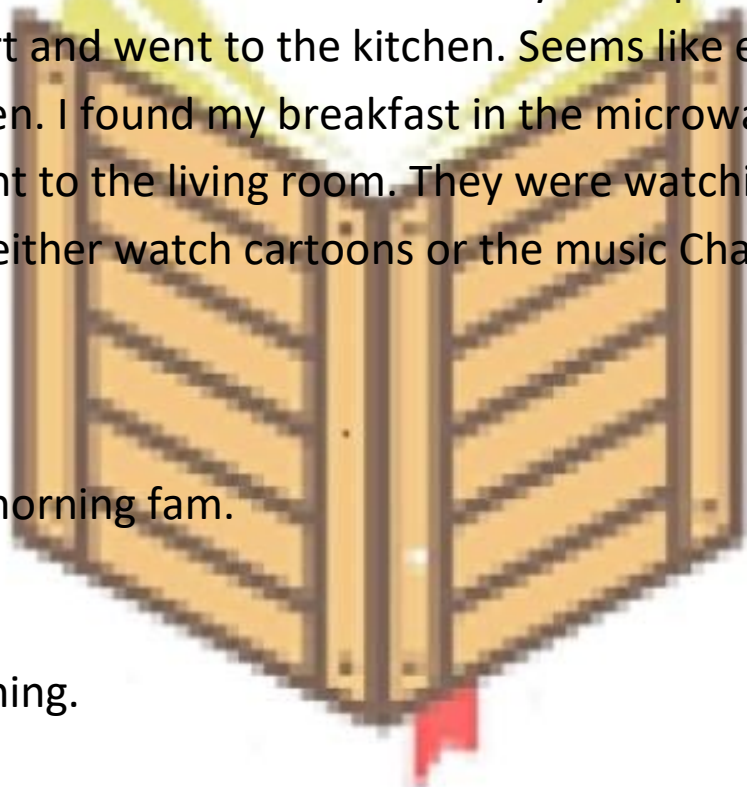
I woke up and checked the time, it's 10 o'clock. I got out of bed and went to take a shower and wore my track pants and a baggy T-shirt and went to the kitchen. Seems like everyone has already eaten. I found my breakfast in the microwave, I took it out and went to the living room. They were watching cartoons. We always either watch cartoons or the music Channel in the morning.

Me: Good morning fam.

Them: Morning.

Inathi: it's unlike you waking up this late, you missed on some interesting cartoons.

Me: yeah you know shopping always gets to me, it's not really my thing.



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Thandile: Well eat up, we have to start packing sunflower, tomorrow you're finally going to the world.

Mom: Hey I'm the only one allowed to call her sunflower.

Thandile: But mom, Dad used to call her that too.

Inathi: Yes, they'd even say it in unison, like all the time.

Me: Let her be mom at least she didn't say "my sunflower"

Mom: "The way you love sunflowers Zemvelo, it's like when we gave you that nickname we knew you'd grow up to love sunflowers."



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Yeah that's true

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sunflowers are my favourite.

I finished up eating and we went to pack.

Thandile: No no no baby girl where are you taking that?

Me: But sis Thandi these are my favourite shorts.

Thandile: With a big minnie mouse at the back? Hell no you're not taking that anywhere. Take this Inathi you'll use it as pyjamas.

Me: You're such a bully.

Thandile: Girl you're going to university, to the cape and we bought you just the right clothes.

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Then boom "Baby, you my everything, you all I ever wanted. We could do it real big, bigger than you ever done it....." Drake-Best I ever had was playing.

Thandile: Nathi!! (She kissed him all over his face) and started dancing, I joined her and we all danced.

Inathi: Glad I got you guys to stop talking for just a moment.

We laughed. Best I ever had is our jam. I feel like crying, I'm really going to miss my siblings.

They continued to help me pack. Then we chilled and ate ice cream.

Few hours later Mom called us for dinner, we ate and everybody went to bed. I couldn't sleep, the anxiety was taking over, I don't think I'm ready to go to a foreign world all by myself, I kept on turning and tossing u

ntil I eventually slept.

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Insert 4

“Knock knock” Thandile said while coming in my room.

Me: I didn’t even say come in.

Thandile: No time to give me a lecture wake up and get ready.

I got out of bed and went to take a shower. I wore my split side tank top and flare leg trousers, tied my braids into a bun.

“Morning all” I said as I entered the kitchen.

Them: Morning my Sunflower (they said that in unison)

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Me: okay guys why are you being weird.

Inathi: Mom allowed us to call you sunflower just for today since you're leaving and no soft porridge today, we're missing church to take you to the airport.

Me: (I chuckled) I'm really going to miss you guys.

We shared a group hug.

Mom: Now let's eat, bon Appetit everybody

Thandile: mom you do know that you don't have to say bon Appetit every time right?

Mom: Let me be Thandile please.

Inathi laughed. **NOVELSGURU.COM**

I said grace and we ate then went to the living room to pray for my trip.

Mom: “God I pray that you cover her as she’s leaving home, guide and protect her at all times, let her be disciplined and not depart from your ways, be with her in her studies, in everything she does, take a lead and may your will be done, now and forever more, amen.”

Us: Amen

Mom: Take care of yourself my daughter and never forget who you are.

Me: I’m the daughter of the most high, the royal priesthood and I shall act as such.

Thandile: You are such a pastor’s wife Zemvelo, I thought you were going to say “nginguMkhize, uKhabazela Mumbo omhlophe” (she said our clan names)

Mom: Thandile You are such your father’s child. Come on, let’s drive your sister to the airport.



Mom was driving and she played 'Drake: Best I ever had'

Inathi: Mom????

Mom: What? I'm still young and you kids excluded me

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it's my jam too.

We laughed and sang along.

We arrived at the airport and said our goodbyes, then I went to check in.

My flight was called and I went in the plane and buckled up. The plane took off, I admired the clouds and then closed my eyes and slept.



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We arrived in our destination, a car was already waiting for me at the airport. Mom insisted since they couldn't take me all the way to Cape Town for my first day. I got in the car and went to my residence. I did all the necessary procedures and I was taken to my room.

Res Manager: This is your room, (she handed me my keys) I'll leave you to it.

I tried to unlock but it wasn't locked so I went in.

Girl: oh hey (she ran towards me and hugged me) I'm Onthatile Mokoena but you can call me Thati, I'm from the free state and I'm your roommate.

Me: Hi, I'm Zemvelo Mkhize from KZN, nice to meet you roomie.

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I called at home and let them know I've arrived safely. Thati helped me unpack while we got to know each other. She seems

like a kind and bubbly soul and we're actually doing the same course, LLB. I think we'll get along just fine.

Thati: I ordered uber eats for us, the food should be here in a minute.

Me: okay how much do I owe you?

Thati: please Zem, consider it a welcome meal, on me.

I thanked her. The food arrived and we dug in.

I went to soak myself in a bath, it's been a long day. Thati kept on checking if I'm still alive because apparently I've been in there for too long, so I got out, wore my pyjamas and went to bed. I fell asleep immediately, I was really exhausted

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and tomorrow it's orientation week.

Insert 5

The orientation week went well, I'm now familiar with the Campus and I've met a few of my class mates. Thati showed me around, the shops, mall, parks and the like. She's been here for 2 weeks so she knows her way around now. In fact today it's Saturday and we decided to go on a tour before classes on Monday. I've told her about my dream to come to Cape Town and visit the table mountain, Robben island and all the other tours. So today we're going to the table mountain, it's actually 20 minutes away from campus.

We rode the cable car up the table mountain and man Cape Town is the most beautiful city, I love nature and art so I'm having the best time of my life

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taking photographs of the stunning view. After our ride we went to eat then went to the hop-on-hop-off bus sightseeing tour, I am in love.

I really had a great day. On our way back to res, we passed one of South Africa's largest law firms, Bowmans Law, they have firms in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

Thati: "friend if I could be an intern at this law firm, it'd be a dream come true" she said smiling.

We are now friends. I smiled back at her and said "same, we have to work hard and our dreams might just come true"

One of my goals is to start an internship at a law firm specifically Bowmans while studying so I can get practical experience and build my professional network. Normally first years do not intern but I'm hoping for an exception.

Anyway we arrived in our room, took a shower and watched Netflix then went to bed.

Insert 6

I woke up and it's 6 o'clock , I checked my WhatsApp and Thandile sent me a picture of soft porridge. I giggled and went to take a shower and prepared for church. Fortunately Thati and I found a nearby church when she was showing me around so we're going there today.

After taking a shower I woke Thati up and she showered while I prepared breakfast. She was finished and I dished up for us.

Thati: And then? Porridge? Are we out of Russians or pancakes?

Me: I laughed and told her about my family tradition. She actually loved the idea and suggested that I keep it going and she'd gladly do it with me.

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I am so grateful for her

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she's more of a sister to me.

We left for church and the service was really great.

After service we went to spur.

I took a picture and sent it to Thandile then she called me with a video call.

Me: Hey fam.

Them: Hey Mvelo we miss you.

Me: I miss you too guys, say hi to Thati.

Them: Hey Thati.

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Mom: Thank you for being such a blessing to my sunflower Thati.



Thati: I'm also blessed to have her momma.

Me: Okay bye guys, our food is getting cold.

She hung up.

Thati: okay Sunflower

Me: Don't.

She laughed and we ate and went

back to our room.



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Insert 7

I woke up and checked the time on my phone, shoot! It's 07:15 we slept late yesterday and forgot to set an alarm.

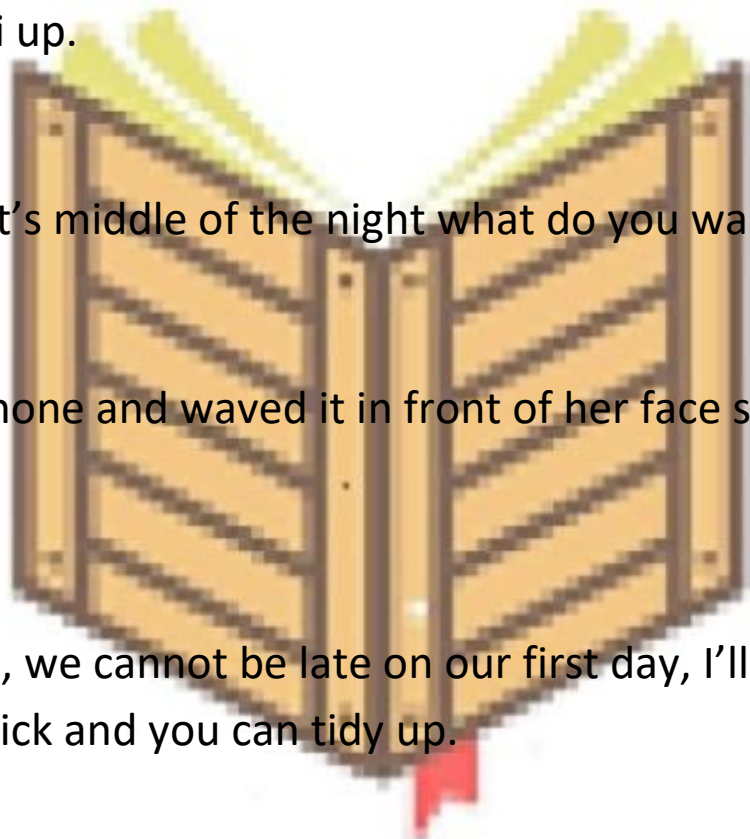
I woke Thati up.

Thati: Zem it's middle of the night what do you want?

I took my phone and waved it in front of her face so she can see the time.

Thati: oh no, we cannot be late on our first day, I'll shower first since I'm quick and you can tidy up.

By half past 7 she was done then I went in the shower. I took the quickest one and was done by 07:45.



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I wore ripped blue jeans, a black t-shirt and white Nike airforce, I took my bag and grabbed an apple and banana then we made our way to class by exactly 8 o'clock.

Me: class has already started I'm so embarrassed, being late first day.

Thati: I'm just glad I don't have to enter the class alone, that would be way worse.

We arrived in class at 8:10 so we're ten minutes late, we were breathing heavily because of the running we did.

The lecturer: Are you guys here for the Introduction to Law class?

Thati: Yes sir

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The lecturer: well good news is you are very early for the next class but too late for mine, now please excuse us.

The whole class went like “wooo”

We walked out of the venue shamefully.

Thati and I stared at each other for few seconds and burst in laughter.

Me: dude why are you laughing? We just got kicked out of class.

Thati: it's such a fun experience though, come on let's go to the cafeteria and get some decent food while we wait for the 9 o'clock class.

We ate and left to our next class, we arrived early, the lecturer wasn't there yet.

Girl: oh look, it's the two stray cats who got kicked out of class.

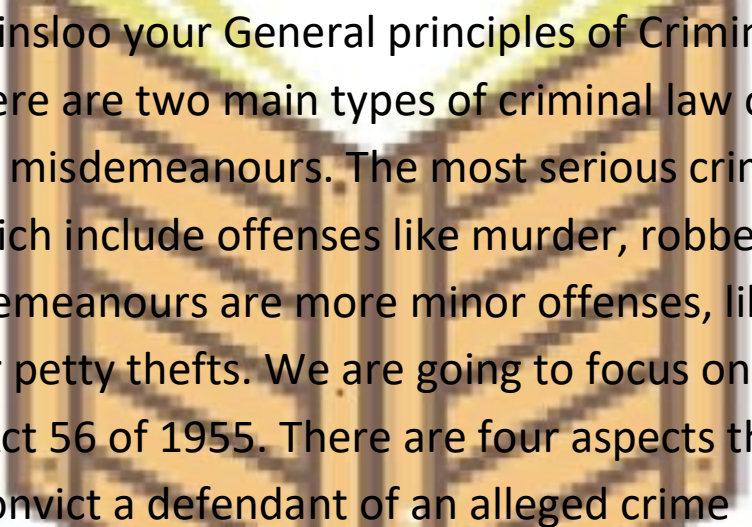


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She laughed along with her squad. We ignored them and the lecturer came in.

Lecturer: "Good morning students

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I am Mrs Prinsloo your General principles of Criminal Law lecturer. There are two main types of criminal law offenses: felonies and misdemeanours. The most serious crimes are felonies, which include offenses like murder, robbery, and arson. Misdemeanours are more minor offenses, like traffic violations or petty thefts. We are going to focus on the Criminal Procedure Act 56 of 1955. There are four aspects that must be proven to convict a defendant of an alleged crime

1. Actus Reus, Latin for "guilty act"

2. Mens Rea, Latin for "guilty mind"

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3. Concurrence which means that both the intent of a crime and voluntary criminal act must both be present and proven.

4. And lastly Causation which is proof of a causal relationship between the act and the resulting crime.”

Okay those latin words are going to be a problem. The lecture ended and we attended the rest of our classes.

Me: Thati can you please accompany me to Down South Food Bar.

Thati: oh I thought today we're eating a home cooked meal.

Me: yes I'm just going to hand in my CV

Thati: Because??

Her face was actually funny.

Me: Because I want to do something on the side other than school to keep me busy and save money for myself.



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Thati: well okay that's understandable, as for me I'm already part of the netball team so that's what I'll be doing to refresh my mind.

Me: and you know me and sport are like water and oil, we really don't mix

She laughed and we went to Down South food Bar and I handed in my CV for the waitress job and to my surprise they did the interview same time and well I always think on my feet so I'm pretty sure I did well. After I was done we went to our room.

We chilled until it was time to prepare Dinner , Thati was making Lasagna. She really loves cooking and I on the other hand, not so much. I would have just cooked mac and cheese. I'm one of those persons who keeps the cook entertained until they are done.

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We had dinner and an email came through. It was from the restaurant, it says I got the job, that was fast. I told Thati and she was so happy for me.

Thati: I'll go grab snacks and we'll celebrate.

Me: You want us to be late again for class tomorrow?

Thati: oh such a bummer. Fine, when do you start?

Me: This weekend.

I'll be working only on weekends, it's a part time job.

I called mom and told her how my first day went and that I got a job. She was mad that I was late but happy for me that I got a job but made me promise it will not interfere with my studies. I went straight to bed after the call.

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Insert 8

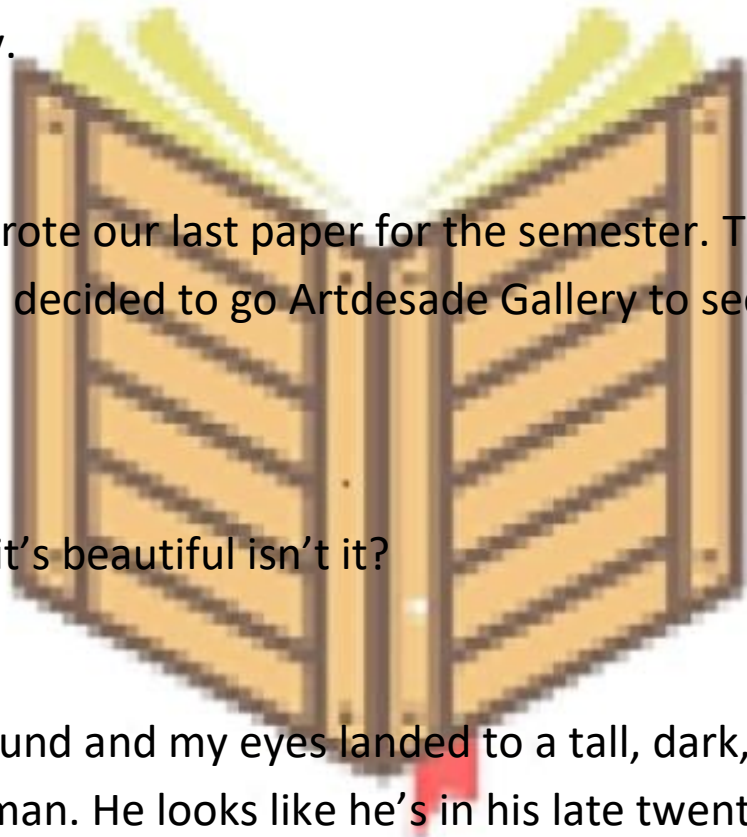
It's been 4 months now, Law is very demanding but I've been studying hard because I want to be picked to be part of the UCT Law clinic next semester. Work is going great. Thati has a boyfriend, Jay and they've been together for 2 months, she's really happy.

Today we wrote our last paper for the semester. Thati went out with Jay so I decided to go Artdesade Gallery to see their artwork.

Man voice: it's beautiful isn't it?

I turned around and my eyes landed to a tall, dark, well-built handsome man. He looks like he's in his late twenties, he was wearing a black tuxedo, his scent filled my nostrils. Damn he's so fine.

Him :ahem (cleared his throat)



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Oh my God I'm drooling, I came back to Earth.

Me: I'm sorry you were saying?

Him: I was talking about this beautiful artwork.

Me: oh yeah and the composition evokes such a happy emotion, and the details are well complementary.

Him: mhm you know your art.

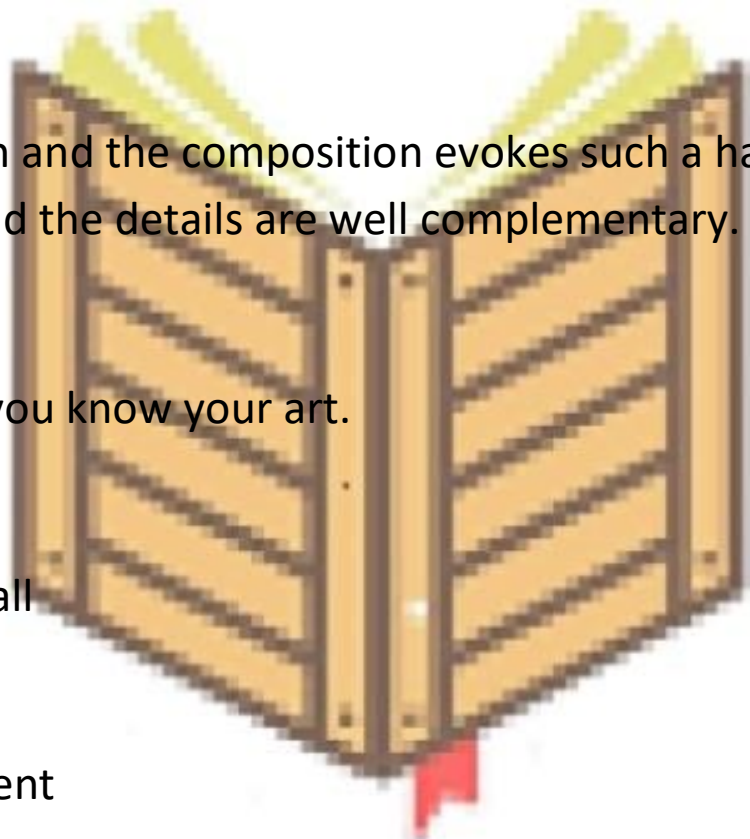
Me: Not at all

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I'm just a fan. Do you paint?

Him: yes I do, as a hobby.

Me: that's great. Zemvelo here (I said, giving him my hand for a handshake)



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Him: That's a beautiful name, where are my manners, I'm Thembinkosi.

Me: Nice to meet you.

Someone called out his name.

Nkosi: it was lovely meeting you miss, please excuse me.

Don't look at me like that, yes I'm calling him Nkosi.

He walked away. I continued admiring the paintings and went back to res. Tomorrow I'm going home for the June holidays, I took a leave from work. I'm so excited I really miss my family so much.

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Thati came in.

Me: How was your day?

Thati: it was fantastic, I love Jay so much I'm thinking of changing my name to rhyme with his and call myself 'May'

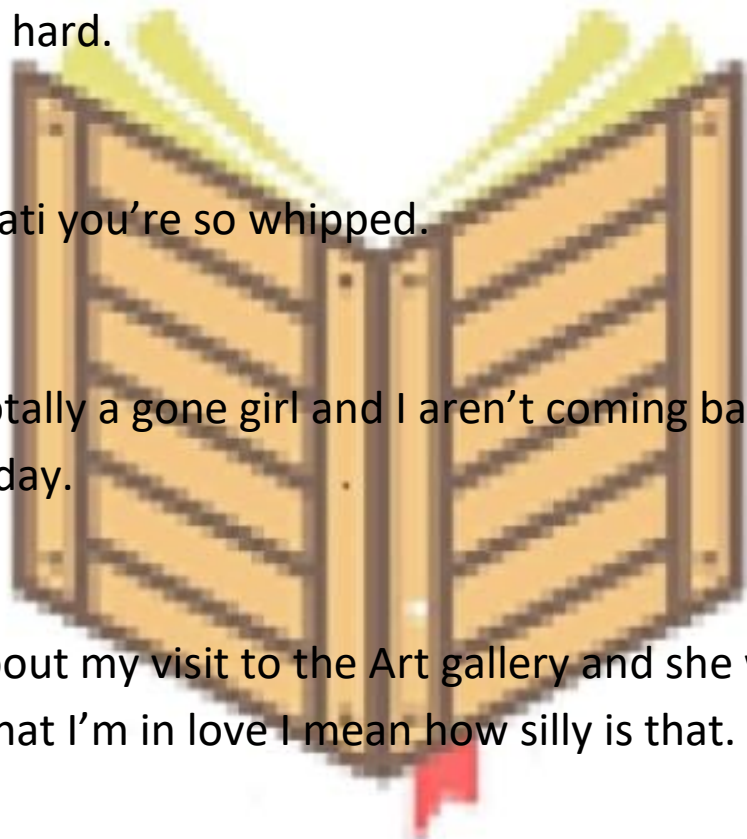
I laughed so hard.

Me: Jeez Thati you're so whipped.

Thati: I'm totally a gone girl and I aren't coming back. Tell me about your day.

I told her about my visit to the Art gallery and she was so convinced that I'm in love I mean how silly is that.

We started packing, because she's also leaving for home tomorrow.



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Insert 9

It's Saturday and I've landed at the Pietermaritzburg Airport.

Inathi quickly spotted me and ran towards me, I embraced him and went to Sis Thandile and mom and I hugged them as well.

Thandile: look at you Cape Town girl, your behind has grown and you're glowing

Me: please stop exaggerating.

Mom: Your sister has moved out.

Me: What? When? Why?

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Thandile: Mom, you couldn't wait until we got home. Well Mvelo I've been waiting for you to go to varsity so I could move out, I'm a grown woman now.

Inathi: why are you guys Making it sound like she bought a house when she's actually cohabiting?

Me: what? Guys?

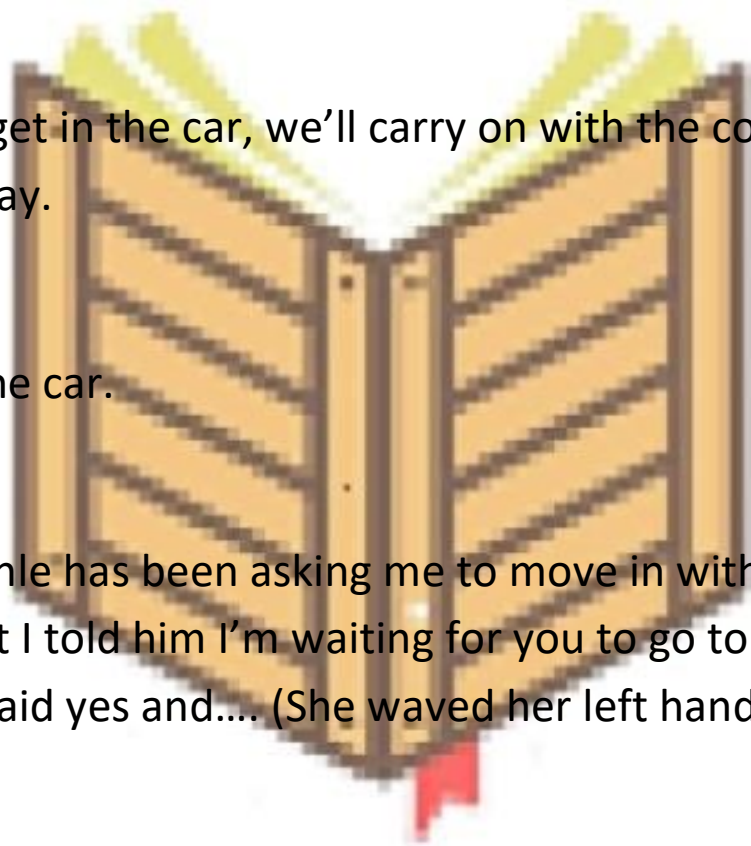
Mom: y'all get in the car, we'll carry on with the conversation along the way.

We got in the car.

Thandile: Sihle has been asking me to move in with him since last year but I told him I'm waiting for you to go to varsity first. So I finally said yes and.... (She waved her left hand)

Me: oh my God, you got engaged? When and why am I only hearing about this now.

Thandile: on Wednesday at a restaurant, I wanted to surprise you. Look at your face, so priceless.



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Inathi: and the wedding is in December.

Thandile: Inathi and mom why are you telling my story

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you guys.

I hugged her and sang “uthe ubhuti sizomlanda umakoti”

I’m very excited for my sister. She’s been with Sihle for 4 years now and they are good together.

Mom: in other news, Emma, pastor Mthembu’s daughter is now in the praise team, she’s very humble now and sometimes visits us.

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Me: That’s good to hear mom. I can’t wait to go to church tomorrow.

Inathi: your mom told the whole congregation that her daughter is studying to become an advocate

Me: mom!

Mom: what? I'm just so proud of you and that we'll have a lawyer in the family.

We arrived home, I unpacked, took a shower then went to the kitchen.

Mom cooked dinner, I've missed her Cooking. We ate and conversed, just catching up and showing them pictures of my adventures.

I went to my room and called Thati, she also arrived safely at home, we spoke a bit and then I went to bed.



Insert 10

It's Sunday, we went to church and it was great, the congregation was happy to see me and they said they've missed my singing. When I worship I really do shake the heavens lol.

After church we didn't go to spur, instead we went to Sihle's house. We've been invited for a braai.

Everyone was having fun. I was too tired so I went inside the house to lie down a bit. I started by going to the bathroom first, as I was walking up the stairs I heard some voices so I decided to stop and listen.

Voice 1: you promised me that Sihle will not propose that bitch and he'd be mine by now.

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That Voice sounds familiar.

Voice 2: will you trust the process? Look tonight all that will happen. See this drink here is spiked, I'm going to give it to Thandile and take her to the room, then you'll get Sihle to come upstairs and he'll find us together naked and dump her then she's all mine and he's all yours.

Voice 1: Are you delusional? How are you going to pull that off, those people are inseparable.

Voice 2: Relax, you go and chill with Thandile and her family and we'll get Sihle to chill with the boys alone. Just follow the plan.

All this while I've been recording.

I quickly ran out to find Thandi and held her by my side.

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Thandi: Mvelo what are you doing, where are you taking me? It's rude to leave guests.

Me: Just trust me and come with me.

We went to the speakers and I switched off the music and connected my phone and played the recording.

Sihle: Brad and Nelisiwe, I want you to get the hell out of my house and I never want to see you ever again!

Nelisiwe is my sister's Best Friend from high school. I can't believe her.

Brad: Skeem, I can explain

Sihle: I said get out!

Nelisiwe was just crying and they left.

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Thandile: Thank you so much Mvelo (she hugged me)



Everyone else just left and mom, Inathi and I decided to also leave and give Sihle and Thandile space to be alone.

We arrived at home.

Inathi: what a day!

We went to our rooms, I scrolled on Instagram, texted with Thati and then slept.

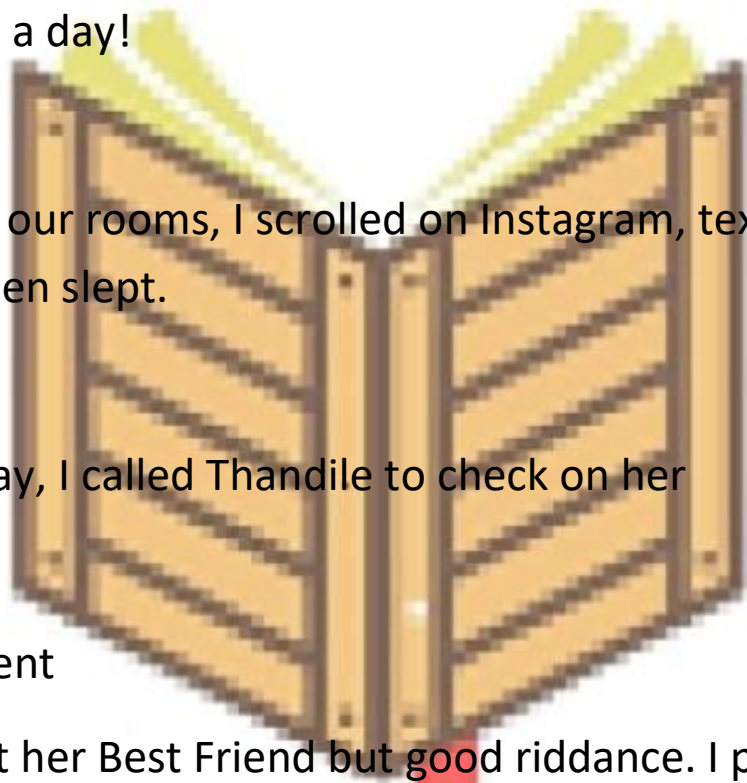
Following day, I called Thandile to check on her

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she just lost her Best Friend but good riddance. I played music and cleaned the house then took Inathi to the park.

Inathi: well I didn't come here just to chill, I'm going to play on the swings.

He left and I just watched him play.



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Someone tapped my shoulder, I turned to look at them.

It's Emma.

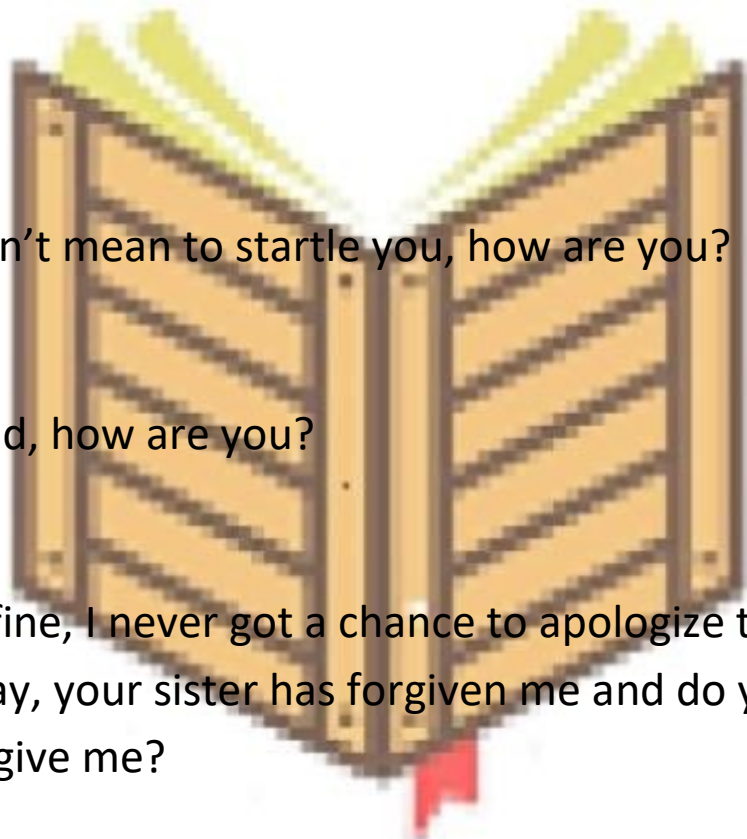
Emma: I didn't mean to startle you, how are you?

Me: I'm good, how are you?

Emma: I'm fine, I never got a chance to apologize to you about the other day, your sister has forgiven me and do you think you can also forgive me?

Me: I've long forgiven you, don't sweat it.

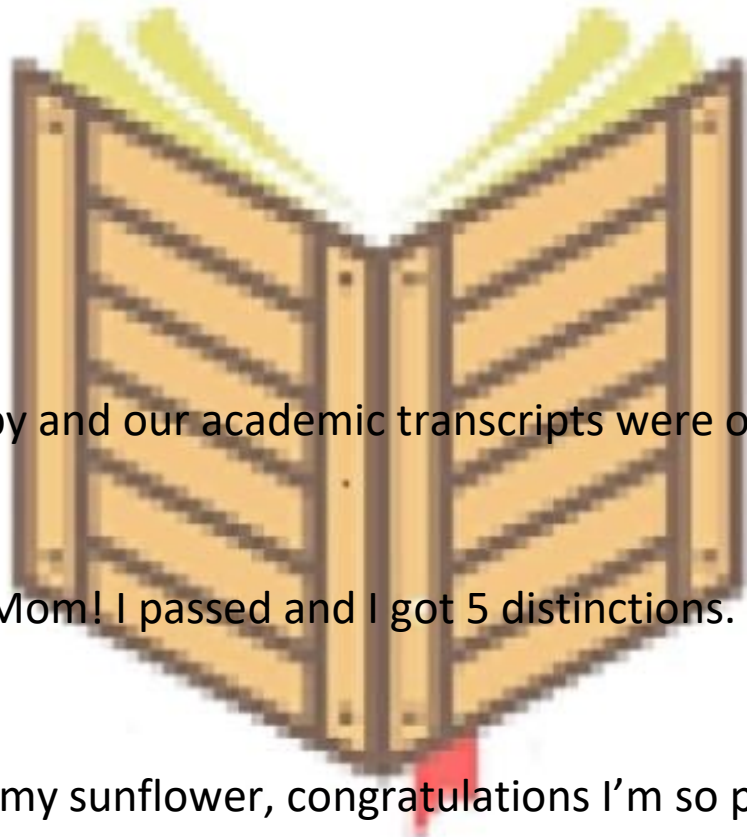
Emma: well can I join you?, I brought snow pies



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Me: sure. I took the snow pie and she told me about how she wants to be an event organiser and the reason she dropped out in the US is because she didn't like what she was studying which was Chemical engineering.

It was now getting late so we said our goodbyes and went home.



Days went by and our academic transcripts were out.

Me: mom! Mom! I passed and I got 5 distinctions.

Mom: aww my sunflower, congratulations I'm so proud of you.

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Inathi: Congratulations sis Velo.

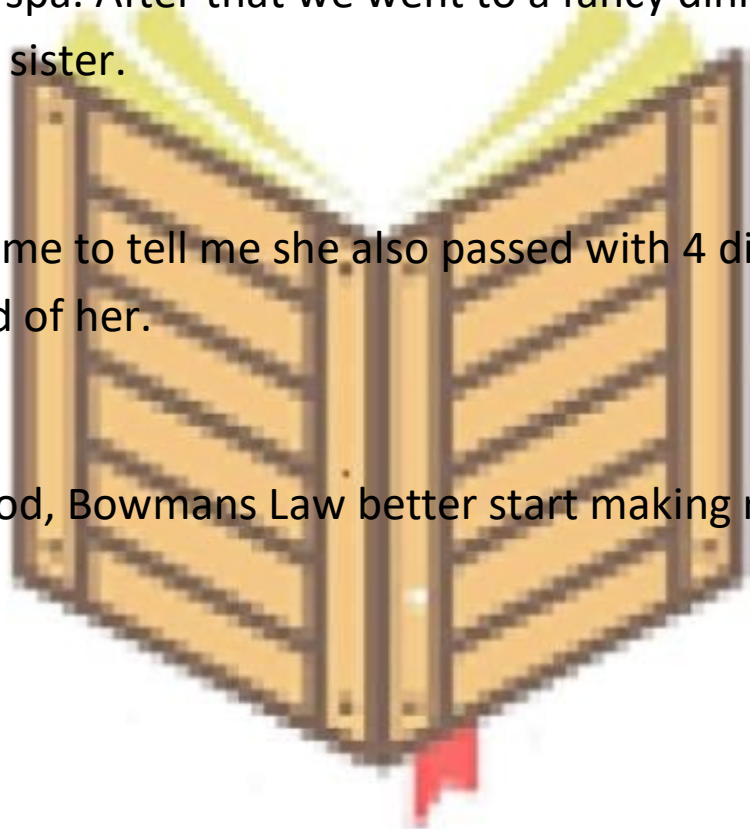
Thandile: well let's go out and celebrate.

One thing about my family, we celebrate everything , even small achievements.

We first went to do our hair, manicure and pedicure , then went to the spa. After that we went to a fancy dinner. Perks of having a big sister.

Thati called me to tell me she also passed with 4 distinctions, I'm so proud of her.

So far so good, Bowmans Law better start making room for us.



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Insert 11

Home was great. Thandile decided to take her chances and hire Emma to help her plan her wedding. The holidays were over, next time I come to Pietermaritzburg I'll be attending my sister's wedding in December. I was now back at Cape Town.

I arrived yesterday on Friday because I have to go back to work this weekend. Thati will be arriving later today.

I got ready for my shift and made my way to the restaurant.

Mr Magagula : Welcome back Miss Mkhize, I hope you had a great time at home.

Mr Magagula is my manager.

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Me: yes sir my holidays were great.

I started serving the tables.

Me: Good afternoon gentlemen, what can I get you today?

Man: Zemvelo?

Oh my God it's Thembinkosi from the art gallery.

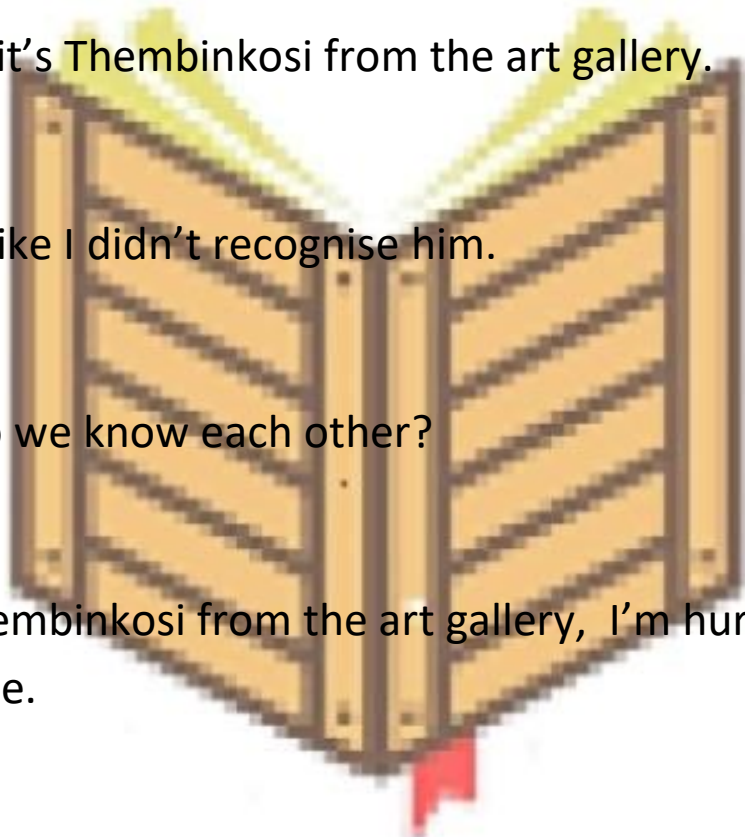
But I acted like I didn't recognise him.

Me: uhm do we know each other?

Him: It's Thembinkosi from the art gallery, I'm hurt you don't recognise me.

Me: oh I'm sorry, I must be really tired, I do remember you, it's good to see you again.

Nkosi: These are my friends Innocent and Ntokozo.



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Me: Hi, I'm Zemvelo, it's a pleasure meeting you.

Them: Nice to meet you too miss.

Why are they being so formal.

Nkosi: maMkhize, aww I'm glad to finally know your surname Khabazela.

How did he...?

Nkosi: your name tag

Oh I forgot about that.



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They gave me their orders and I went to the kitchen and finally breathed out. Sigh.

When their order was ready I took it to them and quickly left them and served other tables.

They left me fat tip. Oh my word

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they must be really loaded.

My shift ended and I went back to res. Thati has already arrived, we shared a hug.

Thati: oh friend I've missed you so much

Me: but not as much as you've missed Jay

Thati: yes and as much as I love you, I'm not going to sleep here tonight.

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Me: oh wow Thati and I thought we were gonna catch up.



Thati: well we spoke about all the drama that happened at home over the phone and your life is boring here, what news could you possibly have.

Me: Even if I say it's about the hot hunk from the gallery?

Thati: you don't say, you know what, I'll see Jay tomorrow. Help me unpack.

I helped her unpack and then ate dinner that I brought from the restaurant.

Thati: out with it.

Me: so I met him again today during my shift at the restaurant.

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I told her everything and she had this silly smug on her face.

I snapped my fingers at her face 'Thati!'



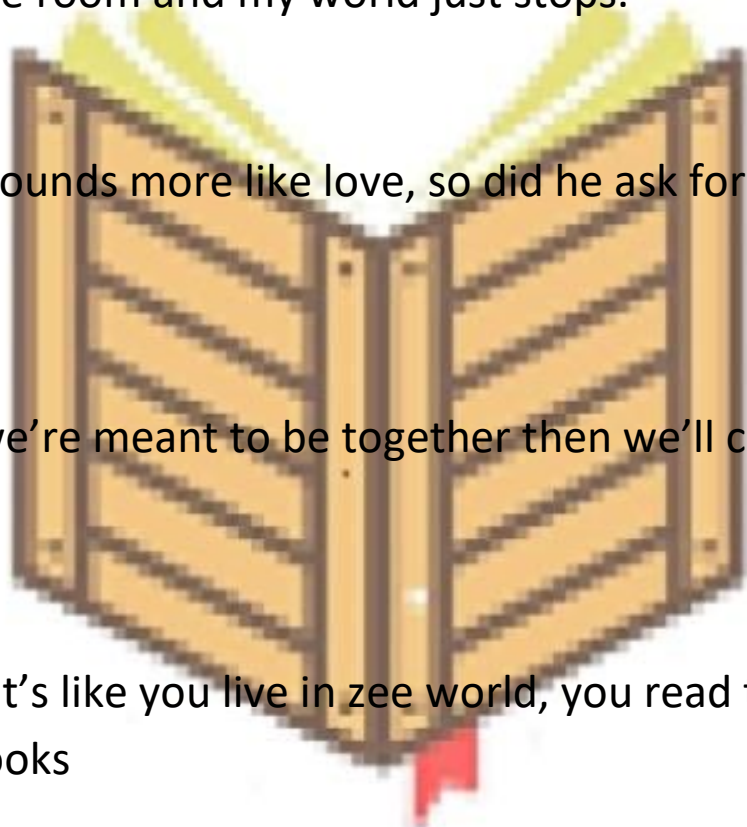
Thati: I'm sorry friend I was just trying to picture you guys already together, feeding each other aarg so beautiful.

Me: I think I like him. It's like when I see him, he's the only person in the room and my world just stops.

Thati: that sounds more like love, so did he ask for your numbers?

Me: No, if we're meant to be together then we'll cross paths again.

Thati: gosh it's like you live in zee world, you read too much of romantic books



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We laughed and chatted some more and went to sleep.

Insert 12

Today it's Sunday, I woke up, did my hygiene process and then we went to church.

I was leading the worship today. I sang "Mighty warrior great in battle, Jehovah is your name"

I could feel the holy spirit taking over. "I want you to forget about all your troubles, all your sins because Jesus paid it all in the cross. Tell him who he is, magnify him because he is worthy of our worship. Let us exalt his powerful name, oh precious God, we bless your holy name, we glorify your holy name, you are wonderful oh God, you are faithful. Come on church of God let's worship him, he is an omnipotent God, and omnipresent God an omniscient God. Surrender all to him, oh the ancient of days, there is no other God like you". We worshiped and prayed. Then the pastor shared a sermon.

The service was really powerful today and after that Thati and I went to spur for lunch.

I ordered a Grilled Chicken Burger Double and Thati ordered a Rib Burger Double.

Our order arrived and we ate then left.

Thati: Oh look it's a Bowsman law car

Me: please Thati don't tell me you're planning for us to go there and literally say "Good afternoon sir can you plug us with a law internship at Bowmans"

Thati: why not dude, wait someone is getting out of the car.

I stared at him from the bottom, he was wearing black sneakers, black ripped jeans and a black t-shirt. See I have a thing for a man in a tuxedo and all black. I finally got to his face, oh my God it can't be.

Thati: Zem!! I've been calling your name for the past minute.

Me: Thati, it's him

Thati: Him as in Mr art gallery?

Me: Dude I told you his name

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stop calling him that. Oh no he saw us, he's coming to our direction, quickly hide me

Thati: too late

Nkosi: Ladies, good afternoon

Us: Hiii (awkwardly)

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Nkosi: (chuckled) Zemvelo, we meet again. I think the universe wants me to make you my wife.



Oh my God I felt chills all over my body, and Thati just stood there smiling at us.

Me: (I maintained a straight face) Nkosi.

Oh my God why did I call him that, my tongue just betrayed me.

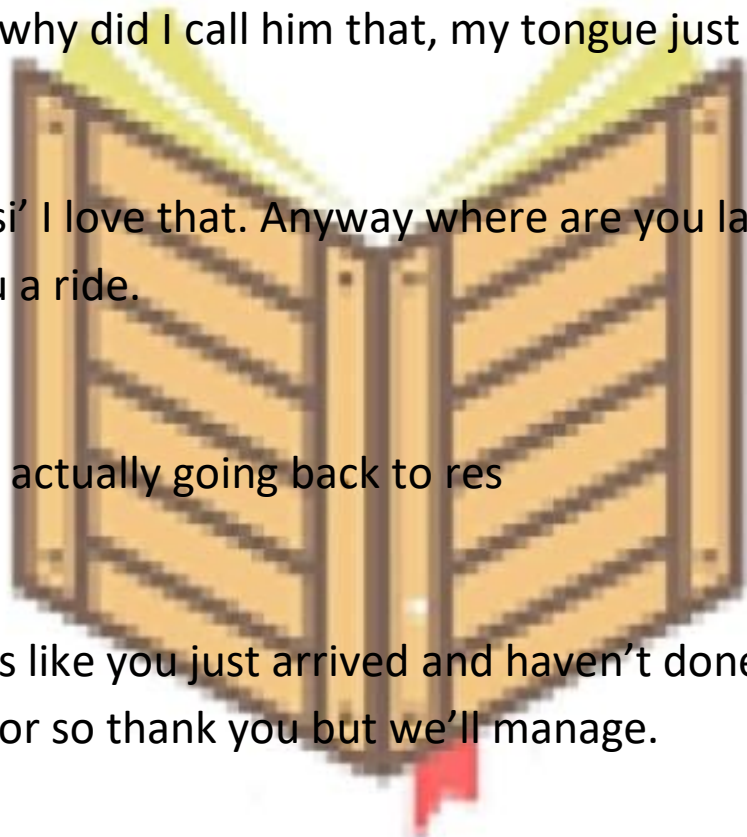
Nkosi: 'Nkosi' I love that. Anyway where are you ladies off to? I can give you a ride.

Thati: we're actually going back to res

Me: it seems like you just arrived and haven't done what you came here for so thank you but we'll manage.

Nkosi: well I just brought the company car here for the driver so my duty is done, there's my car over there, shall we?

(He pointed at the white Range Rover Evoque) Thati just went crazy, She made me take the front sit, so we hopped in.



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Nkosi: You make that dress look more beautiful. You're a work of art, Can you allow me the honour to make a painting of you?

Me: uhm, I don't see why not but I get to keep the portrait.

Nkosi: Deal.

He handed me his phone to put my numbers, and I did and gave it back to him.

Me: well this is us, thank you for the ride.

Nkosi: it's only my pleasure, enjoy the rest of your day ladies.

Thati: Bye Nkosi

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Oh my word ,Thati is so extra.

He drove off and we got inside our room. We stared at each other for few seconds and we screamed whilst jumping up and down.

Thati: Friend you didn't tell me he was that hot and he's freaking working at Bowmans.

Me: oh my God he's working at Bowmans, I can't like someone who's working where I wish to work at.

Thati: stop thinking about all that, he finally asked for your numbers chommie

We changed our clothes and watched Netflix. My phone beeped.

" You're beautiful -Nkosi"

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I smiled and replied " I gave you my number to get details of when and where you're gonna make a painting of me Mr, not for compliments"

He called me and I picked up.

Me: Thembinkosi

Nkosi: I'm no longer Nkosi now? When are you available Ms?

Me: I am off this Saturday

Nkosi: Saturday it is, Goodnight maMkhize.

He hung up

I was smiling from ear to ear.



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Insert 13

It's Monday morning, we got ready for class.

Mrs Prinsloo: "Welcome back students, I will be your lecturer for Criminal law: specific crimes. Congratulations to all the students who did well last semester. The list of students who are going to work at the UCT law clinic is going to be available after this lesson. Things are about to get hectic, I urge you all to bring your A game and take your studies very serious. Take out your textbooks and turn to page 381."

It was now getting real. I am so nervous I really hope Thati and I made it to the list of the students picked to partake in the law clinic.

The lesson ended and we all rushed to check our names. Thati saw hers first, we screamed and hugged then we checked for mine and I was also in. This is the happiest day of my life.

Our classes ended and we went back to res.

Today is our first day at the Law clinic.

Woman: “Good morning students, I am Mrs Hlophe, one of the clinic’s attorneys. In front of you is a file of the first pro bono case we’re going to be working on.

This is Nosipho Bhele, a 30 year old female who’s been in prison for 5 years for murdering her husband. The court has granted us an appeal, now you have 30 minutes to come up with a defence and a way to approach this case and free this innocent woman.”

I quickly went through the file and jogged down all possible defences I could come up with.

Mrs Hlope: Time up! Mr Meyer?

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Mr Meyer: “we can argue self-defence. Mrs Bhele was initially represented by a public defender that advised her to plead guilty. She was lazy to do her work. Mr Bhele was abusing his

wife so that day he came back from work and found Mrs Bhele dressed up ready to go out to celebrate her sister's birthday and he got mad and accused her of cheating and started assaulting her, Mrs Bhele took the nearest weapon she can find to defend herself, which was the trophy and hit his head. There were very clear bruises found on her body to show a sign of struggle."



Oh my God he's good.

Mrs Hlophe: Ms Mkhize?

Me: we can introduce a new suspect. Mr Bhele was cheating on his wife and he promised his mistress that he'll leave his wife but when she found out he wasn't really going to leave his wife, he went to his house to make him choose between her and the wife, more like force him to leave his wife and when Mr Bhele chose his wife, she was angry and started breaking things in the house and when Mr Bhele tried to stop her she took the trophy and banged his head and ran from the crime scene. She was

wearing those fancy hand gloves which is why her finger prints were not found. But it only made sense that Mrs Bhele's prints were found because it was her husband's trophy in her house. There are pictures to prove the affair and CCTVs showing she was wearing these gloves on the day of the murder and her car records places her at the house at the day of the murder.

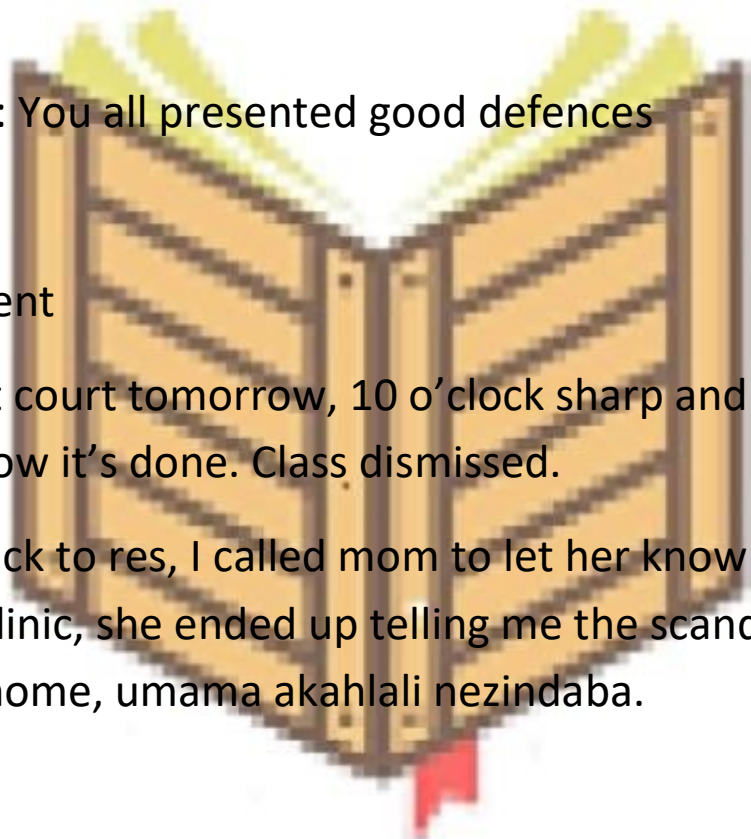
Mrs Hlophe: You all presented good defences

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meet me at court tomorrow, 10 o'clock sharp and watch me show you how it's done. Class dismissed.

We went back to res, I called mom to let her know we made it to the law clinic, she ended up telling me the scandals that goes on back at home, umama akahlali nezindaba.

We ended the call then Thati and I did some studying and also looking into the other cases for the law clinic then went to sleep.



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It's 10 o'clock and we're at Cape Town High Court.

"All rise"

Judge: you may be seated

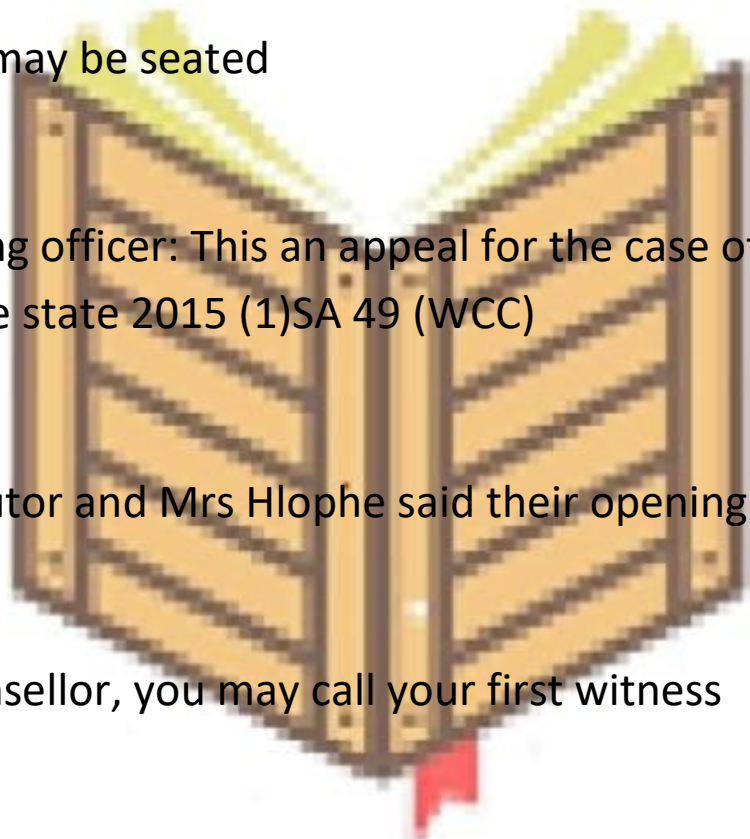
The presiding officer: This an appeal for the case of Nosipho Bhele vs The state 2015 (1)SA 49 (WCC)

The prosecutor and Mrs Hlophe said their opening statements.

Judge: Counsellor, you may call your first witness

Mrs Hlophe: Thank you My Lord, the defence calls Ms Mbali Ndimande to the stand.

The presiding officer: Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?



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Mbali: I do

Mrs Hlophe grilled the poor girl in the stand until she confessed to killing Mr Bhele.

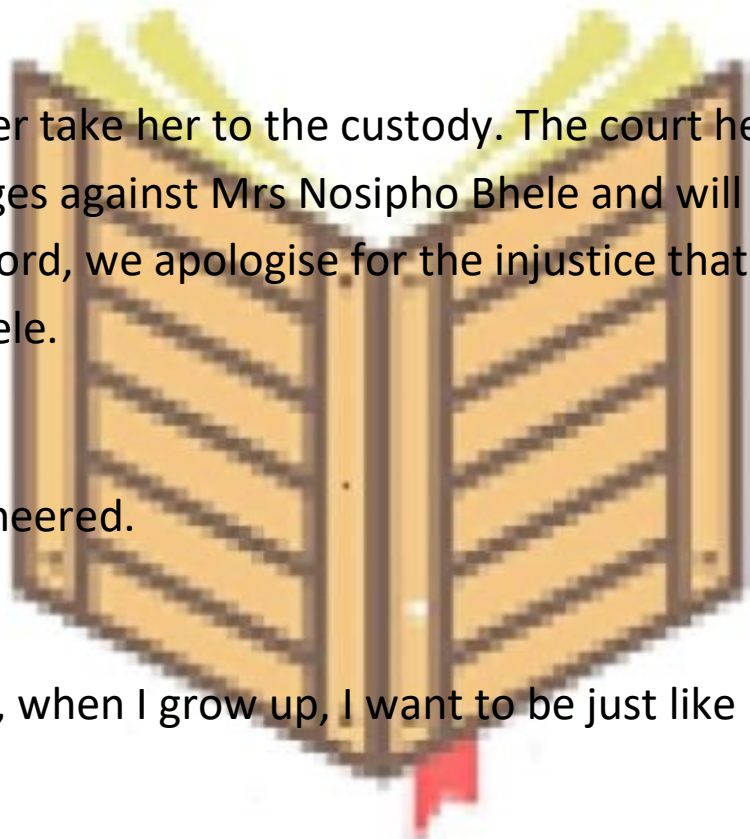
Judge: officer take her to the custody. The court hereby dismiss all the charges against Mrs Nosipho Bhele and will clear her criminal record, we apologise for the injustice that happened to you Mrs Bhele.

The court cheered.

Thati: wow , when I grow up, I want to be just like Mrs Hlophe

Me: I thought you wanted to be like Annelise Keating from how to get away with murder?

She laughed “well at least this is real life”



Mrs Hlophe: Kids, you should be proud of yourselves ,you did great.

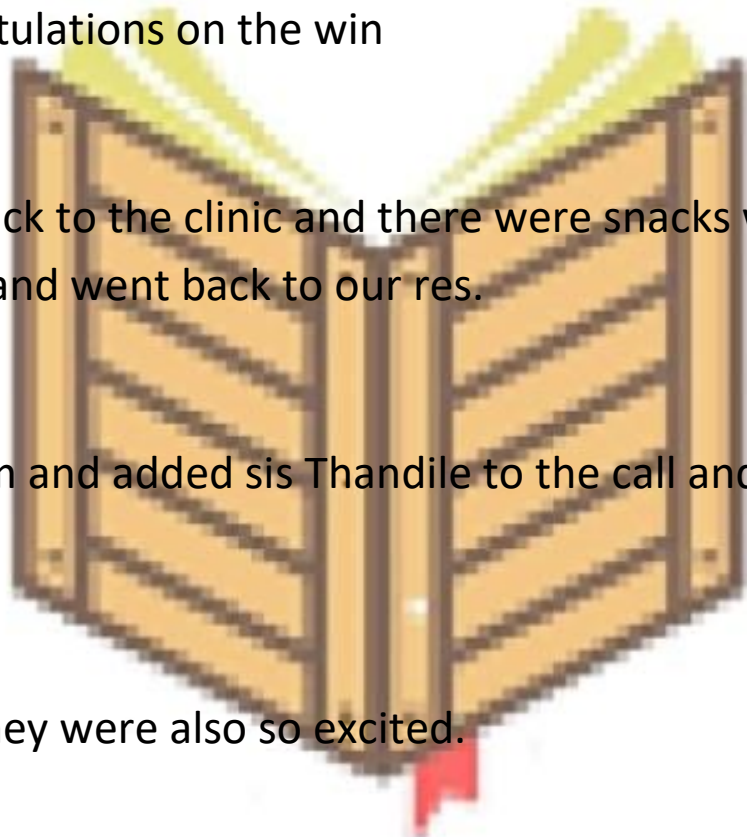
Mr Meyer: Thank you Mrs.

Me: Congratulations on the win

We went back to the clinic and there were snacks we celebrated and went back to our res.

I called mom and added sis Thandile to the call and told them we won

the case, they were also so excited.



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Insert 14

Today it's Saturday, I'm meeting Nkosi for the painting.

Thati: Girl what are you wearing? Take that off.

Me: You remind me of Thandile, you guys are such bullies

Thati: sometimes your choice of clothing is disappointing friend.

She made me wear a Maxi Boho African dress with a V-neck and floral print, with a matching head wrap. You'd swear I'm attending a wedding but it makes sense because Nkosi did mention that he's looking for making an African art.

Nkosi texted me that he's outside.

Me: Okay friend how do I look?



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Thati: like an African Queen.

I smiled and said goodbye then walked out.

Nkosi: (his jaw dropped)

Me: Close your mouth, flies will get in.

Nkosi: wow Zemvelo you look like an African goddess.

Me: Thank you.

He opened the door for me and he wouldn't tell me where we're going.



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After a while, We arrived at what looks like an art studio.

Nkosi: Welcome to my world.

Me: wow this looks so beautiful.

He started with his painting, I was telling him about myself and I left nothing, gosh ngidlisa iteam. (I'm making my team lose)

I kept on shifting from my position because I was talking a lot and he had to adjust me to pose properly.

Nkosi: you know what, let's take a break.

We went to the nearest ice cream shop and had a light conversation. He was now the one telling me about himself. We really have a lot in common. He's actually an associate at Bowsman, he's an Attorney, originally from Durban, KZN, his family is really successful.

Nkosi: enough talking, let's get back to work. We were at it whole day and by 19:00 pm he was done and he framed it.

Me: Wow this is so beautiful

It was the most beautiful art piece I've ever seen.

Me: why didn't you pursue art as a career?

Nkosi: I've always wanted to be a lawyer so art is just a talent I inherited from my mom and a hobby that I hold dear to heart.

Me: your mom sounds like a great person.

Nkosi: yeah I've really starved you ntokazi yakwaKhabazela (Khabazela Princess)

I laughed, and he took a pic of the portrait since he won't get to keep it.

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We went to The Hussar Grill restaurant and ate then he drove me back to res.

Him: I had a great day today.

Me: Me too, thank you Mr Makhoba

He told me his surname earlier.

Nkosi: we should do this again sometime.

Me: Goodnight

He gave me my portrait and I cat walked to my room

I could feel his eyes on me.

Thati: I want to hear everything!

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I gave her all the details and she kept on saying 'ncooh' then she left me to spend the night at Jay's since it's weekend.

It's Monday again. God, weekend really lasts for 2 minutes.



As Thati and I made our way to campus, there were flyers of pictures of me and Nkosi all over the campus , pictures of when he fetched me Saturday morning, at the restaurant and when he dropped me off at night. Thati helped me take them down.

Then the girl who was on our case when we were late first day came to us, I think her name is Melly.

Melly: well well well , if it isn't the campus slut.

Whoa how dare she? I don't even have a single boyfriend in campus.

Thati: what did you just call my friend?

I calmed her down.



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Melly: Everyone in the campus knows about how you slept your way to the top. You seduced Thembinkosi Makhoba to get you a place at the law clinic.

What? And what does Thembikosi have to do with the clinic?

We went to class and everyone was giving me stares.

I texted Nkosi and asked to meet. He agreed to meet at lunch.

Nkosi: Hey, are you okay, you don't look fine.

I told him about the flyers at school.

Nkosi: Yeah the school called me regarding that and it's fixed. I am really sorry you had to go through all that.

Me: what do you mean the school called you, what do you have to do with the school?



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Nkosi: I run the Clinic.

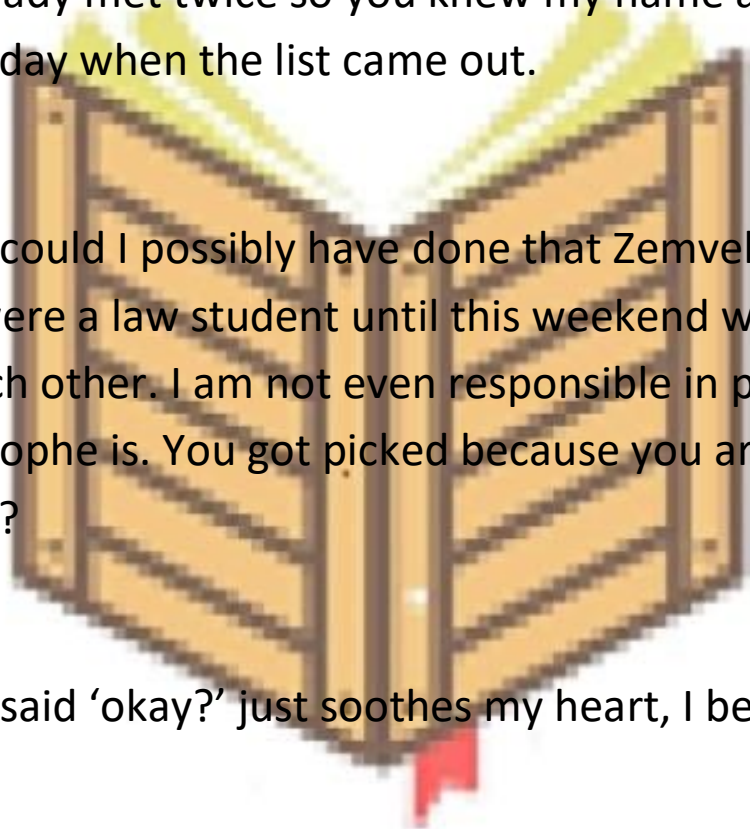
Me: What do you mean you run the clinic. So you're telling me I got picked for the clinic because you've pulled strings for me? We had already met twice so you knew my name and surname before Monday when the list came out.

Nkosi: How could I possibly have done that Zemvelo? I didn't know you were a law student until this weekend when we got to know each other. I am not even responsible in picking students, Hlophe is. You got picked because you are smart, it's all you okay?

The way he said 'okay?' just soothes my heart, I believe him.

Me: Okay, I'm sorry for overreacting.

Nkosi: you're a law student, your mind is allowed to go wild.



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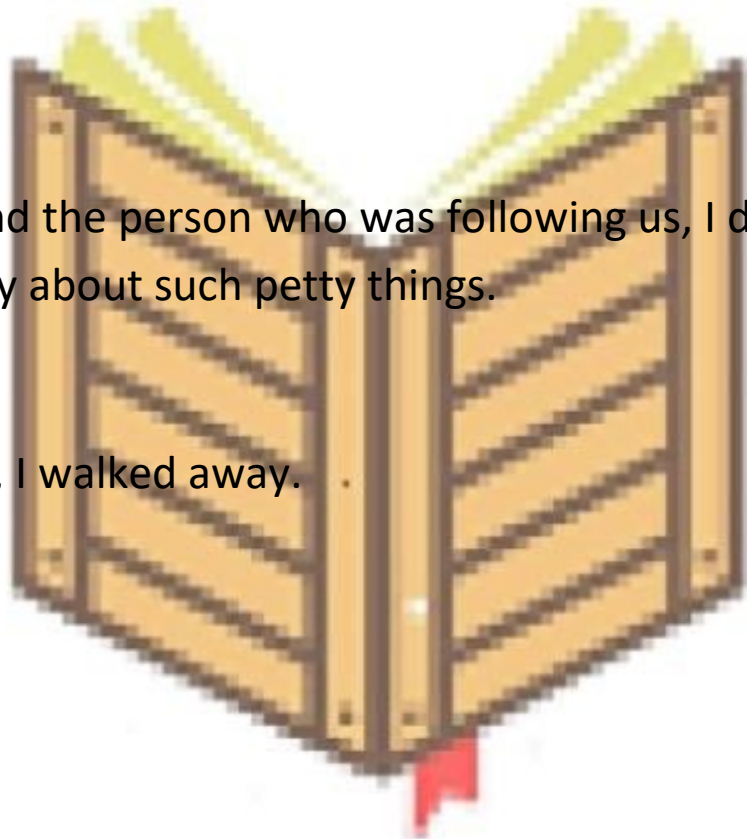
We laughed.

Nkosi: you have a beautiful laugh.

I stood up “I have to go before someone takes pictures of us again”

Nkosi: I’ll find the person who was following us, I don’t want you to worry about such petty things.

Me: Thanks, I walked away.



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Insert 15

“Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you” that was Thati singing to me.

Today it's 26 September, my birthday.

Me: Thank you friend.

She handed me a beautifully wrapped gift box. No she didn't. It's the Rupi Kaur boxed set. She's my favourite poet and her books are hard to find.

Me: Thank you thank you a million times friend. (I hugged her)

Thati: That's not all. **NOVELSGURU.COM**

She handed me another box, small this time.

Thati: Happy 20th birthday friend.

She got us tickets to a gospel concert happening tonight.

I hugged her in excitement. I am really glad I met her.

Then I got a call from an unknown number.

Me: hello

Voice: Ms Mkhize I'm outside your res to deliver your parcel.

Me: Alright I'm coming.

I didn't order anything but I didn't want to waste the poor guy's time, he's at work.

I arrived at the gate and indeed the parcel was for me. I signed for it and went back to the room.



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Thati: open it

Me: what if it's dead frogs or something

Thati: Stop being weird it's your birthday, maybe it's a gift.

I opened it and it was a Luella Bamboo handle mini bag, digitime women's heart watch set and sunflowers.

Thati: there's a card.

"To our sunflower, we're proud of the woman you've become, May you always be happy and live long, Happy twentieth birthday baby. - love: Mom, Thandile & Inathi"

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I got so emotional and my phone rang again, it's mom.

They all sang for me immediately I picked up.

Me: Thank you much fam, for the gifts as well and I love you too.

Mom: enjoy your birthday sunflower.

They hung up.

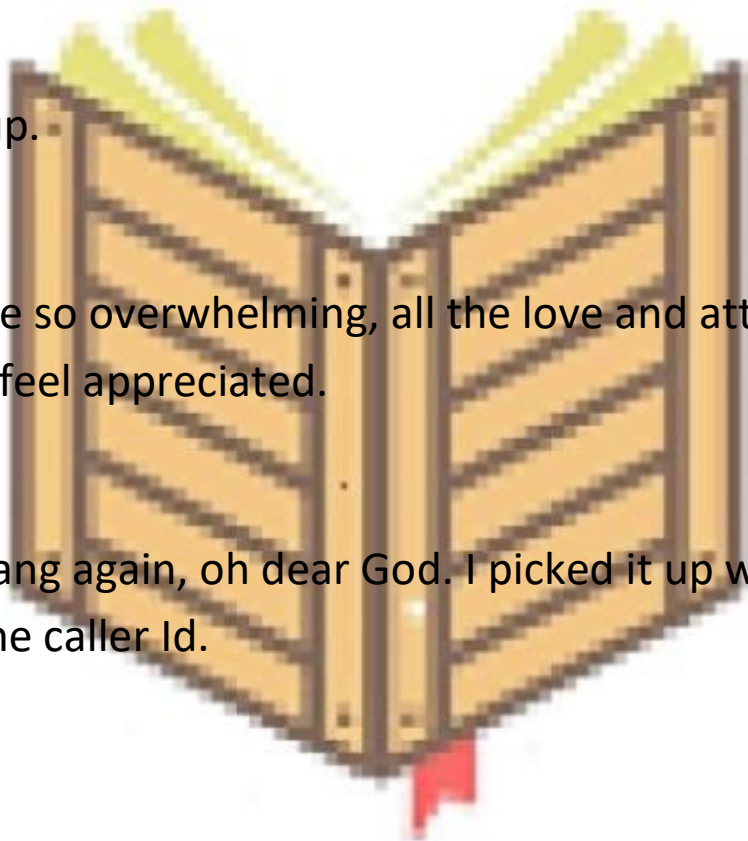
Birthdays are so overwhelming, all the love and attention but it's great to feel appreciated.

My phone rang again, oh dear God. I picked it up without looking at the caller Id.

Me: hello

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Nkosi: Hey Beautiful can you come outside.



My heart melted. It's Nkosi, I haven't spoken to him since that day when our pictures were all over campus.

Me: okay I'll be out in a jiffy.

I went out and he pulled me into his arms, gosh he smells so heavenly.

Nkosi: Happy birthday (he handed me sunflowers)

He remembered

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he remembered my birthday and that I love sunflowers aww.

Me: Thank you so much.

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We just stared at each other for a good minute and I cleared my throat.

Me: uhm I should go put these in the water.

Nkosi: wait, take this.

Me: A gift. I took it and thanked him then went inside.

Thati: what did bae want?

Me: he's not my bae and he was here to wish me a happy birthday and give me these.

She quickly took the gift box and opened it and screamed.

Me: Thati you're damaging my ears what is it?

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Thati: Chommy this is a real diamond.

I went to check, it's a Petite Diamond Butterfly necklace. It's so beautiful.

Thati: This costs around R15 000. Wait, there's a card, please read it out loud.

I took it and read it "They say a diamond is a girl's Best friend so I picked this one specially for you, a diamond for another diamond. Happy birthday Zemvelo"

I was actually emotional right now.

Thati: call him

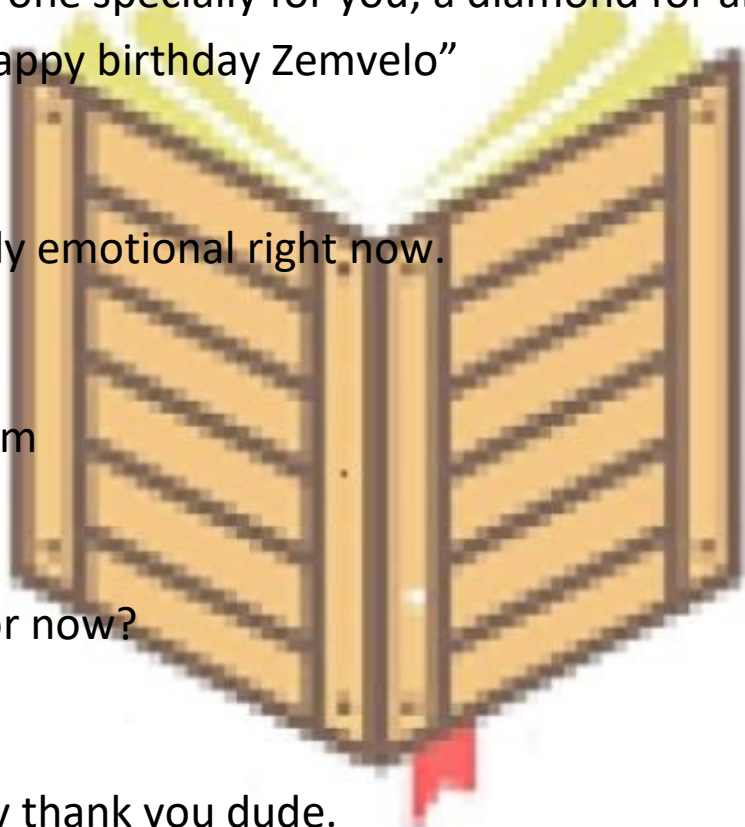
Me: what for now?

Thati: To say thank you dude.

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Me: but I already did.

She took my phone and dialled his number, Thati though.



Nkosi: maKhabazela

Me: Manzini

Nkosi: Aww waze wangbiza mnandi ntokazi, inhliziyo yamamatheka (You called me so nicely, my heart is smiling)

I blushed. Me: thank you for the necklace, it looks too expensive though.

Nkosi: you deserve it. Can I take you out for dinner tomorrow?

Thati signalled that I should say yes.

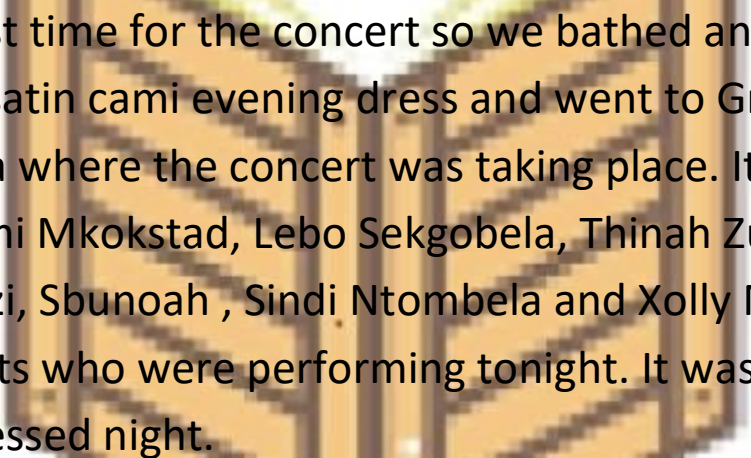
Me: Yes!

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I said that so loud and he just chuckled and said “enjoy your birthday”

Thati: maybe you guys can finally be an item now yoh kunini.
(It's been long)

I laughed and then we had cake, played some music and danced.



It was almost time for the concert so we bathed and we both wore black satin cami evening dress and went to GrandWest Grand Arena where the concert was taking place. It was so packed. Dumi Mkokstad, Lebo Sekgobela, Thinah Zungu, Ayanda Ntazi, Sbunoah , Sindi Ntombela and Xolly Mncwango are the artists who were performing tonight. It was really a beautiful blessed night.

The event was over so we called an uber. It arrived and we drove off.

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This is not the way to res. I whispered to Thati and told her.

Thati: hey Mr Uber driver, this is not the way to res.

He just kept quiet. My heart was beating fast now.

Me: Mr, can you let us out?

Him: shut the f*ck up!

We tried opening the doors and they were locked. I took my phone and there was no service. That's had a flat battery. We just sat there and cried silently and I kept on saying silent prayers.



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Insert 16

After what felt like a few hours, we arrived to what looks like an old warehouse. The driver dragged us out of the car and took us inside the warehouse and tied us into chairs and taped our mouths.

He made a call. Him: Boss, the job is done.

He walked out and left us there.

We couldn't even talk to each other and plan how to escape. After a few hours which I assume now the sun has risen, a woman came in. She's big boned and looks so scary. She removed the tape off my mouth and I coughed out. She went to Thati and removed hers as well and instructed the uber driver to give us water.

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Her: Now here's what's gonna happen. I am going to ask a few questions and you give me answers. If you decide to lie and act

dump, your friend here scores a few slaps across her face.
Understood?

I nodded nervously.

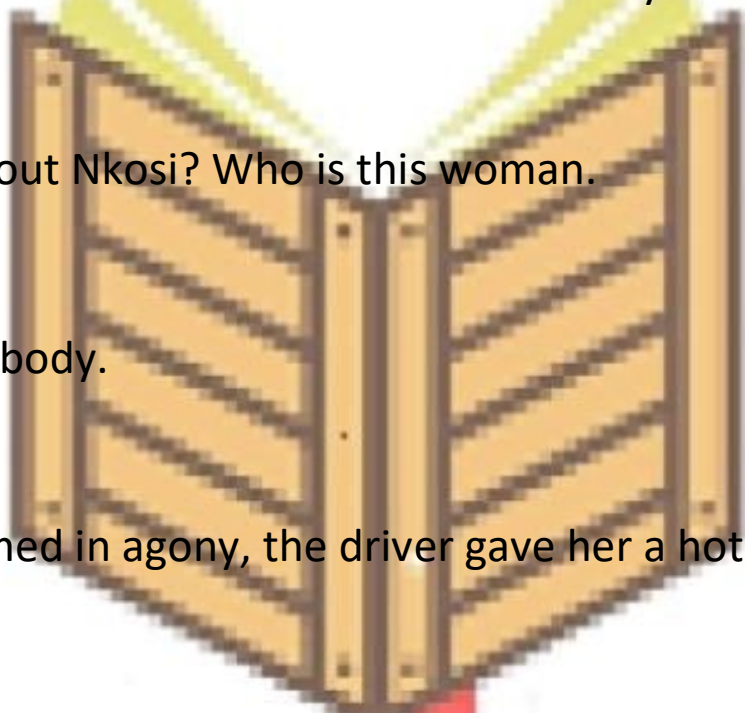
Her: Good. Who is Thembinkosi Makhoba to you?

So this is about Nkosi? Who is this woman.

Me: He's nobody.

Thati screamed in agony, the driver gave her a hot slap.

Me: stop! Okay?! I don't know what you want me to say, Nkosi and I have met a few times just as acquaintances okay? And yesterday he finally asked me out we're supposed to go on a date tonight. That's all please don't hurt my friend. (I said crying)



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Her: Okay young lady. Here's what gonna happen, you're going to stay away from my husband I'm asking nicely, if I find out you're still sticking your claws at him, I won't be this nice. Untie them.

The driver untied us and dragged us to the car. He drove for a few minutes and dumped us in a middle of nowhere.

Thati couldn't stop crying, it broke my heart.

Me: I am so sorry Thati I had no idea that he was married, he never wore a ring and it's all my fault I got involved with him and now look at what I've put you through.

Thati: come on it's not your fault. And I made us attend this concert at night. So how are we going to get back to res?

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The service on my phone was now back. There are many missed calls from home, church and Nkosi. I was going to call Nkosi but then I can't so I blocked his numbers and deleted them.

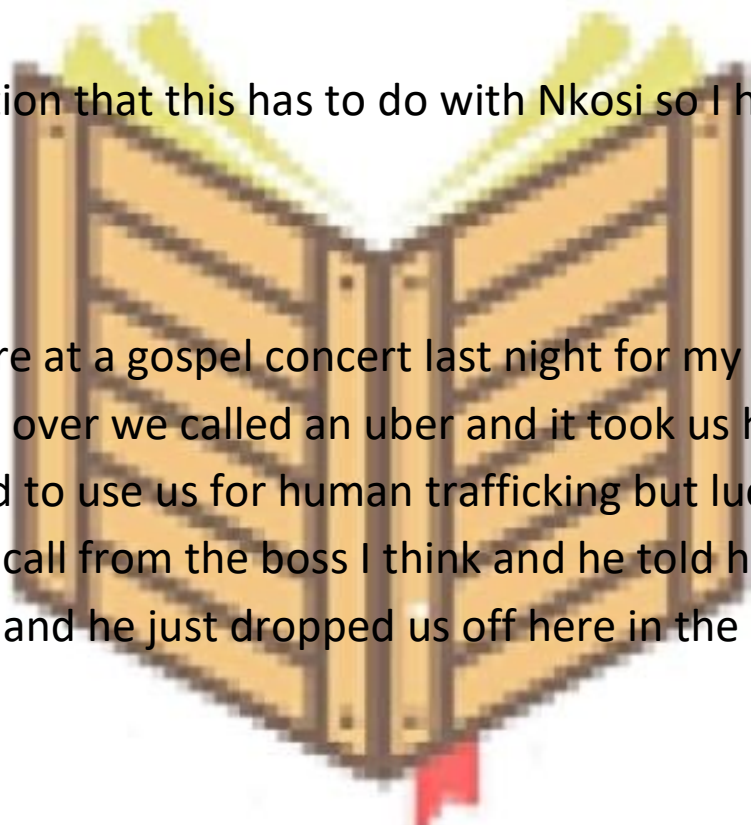
I decided to call Mrs Hlophe. She's very fond of me because of how I really helped out at the law clinic. After a few hours she arrived and we got in the car and drove off.

Mrs Hlophe: What happened?

I can't mention that this has to do with Nkosi so I have to think fast.

Me: We were at a gospel concert last night for my birthday and when it was over we called an uber and it took us here, I think they wanted to use us for human trafficking but luckily the driver got a call from the boss I think and he told him to abort the mission and he just dropped us off here in the middle of nowhere.

Mrs Hlophe: oh my children, I am so sorry you went through all that, I'm driving us to the police station.



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Me: no, we just want to go to res and rest, I just want to put this behind us and the police will strain us will all the procedures.

Mrs Hlophe: I don't like this one bit but fine.

She drove us to res. We arrived and Thati went to shower first while I called mom and told her I had a great time and we were at res safely, then I texted our youth chairperson Nqobile and apologized for not making it to church then put my phone on silent. Thati was done and I also went to shower and we tried getting some sleep.

There was a loud knock and I woke up reluctantly and opened the door. I quickly closed it when I realised who it was but he blocked it with his leg.

Nkosi: please let me in.

Me: I don't want to talk to you please leave.

Nkosi: I just want to explain.

I was so powerless and I couldn't fight him anymore so he got in.

Thati: what is he doing here? It's a student accommodation how did you even get in?

Nkosi: I am really sorry Thati and to you Zemvelo

Me: what are you sorry for? That you didn't tell me you're married or that your crazy wife kidnapped us?

Nkosi: for everything. Zemvelo I am not married to Phumzile. My father forced me into paying lobolo for her a few years back just so he can have an ally with her family. After learning that they are criminals last year, I called the wedding off and ended things with her. Please believe me.

Me: if you broke up way back then why did she call herself your wife and kidnapped us?

Nkosi: according to her we're married because I paid lobolo to her. That student from your class, Melly she's the one who fed her information about us being together, those photos were taken by her errand boy, she had us followed. She kidnapped you because she saw you as a threat because she wanted to fool the society that we're partners and I'm going to represent her. Dad wanted to force me to represent her and her family but I've been digging their dirt instead and I've found proof Zemvelo, I personally submitted it to the judge because the police are on their payroll

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they are going away for a very long time. You are safe now.

Thati: I just checked social media, he's telling the truth, they have been arrested, it's all over twitter.

Me: so how did you know about what happened?

Nkosi: My dad called me and told me he overheard them planning the whole thing so he wanted to try make things right with me and told me. I looked for you whole night. Please

Zemvelo, I just found you, I don't want to lose you. I was planning on declaring my love for you tonight on our date but I might as well do it now. Ever since the very first day I met you at the gallery and you were drooling over me, you warmed my heart, as I stared deep in your eyes, I met your soul and I felt light shining upon my life, I am in love with you Zemvelo and want to make you mine.

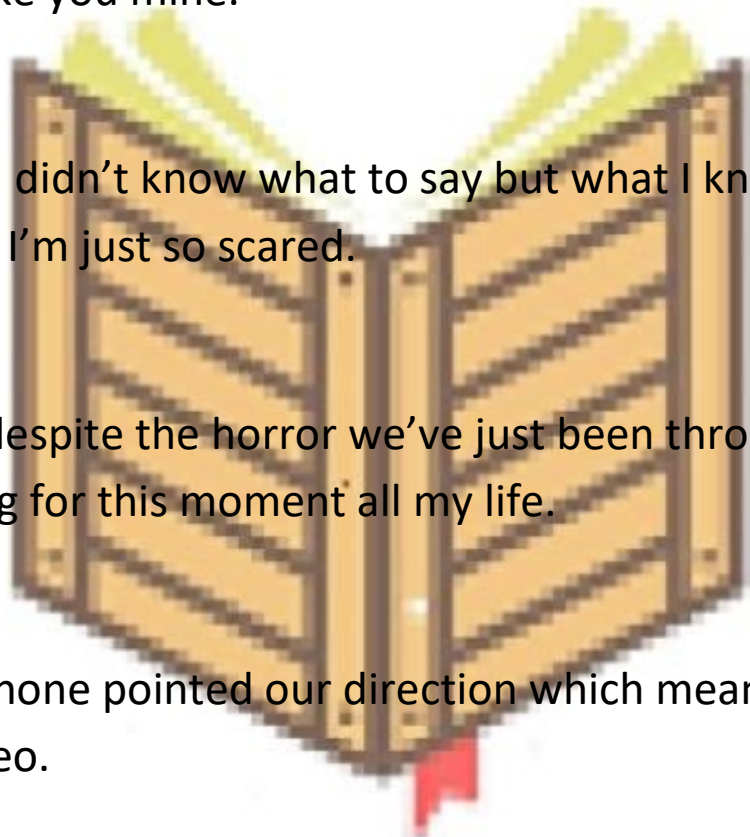
I just cried, I didn't know what to say but what I know is I love him too but I'm just so scared.

Thati: well despite the horror we've just been through, I've been waiting for this moment all my life.

She had a phone pointed our direction which means she's taking a video.

I laughed. Me: aibo Thati, all your life? And why are you taking a video this is not a proposal.

Nkosi: Technically it is, I just asked you to be my girlfriend.



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Thati: You know what I might just forgive you for having us kidnapped by your crazy wife.

Me: To think you were like a wet chicken few minutes ago traumatised now you're making jokes.

Thati: Zemvelo leave me alone, the man is waiting.

I am truly scared but I am ready to face it all so long as we're together.

Me: Yes Manzini, I'll be yours.

Nkosi: Aww aww madoda yaqonywa indoda yakwaZungu, aww Syabonga onyamakayishi nani oKhabazela ngembali enhle kangaka (my proposal has been accepted, thank you Zungu clan and you Khabazela for such a beautiful flower) he just kept on doing his Zulu dance. He's such a typical zulu man.



Thati: Does that mean you guys are still on for your date tonight?

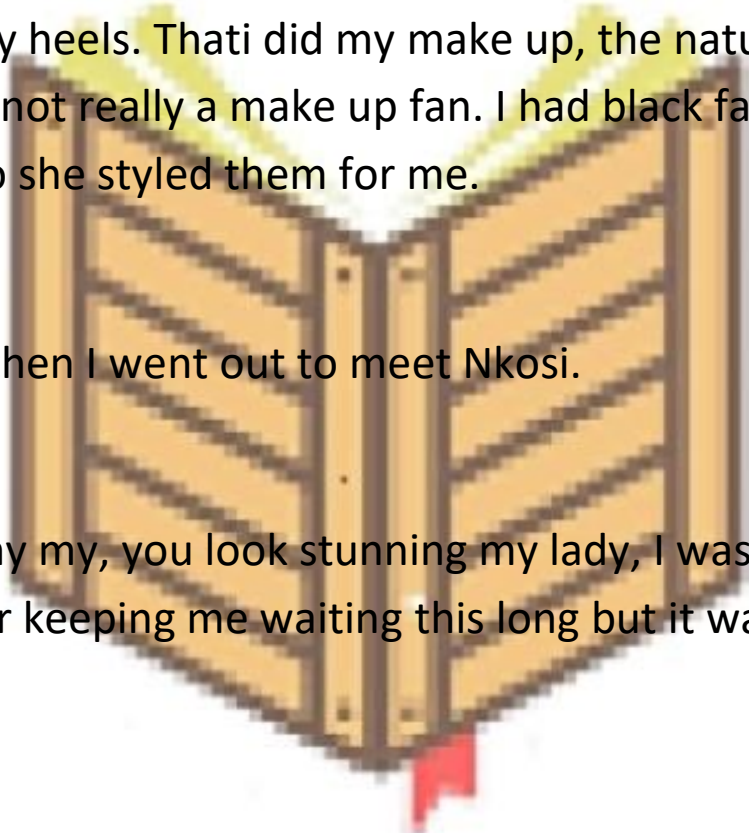
Nkosi looked at me and I smiled at him and nodded. Well it's already evening so he went to wait for me in the car and I went to freshen up then wore my crossback black short dress and clear strappy heels. Thati did my make up, the natural look though, I'm not really a make up fan. I had black faux locs with gold ends so she styled them for me.

I was done then I went out to meet Nkosi.

Nkosi: my my my, you look stunning my lady, I was about to complain for keeping me waiting this long but it was totally worth it.

I blushed and he opened the car door for me.

Just a few hours ago I was kidnapped now I'm going on a date, no I'm really the definition of the phrase "we move". I laughed at that thought.



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Nkosi: share the joke

Me: you were actually engaged to a whole mama sgebengu
chaa bandla Nkosi (thug mom)

He laughed.

Nkosi: please don't ever remind me of that.

We arrived at the restaurant. He actually had made a reservation. We enjoyed our meal while having a light conversation. After we were done eating we walked out and there was this spot of couples dancing I pray Nkosi doesn't ask for us to join in.



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Nkosi: May I have this dance.

Oh no he just asked. Well I used to dance with my father so I'm not completely clueless.

I took his hand and we slow danced to Let's stay together by Al Green.

There it is, the eye contact. Our eyes locked and he kissed me so gentle and then affectionate, my knees just got weak. We broke the kiss and he stared into my eyes like he was searching for something.

Nkosi: I love you Zemvelo.

Me: I love you too Thembinkosi

He took me back to res. Thati wasn't here. She called me earlier to tell me she's going to see Jay. Well actually she texted me but I called her because I wanted to make sure it was her who texted me and she was not kidnapped. Don't blame me I am going to be this cautious from now on. It's understandable for her to go seek comfort from her man shame.

It's been a crazy day.

Well I watched Netflix and fell asleep.

Insert 17

It's Monday morning. I woke up and checked my phone. Nkosi texted me

“Good morning my lady, you look beautiful even when you just woke up”

I smiled and texted back “Good morning My gent, I hope you had a lovely night”

All this while I was blushing.

Thati: mhm new love (she clapped her hands once)

Me: Aay suka wena

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We got ready for class and left.



We attended our classes then went to the law clinic.

Mrs Hlophe: Zemvelo and Onthatile can I speak with you for a second.

Me: yes ma'am

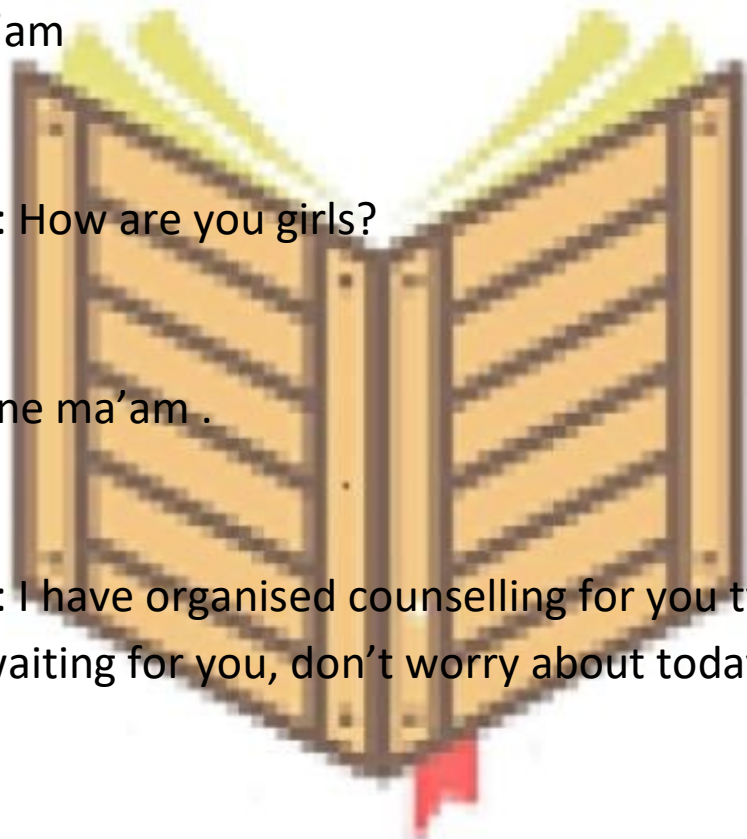
Mrs Hlophe: How are you girls?

Us: We're fine ma'am .

Mrs Hlophe: I have organised counselling for you two so Ms Sibande is waiting for you, don't worry about today's case I will update you.

We thanked her and walked out.

Thati: wasn't there a way to assure her we don't need therapy?



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Me: she was going to be suspicious especially since we already said no police.

Thati: Today's case seemed interesting though, I was really looking forward to participating in it.

Me: yeah hey.

We arrived at Ms Sibande's office.

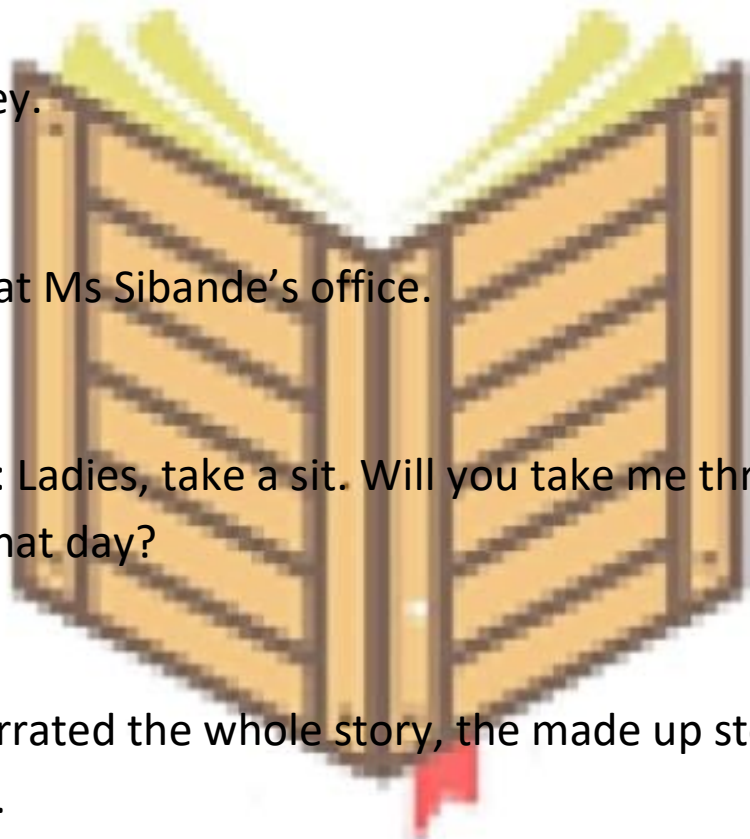
Ms Sibande: Ladies, take a sit. Will you take me through what happened that day?

We both narrated the whole story, the made up story we told Mrs Hlophe.

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Ms Sibande: how did you guys feel at that moment?

Me: Scared, Powerless, angry



Thati: just numb and terrified

Ms Sibande: you ladies are brave, the first step is to admit your emotions and you're doing well. I think you'll quickly make progress.

The session continued and it was actually helpful although we have to come again on Wednesday.

We went to Ms Hlophes's office and she gave us files for the current case.

We spent the whole night working on it because apparently no one in class was able to present her with a defence and her client is appearing on court tomorrow.

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Thati: okay so this teenage girl is claiming that she was raped by her mentor. Something doesn't make sense though, I just can't put my finger on it.

Me: I got it! This girl received a large sum of money from a certain account day after she reported the rape. Somebody paid this girl.

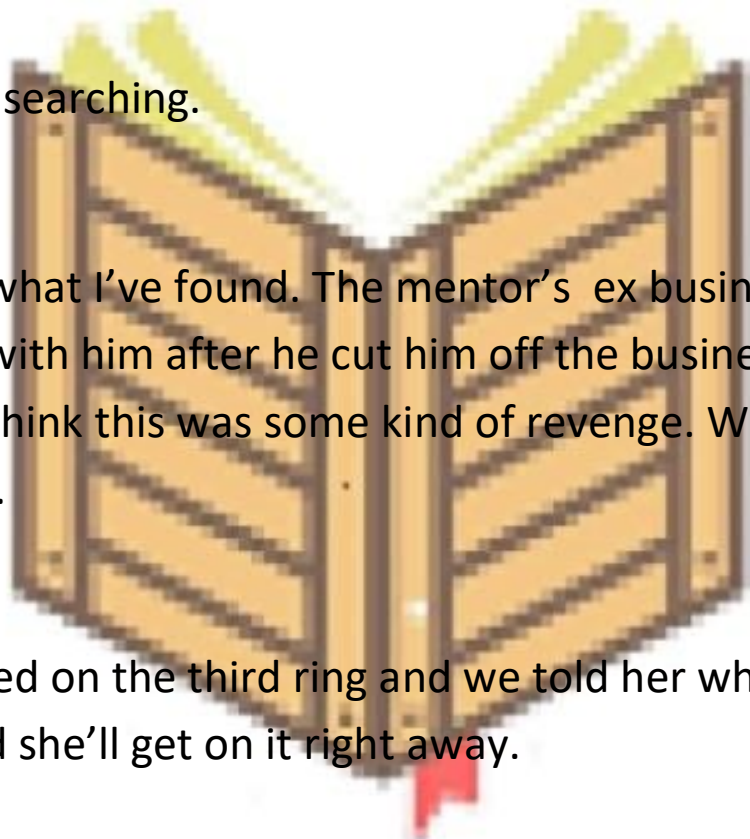
Thati: Friend you're a genius. We just have to figure out Who.

We kept on searching.

Thati: look what I've found. The mentor's ex business associate had a beef with him after he cut him off the business and Solely owned it. I think this was some kind of revenge. We need to call Mrs Hlophe.

She answered on the third ring and we told her what we found and she said she'll get on it right away.

We finally went to bed around 5 am and court starts at 9 am tomorrow, we only have few hours to sleep.



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Morning came and we got ready for court.

Me: where's everyone.

Mrs Hlophe: oh the charges were dropped.

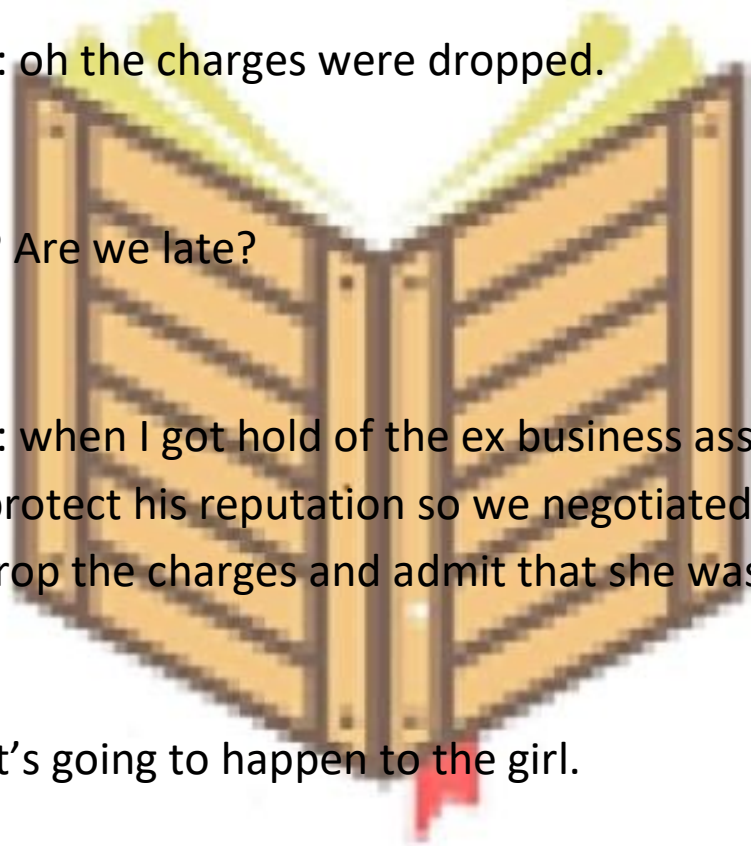
Thati: How? Are we late?

Mrs Hlophe: when I got hold of the ex business associate, he wanted to protect his reputation so we negotiated and he got the girl to drop the charges and admit that she was lying.

Me: so what's going to happen to the girl.

Mrs Hlophe: she committed perjury but since she's a minor she's going to do community service.

Me: okay then, thank you Mrs Hlophe.



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We went back to campus and attended our classes.

And as always

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after class we went to the law clinic.

Mrs Hlophe: Students, today we're visited by Mr Makhoba, the man behind the clinic. Listen and listen very attentively, this man is well educated, you might learn a thing or two from him.

Oh my God why didn't he warn me that he'd be here today.

He taught us different ways to approach cases and gathering evidence and lessons on how trials take place in court.

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The class was dismissed.

Nkosi: Ms Mkhize

Oh no, not in front of the students, I can't be a gossip again.

Me: Mr Makhoba

Nkosi: Why were you smiling at me the entire lesson, you were making it hard to focus.

Me: aay I didn't do such, I'm very professional and well behaved.

Nkosi: I'm kidding, I distracted myself by stealing glances at you and imagining my lips on top of yours and my hand cupping your tits.

Mrs Hlophe : ahem

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I got so shy.

Me: Nkosi we're still in class, Thati is waiting for me.

Nkosi: okay I'll call you later.

I left.

Thati: you guys can't even compose yourself niyajampisa
(you're making it obvious)

Me: I know eish

We went back to res. I cooked dinner and we ate. My phone rang, it was Nkosi I picked up.

Me: Babe

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Nkosi: Sthandwa sami (my love) I miss you

Me: I miss you too.

Nkosi: I'm outside.

I ran outside as though someone was chasing me. I spotted him and jumped into his arms. Gosh he feels so warm, like home. I took in his scent, I'm so addicted to it.

We got in the car and kissed passionately while he was caressing my tits, I let out a soft moan. We broke the kiss.

Nkosi: Hi

Me: Hi

We



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stayed in the car and chatted then he left and I went back to the room.

Insert 18

Today it's Wednesday. We attended our classes then went to our therapy session. Ms Sibande told us we're good there won't be a need for more sessions. That's a relief.

Thati and I have started attending bible studies so Saturday afternoon we have a bible study picnic and later on I have my evening shift at the restaurant.

We got ready for the picnic, I wore a Ditsy floral frill trim Cami Top & Split Thigh skirt.

Thati wore an All-over Floral Print Ruched Bust Slit Hem Cami Dress. It's spring so it's the perfect outfits.

We took our bibles and went to church where we will all meet and depart from.

Me: Good afternoon chosen generation

Them: Good afternoon ladies.

Nqobile: You guys looks ravishing and you arrived just in time, the transport is almost here.

The transport arrived and we drove to Keurboom Park.

We arrived, everything was already set up so we took our seats.

Nqobile: Thank you all for availing yourselves. It is by God's grace that we are not consumed despite all the tribulations we encounter. As we're all gathering here we're are living testimonies that God is alive. Sis Zemvelo please lead us on an opening prayer.

Me: "Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your revelation spirit to come and dwell within us. We praise You for the

perfect provision of Your everlasting Word, and we invite You into this place of study as we seek Your face through the scriptures. We pray for the spirit of understanding so we may understand your word and may you anoint each and every person in this place, touch our hearts and fill us with the holy spirit, in Jesus name I pray, amen”

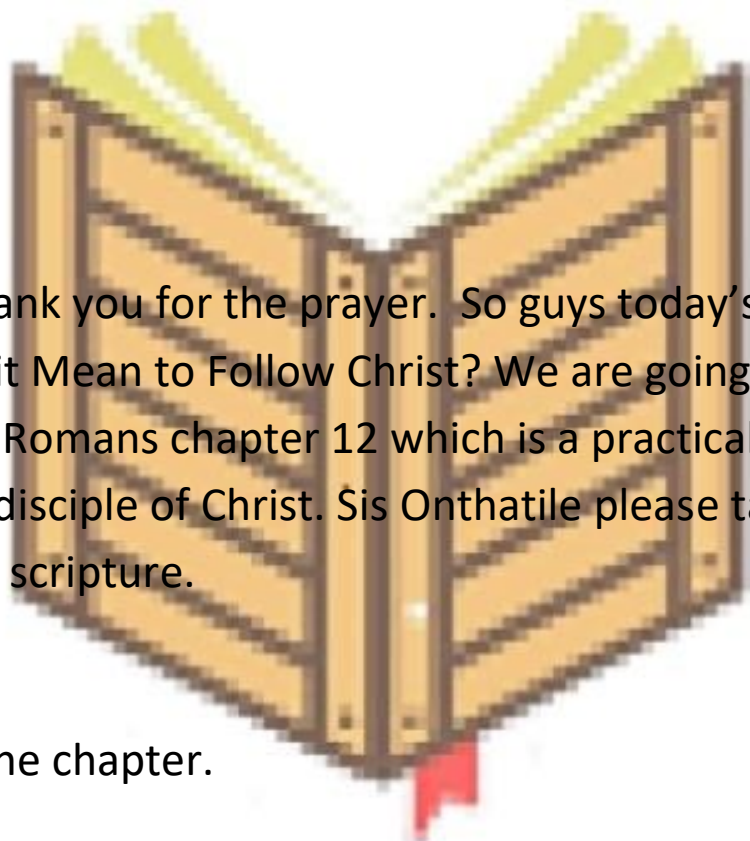
All: Amen

Nqobile: Thank you for the prayer. So guys today's theme is What Does it Mean to Follow Christ? We are going to focus on the book of Romans chapter 12 which is a practical guide to living like a disciple of Christ. Sis Onthatile please take us through the scripture.

Thati read the chapter.

Nqobile: over to you brother Sethu.

Sethu: We look at the disciples. For them, following Jesus included sharing his enthusiasm for declaring the good news.



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The disciples learned that the Lord had come to teach them about himself, and they were going to help establish his kingdom. If we want to follow Jesus too, we have to recognize him as more than a great teacher.

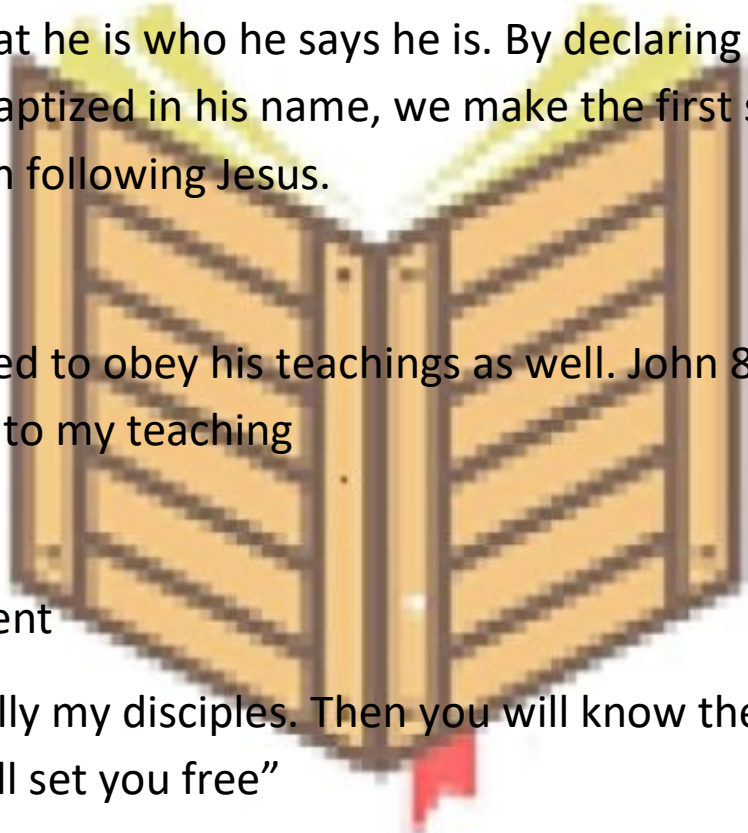
Khethiwe: Yes brother and the first step to following Jesus is believing that he is who he says he is. By declaring Jesus is Lord and being baptized in his name, we make the first steps of obedience in following Jesus.

Me: We need to obey his teachings as well. John 8:31-32 says “If you hold to my teaching

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you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”

The study and discussion went on while we had snacks and sang worshiping songs. I must say we really learned a lot today, glory be to God.



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We left and I went to get ready for my shift. I started serving the tables.

I spotted Melly in one of the tables I'm serving. God give me strength.

Me: Good evening ladies, what can I get you today?

Melly: aarg why is your face everywhere I am at?

So I've learned that Melly hates me because she's just jealous. She's a mean girl but her hate for me escalated when I got picked to work at the clinic and she wasn't.

Melly: So you work here? What, don't your parents feed you? Ladies I wouldn't be caught dead wearing a waitress uniform.

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Her friends laughed.

These people are really wasting my time, other customers are waiting for me.

Me: can you guys please give me your orders?

They finally ordered and I left them.

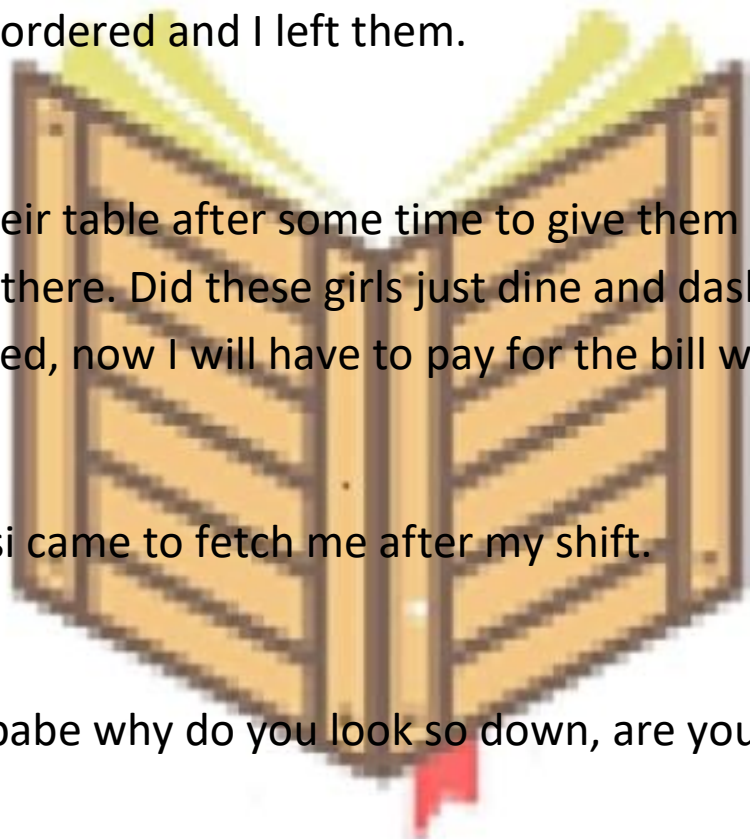
I came to their table after some time to give them their bill and no one was there. Did these girls just dine and dash? Rich kids are so entitled, now I will have to pay for the bill with my tips.

Thembinkosi came to fetch me after my shift.

Nkosi: Hey babe why do you look so down, are you okay?

Me: I am fine, it's just rich people who think they own the world and they own us. They are so entitled!

I was now shouting.



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Nkosi: whoa, calm down, tell me what happened.

I told him everything.

Nkosi: seems like this Melly chick is going to be a problem. I am so sorry baby. Will this cheer you up a bit?

He handed me KFC dunked wings and Aero peppermint chocolate, they are my favourites.

Me: yes. I was already eating.

We drove to res and chilled in his car a bit and he was telling me about one of his cases. So he's representing a pastor who's dealing drugs, one of the kids who bought from him OD'd (Overdosed) and is in hospital. What has the world come to?



Insert 19

My alarm went off, it's 7 o'clock we have to prepare for church.

Thati: Good morning Mrs Thembinkosi

Me: Morning Mrs Jay

We laughed.

Me: My soul isn't feeling settled you know, I even don't feel like going to church.

Thati: no that's the devil, please shame him. She literally dragged me to the shower.

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While I showered she prepared breakfast.

I finished up and wore a white dress, pink blazer and white block heels.

Me: oats?

That: yes I decided to make an exception for today since the devil doesn't want you to go to church maybe this oats will settle your soul or something Zemvelo aay.

I laughed and we ate. On our way to church I still felt like something is wrong but I decided to brush it off and rejoice. I love that verse so much. Everyday I wake up grateful to be alive and I say it out loud 'This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it'.

We arrived at church and everything was okay, I even cheered up.

As the pastor was preaching, the police barged in.

Policeman 1: Mr Kubheka, you are under arrest for the possession and trafficking of drugs, you have the right to remain silent anything you say can be used against you in the court of law.

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There was a commotion inside the church. Could our pastor be the pastor that Nkosi was telling me about yesterday?

Insert 20

Pastor Kubheka was trending all over Facebook and Twitter. It's scandals like these that makes it hard to bring people into God's presence.

Nkosi texted me that he won't make it to lunch, he's going down to the police station to see his client who is our pastor. I invited him to come to church today but he said he'll be busy but will join us for lunch. I'm pretty sure that was just an excuse, he doesn't like going to church at all but give me a few months and that will change.

Thati: what's gonna happen if the pastor gets convicted? Our church will be left with no Pastor hey.

Me: yeah. I just pray for God to strengthen his wife and kids.

We ate lunch and went back to res.

Following day we attended our classes then went to the law clinic.

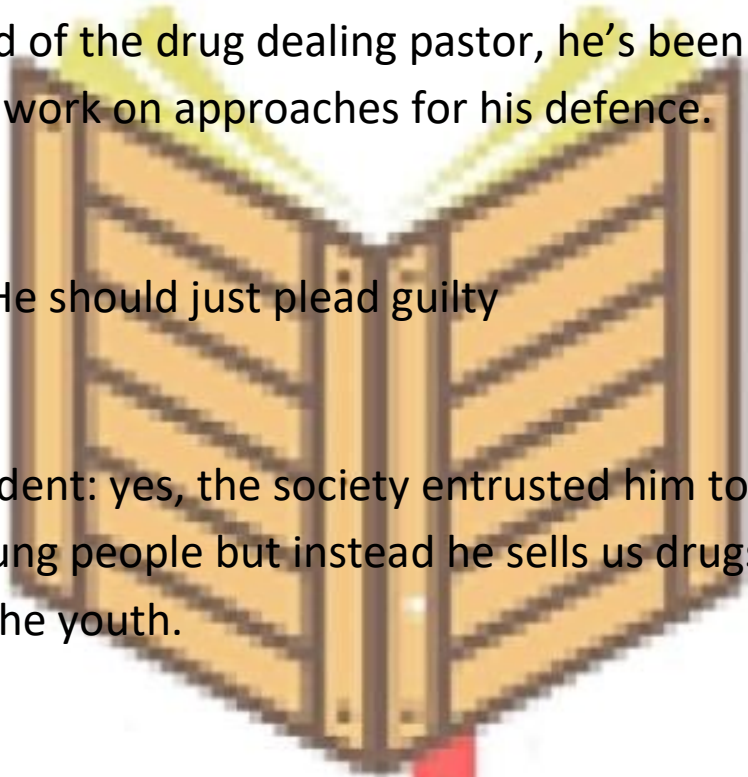
Mrs Hlophe: I know the clinic is supposed to be for assisting those who are unable to afford the services of a law firm but today we're going to assist Mr Makhoba on his case. I am sure you all heard of the drug dealing pastor, he's been denied bail. We need to work on approaches for his defence.

Mr Meyer: He should just plead guilty

Another student: yes, the society entrusted him to lead and teach us young people but instead he sells us drugs, he's destroying the youth.

Honestly they are speaking the truth but hey this is our client and we have to get him out of jail.

Mrs Hlophe: I appreciate all your thoughts but as law students you need to learn to put your feelings aside, whether your



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client is guilty or not, your job is to get him a not guilty verdict.
Now let's start working people!

Me: Okay Thati first let's find out how serious the charges are

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the proof that they have.

Thati: They have a witness and it's not the boy in hospital. It's someone who says he's been transporting the drugs for Mr Kubheka, but look there's something interesting. This guy got arrested last week in a road block when he was transporting the drugs.

Me: so that means someone tipped off the police

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Thati: And the guy started singing and told the police everything.

Okay now how do we use this information.

Thati: Well I think we should play a discriminatory card.

Me: how so?

Thati: The policeman who arrested the transport guy is white, there were many trucks that day but they stopped this one particularly because they were targeting it. It's a white man of law against a black community serving man

Me: judges nowadays hate it when the race card is used as defence. I don't know chommy hey. We need to find the snitch though.

We presented all the information we gathered to Mrs Hlophe and class was dismissed.

Following day all our classes were cancelled so it's a day off. Nkosi called me and asked me to sign him in.

Thati: eey I wonder what your man wants, just when I wanted to strip naked and relax.

Me: stop it Thati.

I went to sign him in and we went to the room.

Nkosi: Onthatile, hi.

Thati: hi sbali (brother in law)

Nkosi: okay so I really need your help for this case. Mrs Hlophe told me you guys have something and you can actually help crack it.

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Me: But don't you have qualified colleagues for that?

Nkosi: No I need people like you guys on this case come on.

Thati: eey Nkosi this is probably not a great idea we're just first year students.

Nkosi: even if it means you're going to be working with me at the Bowmans office?

Thati: what? Give me a few minutes let me go change and pack my things.

Me: Thati you're such a sell-out you don't even consult with me

Nkosi laughed and we drove to Bowmans.

Thati: Wow this building is so big and stunning.

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We Just went crazy and took pictures and videos.

Nkosi: okay guys that's enough, we have work to do.

We composed ourselves and walked like professionals, gosh we're so dramatic.

We arrived at Nkosi's office.

It had so much space and so beautiful.

Thati: aibo chommy there's a picture of you.

Nkosi: put that down Thati. Please behave.

Me: you don't have to be shy baby I know you're crazy about me.

He hit my chest playfully



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There were candies on the table and Thati was already helping herself. Nkosi pulled me to his chest and kissed me so passionately.

Thati: guys really? So I'm just holding a candle for you.

Nkosi: I was just introducing my office to the first lady Thati and you were also all cosy with the candy.

We got to work. First we found out who the snitch is and my man worked his charm and made him confess that the white policeman threatened his family and so he was forced to snitch on the pastor.

Thati: Good thing I recorded the whole confession.

Me: we can't use that in court. He wasn't aware that he was being recorded, it's unlawful and inadmissible. We going to need him to take the stand and testify.

Nkosi: Beauty with brains, that's why you're my woman.

He pecked my lips. Thati rolled her eyes

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Thati: okay smart couple so what makes you think the man will put his family in danger and testify for the pastor?

Insert 21

Thati made a great point. How are we going to do this?

Nkosi went down to the police station to talk to the prosecutor to offer the guy protection. Everything went well and when the guy was assured that he'll be protected, he agreed to testify.

After a few weeks the trial commenced.

The presiding officer: All rise

Judge: You may be seated

The presiding officer: Mr Jonas Kubheka, you are charged for drug possession and trafficking, how do you plead?

Mr Kubheka: Not guilty

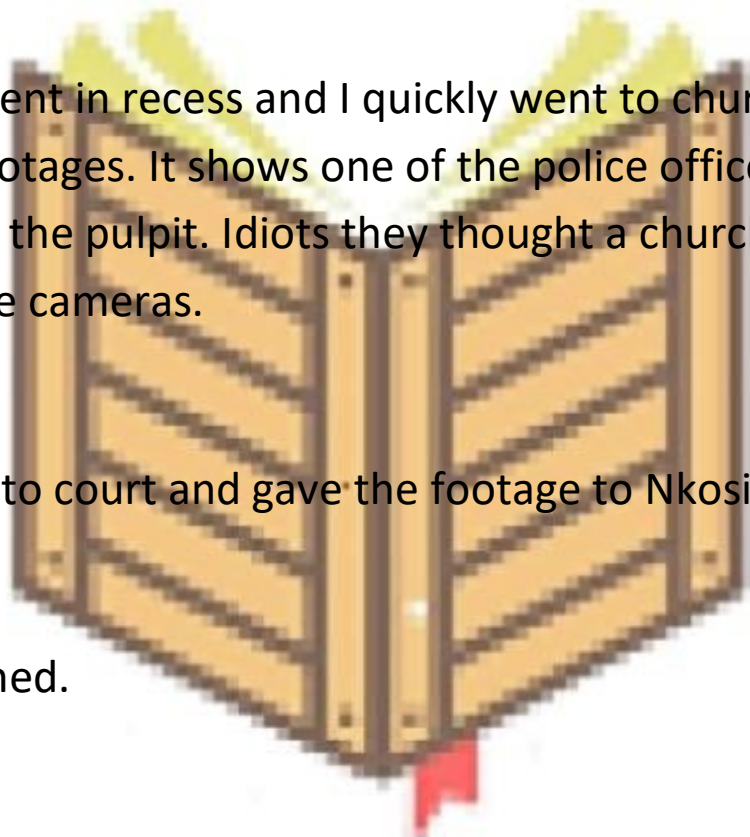


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Prosecutor: The state would like to call it's first witness, Mr Williams (the police officer) to take the stand.

He testified to have found drugs hidden in the pulpit at church on the day of arrest. That's a lie.

The court went in recess and I quickly went to church to check the CCTV footages. It shows one of the police officers planting the drugs in the pulpit. Idiots they thought a church this big doesn't have cameras.



I went back to court and gave the footage to Nkosi.

Court resumed.

Nkosi: My lord, the defence would like to submit exhibit A as evidence.

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Prosecutor: objection My Lord, the state isn't aware of this evidence.

Nkosi: I just received the footage now My Lord.

Judge: I'll allow it.

Nkosi: as the court can see, when the police officers couldn't find evidence against my client they planted the drugs inside the church.

The whole court went crazy.

Judge: The court is holding the officer in contempt, I am very disappointed. You can call your next witness.

Prosecutor: we'd like to call Mr Khoza to the stand.

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Mr Khoza is the driver who got arrested when he was driving the truck full of drugs. The state cut him a deal to testify against pastor Kubheka.

He took the oath and the prosecutor began questioning him.

Prosecutor: Mr Khoza tell us who do you work for?

Mr Khoza: I work for Mr Jonas Kubheka as a driver on the logistics department.

Prosecutor: Mr Khoza are you aware of what the products you transport are?

Mr Khoza: As far as I know, it's stuff for charity, food parcels, clothes but I am not allowed to check at the back of the truck.

He's lying.

Prosecutor: Your witness

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Nkosi: Mr Khoza, would you say you're a man of truth?

Prosecutor: objection My Lord, relevance.

Judge: The character of the witness is relevant counsellor

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overruled, Mr Khoza answer the question.

Mr Khoza: I am a truthful man.

Nkosi: How long have you been working for Mr Kubheka?

Mr Khoza: For 10 years

Nkosi: Mr Khoza, is it true that you started you own transportation company on the side and Mr Kubheka wasn't aware and that made you his competitor?

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Mr Nkosi: My company hasn't taken off.

Nkosi: answer the question Mr Khoza, yes or no?

Mr Khoza: Yes

Nkosi: so it's safe to say you are not a loyal employee and it's possible that you are lying in front of the court because you want to get rid of Mr Kubheka and steal his customers for your own company.

Prosecutor: Objection my Lord, there is no question here and counsel is testifying.

Nkosi: No further questions.

God, I just fell in love with him all over again. He looks so sexy in action.

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The judge announced the date for the next appearance.

We spent the week preparing again, in between of my classes and work and I really miss having my man all to myself.

The trial continues today.

Nkosi called the snitch on the stand. He told the court everything he told us. Nkosi revealed it to the court that the police officer was racist and his testimony should be tossed. And when it was time for the Prosecutor to Cross-examine the witness he just said “I have no questions for this witness” she saw that she was losing.

They said their closing statements. After that, the court went on recess.

We came back and the judge spoke.

Judge: I have reviewed all the evidence presented, the state has a very poor case and wasted the court's time. I have reached a verdict. The court hereby finds the accused not guilty of the charge of drug possession and trafficking. Court dismissed.

We cheered and I hugged Nkosi and Thati.

Nkosi: We did it.

Now I know that you're also wondering whether the pastor is actually innocent or not.

Me: excuse me guys.

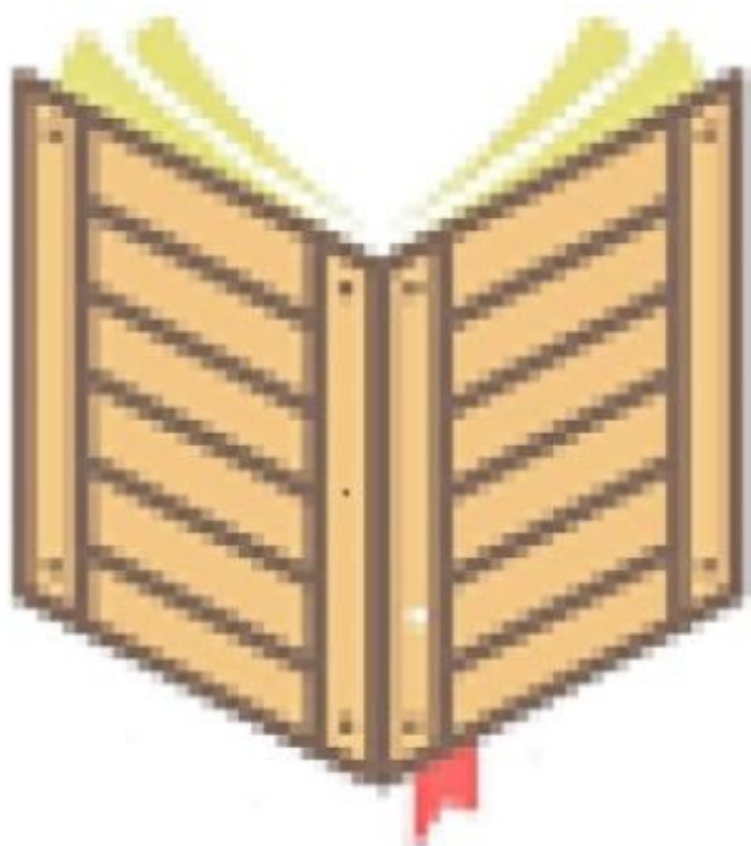
I went to the pastor.

Me: Congratulations on being a free man but listen here, we both know you're guilty, I saw all the proof I needed to see in your office and here's what you're going to do. You're going to step down as our pastor and save yourself and the church embarrassment. Amen.



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I left him and went to Join Nkosi and Thati then we went to Bowmans Law office, they already prepared a small celebration, it almost feels as if we work here. One thing I know is doors are finally going to open, they know our names now and when it is time to intern things might just go smooth.



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Insert 22

Life is going great. Nkosi and I are still very much in love. The semester is over and I'll be going home tomorrow for December holidays. Nkosi asked me to spend the night at his house so I packed my overnight bag, said my goodbyes to Thati because she's going to leave tomorrow morning and I'd probably not be back by then.

He picked me up and we arrived to his house.

Me: You didn't tell me you have a house this big.

Nkosi: well, taada

We got in, the interior is just so beautiful, he has style shame. We went upstairs and his room is to die for. It had a walk-in closet, bathroom, couch, TV.

Nkosi: I'm going to shower, do you want to join me?



I choked on my saliva.

Me: you can go ahead, I'll join you in a second.

I just said that. Okay Zemvelo you're a grown woman, your body is beautiful and fresh, just go to the shower.

I took off my clothes, took a deep breath and went in the shower.

Nkosi: You're so beautiful maKhabazela wami.

We kissed and he sucked on my neck, then went on my boobs. Okay this is getting so tense. I'm not about to lose my virginity in a shower but it felt good, I didn't want him to stop. He kissed me all the way down and reached my honeypot, he gently spread my legs and went in with his tongue, I moaned out his name. He increased his pace and inserted one finger and I went crazy. I felt orgasm piling up.

Me: Ah Nkosi I'm coming

Nkosi: come for me baby

I released. Man that was good.

Nkosi: I love you Zemvelo.

Me: I love you too Manzini.

We got out of the shower, then got decent and went to the kitchen. He was cooking for us and I did what I do best, entertained him. He made me have a taste and man my man can cook. He lifted me up and placed me on the kitchen counter and kissed me so passionately. If he's about to do what he did to me on the shower oh I'm so down for it. He broke the kiss and went to set the table, ouch that hurts, he'll pay for it.

We had dinner then watched netflix and cuddled until we went to bed.

Following morning he took me back to res to fetch my bags and fortunately Thati was still there.

Me: why are you still here?

Thati: because I want to hear about your first time face to face.

Me: Aay Thati there's no first time here. We didn't have sex.

She gave me a side eye.

Me: Fine, we had oral sex.

Thati: so does that mean you gave him a blow?

Me: okay Thati I don't want to discuss bedroom matters with you please



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Thati: weee you didn't

chicken

I hit her playfully. Nkosi came in with Jay and they helped us with our bags . I said goodbye to Thati and Nkosi drove me to the airport.

Me: I'm really going to miss you.

Nkosi: only two weeks and I'll also go to Durban at home and I'll definitely see you

Me: oh in that case, please be my date at my sister's wedding.

Nkosi: You're the maid of honour I'll be alone most of the time

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Me: no you'll be with mom and Inathi.

Nkosi: Chilling with the in laws already.

Me: Please babe.

Nkosi: fine.

He dropped me off at the airport and I kissed him goodbye and left.

I am really excited for my sister's wedding. Since her Best friend betrayed her, she asked me to be her maid of honour. I've been planning her surprise bridal shower with Emma.

Mom and Inathi fetched me from the airport and went home.

I took in the breeze, it feels good being home again.

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Inathi: so who's he?

Me: who's who?

Inathi: The person who got you glowing and gaining weight.

Me: Dude you're too young, leave me alone.

Mom: He's right though

I told them about Nkosi and that they'll meet him at the wedding. Mom argued that they have to meet him before so that he can get settled and meet Sihle and his friends too.

Few days later it was Thandile's bridal shower. It was actually taking place at Durban.

Thandile: Zemvelo though, is there really a need to go look for shoes at Durban? There are a lot of malls here.

Me: I want to weigh my options.



We drove to Durban along with Inathi. Mom was already there.

Me: First let's go check this hotel out for when Thembinkosi and I have to meet.

Thandile : Yoh this child.

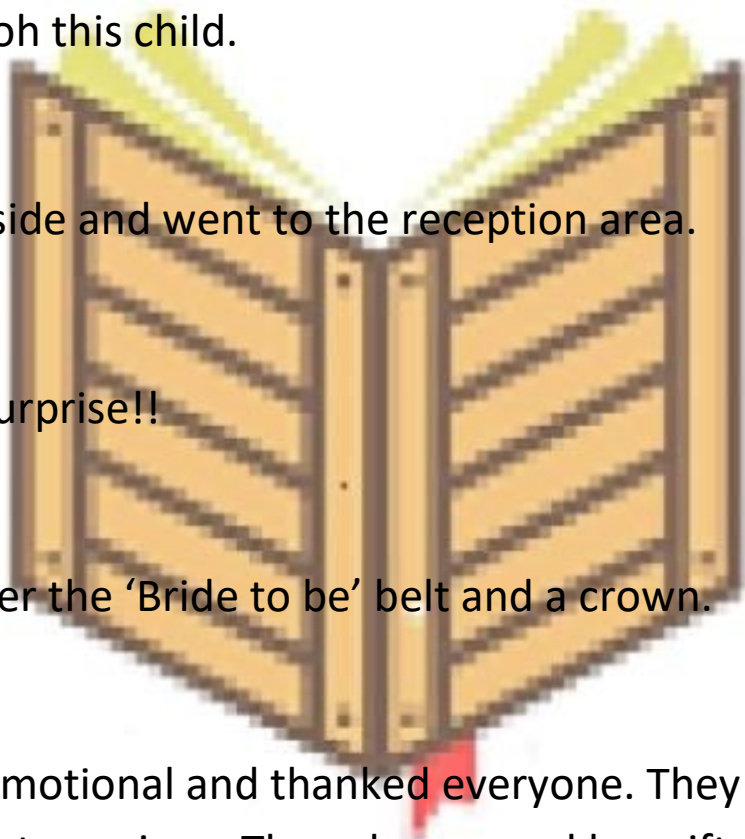
We went inside and went to the reception area.

Everyone: Surprise!!

They gave her the 'Bride to be' belt and a crown.

She got so emotional and thanked everyone. They gave her advises about marriage. Then she opened her gifts. You know gifts brides get, lingerie, perfumes and the like.

I went back to the reception to sort a few things out.



Voice: So you're telling me there are no rooms available for the rest of the month?

I recognise the voice, it's Nkosi.

Me: Excuse me sir.

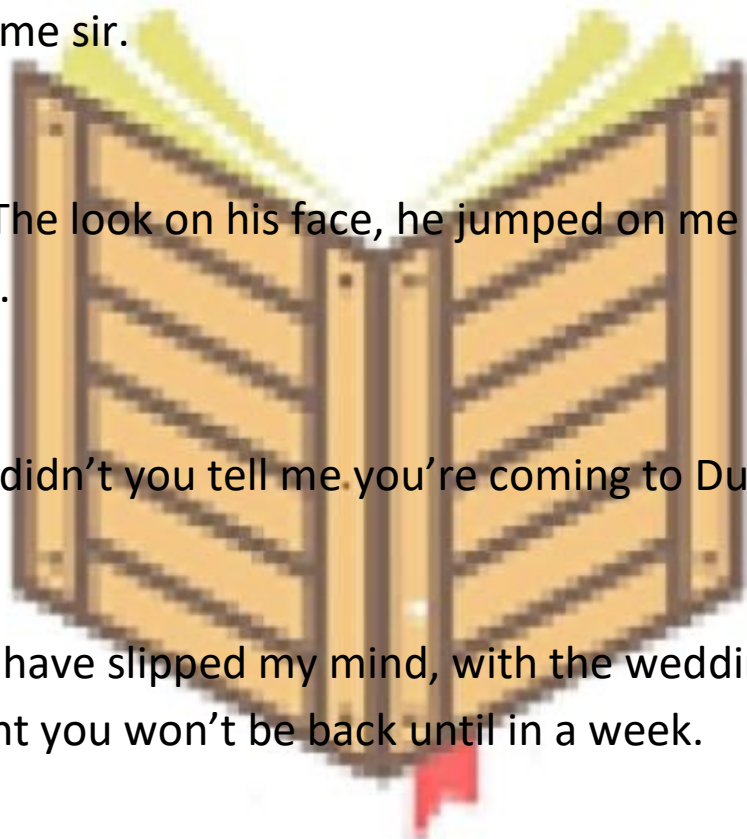
He turned. The look on his face, he jumped on me and gave me many kisses.

Nkosi: Why didn't you tell me you're coming to Durban?

Me: it must have slipped my mind, with the wedding and all, and I thought you won't be back until in a week.

Nkosi: yeah I missed you so much, actually I was here to book for us but fate brought us together.

Inathi: sis Velo, Mom sent me to check where you are.



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Me: oh Nkosi, this is my younger brother Inathi, Inathi, this is Nkosi my man.

Inathi: Hello my man, nice to meet you. Mom would be so happy to finally meet you. He ran off.

Me: Inathi don't do that.

Nkosi: is it too late to run?

Mom: very late son-in-law

How did she get here so fast.

Mom: I came to look for you and Inathi, he met me halfway and told me the great advocate is here.



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Nkosi: I'm Thembinkosi Makhoba, nice to meet you ma'am. I see where Zemvelo gets her good looks.

Mom: He's such a flatter, definitely a keeper. Nice to finally meet you my son. Well I'd invite you to join us but it's women only and Inathi is only a child. We'll see you at the wedding then, bye.

She took Inathi and they left.

Nkosi: well that went well.

Me: I should go back to the party. I'll see you, I love you.

He kissed me and said "I love you too" then left. The bridal shower went well then we went back home.

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The wedding is in 2 days so everyone was too occupied making preparations. The wedding will take place at our church.

Insert 23

“It’s a wedding day, a wedding day, siyashadisa namhlanje”, I sang as I went in my sister’s room.

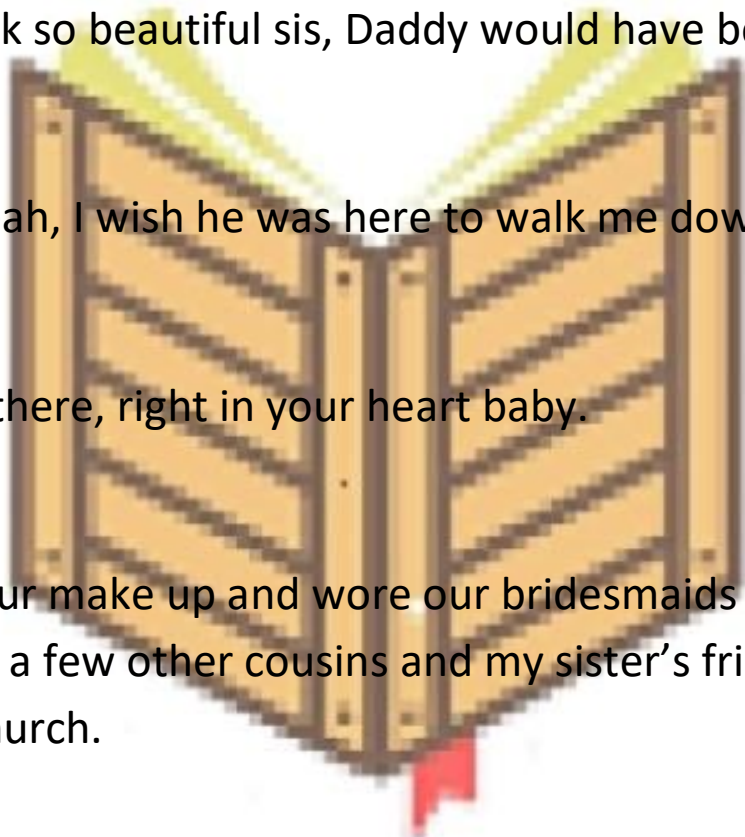
Me: You look so beautiful sis, Daddy would have been so proud.

Thandile: yeah, I wish he was here to walk me down the aisle.

Mom: He’s there, right in your heart baby.

We all did our make up and wore our bridesmaids dresses. It was me and a few other cousins and my sister’s friends from work and church.

We drove to the church, my sister had her own special car but I had to ride with her as her maid of honour and the other bridesmaids took a different car.



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We arrived at church. Nkosi was already there looking all hot as ever, standing with Inathi, waiting for me. Okay how do I become my sister's maid of honour and my man's date. I took my sister to the living room at church and quickly went to say hi to Nkosi. Luckily he has already made a friend with one of Sihle's friends so they took their seats and I went back to my sister.

The bridesmaids and groomsmen made their entrance, followed by the groom and then the lady of the moment. She looks like an angel. "This is why I love you by Major" was playing and she slowly walked down the aisle. I wiped off a tear.

I went to take my seat next to Nkosi.

Nkosi: good for you to finally join me, you look so beautiful.

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I kissed his cheek.

Pastor: We gathered here to witness the matrimony and celebrate the love of Sihle Ndlovu and Nkosingthandile Mkhize. If there is anyone who feels that these two should not get married, speak now or forever hold your peace.

I don't see why this question is necessary in weddings.

Woman: I object!

Great. It's my sister's ex best friend Nelisiwe .

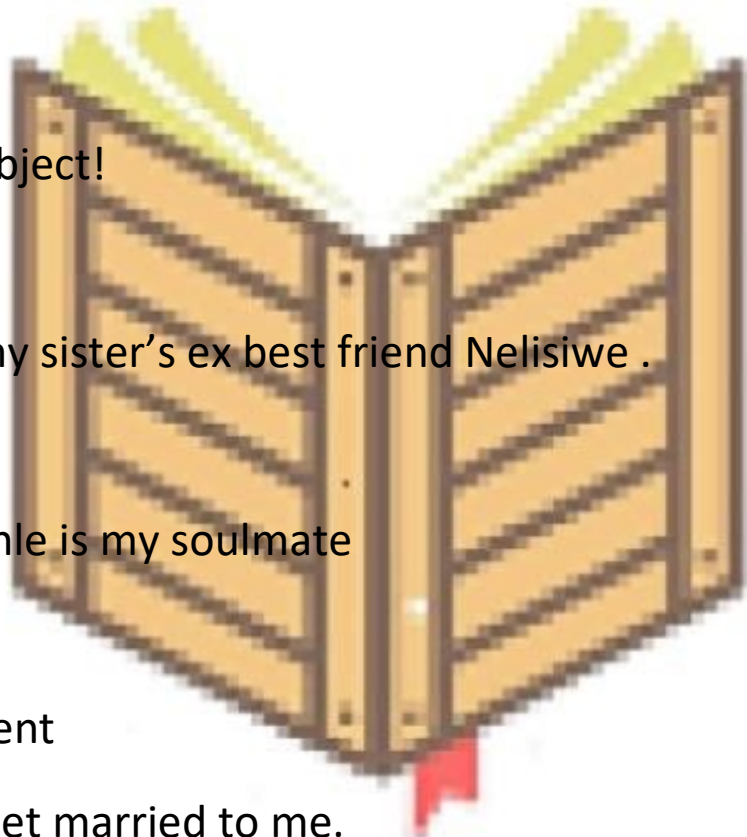
Nelisiwe: Sihle is my soulmate

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he should get married to me.

The security dragged her out and the wedding continued, nobody cares about her feelings.

They said their vows then Inathi went to the podium with the rings.



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Pastor: I now pronounce you husband and wife, you may kiss the bride.

Everyone ululated. It's such a beautiful union.

We went to take pictures at The Breeze INN where the reception will also take place.

This time my sister was with her husband and I was with my man. Mom, Friends, extended family from both the groom and bride's side gave their speeches. When it was my turn I spoke briefly and sang for Mr and Mrs Ndlovu. "Habibi- by Kelly Khumalo"

Me: "Could it be love, Could it be true. Give me your heart, And I will be true. I see love in your eyes, Baby its love let it be. If this is love baby, if this is love honey Don't wanna let go. Letting myself in. Mind, body and soul. I know this is love"

They had their first dance while I sang, then the DJ played the song and I went off stage.

Nkosi's face was so full of love. I went to him.

Nkosi: I Love you so much Zemvelo, I want to marry you.

Me: I Love you too Thembinkosi.

I ignored the marriage part.

Nkosi: I didn't know you sing, you have such a beautiful voice.

Me: Thank you.



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We also joined the couple and danced.

Insert 24

Today it's Christmas day and Thati's birthday. I am sad that I won't get to celebrate her birthday with her but I sent her gifts and she was more than happy. Sis Thandile won't be celebrating Christmas with us as she's at her honeymoon in Zimbali.

We went to celebrate with Sihle's family, our in-laws. They cooked a feast. It was really an amazing day.

Thati sent me pictures of her family's Christmas celebration as well. I miss my friend so much.

After a while I then sneaked out and went to meet my man.

Nkosi: I thought you'd never come out.

Me: I had to make sure nobody notices I'm gone. We drove to Queen Elizabeth Park and had a picnic. It's our first Christmas together, I wasn't going to miss it.



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Nkosi: Mom and dad are hosting a new years eve event. It's not those typical parties just a very well formal event.

Me: like those rich people gala dinners

Nkosi: (laughed) yes

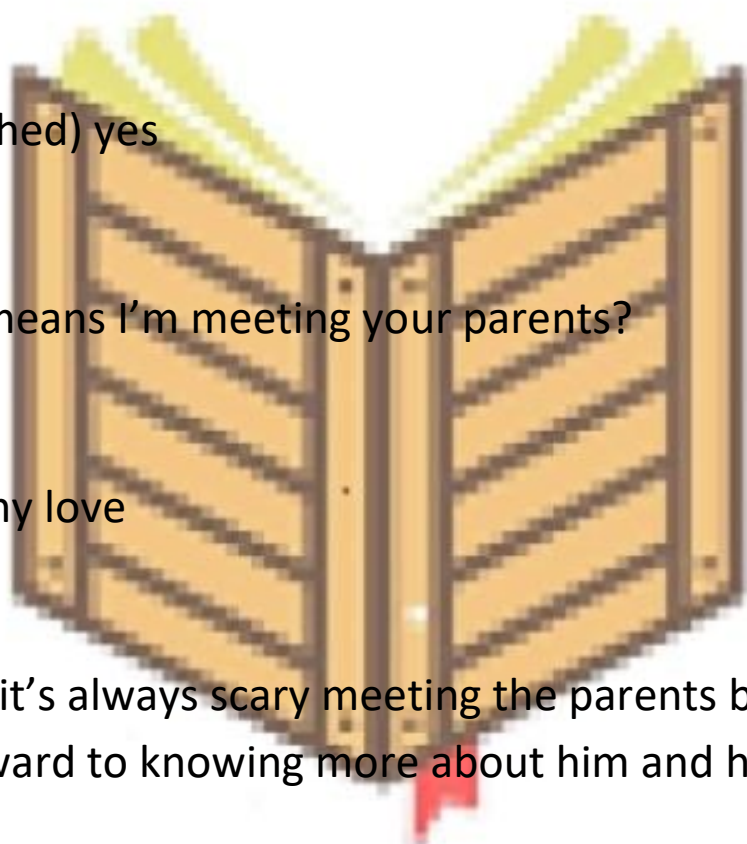
M: so that means I'm meeting your parents?

Nkosi: yes my love

Whuu okay it's always scary meeting the parents but I'm looking forward to knowing more about him and his home.

We had our picnic and he drove me back to Sihle's home.

Mom: Eey Mjolo uzonibulala sunflower, sowazi kubaleka manje (dating will kill you, you're sneaking out now?)



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Me: I'm so sorry mom

Sihle's mom gave us cupcakes that she baked specially for her in-law and we went home.



Today is the 31st of December. My sister is still not yet back. I was just so nervous and needed her beside me in case they insult me or something.

Anyway I got ready, Wore my black maxi evening dress and glittering black clutch bag and clear strappy heels. I had braids so I let them loose.

Nkosi texted me that he's outside and I said my goodbyes and left.

Nkosi: My lady, you look stunning as always.

Me: Thank you Mr Makhoba

We drove off.

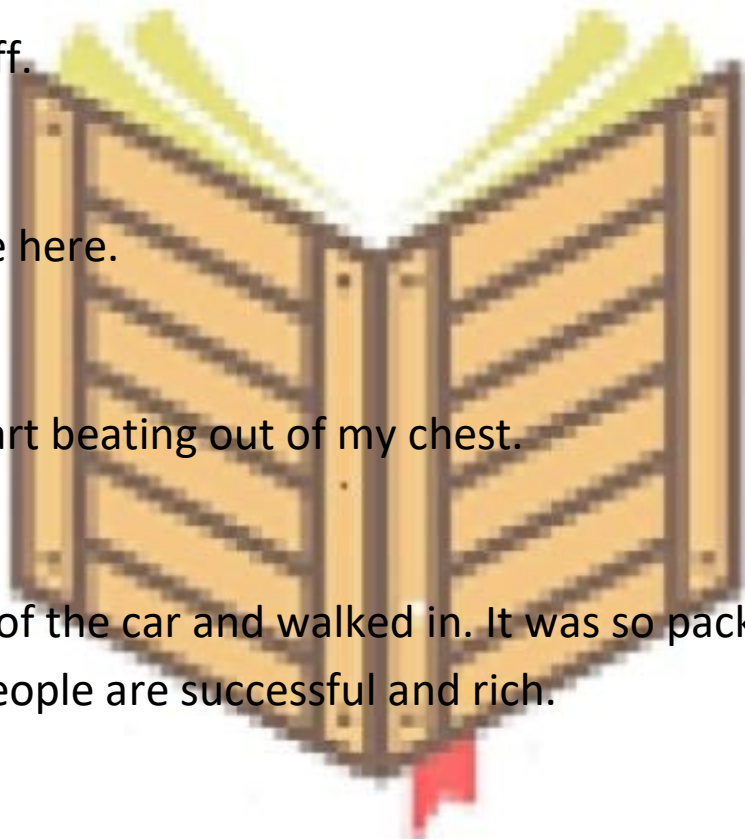
Nkosi: we're here.

I felt my heart beating out of my chest.

We got out of the car and walked in. It was so packed, you can see these people are successful and rich.

Nkosi: Mom, dad, brothers, this is Zemvelo Mkhize, my better half. Mvelo, this is my beloved family.

The mom: aay ninamanga nina, there's no person this beautiful on Earth. (You're lying)



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The dad: It's like an Angel just landed in our house. You're beautiful ntokazi yakwaKhabazela.

The Mom: We welcome you our future daughter in law. Feel at home. I need to go attend the guests.

She took her husband and left.

Brother 1: I am Nkosiyazi

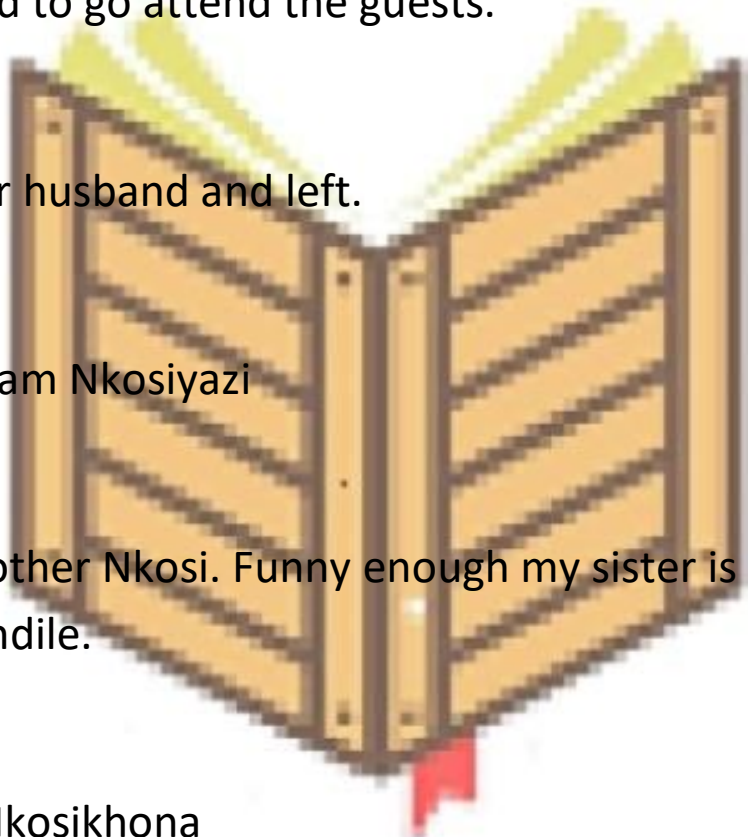
Oh okay another Nkosi. Funny enough my sister is also a Nkosi, Nkosingthandile.

Brother 2: Nkosikhona

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No way what's with the Nkosis.

Nkosi: I know what you're thinking



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parents think they got bars.

We laughed. Okay that went well.

The event was really beautiful. It was now almost midnight.

Mrs Makhoba: It's almost 00:00. Let's begin the count down.
10, 9, 8,7 ,6, 5,4,3,2,1, Happy new year!!

Nkosi grabbed me and kissed me.

Nkosi: I am so glad that you're mine.

Me: I am glad I am yours.

After that he took me to the guestroom which will be the room I'll sleep in. Yes, his father said 'you are not married and this is my house' . I called Thati , Mom, Inathi, Thandile and wished them a happy new year then slept. I was so exhausted.

Insert 25

In the morning, I woke up, took a bath and wore my summer dress and packed my stuff. I went downstairs and everyone was already seated.

Mrs Makhoba: Good morning makoti how did you sleep?

Me: I slept well mma, thank you.

Nkosiyazi: So my brother told us you helped him with one of his cases. It's great to have another lawyer in the family.

Wee mom better not hear him say that because I'm going to be the Mkhize lawyer. Nkosiyazi is the older brother (only two years older than Nkosi)

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he's a doctor. Nkosikhona is the last born and he runs businesses with his father, they run hotels and construction companies. Mrs Makhoba is the trophy wife.

We continued chatting and they seem to really like me and I like them too.

Nkosi drove me back home.

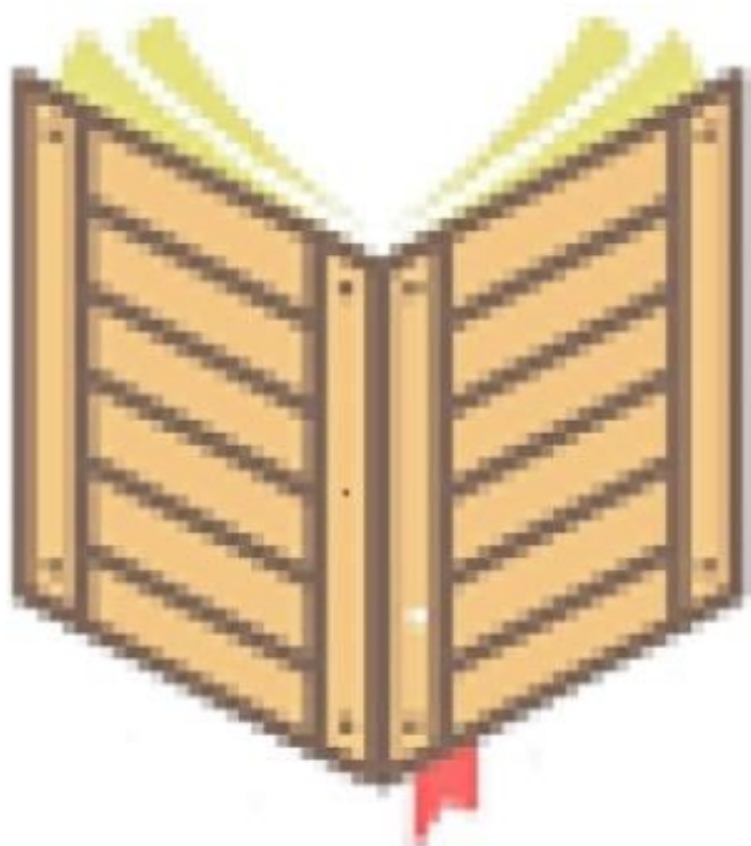
Nkosi: so next week I'm going back to Cape Town, criminals need me.

Me: and I'm going to go back first week of next month. How will I survive all these weeks without you?

Nkosi: you can come back a little early. Internship programmes at Bowmans open in 2 weeks.

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Me: really? Oh my God I'll let Thati know, see you then. I kissed him and got out the car. When I got inside the house, I immediately called Thati. We were so excited hopefully everything goes well. #Secondyearlawstudents.



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Insert 26

Two weeks passed. Thembinkosi is picking me from the Cape Town international airport today. When I got out of the plane, he was already there looking so fine, waiting for me with sunflowers.

Nkosi: My love, welcome back.

I hugged and kissed him.

We drove to res, fortunately Thati and I are roommates again in our old room.

When the car parked, she quickly recognised it and came running and gave me a warm hug.

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Me: I've missed you so much friend

Thati: Tell me about it.

Nkosi helped us take my bags inside and left us to catch up.

Thati: So I almost got married last month.

I laughed so hard.

Me: You have started Thati.

I noticed she wasn't laughing, she's actually serious.

Thati: Before Christmas, Dad wanted to marry me off to an old man. It was like he was possessed. It took all of us by surprise, my overprotective father. That day, it was like he wasn't my father at all. They stopped me from calling you or going to church

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I was a prisoner. It was so horrible Zem. The day before the lobola negotiations were supposed to take place, the old man

sneaked into my room, only God knows how he even got pass the gate.

Me: (teary eyes) No Thathi, I pulled her in for a hug .

Thati: What he didn't know was that dad kept on coming to my room every hour to make sure I don't run away.

He came into my room and found him trying to force himself on me. And that's how he called everything off. We later found out he was under a spell. He hasn't even forgiven himself even now. I really thank mom for her prayers that got us through such a difficult time. Qwaqwa is full of evil.

I was in tears, I can't believe my friend went through all that and I wasn't there for her.

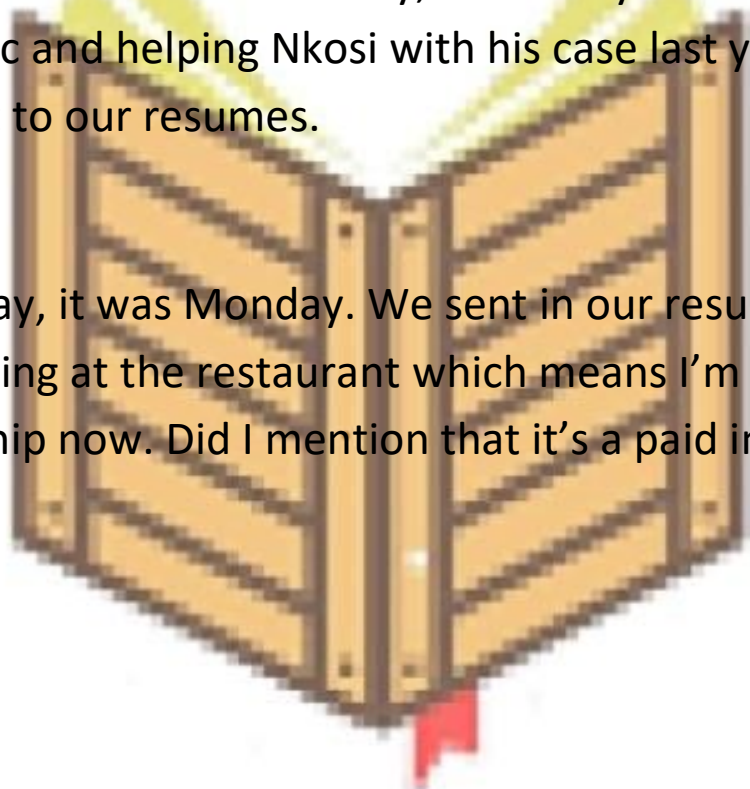
Me: I am so sorry you went through all that. God did say in his word that, We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, persecuted, but not abandoned. Therefore we do not lose heart because he's always near us.

Thati: Amen. Now enough of this pity session. Bowmans girl!

Me: Bowmans!

I smiled at her. Tomorrow the applications for internship will open. We had our resumes ready, I must say that being part of the law clinic and helping Nkosi with his case last year surely gave weight to our resumes.

Following day, it was Monday. We sent in our resumes. I was no longer working at the restaurant which means I'm counting on this internship now. Did I mention that it's a paid internship?



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Insert 27

Days went by and today classes were commencing. Thati and I woke up a bit late.

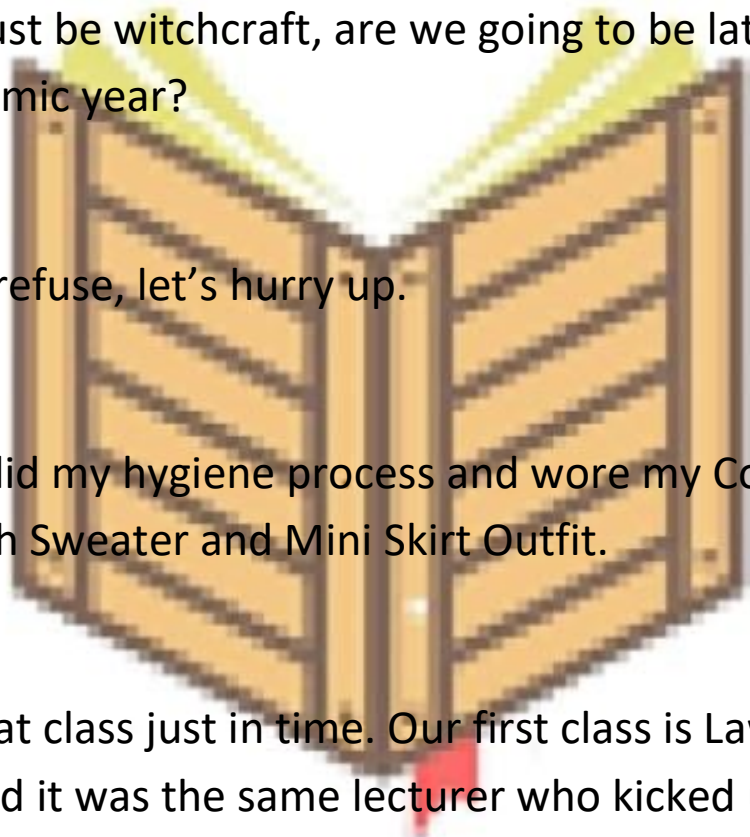
Me: This must be witchcraft, are we going to be late first day of every academic year?

Thati: No, I refuse, let's hurry up.

I woke up, did my hygiene process and wore my Collared Shirt Layered with Sweater and Mini Skirt Outfit.

We arrived at class just in time. Our first class is Law of Evidence and it was the same lecturer who kicked us out on our first day last year for being late. Why is the universe doing this to us?

Him: Ms Mkhize and Ms Mokoena, count yourselves lucky, had you been even 30 seconds late, you wouldn't attend this class. Take your seats.



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Whuu what a relief. We are now attending our last class, Legal Practice.

Lecturer: Good morning students

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I am Mr Mokoena, your Legal Practice lecturer. In front of you is your first assignment which is due in two days, class dismissed.

The whole class went crazy. You know at varsity neh, there's always that one lecturer and that one module that shows you flames.

Thati: you know when he introduced himself as Mokoena, I was like oh, he's one of us he shares my surname and now he just got in my bad books.

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Me: well let's go and get started on the assignment.

For the assignment, we're required to find law firms and ask for one of their recent cases and make case notes/briefs. It's actually not that hard the only problem is finding a law firm but luckily I happen to be dating someone who works at one.

When we arrived at res, my phone beeped. It's an email.

Thati: I got it, I got in!!!!

I knew what she meant because I also got in!! It's the internship at Bowmans. We were so excited.

Following day when we were going to get the schedule of how we're going to work at Bowmans law we ended up getting assistance with our legal practice assignment as well.

So we're divided into three groups and assigned to work under different associates. In total we're 15 new interns. And by some 'coincidence' I happened to be working under Nkosi but I'm glad Thati is part of my group, I was going to die if we got separated. The third intern wasn't present but we were told that her name is Melissa. It's going to be a challenge working with my boyfriend but we worked well together last year so I got this.

Insert 28

Today is our first day as Bowmans law interns.

I took a shower and wore my black double breasted blazer dress and Thati wore her lantern sleeve plaid tweet dress, we look like qualified lawyers.

We arrived at the office.

Melly: (she scoffed) and then you guys? Why are you dressed like you're lawyers because you're just interns?

Wait is Melly , Mellissa the girl part of our group? No way! How did she even get the internship? Don't get me wrong but her performance was very poor last year.

Thati: Better to dress like an advocate than a bottle lady.

She was actually wearing a Green split thigh sequin cami dress.

Me: Yeah Melly why are you dressed like you're going to a function

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did we miss the memo?

Nkosi and the other 4 associates came in.

Nkosi: Young lady, didn't your institution teach you how we dress in our profession?

Thati and I giggled and cat caught her tongue.

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The other associates introduced themselves then as groups we followed our assigned associate to their respective offices.

I signalled Nkosi to meet me at the kitchen and he followed me.

Me: I don't mean to be unprofessional but how did Melly end up working under you?

Nkosi: The legal assistants were responsible for grouping baby, I had no idea until this morning.

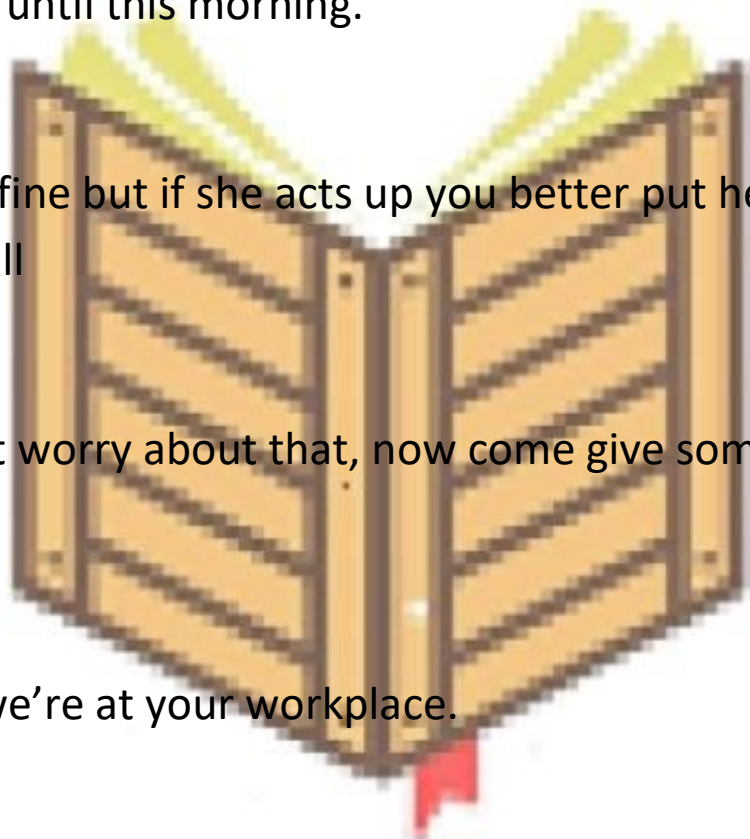
Me: Alright fine but if she acts up you better put her in her place or I will

Nkosi: Don't worry about that, now come give some love to your man.

Me: Nkosi we're at your workplace.

He just grabbed me and kissed me while running his hand inside my blazer.

Someone dropped what sounded like a glass cup in the kitchen.



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Insert 29

I quickly got away from Nkosi. This is not good at all, it was the head of HR.

Her: young lady, do you want to be one of those women who slept their way to the top? Did you seduce Mr Makhoba to get this internship?

I felt tears building up.

Nkosi: Please stop insulting my woman. Zemvelo got this internship because she worked hard for it and she deserves it.

Her: Mhm, well I am going to file a report on this one. Let's see if you're still going to be an intern by the end of this day.

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She walked out. I got so mad at Nkosi.

Me: I told you to stop, now look everything's ruined, my career ended before it can even begin!

Nkosi: Calm down maMkhize. You're not going to lose your internship, you did nothing wrong. I'll fix this.

I just walked out and left him there.

Thati: hey friend I've been looking for you. Whoa, were you crying what's wrong?

I told her what happened and she laughed in disbelief.

Me: well I was actually looking for you to tell you that Melly is the head of HR's niece. I bet that's how she even got the internship.

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Me: That actually makes sense. The remarks she made about me are the same as the ones Melly makes. What have I done to these people for them to hate me this much.

One of the PAs came in.

Him: Ms Mkhize

you're summoned to the HR office.

That's it, I guess I should kiss Bowmans Law goodbye.

I followed the PA and went to the office. Almost the entire senior staff was here. What have I done.

To my surprise the head of HR apologised to me and Nkosi spoke and said that he brought the senior staff to announce to them that we're an item but that will not interfere with our work and promised to keep it professional from now on.

NOVELSGURU.COM

Nkosi is a man amongst other men. He really did fix it. Some of his colleagues even cheered for him that he made a perfect choice.

I went to the bathroom and did my business. As I was washing my hands, someone hugged me from behind. I know it's not Nkosi because this person smells different. I turned to look at him and it's Nkosi's friend Ntokozo.

Me: What do you think you're doing?

Ntokozo: come on mama, don't tell me you haven't noticed the chemistry between us.

Me: What the hell Ntokozo! Nkosi is your friend, shame on you man.

I attempted to leave and he blocked my way. Lord help me, I'll give this guy a hot slap.

He grabbed my hands and pushed me towards the wall then tightened his grip.

Me: Let go of me Ntokozo, you're hurting me.



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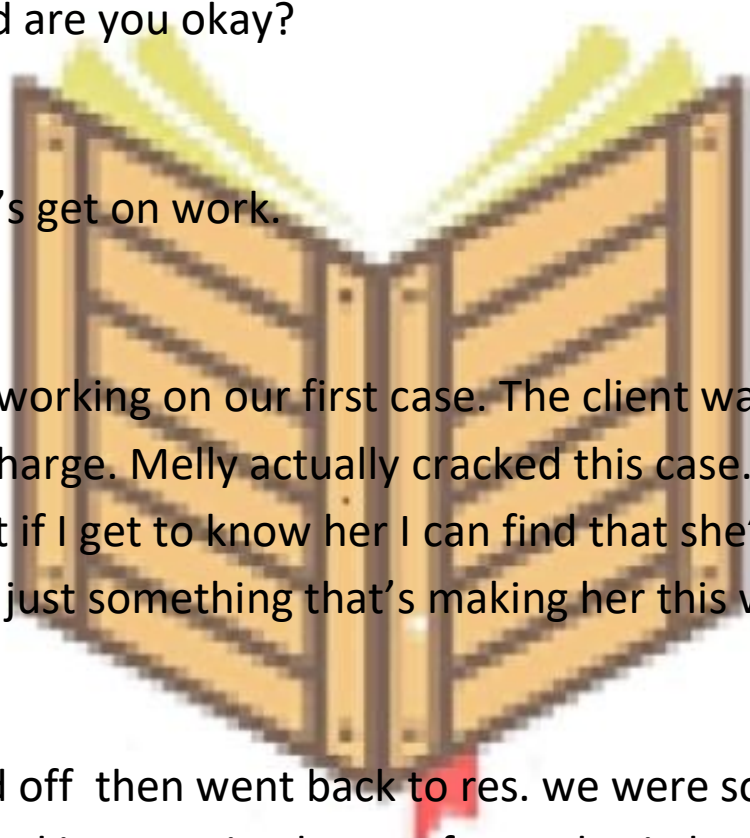
I heard a camera click. Ntokozo quickly let go of me and I ran out. When I got to the office Melly gave me nasty looks, I ignored her.

Thati: Friend are you okay?

Me: Yes, let's get on work.

We started working on our first case. The client was facing a vandalism charge. Melly actually cracked this case. I'm starting to think that if I get to know her I can find that she's an amazing soul there's just something that's making her this way.

We knocked off then went back to res. we were so exhausted so we ordered in. I received a text from Nkosi That reads "How can you do this to me Zemvelo? I freaking trusted you".



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Insert 30

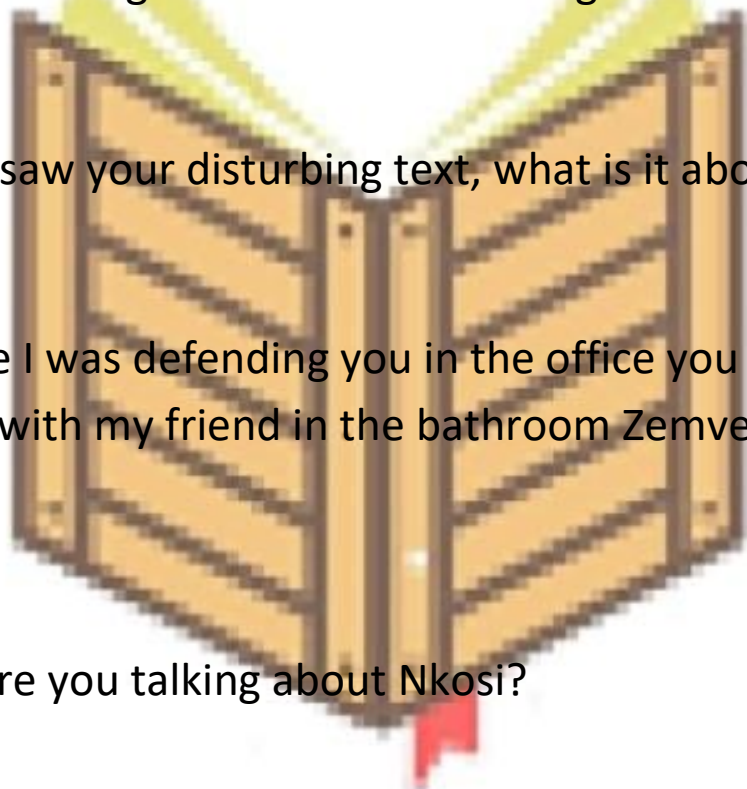
I was so confused so I decided to call him and he did not pick up. Why is he being a child? I called him again and he picked up.

Me: Babe, I saw your disturbing text, what is it about?

Nkosi: While I was defending you in the office you were busy making out with my friend in the bathroom Zemvelo, how could you?

Me: What are you talking about Nkosi?

I checked my WhatsApp and he sent me pictures. It's pictures of me and Ntokozo in the bathroom, they look photo shopped, Ntokozo and I look cosy in them. I should have told Nkosi what happened, I thought I was avoiding coming between them but rather it messed things up for me.



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Me: Babe I can explain

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this is a huge misunderstanding. Can we please meet tomorrow and talk about this?

Nkosi: Fine, but I'm coming now.

An hour later he arrived. He looked so mad but mostly hurt. I explained to him what really happened, I can't read his face or really tell if he believes me.

Me: Where did you get the pictures anyway?

Nkosi: An unknown email account sent them to me. I can't believe Ntokozo did this to you. I am so sorry babe and for not trusting you. Whoever sent this must really have a great agenda. I'll look into it.



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Whuu, he believes me. We cuddled a bit and I went back to the room.

Following day at work, I went to Melly's desk to get some notes on the case we're working on. She wasn't in yet but I saw the notes on her table so I decided to go take them. I noticed something on her computer, it was the pictures of me and Ntokozo and these ones were not photo shopped. I should have known it was her. To think I was actually starting to think she's an amazing person.

Melly: What are you doing in my desk?

Me: What's this Melly?

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Melly: Please don't tell Nkosi, I don't want to lose my internship. My aunt made me do this to get rid of you please Zemvelo.

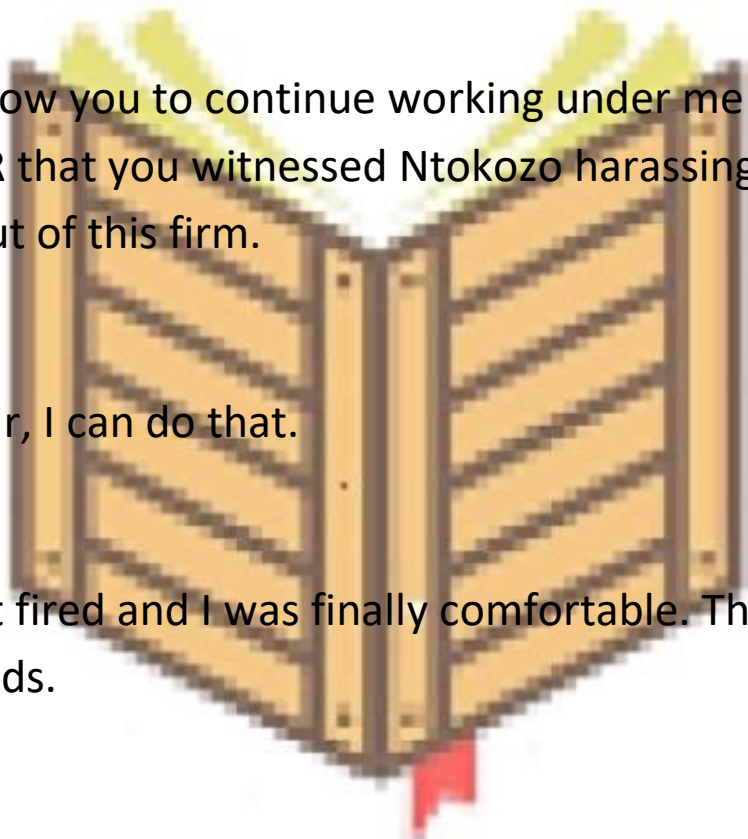
Nkosi: Don't tell me what? That you witnessed my lady getting harassed and instead of helping her you took pictures and photo shopped them?

Melly: I am really sorry Mr Makhoba.

Nkosi: I'll allow you to continue working under me only if you testify to HR that you witnessed Ntokozo harassing Zemvelo. I need him out of this firm.

Melly: Yes sir, I can do that.

Ntokozo got fired and I was finally comfortable. The world's full of fake friends.



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Insert 31

Two months later it was Easter holidays. Today it's Good Friday and we're going to church. I have really grown spiritually and now preach every now and then during youth services. Today will be my first time ministering in front of the whole congregation but at least Thati and Nkosi are here. Yes, I did tell you to give me a few months, I finally convinced him to come to church and he's now a regular.

I began by singing Hillsong- Grace to grace "How wonderful, how glorious, My Saviour's scars victorious, My chains are gone, my debt is paid, From death to life and grace to grace. When I see that cross, I see freedom, When I see that grave, I'll see Jesus, And from death to life, I will sing Your praise. In the wonder of Your grace"

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And half of the church was in tears, I felt the Holy spirit taking over.

Me: "I greet the church in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ who died for us. Today I want to talk under the theme 'Jesus paid it all'. Let's open our bibles in the book of Isaiah 53:4-5. Jesus has borne your grief. Your sorrows are the ones he carried. Your transgressions, all your sins, were the ones that pierced him

Advertisement

the ones for which he paid. For you, he was crushed, viciously slaughtered, for your iniquities. It was a slaughter you deserved, a punishment reserved for you, that he took upon himself, in your place, so that you get peace. By his wounds you have been healed.

Jesus has died, and he has died for you. The stain of sin that marred your life has now been washed white as snow. He has paid your debts. All of them. Jesus has paid it all. He has paid it all and what we ought to do is praise him."

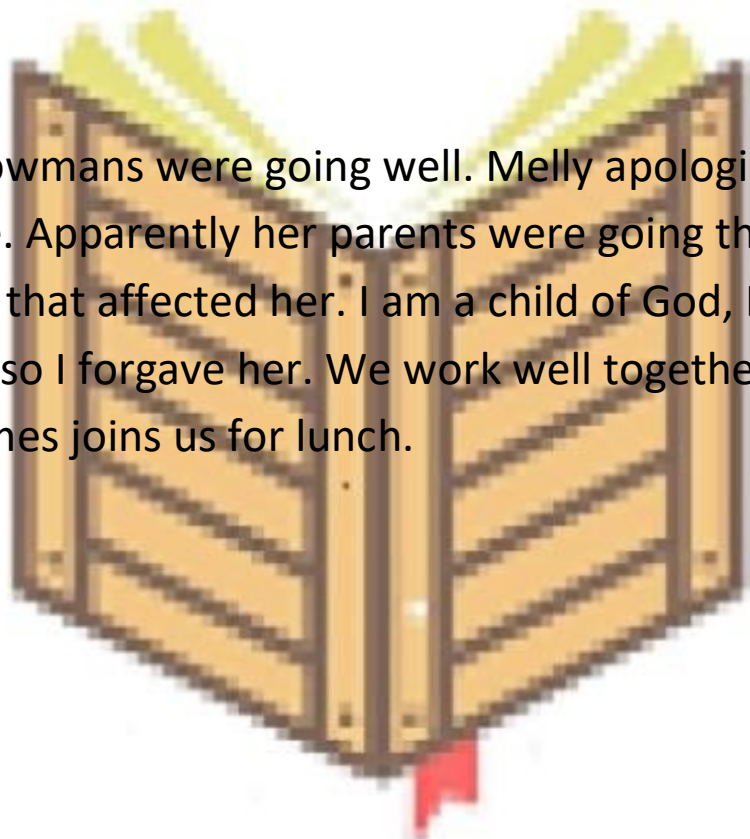
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The church clapped their hands as I went to sit down. Our new pastor, Pastor Mkhonto then gave the sermon. He preached about Jesus' seven words on the cross.

After the service, Thati, Jay, Nkosi and I went on a double date. It was nice, I am really glad they are part of my life.

The Easter weekend was now over and classes resumed. Being a law student is not easy, it really requires passion, dedication and hard work.

Things at Bowmans were going well. Melly apologised for being mean to me. Apparently her parents were going through a divorce and that affected her. I am a child of God, I believe in forgiveness so I forgave her. We work well together now and she sometimes joins us for lunch.



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Insert 32

It was now May 11, Nkosi's birthday.

Unfortunately I couldn't plan something big for him because he was swamped with work. He was working on a big case, the mayor accused for murdering his mistress.

So I decided to go to his house to plan an indoor picnic. I had Keys now. I got in and did my thing: roses, cake, non alcoholic wine, snacks and all the likes.

It was hard to get him to pause working and come back to the house.

Me: Happy birthday baby.

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Nkosi: Thank you my love for making my birthday special. I know I haven't been giving you enough time because of this case.

Me: I completely understand baby, perks of dating someone in your profession.

He went to change his work suit and joined me. I gave him his gift, it's a TAG Heuer men's connected calibre E4 Watch.

Nkosi: Babe this is way too expensive

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how did you afford this?

Me: Just say thank you.

Nkosi: Thank you so much babe, I've wanted this watch for a very long time.

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He kissed me.

I played Let's stay together by Al Green.

Nkosi: This is the song we danced to at the restaurant in our first official date.

He was smiling, showing his beautiful teeth.

Me: May I have this dance my gent

We slow danced and our eyes locked. He makes me so weak. We slowly kissed. It felt different this time, it was full of affection. It's like our souls are intertwined. I think I am ready to give myself to him. He turned me around and slowly unzipped my dress. The goosebumps I'm feeling right now, he planted soft kisses on my neck. I'm getting more weak. He lifted me up and carefully placed me on bed. He sucked on my boob while caressing the other, then he went down and planted soft kisses in between my thighs then did his thing with his tongue. He firstly inserted one figure then two. I moaned out his name.

Me: Babe I want you.

Nkosi: are you sure.

Me: yes I'm ready.

He tried inserting himself and I flinched, it was painful and uncomfortable.

He finally got in and I let out a loud moan. He started going slowly while kissing me, then he increased the pace. We both released and he collapsed on me.

Nkosi: That was great baby, thank you for trusting me with your pureness.

I lied on his chest and dozed off immediately.

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Insert 33

The rest of the week we have been occupied working on the mayor's murder case. His trial starts today. The courtroom was packed and reporters were here as well. If Nkosi wins this case, he's going to be bigger than he already is. I have faith in him though.

The prosecutor started with his opening statement.

Prosecutor: "Good morning, my name is Brandon Smith and I am the prosecutor in this case. On February 3rd 2021, the defendant in this case murdered in cold blood a young woman he was having an affair with. At the conclusion of the case we will ask for a verdict of guilty.

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Ladies and gentlemen, this case is about an unfaithful man, who decided to commit adultery and cheat on his wife, a dishonest man who's supposed to be serving our society. The

prosecution will call two witnesses to the stand. We will call the mayor Mr Coetzee's secretary who will explain her observance about the affair. Then will call his housekeeper Gloria Mbedzi who will testify that she witnessed the defendant committing the offence."

Seems like the prosecution has a solid case. Nkosi said his opening statement.

Nkosi: "Good morning

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my name is Thembinkosi Makhoba, and it is my pleasure to represent one of the respected men, Mr Coetzee on this very important case. The defendant stands here falsely accused of murder, a very serious crime. At the Conclusion of the case we will ask for a verdict of not guilty.

The prosecution has explained that one of the witnesses saw my client continuously stab the victim. However, what the prosecutor didn't say is that my client suffers from mental illness. He Was literally out of his mind that day in question,

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and we have an expert witness who will testify that my Client is insane. “

There was commotion in the court. Yes the mayor committed the crime and with the evidence against him we were going to lose this case. When we presented this defence to him he refused at first because that means he'll lose his job and go to a mental hospital but that's better than jail so he had no choice but to agree.

Nkosi: “The defence will call two witnesses to the stand. The first witness Dr. Smith will testify that she was employed as an emergency doctor the day of the murder and when she came in, she found the victim still breathing and noticed that the defendant was disoriented.

We'll also call the victim's best friend Blanca Taylor who will testify that Mr Coetzee really loved the victim and would have never hurt her.

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At the conclusion of the case we would ask you to find that my client is innocent. Thank you.”

That's mine right there.

Insert 34

The trial continued.

The prosecutor called their first witness the secretary, Gwen Harris.

Mr Smith: Ms Harris, would you take us through your employer's affair.

Ms Harris: As his secretary, I work closely with him and his PA, I've walked in on them making out several times. The mayor gave me money to keep quiet and told me he'll break up with her he doesn't love her and will focus on his wife.

He continued questioning her and it was now Nkosi's turn to cross examine.

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Nkosi: Ms Harris, do you know that the love of money is the root of all evil?

The court laughed.

Ms Harris: yes

Nkosi: So your silence was bought. Would you tell the court why you accepted the money?

Ms Harris: it's the mayor how can I say no to him. He said they'll break up.

Nkosi: That doesn't answer why you accepted the money.

Ms Harris: My son is sick and needs surgery

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I needed the money.

Nkosi: Did Mr Coetzee offer to pay you for your silence or you blackmailed him instead?

Prosecutor: Objection my Lord, speculation.

Judge: Overruled, Ms Harris answer the question.

Ms Harris: He offered.

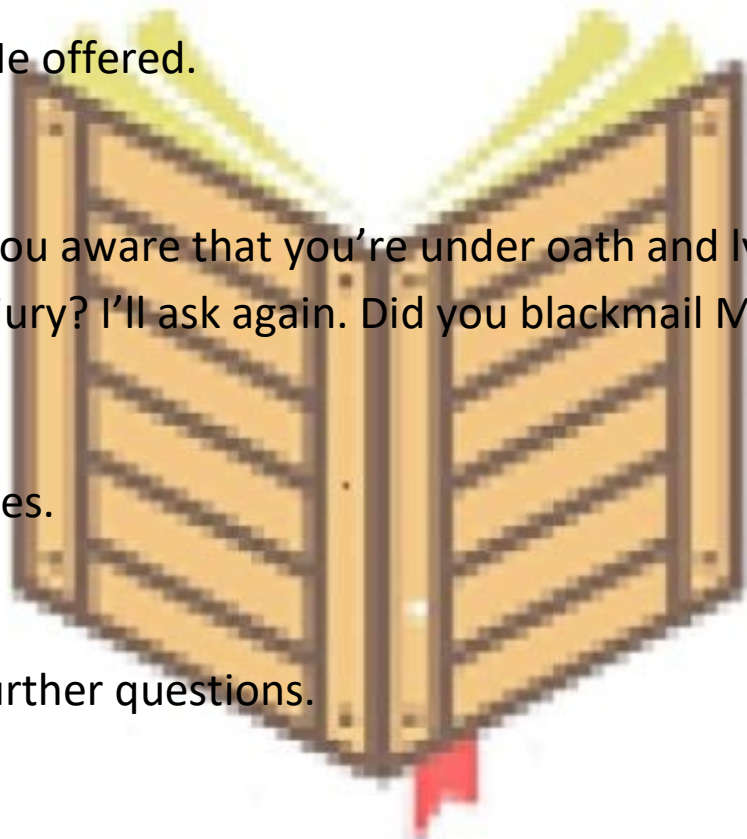
Nkosi: Are you aware that you're under oath and lying on the stand is perjury? I'll ask again. Did you blackmail Mr Coetzee?

Ms Harris: Yes.

Nkosi: No further questions.

Judge: The witness is excused.

Mr Smith: The prosecutor calls Gloria Mbedzi to the stand.



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Mr Smith: Mrs Mbedzi Can you tell the court what you saw on the day of question?

Mrs Mbedzi: I was doing my work, cleaning the house and I heard the mayor arguing with the victim. She was threatening to tell his wife about the affair. I went to ask them to keep it down because the mayor's new-born baby was sleeping. The bedroom door was open and everything happened so fast, he kept on stabbing her with a knife. I screamed for him to stop and he looked at me blankly and dropped the knife.



Nkosi cross examined her.

Nkosi: So who called the police?

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Mrs Mbedzi: I did.

Nkosi: And did Mr Coetzee try to stop you?

Mrs Mbedzi: No, he insisted that I call them.

Nkosi: No further questions.

Court

was adjourned until next week.



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Insert 35

We're back at the court.

Nkosi: The defence would like to call Dr Smith to the stand.

Nkosi: Dr Smith, you mentioned that when you arrived at the crime scene you noticed that the defendant was disoriented, according to your expert opinion, what could that mean?

Dr Smith: Those are of the symptoms of Insanity. We took Mr Coetzee to test as per the court's instructions and I can confirm that he wasn't in his right state of mind when he allegedly committed the crime.

Nkosi: The defence would like to submit Mr Coetzee's medical records as evidence. Your witness.

Mr Smith: I have no questions for this witness.

Nkosi called Blanca Taylor to the stand.

She testified about how her friend told her that they were involved and he was going to leave his wife. The vacations they went to and pictures and videos showing he was really in love With her.

The prosecutor cross examined her

Mr Smith: Ms Taylor, so you're telling the court that Mr Coetzee was in love and was going to leave his wife and yet Mrs Mbedzi testified that the victim was threatening to tell his wife and he lost it and murdered her into silence. Does that sound like a man who was going to leave his wife to you?

Blanca: No.



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Mr Smith: No further questions My Lord.

Following day.

Judge: Does the Defence have another witness to call?

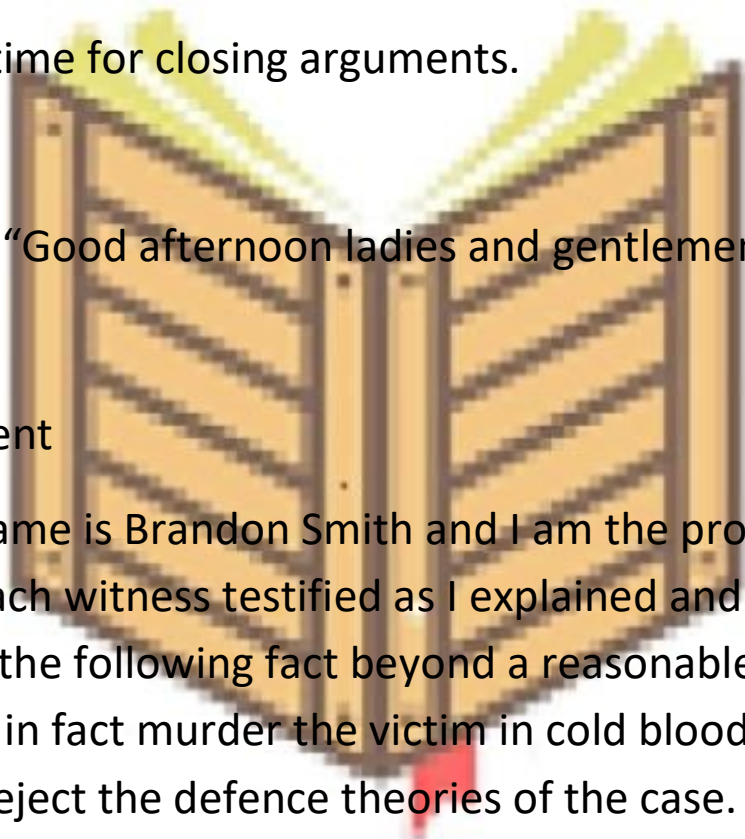
Nkosi: No My Lord , the Defence rests.

It was now time for closing arguments.

Prosecutor: "Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen

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again my name is Brandon Smith and I am the prosecutor in this Case. Each witness testified as I explained and we have established the following fact beyond a reasonable doubt: The accused did in fact murder the victim in cold blood. We would ask you to reject the defence theories of the case. The defence wants you to believe that he is mentally ill but this man had a motive, means and opportunity to commit this crime. The defendant has a motive to lie, because he doesn't want to be held accountable for his action. In conclusion, we would ask that you find the defendant guilty as charged. Thank you.

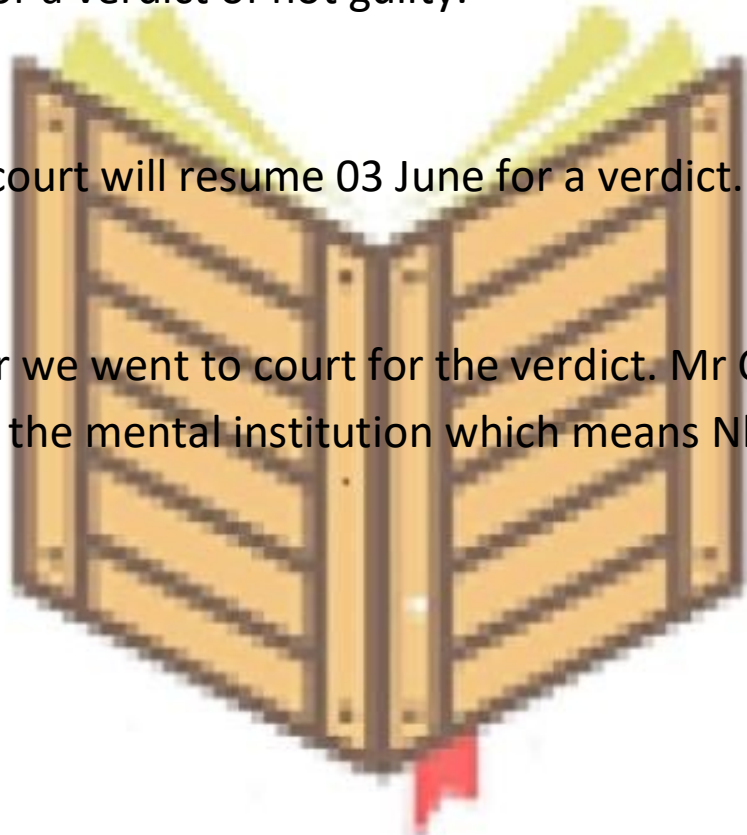


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Nkosi: Good afternoon, my name is Thembinkosi Makhoba and again I am the defence lawyer in this case. In the case that the prosecutor has presented to you today there is insufficient proof to convict. The defendant did not flee the crime scene and we were able to prove that he was not in the right state of mind. This man needs our help, he needs a hospital, not jail. We would ask for a verdict of not guilty.

Judge: The court will resume 03 June for a verdict.

A week later we went to court for the verdict. Mr Coetzee was admitted to the mental institution which means Nkosi won his case.



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Insert 36

Today it's Sunday, I spent the weekend at Nkosi's because we owed ourselves some quality time together.

Me: look who's face made it to front page. They call you the hottest lawyer.

Nkosi: You know, news people exaggerate everything.

Nkosi doesn't like fame and boasting.

I prepared breakfast for us and then we went to church. People at church were giving us nasty looks. Okay that's weird. I went to the praise team.

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Nqobile: sorry there's no mic and space for you here today.

I was so confused, I went to take my seat next to Nkosi.

Mrs Mkhonto, the pastor's wife was ministering today. She opened the book of Titus 1:16 "They claim to know God, but they deny him by what they do. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit to do anything good."

Lady Pastor: "There are many people who throw on the Christian name tag and think by just going to church they will be granted Heaven

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which is false. You know there are people like that in our church and especially in the youth today. Some people act all holy but defend criminals. Our youth is being killed and these lukewarm Christians refuse them justice"

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So this is why everyone is giving us ugly stares and Nqobile kicked me out of the praise team. It's about the mayor's case. I can't believe she just called us lukewarm Christians and preaching about us.

Nkosi stood up and stormed out. Oh God. They will have to forgive me, I followed him and tried to calm him down.

Me: Not everyone will understand your profession. Do not lose heart babe. Let's go back inside.

We went back inside and I took the mic and spoke.

Me: "One of the reasons as a church we lose believers is because of judging. Only God can judge. I don't know what is it that you think about us but we are the doers of the word. We do not just come to church but we live according to his word. Nkosi was doing his job and the money he earns contributes a lot in this church. We will not be shamed by all of you, we're here to praise God. Teach yourself to preach the gospel and not about people."

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I went to sit down and squeezed Nkosi's hand.

After the service Nqobile came to us.

Nqobile: I am sorry for how I treated you earlier.

I nodded and we left to spur.

Thati: What a day. As for you Zemvelo, you're such a wife material, good job defending your man.

Nkosi: Yeah maMkhize, I'll put a ring on it.

Jay: I didn't know Christians can be so mean, what was the meaning of all that?

Nkosi: Most of the time non-believers are more kind than believers and these two drag us to church, for such?

I am honestly pained to hear them talking like this, it's things like these that makes people leave church and make our job to bring them back to God very difficult.

We ordered and ate then they

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dropped us off at res.

Insert 37

Few months later. Our second academic year was over. During our June holidays I found out that Thandile is pregnant with her first baby. I was so excited I'm going to be an aunt.

On my 21st birthday Nkosi bought me an apartment. He said "as a future lawyer you need a big space and that res is not it". He actually wanted to buy me a car but I told him I want to buy my first car, I really want all my achievements to be all me. He's been an amazing boyfriend. I moved in with Thati and we were living together.

Our internship at Bowmans law was going great as well as our academics all in all.

During December holidays. Thandile gave birth to a bouncy baby boy on Christmas day. Thati was so excited that he shares a birthday with her. They named him Slethokuhle Ndlovu. Inathi regarded him as his little brother instead of nephew, it was so funny. Nelisiwe my sister's ex best friend kidnapped Okuhle when he was 2 weeks old. It was a very

draining time my sister was so depressed and Sihle neglected her and drowned himself on alcohol. This is what she wanted and they were letting her win.

Mom forced them to attend counselling at church and eventually they got better. Fortunately a week later the police were able to find Nelisiwe and the baby and arrested her. I really hope we will never hear of that name ever again. A person who was once your friend now does such a painful thing to you. This is why I don't have much friends, it's just my siblings, Thati and my man.



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Insert 38

Two years later.

Mom got a promotion and is now a matron at the hospital. Thandile's baby boy is growing so fast and her marriage is still going strong. Inathi is now in grade 11 and he says he wants to study medicine. Thati and I completed our degree last year and today is our graduation day.

We were in my apartment getting ready.

Thati: I can't believe we've made it.

Me: it still feels like yesterday when we were obsessing about working at Bowmans law.

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We laughed.

Thati: Yeah hey. It's so unfortunate even after our internship we couldn't secure permanent jobs there.

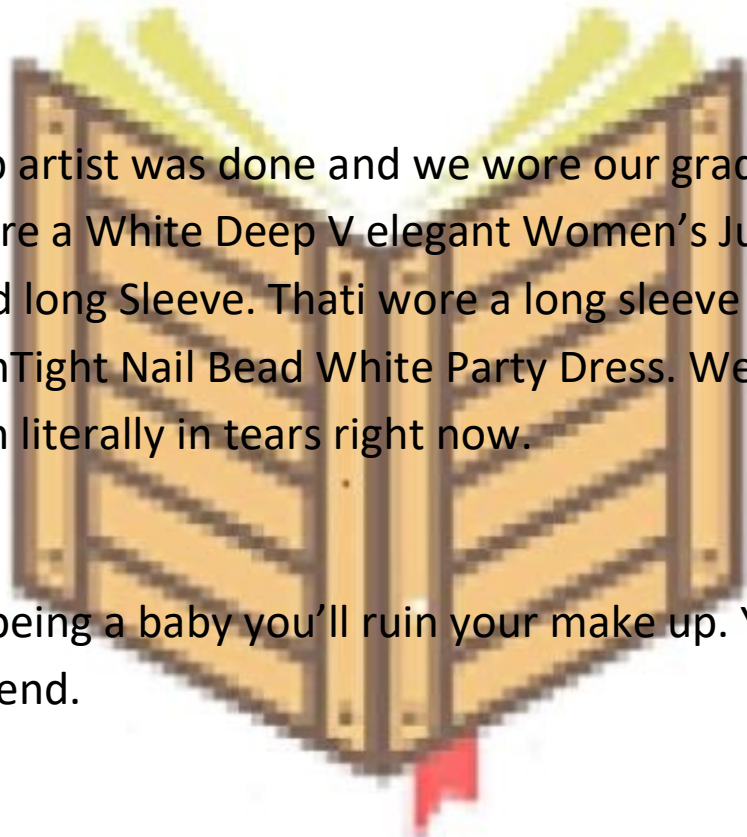
Me: (I held her hands) hey, we did it okay? We worked there and that was a biggest achievement, wherever we're going to work at now it's totally fine we've gained experience.

The makeup artist was done and we wore our graduation outfits. I wore a White Deep V elegant Women's Jumpsuit with feathers and long Sleeve. Thati wore a long sleeve Off Shoulder Feather SlimTight Nail Bead White Party Dress. We looked so stunning I'm literally in tears right now.

Thati: stop being a baby you'll ruin your make up. You're so beautiful friend.

Me: I am glad I've made it this far with you.

I drove with Thembinkosi and Thati drove with Jay. We arrived at the ceremony.



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“Zemvelo Mkhize, graduated with cum laude in Bachelor’s of Laws”

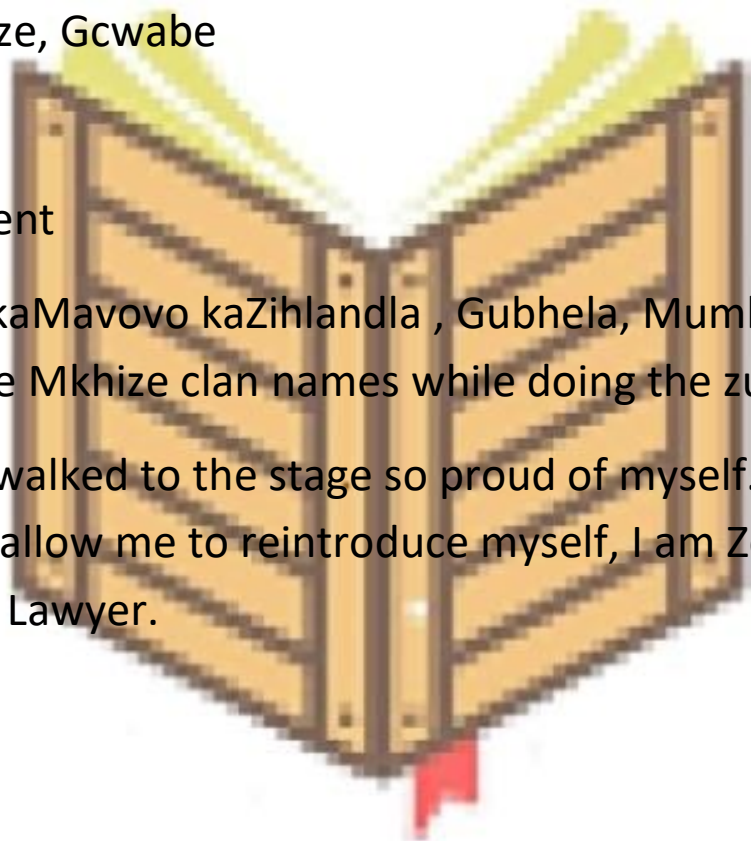
My friend and family screamed in excitement.

Mom: Mkhize, Gcwabe

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Khabazela kaMavovo kaZihlandla , Gubhela, Mumbo omhlophe
(She said the Mkhize clan names while doing the zulu dance)

I gracefully walked to the stage so proud of myself. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to reintroduce myself, I am Zemvelo Mkhize, the Lawyer.



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Insert 39

After the ceremony. Thandile planned a graduation party for us at Winelands Conference venue .

I was now saying my speech.

Me: “ Thank you sis Thandile for always being part of my achievements and celebrating me. God’s grace is sufficient for all of us. I have been through many tribulations but the Lord has never forsaken me. This was not an easy journey but I had the most wonderful people by my side. Thati, who’s been my roommate, my friend and my sister for the whole four years, I couldn’t have done this without you. To the love of my life, Nkosi, thank you for being my cheerleader and investing so much in my career. Mom your daughter is now a lawyer, the Mkhize family now has a lawyer.”

Nkosiyazi: soon to be the Makhoba lawyer (he shouted)

Mom: Don't test me Nkosiyazi.

We all laughed then Thati spoke.

Thati: Firstly I'd like to thank the Almighty for holding my hand since my existence. I thank Zemvelo for encouraging me to never depart from God. Mom, Dad and siblings, I can't express how grateful I am for your support. Jay baby, thank you for being by my side every step of the way.

Thandile: okay everyone raise your glasses, To Zemvelo and Thati our women of law.

Everyone: Cheers

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Nkosi: I also have something to say.

Zemvelo. I have never met a beautiful and resilient woman like you. Ever since I've met you, you brought light to my life. The

past four years of my life have been the best I've ever had. You're everything I've ever wanted in a partner, and more. I love spending time with you, and I can't imagine my life without you. I promise to always make you laugh, to always be there for you when you need me, and to never take you for granted. Thank you for being by my side and sharing your life with me. Will you do me the honour of becoming my wife and granting my mother a chance to experience what it's like to have a daughter?

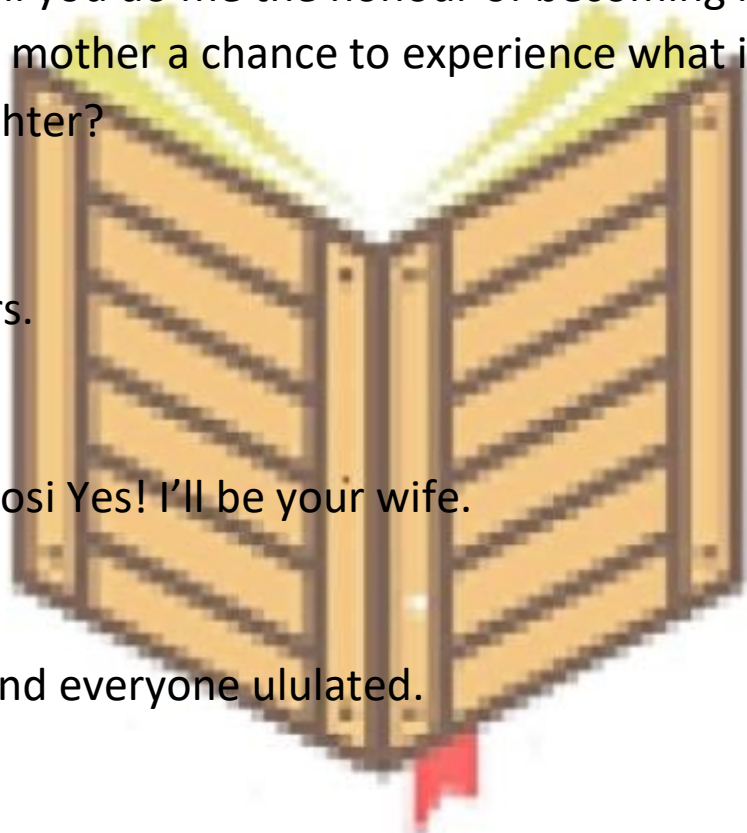
I was in tears.

Me: Yes! Nkosi Yes! I'll be your wife.

We kissed and everyone ululated.

Mr Makhoba: Aww babusisiwe oManzini oZungu oGwabini, oNcwane aww aww (The Makhoba clan is blessed)

Nkosiyazi & Nkosikhona: Finally we'll have a sister.



Mrs Makhoba: A beautiful one at it.

Mom

Advertisement

Inathi, Thandile and Thati came and gave me such a warm hug.

Thati: congratulations friend.

Mom: you have grown so much sunflower, I am so proud of you.

Okay who's chopping onions, I couldn't stop the tears from flowing. This is the best day of my life.

Thati's dad bought her a car as her graduation gift. It was a black BMW. I am so happy for her.

Nkosi: oh everyone I have one more announcement to make.



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Mom: Don't tell me that she's pregnant. Is that why you asked her to marry you Thembinkosi?

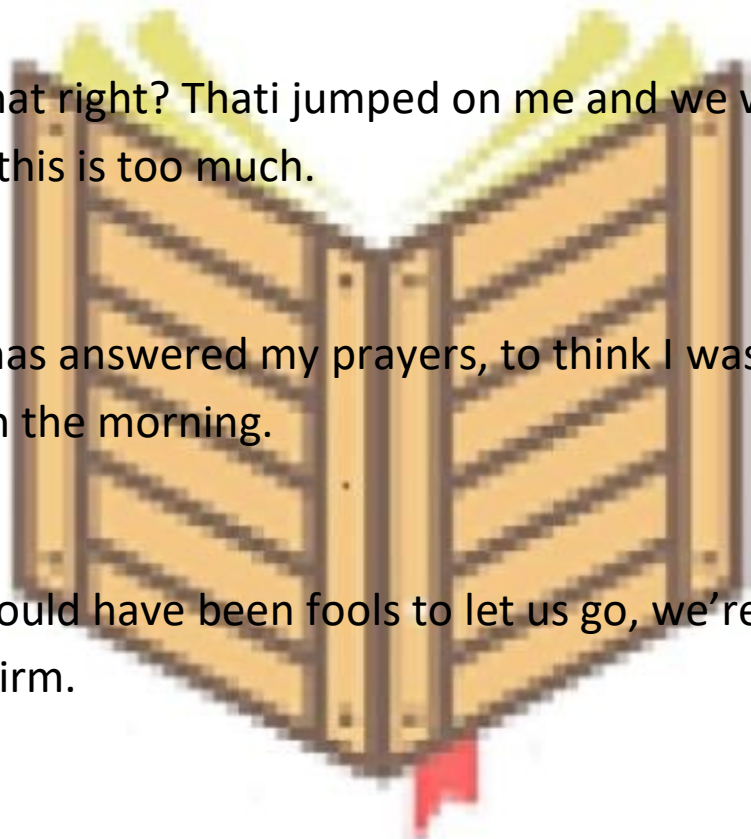
Nkosi: (laughed) No mamma. Thati and Zemvelo are the new employees at Bowmans law Cape Town.

Did I hear that right? Thati jumped on me and we were in tears, God please this is too much.

Thati: God has answered my prayers, to think I was sulking about this in the morning.

Me: They would have been fools to let us go, we're great assets in that law firm.

We carried on with the party and I noticed Nkosiyazi and Thati stealing glances at each other, but I decided not to dwell on it and enjoyed the party.



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After the party I left with Thembinkosi and my family slept at my apartment, they will be going back to Pietermaritzburg tomorrow.

Nkosi: Mrs Makhoba to be.

Me: You didn't want to give mom a chance to celebrate having a lawyer in the Mkhize family and now I'm going to be part of the Makhobas, usile wena.

He laughed and pulled me towards him.

Nkosi: Don't you need help taking this off?

I got wet instantly. Nkosi Nkosi Nkosi .

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He undressed me and roughly pushed me to the wall. Don't look at me like that, of course I love it rough. He lifted up my one leg and kneeled in front of me then licked, twirled his tongue and sucked my honeypot like his life depended on it. He came back up and kissed me while inserting his two figures in

me, I moaned and even started crying because this was just so good. He took out his fingers and made me lick them and taste myself. I just went crazy after that and took his manhood by hand and inserted myself. He groaned while I moaned, I reached orgasm and he took me to bed and made me face down and entered from behind. He pounded on me so hard, I lost count of how many times I reached orgasm. Then I went on top and rode him like crazy and we both released.

He kissed my forehead and said “I love you maMkhize”

Me: I love you too Manzini.

I fell asleep immediately, that’s what sex does to me, it’s my sleeping pill.



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Insert 40

A week later, we're starting our job at Bowmans law.

I can't believe I have my own office.

Thati: knock knock

Me: Come in

Thati: aay aay Zemvelo, sunflowers everywhere really?

Nkosi barged in.

Nkosi: Your clients will not take you serious.

Me: first of all Nkosi you didn't knock and this is my office I'll chase you all out if you came here to judge me.



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Thati: okay I'm zipping my mouth.

Nkosi: I came to check if you were settling well.

Thati: And I came to gossip about Thembinkosi.

Nkosi: aay Othantile do you want to get fired on your first day?

Thati: Whuu so serious, you're using my full name now. I'm kidding I came to check on my friend.

Me: so you guys came to my office to chat together?

Nkosi: (He kissed me) let me leave you to it baby. Onthatile. (He gave her a side eye)

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Me: What's up with you two, you'll give me grey hair at a young age.

Thati: it's your zulu man aay. So chom when are we starting with the weddig plans?

Oh God that's another thing I have to deal with. I think I'll just hire a wedding planner.

Me: We haven't even picked a date Thati

Thati: What are you waiting for?

Me: Thati will you be my maid of honour?

Thati: (Her jaw dropped) are you being serious? Aren't you supposed to like ask your sister?

Me: well if you can't then I'll ask her.

Thati: pshh don't do that, it'll be my pleasure. Let me go back to my office before I get fired your man threatened me phela.

Right after she left, one of the partners in the firm came in.

Mrs Johnson: Ms Mkhize, I hope you're settling in well, here's some work for you.

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She smiled and walked out. I smiled at myself, okay, my first case. I took the file and opened it and I couldn't believe my eyes.

Insert 41

I walked out of my office and went to Mrs Johnson.

Me: Mrs Johnson I think there's been a mistake. According to this file, I'm supposed to be making case notes, this is a job for legal assistants.

Mrs Johnson: Your eyes aren't deceiving you, we don't have cases for you yet so in the meantime keep yourself busy with that. Please excuse me, I have a trial to attend.

That really hurts, I went to Thati's office.

Me: Hey friend what are you working on?

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Thati: It's a civil case, unfair dismissal friend, they said I'll be taking on small cases for now.

Wow I must be really missing something here. I showed her the work I've been given.

Thati: For law people, they are so discriminative. This is ridiculous.

I went back to my office and texted Nkosi. "Let's get married on September 26, I want to have a spring wedding"

He texted me back "wow on your birthday baby, that's great"

I searched for wedding planners and venues and a few hours later, Mrs Johnson came to my office.

Mrs Johnson: Ms Mkhize

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can I have those case notes?

Shoot, I didn't do them, this woman was actually serious.

Me: Can you please give me an hour to finish them and I'll bring them to your office?

She left and I started working on them.

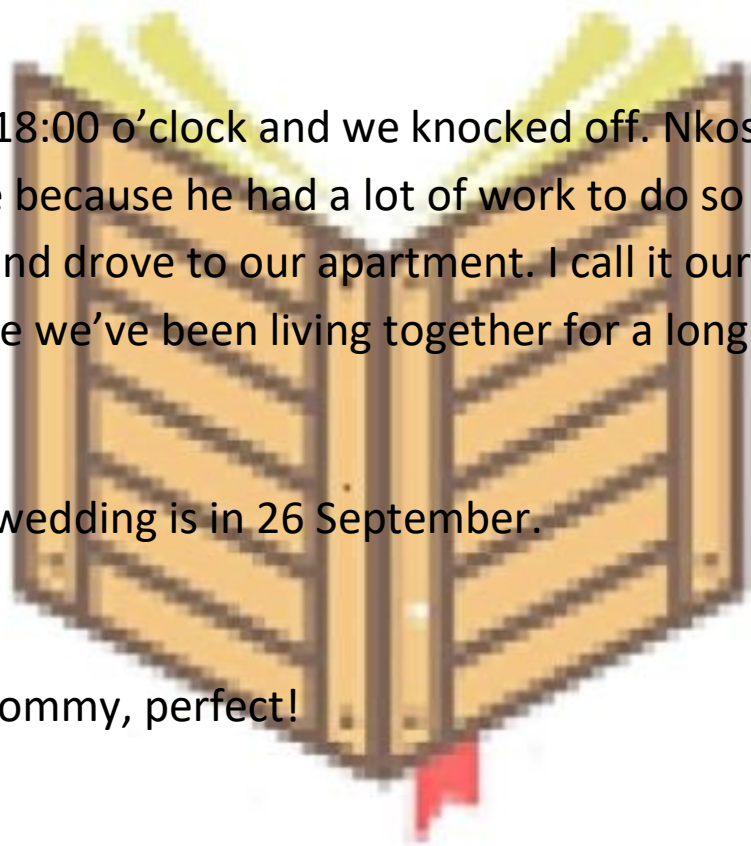
It was now 18:00 o'clock and we knocked off. Nkosi stayed back at the office because he had a lot of work to do so we went to Thati's car and drove to our apartment. I call it our apartment now because we've been living together for a long time.

Me: So the wedding is in 26 September.

Thati: oh chommy, perfect!

She cooked dinner for us and we ate while watching a movie.

A week later, Nkosi sent a letter at home asking for my hand in marriage. My lobola negotiations were taking place today. I was so nervous, going around in circles. Nkosi's family had been at



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the gate for the past 3 hours and nobody was opening for them.

Thandile: You're giving me a headache Zemvelo stop that.

Me: I'm just so restless sis.

I went to sit down next to her.

Thandile: everything is going to go well, drink water.

I decided to play with Slethokuhle to distract myself.

Nkosi texted me "Your family is not being fair, my poor uncles have arthritis they'll collapse at the gate"

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I giggled and replied "I'm worth the wait"

He called me.

Nkosi: Mkami (my wife)

Me: Myeni wami (my husband)

Nkosi: I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you and call you Mrs Makhoba.

I blushed.

Thandile: eey ukuphapha, 'Myeni wami' The lobolo negotiations are not even finalised yet. (You're forward)

Me: Okuhle your mom is jealous you see?

Nkosi's uncles were finally let in and mom called me and Thandile to go to the living room.

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Uncle: So which one amongst my flowers is the one you came here for?

Nkosi's uncle: This one right here, ngimazi kahle umakoti wethu (I know our daughter in law very well)

Mom lifted the small blanket off my face.

Uncle: sunflower, do you know these men?

Me: yes uncle I know them

They ululated and we went back to my room. The lobolo negotiations went well although I was curious to know how much my uncles demanded.

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We celebrated, singing wedding songs and eating traditional food.

Insert 42

I was now back at work. Mrs Johnson came to my office and my face instantly changed.

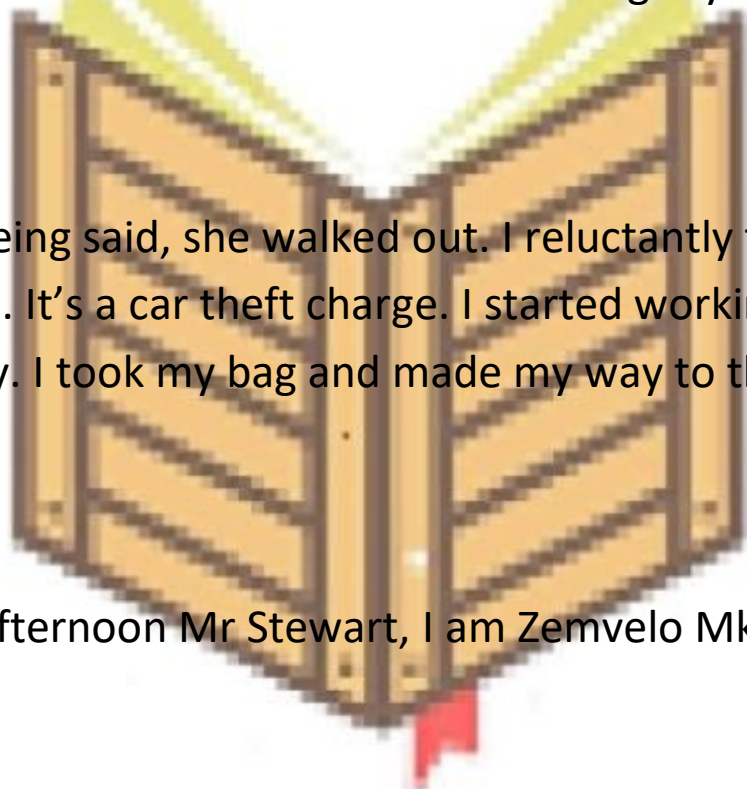
Mrs Johnson: Smile a little Ms Mkhize I brought you a real case this time.

With that being said, she walked out. I reluctantly took the file and I smiled. It's a car theft charge. I started working on it immediately. I took my bag and made my way to the police station.

Me: Good afternoon Mr Stewart, I am Zemvelo Mkhize, your attorney.

Mr Stewart: Bowmans is taking me for a ride, how can they send me an amateur, a student?

Me: Mr Stewart I need you to trust me. I am qualified and experienced, I will get you out of here. Please work with me



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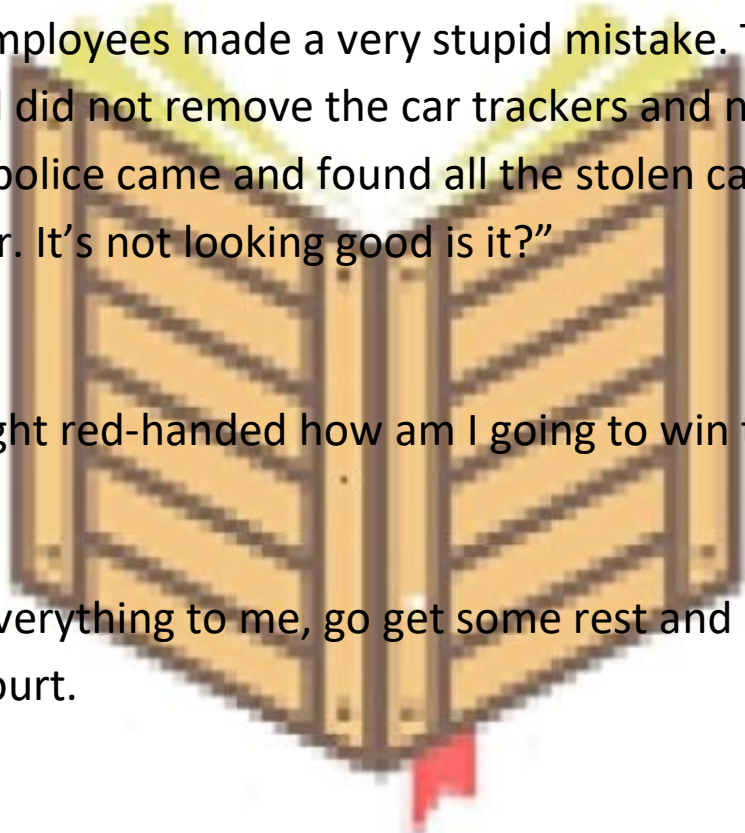
and I'm going to need you to tell me the whole truth, everything you say is confidential.

Mr Stewart: "Fine, I run a car theft syndicate. We steal cars and sell them to big shots across neighbouring countries, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Tanzania. I use my panel beater as a front. My employees made a very stupid mistake. They stole the cars and did not remove the car trackers and number plates. The police came and found all the stolen cars in my panel beater. It's not looking good is it?"

He was caught red-handed how am I going to win this?

Me: leave everything to me, go get some rest and be ready to appear at court.

I went back to the office and started looking for possible defences. Mr Stewart was out of the country on the day of theft. We just have to prove that his employees acted on their own accord and he was not aware.



Today the trial begins.

Nkosi: Don't be nervous babe, you got this

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Thati and I are here.

Thati: And I know you would have loved for your family to be here, I'll just take a video for them.

We said a short prayer.

Me: Thank you guys. Okay let me go get them.

Thati: That's the spirit.



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The presiding officer: All rise.

Judge: You may be seated.

The prosecutor was Mr Smith, I wonder how it will feel to be beaten by a couple, first it was Nkosi and now I am also going to beat him. He said his opening statement and I followed.

I called Mrs Stewart to the stand.

Me: Mrs Stewart can you tell us where you were on the day all the cars in question were reported stolen?

Mrs Stewart: I was out of the country with my husband to celebrate our anniversary. I am talking about Paris where we first met and he took my virginity there, I remember how shocked I was at his big penis and how we pissed everyone off with the noise.



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Mr Stewart chuckled.

Judge: Mrs Stewart answer the asked questions and refrain from making such remarks in my court.

I continued questioning her and presented evidence, credit card transactions placing Mr Stewart at Paris. I must say I have solid alibi. Then the prosecutor cross examined her.

We called the rest of the witnesses and I also argued that the prosecution has an agenda against my client, they've falsely accused him a few times.

Today we were concluding the case. The prosecutor said his closing argument.

Mr Smith: 'The defence failed to prove that the employees acted on their own accord and Mr Stewart is innocent. The employees are not in trial here, the defendant is. The cars were found in a place owned by him. I ask the court for a guilty verdict.'

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Me: whuu counsel, maybe you should consider taking an early retirement. The defendant does not have to prove he is innocent, rather it is the burden of the prosecuting attorney to prove that the defendant is guilty. They have not met that

burden. My client is not the person who committed the offence and the alibi and all the evidence proved that. My client's only crime is trusting his employees and believing that they are loyal whereas they did criminal activities when he was not looking. The prosecution made personal attacks against my client. The defence asks for a not guilty verdict."

The court went on recess.

Nkosi: You did great babe.

Me: I am not so confident, they have been wanting to nail Mr Stewart for a very long time for this crime and it's his panel beater for crying out loud.

Thati: Friend you were able to show that it was an irrelevant attack on credibility.

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Nkosi: Thati is right. Let's go back to court and get your win.

We went back to court.

Judge: I have reached a verdict. Looking at all the evidence presented to the court, I hereby find the defendant not guilty. Court dismissed.

I screamed with excitement and quickly composed myself. Mr Smith came and gave me a handshake, congratulating me.

Nkosi and Thati hugged
me. I did it, I won my first case.



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Insert 43

From then, I was entrusted with more serious cases.

Today it's one day before my wedding/Birthday. The nerves are getting their best of me.

We were staying at Oyster Box in Durban where the wedding will take place. The Makhobas invited us to dinner, a small get together since I did not get to have a bridal shower

Mrs Makhoba: The Mkhizes, you are welcome to our humble home.

Mom: Thank you for extending the invite.

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Mr Makhoba: My favourite daughter in law, how are you?

Nkosikhona: your favourite dad? It's your only one, you know Nkosiyazi is a bachelor.

Nkosiyazi: yazi wena Nkosikhona you've been on my case since my divorce, I'm older than you, I'll smack you.

Mrs Makhoba: Boys behave, we have guests.

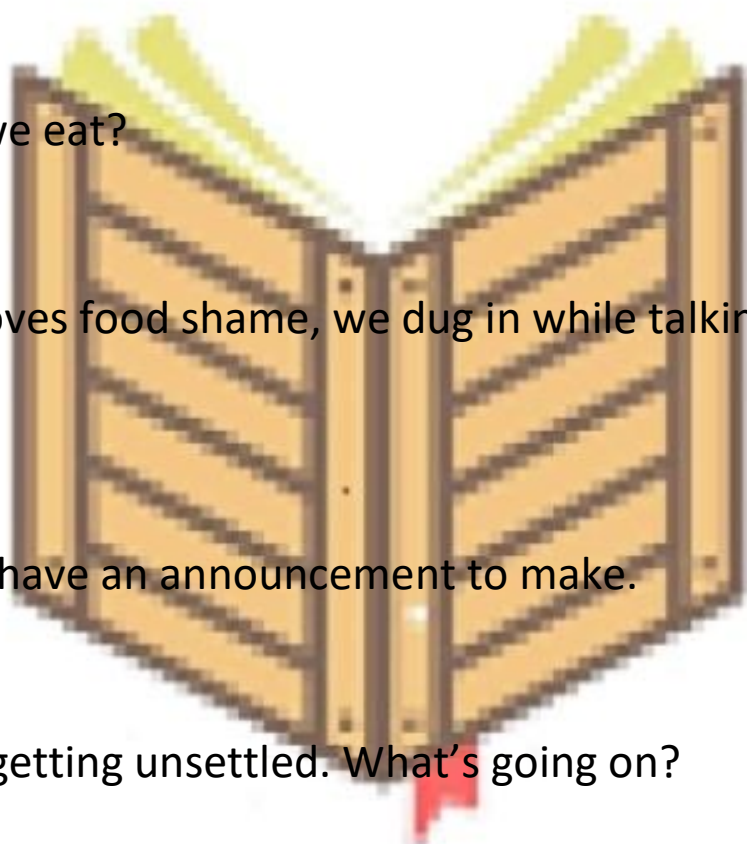
Thati: Can we eat?

My friend loves food shame, we dug in while talking about the wedding.

Nkosiyazi: I have an announcement to make.

I saw Thati getting unsettled. What's going on?

Nkosiyazi: Fam, Thati and I are in a relationship.



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I choked on my drink. I suspected it but what about Jay? How? When? I never imagined my best friend and I married to the same family.

Mr Makhoba: I guess you're not a Bachelor after all. We welcome you my daughter.

After dinner we went back to the hotel.

Thati: I'm sorry I didn't tell you about me and Nkosiyazi I just didn't know how to tell you and felt like a bitch for leaving Jay who was good to me for your fiancé's brother.

Me: when did you even break up with Jay?

Thati: Few weeks after the graduation when I realised I'm in love with Nkosiyazi.

Me: you kept this from me for that long Thati? Why, don't you trust me maybe?



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Thati: it's not like that, I was ashamed.

Me: You know I would never judge you, I support all your decisions. I'm not mad you're dating Nkosiyazi I'm mad you couldn't trust me enough to talk to me about it. I'm your best friend for crying out loud.

Thati: please don't get mad at me, I'm truly sorry, you're right I should have come to you.

Me: it's okay, come here. (I gave her a hug)

I couldn't sleep because of the nerves. I kept on turning and tossing and mom had to read a bedtime story for me like a baby then I eventually fell asleep.

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After what felt like thirty minutes I was woken up by my phone ringing. It's my future husband.

Nkosi: Good morning my lady, happy birthday.

Me: Good morning my gent, thanks and I miss you.

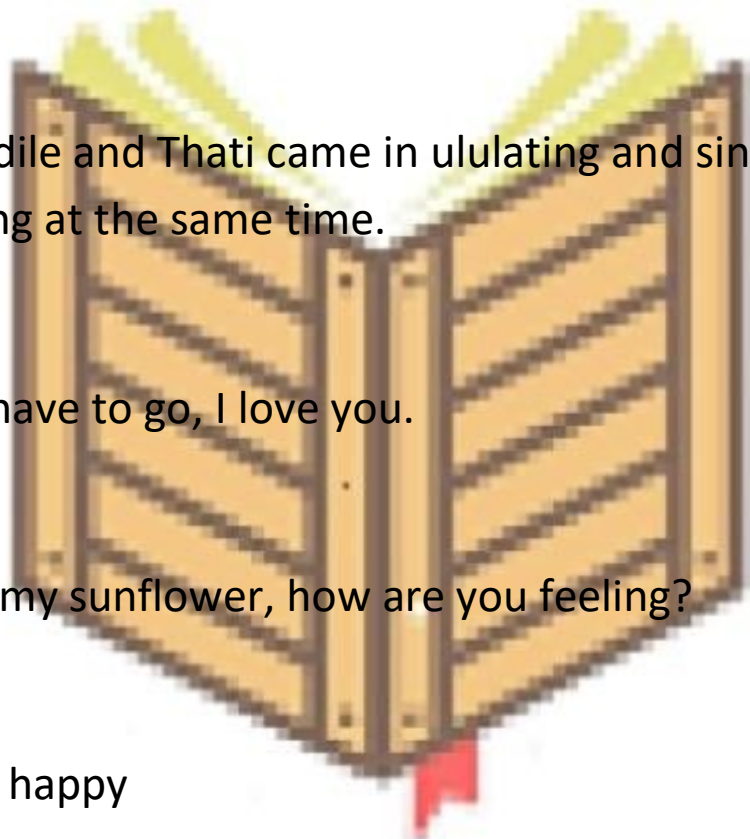
Nkosi: we'll be together soon love and for eternity.

Mom, Thandile and Thati came in ululating and singing a birthday song at the same time.

Me: Babe I have to go, I love you.

Mom: aww my sunflower, how are you feeling?

Me: In love, happy



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Advertisement

nervous

We had a group hug and then I had a shower and had breakfast. I don't want to faint on my wedding. The makeup artist did her magic and Thati helped me wear my white dress.

Thati: okay fam are you ready to see the goddess?

Mom: open the door already Thati.

They got in. Mom was in tears.

Thandile: you look so beautiful little sis, like an angel.

Inathi: You look astonishing maMkhize

Me: stop it you're going to make me cry and ruin my make up.

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The wedding has started and it was time to walk down the aisle. I wish my father was still alive. Jennifer Hudson – I'm giving myself played as I walked down the aisle.

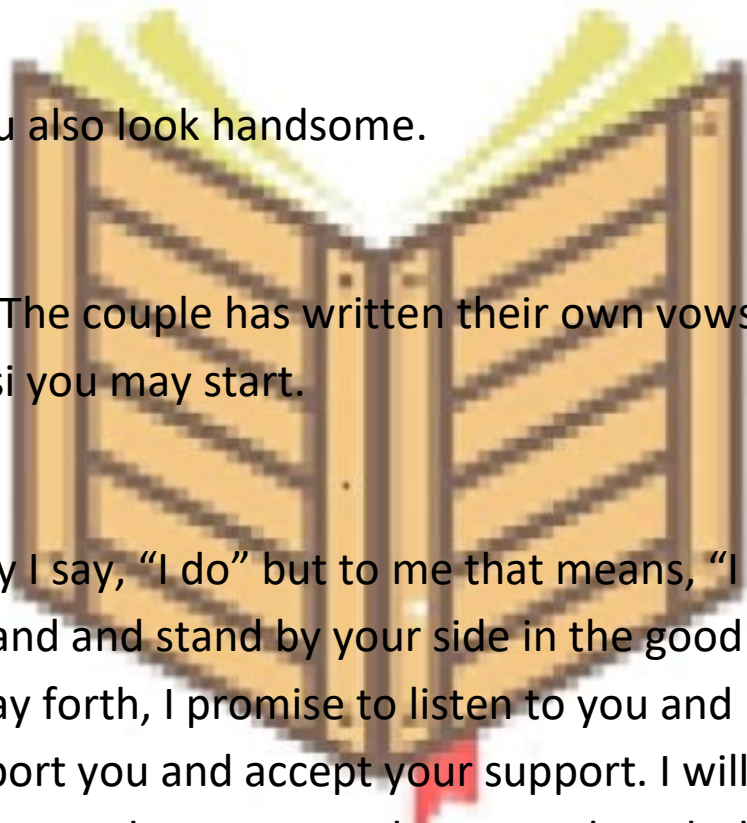
For the first time in four years I saw Nkosi's tears. I couldn't help it but cry too.

Nkosi: You look so beautiful.

Me: And you also look handsome.

The pastor: The couple has written their own vows, Thembinkosi you may start.

Nkosi: Today I say, "I do" but to me that means, "I will." I will take your hand and stand by your side in the good and the bad. From this day forth, I promise to listen to you and learn from you, to support you and accept your support. I will celebrate your successes and mourn your losses as though they were my own. I will love you, my wife, and rejoice in your love for me for all of the years of our lives. I pledge to honour you, love you, and cherish you as your husband today and every day. I promise to be honest, faithful and loving. I love you Zemvelo Mkhize.



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Me: I choose you and promise to choose you as my husband every day we wake. I will love you in word and deed. I will laugh with you, cry with you, scream with you, grow with you, and craft with you. To be your kin and your partner in all of life's adventures is all I could hope for in the world. Loving what I know of you and trusting what I don't yet know, I give you my hand. I give you my love. I give you myself, the good, the bad, and the yet to come.

Pastor: Do you Thembinkosi Makhoba take Zemvelo Mkhize to be your lawful wedded wife?

Nkosi: I do

Pastor: Do you Zemvelo Mkhize take Thembinkosi Makhoba to be your lawful wedded husband?

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Me: I do

Pastor: By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife, Mr Makhoba you may kiss your bride.

We kissed and everyone ululated.

It was now the reception. I sang “All of me by John Legend” for him while we had our dance and he was in tears. It was so beautiful.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mrs Thembinkosi Makhoba.



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Insert 44

Nkosi: Good morning Mrs Makhoba

Me: Good morning Mr Makhoba

We were at the Maldives for our honeymoon. We hardly slept last night, we made love all night but it really felt special doing it as husband and wife.

We woke up and took an innocent shower. Okay you got me, it wasn't innocent at all. We went to the Crystal-clear water and dreamy powder-soft sand beaches. We raced to the beach and he tripped and fell on me then tickled me.

Me: Stop Nkosi, I am running out of breath

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Nkosi: who is Nkosi?

He tickled me more.

Me: My beloved husband please.

I felt nauseous and went to vomit.

Nkosi: Babe are you okay? I'm sorry I made you sick.

Me: Nkosi, when last did you hear me complain about menstrual cramps?

Nkosi: Now that you've mentioned it

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it's been a while. Wait , do you think you're pregnant?

I shrugged my shoulders and he took me to the doctor immediately. He was so excited.

Me: Hold your horses my husband, you might get disappointed.



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We arrived at the hospital and the doctor took me to the scan.

Doctor: Congratulations, you are five weeks pregnant.

I can't believe I've been pregnant this long and I wasn't aware.
Nkosi kissed my stomach countless times.

Nkosi: Thank you for making me a Man amongst other men
mommy.

The rest of our honeymoon was great and this place is to die
for, it's so beautiful and amazing.



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Insert 45

We came back from the honeymoon.

Me: Babe this is not the way to your home, where are we going?

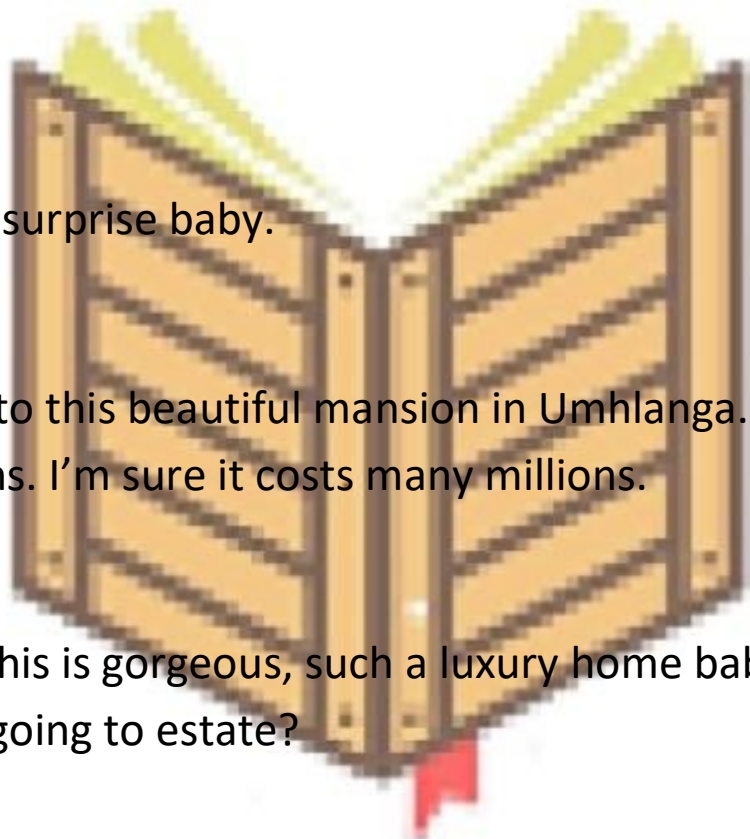
Nkosi: It's a surprise baby.

We arrived to this beautiful mansion in Umhlanga. It had 5 beds, 5 baths. I'm sure it costs many millions.

Me: Wow this is gorgeous, such a luxury home babe. So you're thinking of going to estate?

Nkosi: No babe this is our home.

Me: You're kidding right? Oh my word I can't believe this.



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Nkosi: There's one more thing I want to talk to you about.

Me: Of course babe.

Nkosi: Can we both take transfers to the Bowmans law branch that's here in Durban?

I did not expect that, I thought I was going to live in Cape Town for the rest of my life but nothing is stopping me from moving to Durban.

Me: Yes baby, I don't see a problem with that.

We went to the Makhoba household. I was surprised to find Thati here.

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Mrs Makhoba: Welcome back my children.

Thati: Friend you're glowing

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marriage looks good on you.

Me: Aren't you supposed to be at work?

Thati: About that, I moved in with Nkosiyazi and I'm starting my own Law firm.

Nkosi and I looked at each other.

Me: I never imagined you letting go of Bowmans with the obsession you've had with the firm.

We laughed.

Me: Well I actually also wanted to tell you that Nkosi bought us a house at Umhlanga and we will be transferring to the branch that's in Durban.



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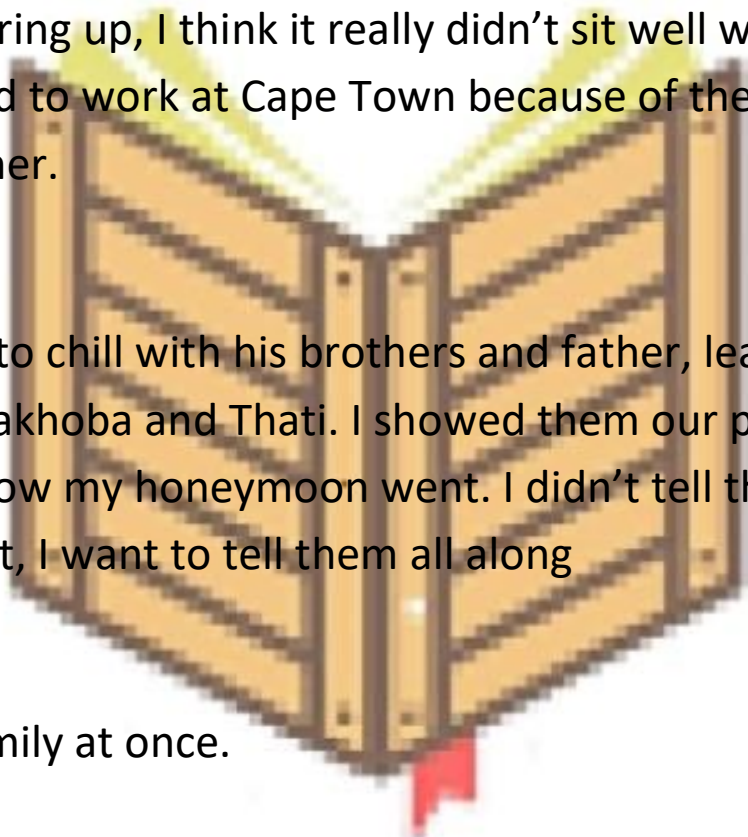
She screamed in excitement and we hugged.

Mrs Makhoba: My son, I'm so happy you're coming back to KZN.

She was tearing up, I think it really didn't sit well with her when Nkosi moved to work at Cape Town because of the feud he had with his father.

Nkosi went to chill with his brothers and father, leaving me with Mrs Makhoba and Thati. I showed them our pictures and told them how my honeymoon went. I didn't tell them I'm pregnant yet, I want to tell them all along

with my family at once.



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Insert 46

Nkosi and I got our transfers and we were now working at Bowmans law in Durban. We moved in to our house and I can't believe that a whole me lives in such a beautiful house.

Someone knocked in my office.

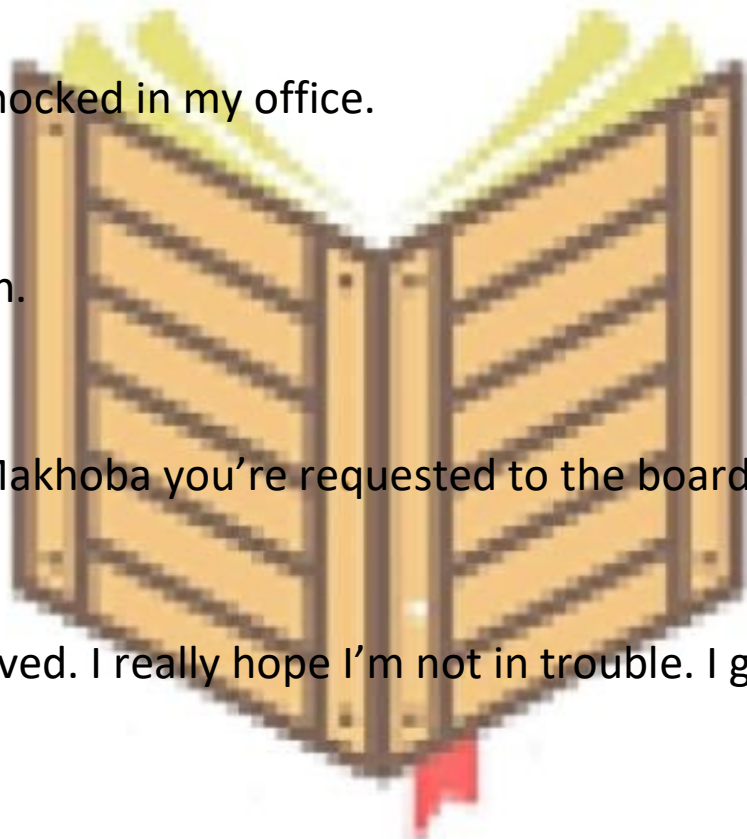
Me: Come in.

Lady: Mrs Makhoba you're requested to the boardroom.

I've just arrived. I really hope I'm not in trouble. I got inside the boardroom.

Mr Hlongwane: Mrs Makhoba, we are very impressed with the work you've done in the firm at Cape Town. As partners we've come to agree to promote you to senior associate.

I couldn't believe my ears.



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Me: Thank you so much for this opportunity, I promise I will continue dedicating myself and you won't regret it.

I went back to my office and Nkosi came in.

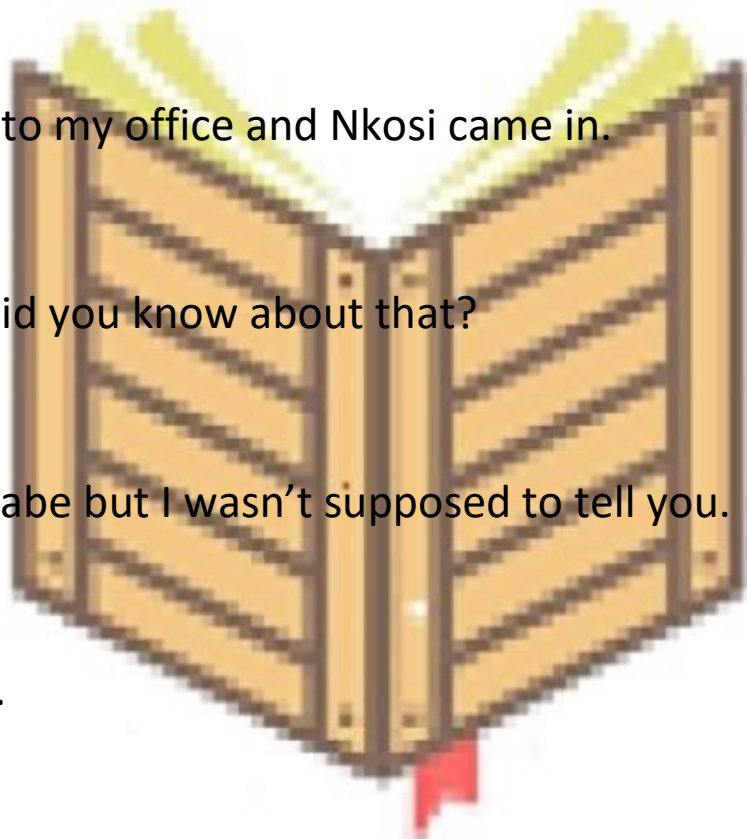
Me: Babe, did you know about that?

Nkosi: Yes babe but I wasn't supposed to tell you.

I kissed him.

Me: We should invite everyone to a braai and tell them all the good news and it might as well serve as a housewarming party.

Nkosi: That's a really good idea babe.



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I took my phone and invited everyone for a braai on Saturday.

Today is the day of the braai. Thati, Thandile, Mom and Mrs Makhoba were helping with the salads while all the men were outside

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in charge of the meat.

Thandile: Your house is beautiful little sis, Nkosi is really loaded.

Me: Thank you big sis.

Mom: You're gaining weight my sunflower. Are you sure you're not pregnant?



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Mom is going to ruin the surprise, I wish she waited a bit to ask me that question.

Me: Not at all Mom, I'm just happy, well taken care of and at peace.

We went outside to join the gents and indulged on the food.

Me: Everyone, can I have your attention.

I saw mom smile, I'm sure she was convinced I'm going to confirm her suspicions so I decided to disappoint her.

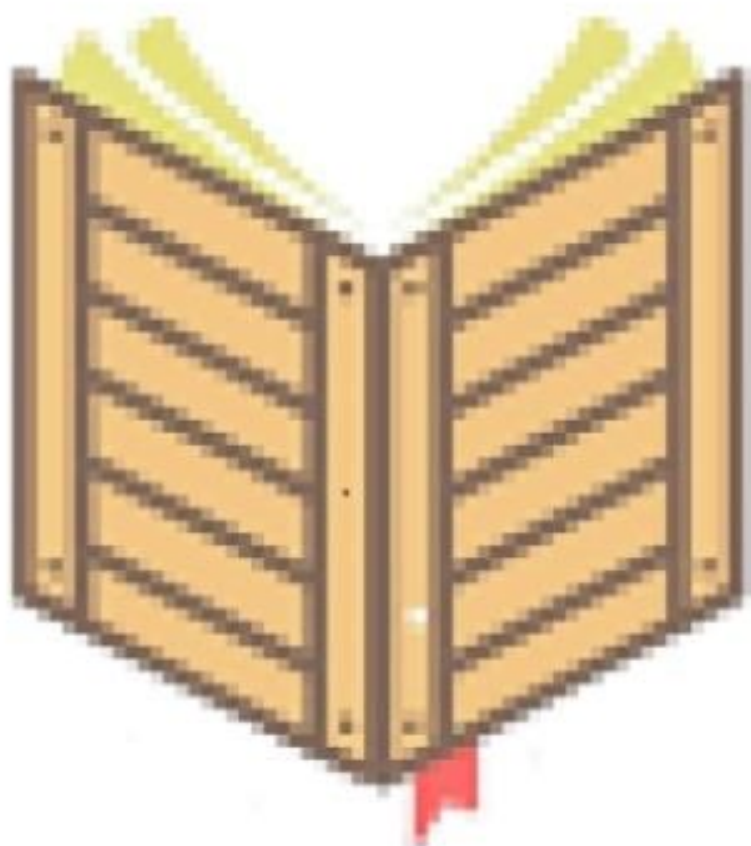
Me: You're looking at the new senior associate of Bowmans law Durban.



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They were so happy for me and congratulated me. Now Nkosi is about to

confirm mom's suspicions.



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Insert 47

Nkosi: Zemvelo and I are pregnant.

Mom: I knew it!

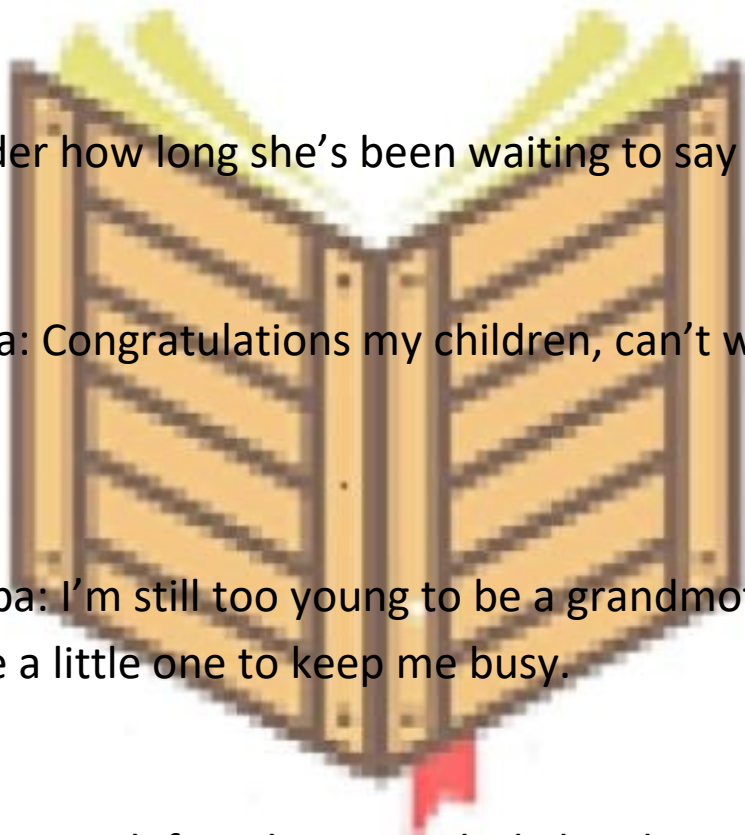
Gosh I wonder how long she's been waiting to say that.

Mr Makhoba: Congratulations my children, can't wait to be a grandpa.

Mrs Makhoba: I'm still too young to be a grandmother but I'm glad I'll have a little one to keep me busy.

Inathi: This one is definitely not my little brother or sister, I'm ready to be an uncle now.

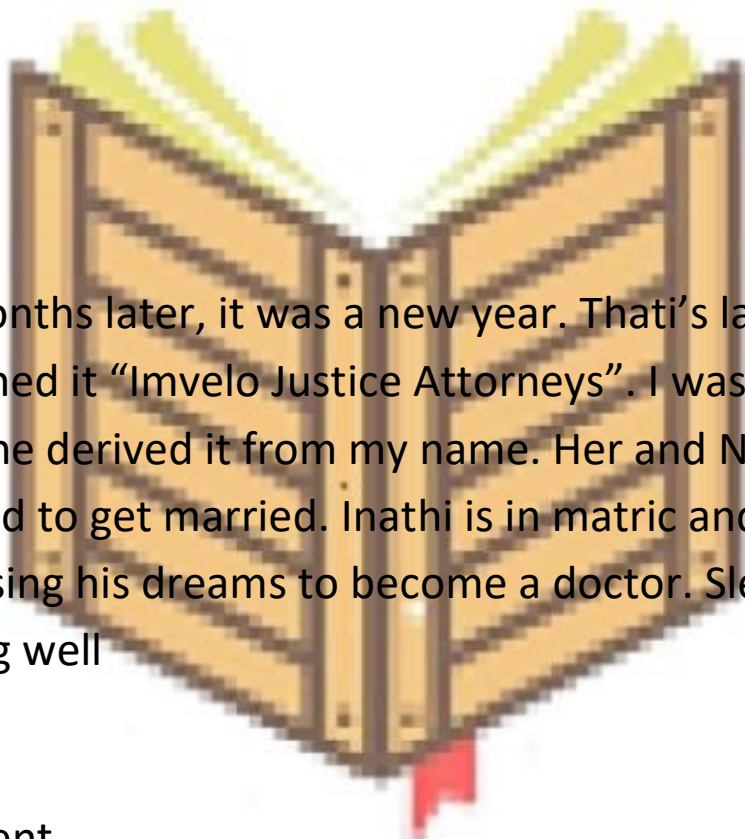
We laughed. I can't believe he has addressed Slethokuhle as his younger brother till today.



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We celebrated and continued having fun then everyone left.

Nkosi: I'm glad I have my wife all to myself now. He kissed me and took off my clothes and the rest was history.



A couple months later, it was a new year. Thati's law firm took off. She named it "Imvelo Justice Attorneys". I was really honoured she derived it from my name. Her and Nkosiyazi were now engaged to get married. Inathi is in matric and very soon he'll be chasing his dreams to become a doctor. Slethokuhle is also growing well

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very healthy and strong, he really brings the good as his name suggests.

Thati threw me a baby shower a month back. She actually wanted me to throw a gender reveal party but I wanted to know the gender on day of birth. I on the other hand was in

maternity leave. Trust me it wasn't easy to get me to stay at home, I just wanted to be at work. My career really took off the past few months and I also bought myself my very first car, White Mercedes Benz C63. I've always wanted to be a lady in a white Mercedes.

I was sitting alone in the house bored and I decided to go see Nkosi and bring him lunch. I had a driver now so he took me there.

I arrived at the firm and went to his office. I knocked and Nkosi said "Go away".

I wonder if he knows he's chasing the mother of his kids who comes bearing food. I pushed the door open and got a shock of my life and dropped the lunch box to the floor.

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Insert 48

I just froze and they both turned to look at me and Nkosi came rushing to me.

Nkosi: Babe, are you okay, come sit on the couch.

He sat me down and I still did not blink or speak.

Nkosi: Babe please blink, you're scaring me.

He gave me water and I came back to Earth.

Woman: We meet again Zemvelo.

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I felt sharp pain on my lower back and I screamed in pain.

Nkosi just stood there while I was in pain. What kind of a man is this?

Woman: (She shook him) Thembinkosi, her water broke, She's in labour, you need to take her to the hospital.

He finally moved and took me to the hospital. The doctor said it's not time yet.

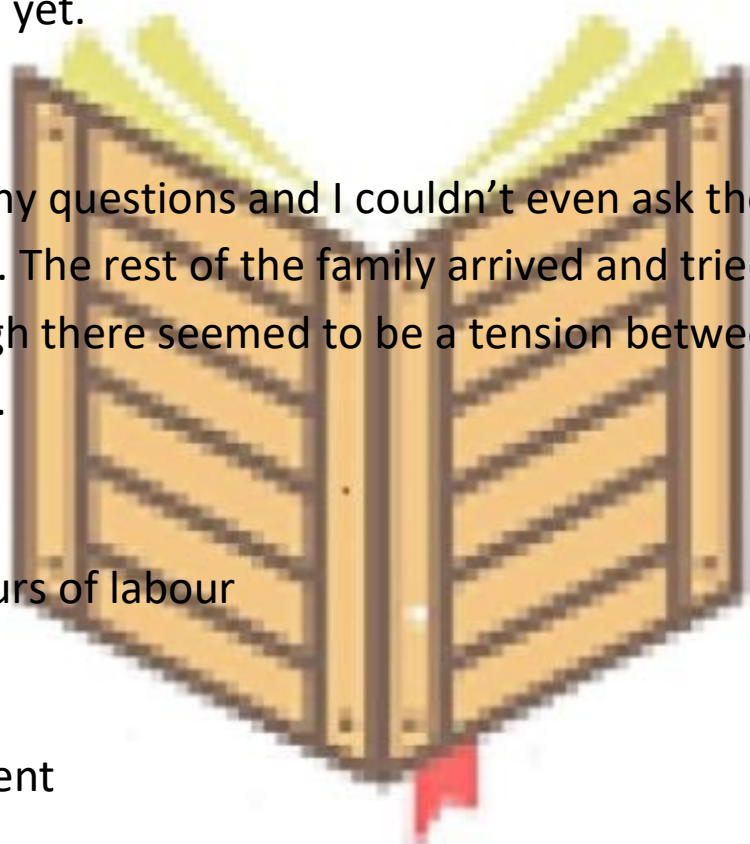
I had so many questions and I couldn't even ask them because of the pains. The rest of the family arrived and tried to comfort me. Although there seemed to be a tension between Nkosi and Nkosikhona.

After 12 hours of labour

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the doctor said it was now time. I was mad at Nkosi, in fact he's the one who made me go to labour before my time, but I still needed him so he held my hand as I pushed the baby out. The baby cried.

Nurse: It's a baby girl, Congratulations.



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They cleaned her up and put her on my chest.

Me: Such a beautiful baby girl, My star. Nonkanyezi Makhoba.

Nkosi: Nonkanyezi Charlotte Makhoba. Thank you for making me a father Zemvelo.

Me: And you both share a birth month.

I smiled and the nurse took a picture of the three of us. Everyone just barged in my ward with balloons and baby stuff, they all wanted to see her. 01 May, a beautiful day for the Makhobas

and the Mkhizes.



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Insert 49

I was discharged from the hospital and we were now at the house.

Nkosi: Nkanyezi's mother. Can we talk about what happened the other day?

Me: You mean the day I knocked at your office and you told me to go away knowing you were with the woman that kidnapped me few years ago, the woman who is supposed to be in jail?

Nkosi: I didn't know it was you who was knocking and I was frustrated, I am really sorry.

Me: What was she doing in your office?

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Nkosi: To tell me that she has a child with my brother Nkosikhona.

Me: You're mad she cheated on you with your brother?

Nkosi: No My Wife, I am just mad she took advantage of Nkosikhona, she's so much older than him.

Me: So did Nkosikhona confirm this?

Nkosi: Yes he did, he's been supporting and seeing his son in secret all this while when she was arrested. I wish he had told us. I'm mad now there's something tying this woman to our family.

Me: When and how did she get out of jail?

Nkosi: She got out on parole for good behaviour a few months back.

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I wasn't expecting this at all.

Nkosi: The child is at home now. He is very sick and needs imbeleko and that's the reason Phumzile came.

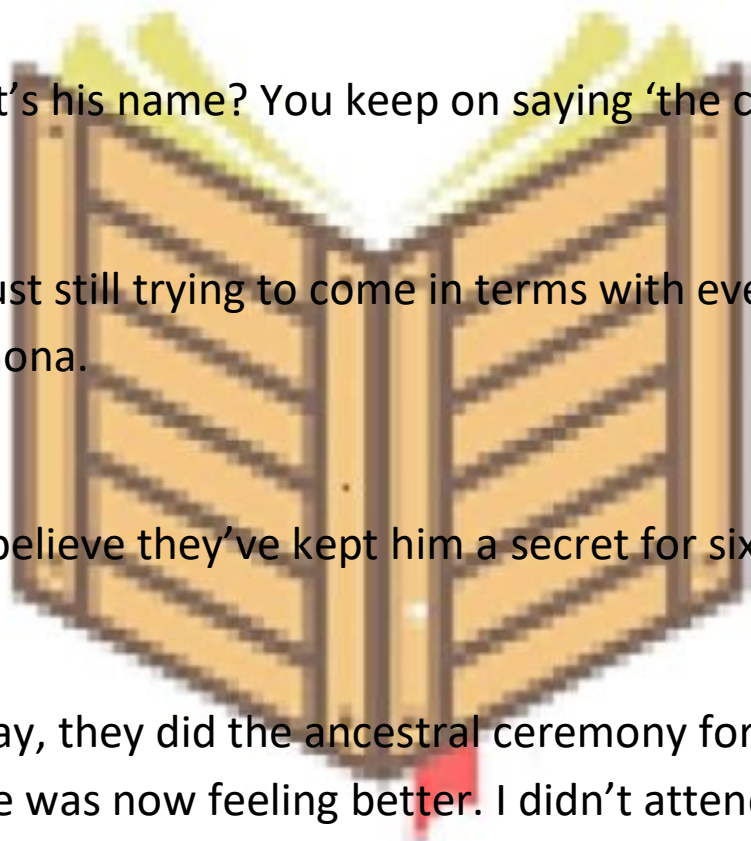
I don't believe in all these stuff of introducing kids to ancestors. I made it clear from the start that I won't be part of it.

Me: so what's his name? You keep on saying 'the child'.

Nkosi: I'm just still trying to come in terms with everything. His name is Akhona.

Me: I can't believe they've kept him a secret for six years.

Following day, they did the ancestral ceremony for Akhona and I was told he was now feeling better. I didn't attend the ceremony because I have a new born baby and I don't believe in the stuff they were doing. I am glad Akhona got to know his family from his father's side.



My baby was now four weeks old. Today we're visiting aunty Thati at her law firm.

Thati: My beautiful people

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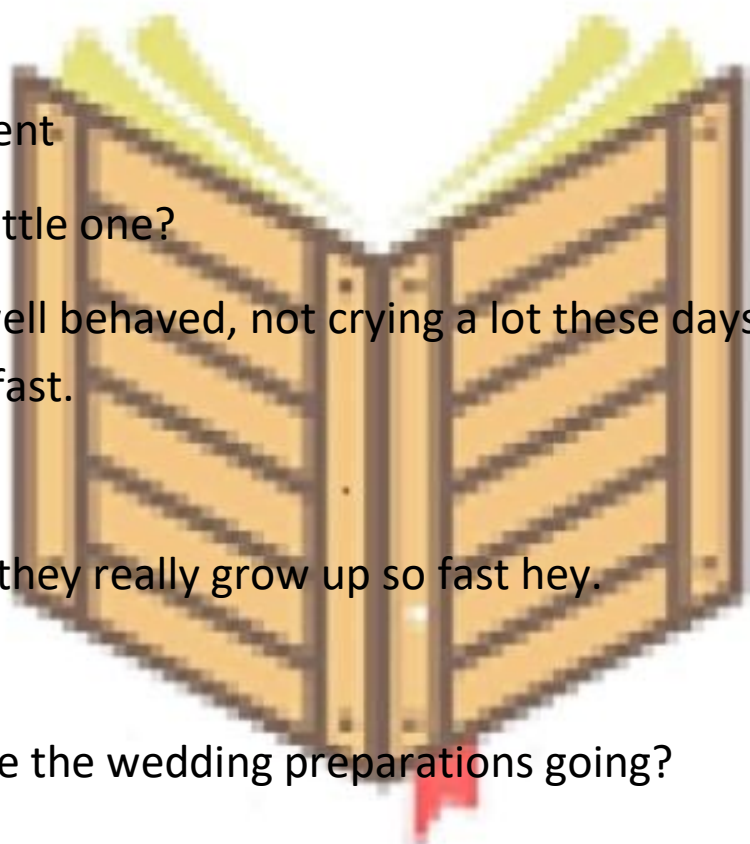
how's the little one?

Me: She's well behaved, not crying a lot these days, she's growing so fast.

Thati: Yeah they really grow up so fast hey.

Me: How are the wedding preparations going?

Thati: They are going well friend, I can't believe we're going to share the same name soon.



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Me: It'll make things easier on family gatherings, having a new daughter in law.

We continued to chat and I went back home.

Me: Inathi, what are you doing here and how did you get in?

Inathi: I went to see brother-in-law first and he gave me the keys. Is it a crime visiting my sister and my beautiful niece? Hey baby girl, you're so cute.

He picked her up.

Me: How are exams going?

Inathi: Matric is very hard but I have faith I'll do well.

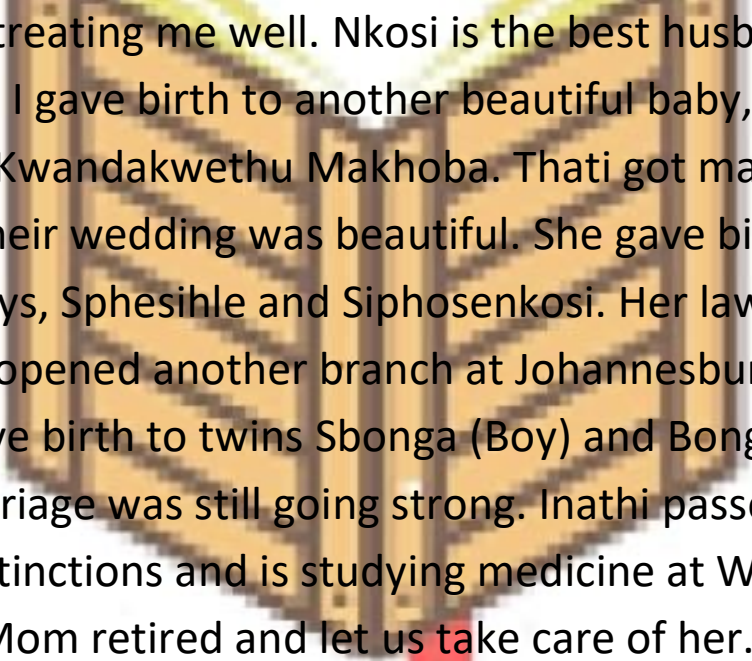
He continued playing with Nkanyezi while I cooked.

Nkosi came back and we ate dinner.



Insert 50 (FINALE)

Few years later.



Marriage is treating me well. Nkosi is the best husband I could ever ask for. I gave birth to another beautiful baby, a boy and named him Kwandakwethu Makhoba. Thati got married to Nkosiyazi, their wedding was beautiful. She gave birth to two beautiful boys, Sphesihle and Siphosenkosi. Her law firm grew big and she opened another branch at Johannesburg. Sis Thandile gave birth to twins Sbonga (Boy) and Bongeka (girl) and her marriage was still going strong. Inathi passed his matric with five distinctions and is studying medicine at Wits university. Mom retired and let us take care of her.

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My career really took off and I was a well-known attorney. I was part of the big dogs. I also got anointed as a preacher at church and grew so much spiritually.

Today we were at KZN Awards ceremony.

MC: For best female- owned business, the award goes to Imvelo justice Attorneys by Onthatile Makhoba.

Me: Go Sister-friend!

That's what we call each other now. I cannot express how proud of her I am right now. Nkosiyazi accompanied her to the stage. They are such a beautiful couple.

Thati: I'd like to thank my husband for supporting my dreams and encouraging me everyday. Mom, dad, Siblings, My sister-friend Zemvelo and the whole Makhoba family I thank you for being part of my journey. Glory be to God.

MC: For the best Female Advocate of the year, Zemvelo Makhoba. The Makhobas are leading KZN everyone watch out.

I gracefully walked to the stage with my husband by my side.

Me: When Law and Faith Collide, Can Love Prevail? From a young age I've been passionate about law and today I'm one of

the best lawyers in the country. In the journey of studying law I found love that nurtured me to being the successful woman I am today. And the carrier of all these is God. It is my belief in God that carried me to where I am today. I stand here today singing “namhla Nkosi, ngiyamangala, uma ngibheka emuva, kube wena wawungenathi ngabe safela endleleni. (Today Lord I’m in awe, if it wasn’t for you, I would have perished along the way)

My name is Zemvelo Mkhize-Makhoba and this was my Faith-Fuelled Journey of Love, Justice, and Spiritual Awakening.

.....THE END.....

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