



PROLOGUE

I am in a very compromising position. My hips are up in the air and my chest is on the bed with my hands tied on the bed post. I can feel him in every part of me. He goes in deeper in to me and I let out a scream of pleasure. A rough spank comes into contact with my butt cheek and I let out a squeal. "Thats why you my favourite fuck.", I think as Menzi keeps on hitting it from the back. I get a very intense orgasm and he turns me around. I'm on my back with my butt balanced by a cushion. His going to drill into me and hard. He rubs himself on my my vagina before entering me slowly receiving a moan from me. In and out he goes. Left and right and he circulates. His pace slow but giving me slow thrusts. My moans are so loud right now and I'm sweating. I am grinding on him as he thrusts in me and its driving him haywire. I like it when men feel weak by what I give them. His shaking and I know his about to cum. His groans get louder.

"Cum for me Menzi.", I whisper in his ear followed by a moan and I bite his ear. He let's out a load groan

and I cum as he thrusts through our orgasm. He falls on top of me.

"Menzi ehlika" (get off)

He takes himself out smoothly and I moan a little. He unties me and I stretch my arms and move my wrists around. My wrists are red from me tugging at the rope and I need to buy more ointment. I get up from the bed and head to the bathroom to take a shower. Menzi walks in later and I find myself craving him again. That's the thing with me. I don't get satisfied easily. I want more and more of what you have to offer. I can see he's worn out so we take a shower and he leaves later. Menzi is one of my fuck buddies. I'm not in a serious relationship. They all fail cause I always cheat. I have an addiction. It's not drugs or alcohol but it's something better than that. Something way more intoxicating. I'm a sex addict. I have 3 fuck buddies which consist of Menzi, Thabani and Zenande. They don't know of my addiction actually nobody knows. I'm just a 24 year old PA at Khuzwayo Law And Order. I'm an orphan and I will say the jewel between my legs has helped

me out to getting where I am today. Yes, I slept my way out of the orphanage and slept my way to getting a job at this law firm. I've been Mr Mayas PA since I was 19. I left the orphanage at 18 and I was supposed to stay till 21 but something happened in there and I had to leave. Everybody knows me as the COOs PA. An independent woman of integrity with a bull terrier dog and no man.

01

UNYEZI

I'm smoking on a cigarette and I have to be at work by 07:30 and its still 05:00. I am looking out the hugest glass window in my apartment and the view of the ocean gives me peace. I already took a shower and just sitting on the wooden floor looking at the sea. The weather is a bit windy today and the tides are high. I stay in a rent to buy apartment with my dog Pluto in Bluff. Its a really beautiful apartment and I'm paying hard cash for this apartment. Pluto comes and lies next to me with his head on my thigh.

"Just you and me Pluto. Just you and me."

He looks up at me and I know he appreciates me. His the only one that does and I love him. Its 05:48 and I need to get dressed.

"Come Pluto. Let's have some breakfast."

He comes running after me and I fill up his dish with dog food and his water bowl has fresh water. I leave him to his meal and head to my bedroom.

"Formal pants. Shirt. Blazer. Heels. Ah where's my coat?"

I go for the closet and I take out my black coat. My work place is strict on formal wear, we only get to wear casual clothing on Fridays. I dress up and I make noodles as I wait for Pluto's Nanny. Yes, my dog is spoilt and has a nanny. Pluto is like my baby and I've had him for a year and a few months. I got him after Jupiter died and I loved that Bull dog of mine. He was way too old and his death hit hard. I eat my noodles and I brush my teeth after breakfast. It 06:28 and his nanny walks in as I am heading for the door.

"Hey Nana.", I greet her and Nana is her nickname we call her in the complex. She's a 18 year old and they struggling a bit so she is working for me so she can put enough money for tertiary next year. Her father walked out on them a year ago and luckily their apartment was already paid for but I do help with their bills here and there. Her brother is a receptionist at my workplace and his a great kid.

"Hey Unyezi.", she greets and her colored accent

makes my name sound weird. I do have a rare name. It means moon and I love the moon. The orphanage owner Mr Mkhize said my mom had already named me when she dropped me off. So I go about my days as Unyezi Sosibo. I kept my surname and I have never met a Sosibo here in Durban. Its 06:34 and I walk out and the wind is blowing strongly. I inhale the fresh breeze from the ocean. You deserve nothing but the best Unyezi and with that thought I head towards my car. Mr Maya has a meeting at 08:00 till 10:00 so I need to get the bedroom... Sorry I mean boardroom excuse my mind.

02

UNYEZI

I've been in and out of the boardroom today that when lunch came I didn't even go out. I ordered a wrapper known as a 'shwarma' in Durban. I'm at my station eating while working out Mr Mayas schedule tomorrow. His son has a soccer game at 15:30 tomorrow and he has to be there

"Ngeke uphelelwe umsebenzi Unyezi. Eat and you'll continue after lunch."(you won't lose your job), the loud baritone voice says and I know its Mr Maya.

I look up and I wipe my face with serviette. Mr Maya is a really desirable man. He is about 6ft2 with broad shoulders and a very manly chest. His sex appeal gives you an orgasm on its own plus his dark skin and hazel brown eyes don't do justice to any female.

"I'm just working on your schedule for tomorrow Sir.", my voice professional as ever. This is at work and I love this job so I don't try anything on any male employer.

"Should I order you anything sir?", I say as he begins

to walk towards his office.

"No thank you Unyezi.", he says and closes the door behind him.

I take a deep breath. Dammit Darly Maya! I take a sip at my cold glass of lemonade. I need a smoke. I put on my heels and head outside. Smoking isn't allowed inside the building. I stand a few metres away from the entrance and light my camel switch. I pop both switches and take a puff. I'm just standing there smoking my cigarettes in deep thoughts.

"Inkosazana enhle ka ngaka ibhema ugwayi?" (Such a beautiful lady smokes cigarettes?), a very deep and intense voice says. It had this effect on me that I needed to put out the cigarette and submit. I don't submit to no male.

I lift my head up and I'm met by this dark skinned man in a Brentwood and a very white shirt as if its new. His cologne is mixed with tobacco. A smoker judging another? Udakiwe lo!(this one is drunk!) His facial features are very tense. His got a very strong jawline accompanied by a very well structured nose.

His upper lip is dark with the bottom one purplish. Upon making contact with his eyes I see the ocean and the moon.

"Are you a mermaid?", I ask him.

He laughs. Wtf bazalwane? Why did I ask that?!

"Cah nkosazana. Ngiphila la emhlabeni." (No Lady. I live on earthly grounds.),he answers.

I smile a little at him and he only looks me in the eyes. I get lost in them again. The ocean. Waves. The moon. Tides. His a dream. A fictional character I read about in my books.

"Excuse me sir. I have to get back to work.",I say when I finally stop swimming in his eyes.

I walk inside the building hurriedly.

03

UNYEZI

I normally work from home on weekend unless Mr Maya needs me. I just came back from Pluto's appointment and he is sleeping at the back seat. They said his body was rejecting the brand I was feeding him. He had an allergic reaction to it. I normally don't call Nana in but I need to buy stuff for Pluto plus she earns extra bucks. When I parked the car she was already waiting outside my apartment door. I lifted Pluto up into my arms and seeing him knocked out like this made me teary. I shouldn't have changed his brand. I walk towards the door and Nana helps me in. I put Pluto on his sleeping bag in his room. I took the packet of dog food out of his room. I said bye to Nana and threw the dog food out on my way to the car. I am getting him back on his usual brand. I drive to Pavilion which is quite far from where I stay. I'm listening to Now and Forever by drake. That dog is all I got and I put his life at risk. I found a parking spot and calmed myself down before stepping out of the car. I wasn't even dressed

to be here but I didn't give a fuck. I wore my black sweatpants with a very huge hoodie that belonged to Thabani with my airforce and my afro is a mess. I walk towards the pet store and I buy him a few toys and his usual dog food. I push my trolley to Woolworths. I need jerseys as winter is close. Durban really isn't cold but I'm scared of the cold. I buy a few jerseys, jeans and formal pants. I also don't forget some under garments. I crush someone trolley with mine.

"Sorry aunty."

Says a deep voice. Aunty? This child is taller than me.

"Watch were you going Nkosinathi. Uphi uLanga?", a familiar voice rings out.

Our eyes meet and I see the ocean. The moon is still there just that it shines brighter this time around and the tides seem very high. Only one human being can have me swimming in the ocean in his eyes while standing in the middle of a store.

"We meet again.", he says breaking me from my trance.

"And you're still wearing those Brentwood pants.", I say jokingly.

The guy he called Nkosinathi laughs and he smiles. I swear I just got an orgasm while standing right here. I've never seen a smile so enticing before. I think he noticed how I clenched my legs together and how my breathe had quickened. Dammit Unyezi! Get a grip! His smiles get bigger and his dimples get deeper and the ocean between my legs expands. Nkosinathi sensing the atmosphere walks away. No man has ever had me feeling like this. No man

04

UNYEZI

Its about 00:20 and I've just finished smoking 8 cigarettes and I'm smoking another one. I had a nightmare actually more like a flashback and I've been up ever since. Just one incident and it changed my whole life. It happened when I was 17 till I was 18 and I ran. Its one of my demons that keep chasing me. Where is my weed? I stand up and go open up my drawer. I have 5 joints left and I take one and I play Pablo by Big star ft Zocci Coke Dope.

"I don't trust nobody. Feel like all my niggas switching on me. All my life I've been chasing money. Could never leave my life in peace. I feel like Pablo."

I have red lights on in my room and I feel like I'm in hell. Men only see what's between your legs. They feel entitled to our bodies. They use their strength for the wrong reasons. I'd be charged with homicide before letting another touch me without my consent. I run the show now. I choose who gets in between my thighs. I have been in love once but it didn't work

cause I was never satisfied I met Zenande. I look at the scar on my inner thigh. Unyezi don't think about it. I am looking at the moon and I feel content. I look at the scene before me. Glistening moon, beautiful ocean and shining stars. Langalakhelihle. I feel like I'm looking in his eyes right now. I get disturbed by a phone call. Its about 01:43 right now. Its an unknown number. I take the call.

"Unyezi Sosibo."

"MaGema omuhle." (Beautiful)

I recognise the voice right away.

"That was fast."

I hear him chuckle on the other side.

"I'm a resourceful man."

"I can never disagree. Couldn't you wait till tomorrow to call?"

"The wicked doesn't sleep MaGema. Futhi bengifuna ukuzwa iphimbo lakho." (Plus I wanted to hear your voice.)

I smile at this.

"Okay Khuzwayo."

"Yazi ngizokuzhada. Ngikujabulise ukhohlwe yonke inhlungu owadlula kuyo." (You know I'll marry you. I'll make you so happy you so happy you'll forget everything you've been through.)

I feel tears well up. Typical Zulu man thinks every woman needs marriage to save them.

"Langalakhelihle. You don't even know me that well.", my voice is full of emotions.

"I know a lot more than you could imagine."

I don't know how to reply to that. There is no way he can know anything about me.

"MaGema. Ngicela ukukukhipa kusasa." (Can I take you out tomorrow.)

It was a statement and I can sense from the authority in his voice that I can't decline.

"Okay Khuzwayo."

"Ulale kahle ucishe lo ntsangu." (sleep well and put out that joint.)

Before I can ask how he knows this he cuts the call and I hear a car driving off. I go peek at the window. Its a black golf and it leaves the complex. No way that was Langa. How would he know where I lived? Dummy he was able to get your numbers in a day. I close the windows and put out the joint and I fall on my bed. My hand hanging on the side of the bed and I feel the demon under my bed grasping it. I fall asleep while high.

When I wake Pluto is licking my face.

"Pluto! Let me sleep!"

He starts barking and moving around my bed.

"Okay okay! I'm up! I'm up!"

He wags his tail seeing I'm up. I head for the bathroom with him on my tail. I brush my teeth and wash my face.

"Why are you so happy?"

I ask him as he keeps wagging his tale sideways. He goes to the glass wall and starts barking at it.

"Ah. You wanna take a walk with mami don't you?"

He barks and I given him water and food first and while his eating I wear my tracksuits. I go to his room and I take his dog leash.

"Come buddy. Let's go."

I put the leash on him and we head out the apartment. We get down the small flight of stairs. I am met by my downstairs neighbor and we greet each other. I'm not really close to anyone. I keep to myself mostly so I don't let anyone in. I sign out at the gate and we head for the beach. As soon as his paws touch the soil he is barking and spinning around in circles.

"Don't you love the beach."

We take a walk and play here and there.

"Time to go home Pluto. Come on."

I put him on his leash again and we head back to the complex. I need to wash my hair. Pluto pushed me on the ground now my had has sea sand. He drinks water when he enters the house. I go take a bath. I

just soak myself and I remember that I have a date today. Its Sunday and I hope his not gonna take me to church. I grab my phone and call him. It rings once.

"MaGema"

I hear commotion in the background.

"Baba uNkosinathi uyangshaya!" a kid shouts in the background.

"Mshaye nawe man Langa!", he shouts back.

"Haibo njalo Khuzwayo. Khuza abantwana."

He mumbles before he starts shouting at Nkosinathi. It grows silent on the other side.

"MaGema."

"Unjani?" (How are you?)

"Ngiright wena unjani?" (I'm alright and you?)

"I'm okay. What time are we meeting up? Where are we meeting? What should I wear?"

"I'll fetch you at 12:30. Wear casual comfortable clothes."

"I would send my address but something tells me you already know where I live."

He laughs at this and its beautiful deep and husky kind of laughter. Hayi Unyezi!

"Ngizokufounela besengingaphandl." (I'll call when I'm outside.)

We drop the call after byes. This is a dangerous but very exciting route I'm taking. I've been feeling different lately. Like I don't crave all the others the same. The last time I had sex was Friday with Zenande. I still have that urge for sex but its as if my body wants someone else. It feels like I have another addiction. Let me stop thinking much into this.

Maybe my addiction is just subsiding a bit. I start cooking soft porridge and I am nibbling on a muffin. I am going through my Instagram and I have a DM from Puma.

"Dear Unyezi_Sosibo

We would like you to be an ambassador for our clothing line. We will sponsor you with new deals of

Puma wear. You will receive a R10 000 per month. And you will have 30% off our merchandise.

Please reply and if you agree we would send the necessary information.

PumaClothingLabel"

I'm shook right now. Yes I do have about 7k followers on Insta but mna? Unyezi? Sponsored by Puma? I want the extra cash! I send a reply and I upload a few pictures of me and Pluto than I exit insta. I dish up when the soft porridge is ready and I eat peacefully. After eating I wash the dishes and cleans around the apartment. It's 11:59 and I still don't know what to wear. I opt for my black cargo pants with a turtle neck. Shoes? Military boots. Its kinda cold outside so I choose a black denim jacket. My hair is a nest so I braid it nicely and I put on a black beanie. I need to make an appointment with the hair dreser. Pluto is looking at me questionably.

"What? I have a date but don't worry Nana said she'll come take you to the dog park today. Its dog day

today so they open."

He wags his tail and start spinning around. I laugh at his behavior. He probably met a female companion. Its 12:30 when my phone rings.

"Unyezi."

"Ngingaphandle." (I'm outside.)

"Okay. Ngiyeza." (I'm coming)

He is very punctual. I walk out with Pluto on his leash and I see him leaving on a Mercedes Benz old school. Nice. His wearing black levis jeans today and he has brackets. He should stop wearing that Brentwood. His wearing a hoodie and it fits perfectly. God those arms! He notices us as the gate opens. Where is Nana? This dog is so happy his pulling on his leash.

"Pluto. Behave."

He listens to me and stands still but his tail is still wagging. He walks towards us.

"Sihamba nenja?" (We taking the dog?)

I shake my head as Pluto wants to jump on him.

"Pluto. Sit."

He whines and sits down. He loves meeting new people he forgets his manners. Langa bends over and brushes Pluto's coat.

"Inhle inja yakho." (Your dog is beautiful.)

"Thank you."

I see Nana running our way. The gate opens and and she hurries towards us.

"Sorry Unyezi.", she apologizes.

"Its okay.", I passing the leash and Pluto's bag of goodies.

I kneel down.

"Bye. I'll see you when I come back alright?"

He licks my cheek.

"Pluto!"

I laugh and wipe my cheek with some tissue. I walk towards his car.

"So where are we going?"

"KwaMashu Shisanyama."

I've never been there before and I heard its a dangerous township even uMlazi is better. I look at him sceptically and he looks at me.

"Ungabi nenkinga. Uhamba nami. I run Kwamashu."
(Don worry. You with me.)

"That's a red flag."

He laughs at that and shrugs it off.

"And you won't leave me alone even if you knew I was a gang lord. You've swam in my eyes. Once you enter my ocean you can never leave.",he says randomly.

"Well are you a gang lord.", I ask curious.

"No nothing like that.", and his tone tells me the topic is dismissed.

He puts some music on and its Maskandi. Lord I'm gonna die.

"Ngithe ngiqala ukuk'bona ntokazi ngangazj uzoba umfazi wami. Ngiyazi ukuthi mina nawe sidalelwene sthandwa sami. Ngizokushada ngikunike injabulo." (I

knew the first time I saw you that I was gonna marry you. I know we meant to be my love. I'll marry you and make you happy.),he sings along to this song.

I just admire him and I notice his wearing one of those Lacoste sneakers that are very expensive. This man is rich I give you that just a bad taste of fashion. I notice his hoodie is actually a Versace one and I look at him.

"Wangbheka kanjalo yindaba?" (Why are you looking at me like that?)

"What do you do? Your job occupation?"

He looks at me and continues driving. Guess who won't answer that. I look outside the window and mind my own business. We pass whoonga(nyaope) addicts as they beg for money and try to find their next fix. There is a girl amongst them. I feel tears well up in my eyes. Another life lost to drugs and poverty.

"Unyezi? Ngibheke."

I wipe my tears quickly and turn to look at him.

"I hope you not crying cause I didn't answer your question."

I shake my head.

"Pho ukhalelani?" (Why are crying?)

"I'm not crying."

"Wenzani keh?" (So what are you doing?)

I just keep quiet and get busy on my phone. I receive a text from Thabani.

:"Cut contact with me. I found someone."

I laugh at this. I hardly even contact you. I delete his number.

"Yini lengaka ekuhlekisayo?" (What's making you laugh?)

"Facebook stuff.", I dismiss him and put my phone away.

We stop at this shisanyama. Its Sunday vibes. Jazz playing in the background. He parks his car and this Zulu man doesn't even open my door for me.

Jehovah! I get out of the car and his standing there

with his hands in his pockets.

"Do you have brothers?"

He looks at me confused and nods his head.

"Tell them Unyezi said hey should tell you what do you do when you with a lady in a car and y'all arrive where y'all at."

He looks at me lost as fuck.

"Tell them."

He nods and takes my hand in his. You can't open the door for kodwa you can hold my hand. Amen! We walk inside holding hands and they start whistling and saying "Ah Sgagqagagqa madoda!"

I guess his well known around her and he did say he runs kwamashu. He nods at everyone and they get back to what they doing. He finds us a excluded seat from everyone's eyes. I take a seat.

"I'll go order some meat. Uphuzani?"(what do you drink?)

"Wine."

He laughs at this.

"Ise sniggawungqawini la. We don't drink wine."

(This is the hood.)

I look at him dumbfounded.

"A cider than."

He nods and walks away. I notice when he takes out his wallet from his back pocket that there is a gun on his waist. He better not try to shoot me. I don't even have my gun with me! Dammit Unyezi. A light skinned nigga comes and sit in front of me.

"Whats a beautiful girl like you doing here?"

"Please leave."

"You think you the shit."

I laugh at this remark.

"If you don't leave now I'll punch your face."

He grips my hand and I look at him.

"Oh you the type that think women owe you."

He grips me tighter and I punch him on his nose.

Everyone finally notices when he screams. Shit! I broke a nail. I punch him again and i feel arms hold me back.

"Eh Sani! Uzolimala ubamba intombi ya ka Bas kanjalo.",says the man holding me back.

"Hlehla mfana ngingaze ngikucithe ubucopho."
(Move boy before I shoot you in the head.)

Langa is pissed. He puts the tray of food down and comes towards me first.

"Myeke Muzi." (Leave her.)

This Muzi guy let's go of me and I check my hand first. My knuckles are bleeding and so is my finger cause I broke my nail.

They take the light skinned nigga away and his nose is broken. I smile when I hear his cries. Pussy.

"You fine?"

I nod and he engulfs me in his arms. Uh... A hug. I hug him back awkwardly. He calls a guy to bring the first aid kit. I wonder where they were taking that guy. That's why I don't like hood. Its a dangerous place. A

dark place.

05

UNYEZI

I'm eating the wors only and its is delicious. Langa has finished his wors and his eating his last piece of steak. This man eats and non of us are paying attention to the pap. I ate the salad cause it was chilli. I love chilli.

"You planning on touching that steak?"

I laugh and push my pieces of steak.

"Awuyifuni?"(You don't want it?)

"Cah. I don't like steak." (No)

He shrugs and eats. We eat in silence. I am now drinking Pine Twist. He suggested it. It tastes really good. I need to stock up on these. He is drinking a castle lite. He wipes his hands when his done eating.

"I'm sorry about what happened earlier."

"Its okay. I just broke a nail thats all."

"Still. You hurt your knuckles."

"I break my knuckles a lot. Its no big deal."

He nods and stares at me.

"What?", I ask shyly.

"Cela ungsshade."(marry me)

I laugh till I realise his dead serious. This guy is crazy. Its our third encounter and he wants to marry me? A whole Unyezi?

"Langa.", I just say his name. I don't know what to say.

"I'm a grown man Unyezi. I'm turning 30 in a few months and I don't have time for games. I know about you addiction."

I choke on my saliva. What?! My eyes are as huge as balls right now. How does he know that? Unless he had access to my records with my therapist.

"I know a lot of stuff Unyezi. I know a ton of stuff. Some I'll let you tell me when you're ready. You resulted to sex when you couldn't handle some stuff and sex is what I can give you.",his saying this calmly and his looking me in the eyes.

"You just met me and you want to marry me? At

least ask me out kqala. See if you can handle my addiction."

"I can handle you Unyezi. No addiction lasts long unless you want it too. I have had my own share of begging. Spending money on dates. I've been through all that and I can do that while married to you."

I am sitting here dumbfounded. I don't even know him that well. I can't jump into a marriage with a stranger I don't even know what's his job occupation.

"You don't have to answer right away. Now its getting late and KwaMashu hijacks cars and I don't want to kill anyone in front of you.",he says standing up.

This man is way too bold. He says whatever comes to mind at that exact moment. I stand up and I realise I'm tipsy. I am about to clean the table.

"No. We own this place. The staff will do it."

"We?"

He just looks at me and takes my hand. He doesn't

bother answering my question. I let him be. When we get outside its raining. We run to the car and he opens my door for me. This guy! He didn't do this when we arrived earlier on. I take of my jacket and turn on the heater in the car.

"Your place is far and its raining. I have a house here in KwaMashu."

This man never ceases to surprise me. His actually telling that we going to his place. I am tipsy and I'm a buzz in the car. I actually want a smoke right now and get out of these wet clothes.

"You have kids?"

He nods and steals a glance at me. I love kids.

"How old are they?"

"Nkosinathi is 14. Langalami is 10."

"Nkosinathi is 14? Emude kanje?" (When his that tall?)

He chuckles.

"Where is their mother?"

"She doesn't see them. She left with another man."

He clenches his jaw when saying this. He seems angry and I know I should stop asking too many questions. He parks in front of a beautiful house. Its not big but its beautiful. The gate opens and he drives in. There is security. What's the security for? As if he read my mind.

"Not everybody likes the Khuzwayos."

I look at him even more curious. This guy is mysterious and oddly I like that. We run inside towards the house and he unlocks the door.

"Ngena." (Get in)

Does he have to command me? Dominant much? We walk inside and he closes the door and locks.

"Let me get us warm in here. Get comfortable."

"I wanna get out of these clothes and I also want to have a smoke."

"Passage. Second door on your right. Don't smoke in my room thou."

I head towards the passage and I got to admit its a

nice house. Nothing dramatic just cosy. I walk inside his room and it boyish and very clean. I start stripping than open his closet. I'm butt naked. This room smells like him. I take out his sweatshorts and a black tee. I roll the shorts by my waist to keep them there. I look funny in his clothes but my butt looks cute in these shorts. I grab my cigarettes and exit his room. He looks at me and chuckles.

"You look sexy in my clothes."

The way he said it was so enticing. He walks inside his room and I head to the kitchen. He has a wine cellar. I take out some wine. This seems expensive. I rinse out a glass and pour some. I taste it and I'm in love. I love beverage bazalwane. I open the kitchen window and light my cigarrete. He walks in dressed I'm just swagpants and his dickprint is well shaped. He has a well defined 8 pack with a v-line. His chest is so manly with tattoos on his left. Nkosinathi. Langalami. His sons names. My eyes move up to his Adams apple and his jawline.

"You eye fucking me right now. Take uzenzele." (Do as you please.)

I gulp down the contents of my wine.

"I see you found the wine. Finally someone to drink that."

He pours himself some whisky. He takes the cigarette from me and takes a puff and blows the smoke on my face.

"Langa man!"

He laughs and those dimples come to display. Is it normal to have a heartbeat in your clitorious?

"I wanna kiss you. Bend you over this counter. Drill into every part of you."

I swallow my saliva. I don't know how to respond to that. He finishes smoking and closes the window.

"Its raining cats and dogs out there. I think you should call that girl you left with Pluto cause you may be going home tomorrow. If the rain stops."

He walks out and I take my phone on the counter. I dial Nana's number and she answers.

"Unyezi."

"Hey Nana. I'm kinda stuck so can you look after Pluto for me. I'll pay extra."

"No problem. We love having him around."

"Thank you Nana."

I take the bottle of wine and my glass and head the living room. This guy needs to put on a shirt before I take advantage of him. It's warm now. I put everything on the table and I pour another glass of wine.

"You may wanna go easy on that wine. You might end up under me sweaty."

I look at him and he is just sitting there pressing the remote like he just didn't make that comment. Why does this man still surprise me?

"Let's binge on series. Money heist?"

"Favorite."

It starts playing and I sit in between his legs and lie on his chest. He doesn't complain.

I wake up with my face in his chest. We might have fallen asleep and I changed my sleeping position. I try moving my body to only have my groin rub on his. He groans and I stop my movement. I try moving again and our groans make contact. Shit! I can't even move upwards cause he has a tight hold on me.

"Unyezi stop it man!"

I relax and just put my head on his chest again. His hand gropes my butt.

"Khuzwayo!"

He chuckles. The wine not yet out of my system and haven't had some. I clench my thighs together.

"MaGema?"

"Mmmh?"

"MaGema?"

"Khuzwayo?"

"Yini? Wangahlaliseki. Ufunani?" (What? You can't sit still. What do you want?)

"Nothing."

He sits up straight with still on top of him but he opens my leg so they on either side of him. This is a very comprising position. The wine is playing with my hormones right now. I'm looking at him in the eyes and I can see he knows what I want but wants me to say it.

"Khuluma MaGema." (Talk)

I grab his face and kiss him and he responds. His lips are so soft and I can still taste the whiskey and tobacco. He pulls out as it gets intense. Dammit!

"MaGema. You can't just grab me and kiss me. Ngithi ufunani?" (I said what do you want.), his voice is really hoarse and full of emotion. His eyes are red and small. He is ready but wants me to say it.

"I want you.", I breathe out.

"Yim lo. Ufunani kimi?" (Here I am. What do you want from me?)

"I want you buried inside me. I all of you."

And just like that he grabs me by the waist and kisses me hungrily. He licks my lower lip and I don't

grant him access. His other hand moves up to my small perky breasts and he pinches my nipple causing me to yelp. He uses that opening and slides his tongue in my mouth. Our tongues battle for dominance and he wins and I can feel his smirk. I start grinding on his causing friction between our origins. He groans and moves in the same rhythm with me. He tugs at the T-shirt and pulls it over my head. He starts kissing my neck earning soft moans from me. His hands are on my breast with his fingers playing with my nipples. He goes down until my breasts and he latches on my left boob.

Suck,blow,lick blow and he repeats the same on my left boob while his fingers play with my nipple. I'm so horny right now I wanna cry so bad. He lays me on the carpet and he kisses me again. He tugs at the short and I lift my bum up and he removes them. I'm left stark naked. He stares at my body and his eyes land on the scar in my inner thigh. I try closing my thighs but he opens them. He kisses the scar while looking at me. His eyes say it all. He accepts my flaws. He kisses my inner thighs till I finally relax again. I feel his breathe near my vagina. I fidget and

he holds my thighs to keep me in place. His two fingers separate my lips and he licks my clit. His not in a hurry. He nibbles on it and I arch my back.

"Khuzwayo.", I moan softly.

He licks, bites,blows and suck on my clit and I'm losing my mind over here. He enters his first finger and I curl my toes. He enters the second finger and I roll my eyes.

"Fuck!"

His pumping in and out while his mouth is on my clit. I feel my legs shaking and I know I'm about to cum. He curls his fingers inside of me and I let it all out. He let me ride out my orgasm and I am breathing heavily. He comes up to my face and I pull him and kiss him. I taste myself on him and that entices me more. I use my toes to lower his pants till they on his knees. He takes them off and the man down there springs up. I don't know but I swear that shit reached his belly button and I gulp. I've never taken one that big.

"I'll be gentle."

I meet his eyes and he gives peck. This guys dick is huge!

"Condoms?"

He gets up and heads to the vase next to the pictures. He dips his hand in and comes out with one line of Durex condoms. He tears one while walking towards me. He puts it on while maintaining eye contact with me. He gets in between my thighs and he balances himself with his forearms.

"Now listen to me. I hit it and it's mine. I don't like sharing. As soon as I put the tip in you're mine and mine alone. You can call me at midnight for sex and I'll come siyezwana?(we understand each other?"

I nod at this. I just want you in me right now!

"Use your words."

"Siyezwana.(we understand each other.)"

He kisses me again and I feel him rub himself on me. I take a deep breathe and relax my body. He pushes himself in slowly and I'm trying to get some air in my lungs. He finally enters fully and I catch a breath. He

stays like that giving me time to adjust to his size. I nod at him and he starts moving. Its uncomfortable at first but after a few strokes I'm a mess. He puts my legs on his shoulders giving him deep penetration. I'm scratching on his back. I am screaming and I'm sure the neighbours can hear me. The rain is creating a rhythm for his strokes. I arch my back and curl my toes digging my nails into his back. He fucks me through my orgasm. He has me by my side facing him. My on top of his and the other under his. He keeps moving while keeping eye contact. I can't even keep my eyes open cause this mans strokes are driving me crazy.

"Look at me or I stop."

I open my eyes and look at him. He has beads of sweat on his forehead with his brows furrowed.

"Shit Unyezi! Don't do that!",he groans out.

I just clenched my vagina walls around his dick. He goes faster and he keeps pumping into me.

"Fuck! Fuck! Fuuuuuuuuck!", I scream and I cum.

He lays me on my stomach with a pillow under my

torso. He enter from behind and I hear him groan. His chest is on my back and his groans are making me even more aroused. I push my hips out a little and he makes me move with his rhythm.

"Deeper Langa!! Deeper!"

And he obliges. Keeping my hips in the air and giving me deep thrusts. He groans out and ups his pace. I clench myself around him and he groans like a wounded bull. He lays on top of me as we breathe heavily. He rolls over and we look at each other.

"What was that?", I ask with a tired voice.

"That is your new addiction."

He pulls me in his arms and we sleep on the carpet. He pulls a fleece and covers us up. Maybe just maybe I found a much better addiction. Something only he can give me! Man his got mean strokes. I fall asleep but not before I hear "Ngyakuthanda." (I love you) guess I'm already dreaming.

06

UNYEZI

I'm woken up by someone picking me up. I open my eyes a little and its Langa.

"Sorry to wake you up but my brothers are coming."

"Its okay."

He looks at me and I see the ocean and moon again. It still fascinates me on how I can see such a beautiful scenery in his eyes. I don't know what this warm and fuzzy feeling my hypothalamus is sending throughout my body. He lays me on the bed.

"Go back to sleep."

"I have work tomorrow."

"I'll fetch you clothes."

"Ha.a shame. If I let you do that than I'd go to work dressed like I just escaped out of an asylum."

He laughs at this.

"Okay. I'll ask Nkosinathi to choose your outfit keh."

"Formal okay?" teeth ods and kisses my forehead. He leaves the room only in sweatpants and I notice the scratch marks on his back. I may have scratched harder than I thought. I close my eyes and I fall into deep slumber later.

I'm woken up by loud voices and I remember Langa telling me his brothers were coming over. They are very loud with the laughing and all. I wake up and go to the bathroom to wash my face. I open drawers till I find a sealed toothbrush. I brush my teeth and decide to take a shower. I finish taking a shower and when I walk out there is still noise on the other side. I text Langa "I'm hungry." he replies "come eat. We braaied meat." uyahlanya lo and I text again "Quickie?" he blue ticks me. I'm sitting there all naked when the door finally opens. I laugh at him cause I can see his boner through his pants.

"Really Unyezi?"

"That was the only way to get you to come here. I'm really hungry."

He groans out loud and has a mini tantrum.

"Can I get the quickie? Than you'll eat."

"Nope.",I say popping the "p".

I stand up and head for the closet. I notice my clothes. Great choice.

"Langa stop following me around. Thanks for the clothes."

"MaGema ngizoyifaka kancane." (I'll put the tip in.)

I laugh at him and go through his swagpants. I take out the black one.

"Awufuni?" (You don't want to?)

I nod and bend to take out a pair of socks from the drawer. I feel him rub his boner on my ass and my breathe hitches.

"Seduce me all you want Langa."

"MaGema I'm dying here."

I find the socks and put them on. I push him with my ass as I stand up. As I'm about to wear the swagpants he grabs them.

"Langa!"

"Ngyakucela. Bheka." (Please. Look.)

I look at his boner and I'm tempted kodwa sex won't make my stomach full. The last time I ate was with that chisanyama meat.

"Langa your brother are downstairs and I'm hungry. Ngizobe ngithi " Aaah" isisu sami sibe sithi "grrr" hayi!
"(I'll be saying - my stomach will be saying - no!)

He laughs and hands me the swagpants.

"Can you cook pap for us?"

"I can't cook."

He looks at me as if I just poured cold water on him and I wanna laugh so bad. Of course I can cook I'm just pulling his leg.

"I'll ask one of my staff at the chisanyama to bring us pap then."

"So the Chisanyama is yours?"

He nods taking out his phone. I understand why he said 'we own this place' earlier on.

"I'm joking. I'll cook."

He stops pressing on his phone and looks at me.

"You're sure?"

His sceptical I can see. I smile and nod at him. I pull a t-shirt on and we walk out hand in hand.

"How many are they?"

"Who? My brothers?"

I nod.

"There's 5 of us. I'm the middle child and the last born is a girl. She didn't come thou."

My face drops. I'll be surrounded by testosterone all alone? Dear God.

"They insisted on coming here and when I told them I had a girl over they ran here even Thandolezwe wanted to come but since she has school she can't."

I guess Thandolweze is the girl.

"Why would they run here for a mere girl?"

He looks at me and his giving me one of those

intense looks and I look down.

"Ngibheke.(look at me)"

I look at him and he grabs me by the waist.

"I told them about you when I saw you outside Khuzwayos building and they've been waiting for me to find you."

"Why tell them about me or do you tell them about every girl you meet outside buildings?"

"I tell them about a smoker who sees the ocean in my eyes."

I look at him and he kisses my lips. Wait-

"How do you know I see the ocean in your eyes?"

"You'll find out."

We've been standing in the passage this whole time. I pull his hand and we walk towards the living room. It stopped raining but its drizzling now. They playing FIFA and are ooing and booing.

"I want a smoke.", I whisper to Langa.

"After this."

We walk up to them and Langa clears his throat. No one paid attention.

"Bafwethu." (Brothers)

They all look at us and pause the game. I'm standing there in huge clothes looking all short with messy hair.

"This is Unyezi Sosibo."

"Hey", and my voice comes out squeaky. Wtf bazalwane?

One of them laughs. He looks like his in his 20s. Did I mention that they look alike? The resemblance is deep.

"Uhlekani slima?(what are laughing at fool)"

I pinch Langa and he jumps and gives me a death stare which I give back.

"Hey", the guy imitates my squeaky voice and they all laugh Langa even chuckles. I'm gonna punch these assholes.

" Squeaky voice here will cook pap for y'all. Y'all better keep quiet.",I say.

They all keep quiet. I smile.

"Good boys."

Langa chuckles.

"Now what are your names?"

"I'm Ndabenkulu.", says the older looking one.

"I'm Bhekikhaya.", says one with a tattoo on his neck.

"I'm Khulekani.", says Trevor Noah wanna be.

"Nice to meet you all."

Khulekani looks at Langa.

"So this is where you got those back scratches from huh?"

Omigosh! This kid thou. I hide my face behind Langa as everyone laughs. Why is this dumbass laughing too?

"Okay guys yekani uMaGema wami. Asambe mkami. (leave my MaGema alone. Let's go my wife.)"

"Mmmh MaGema Wami. Mkami. Wadla bafo."

They laugh again. Guess Khulekani is the joker

around here. I leave them there and go to the kitchen. If I was really light in skin I'd be red right now. I open the kitchen window and light a cigarette. I boil the water so long and sit on top of the counter. Where is that wine? I'll drink one glass cause I have work tomorrow. I start cooking when something licks my calve and I scream bloody shit! I don't even look back I run. They all stand up and pull out guns. I stand behind Langa.

"What's wrong Unyezi?"

"Something... It licked me. Angazi... It... Ybo!" (I don't know)

I am freaking out when a hear a whine. A dogs whine.

"It's just Pluto babe."

Pluto? What's he doing here? I come out and there he is with his ears down and tail between his tail.

"Aah sthandwa sami. What are you doing here?"

I kiss his head and rub on his belly. He licks my face.

"Pluto!",I'm a giggling mess.

We finally stop playing. Man I love this fellow.

"He whined and started barking when he saw me. Guess he recognized me from earlier on so I took him with."

Langa thou.

"Thanks I guess."

"Can't believe I pulled out my gun for a dog. Abafazi.(women)",says Ndabenkulu sitting down.

They laugh and get back to their game. I was scared awu!

"Khuzwayo."

They all turn back and I look down shyly.

"Oh. She's talking to Lanagalakhelihle.", says Bhekikhaya.

He stands up and follows me with Pluto on our tail.

"I'm almost done with the pap please warm up the meat for me."

"Okay."

He holds my waist from behind and kisses my neck. My breathing hitches and he bites down on my neck.

I find the pain pleasurable and he kisses it after. I turn around and kiss him. He gropes my ass and I moan. Just as I'm getting into it he pulls out and puts the meat in the oven. Did he just-? He just gave me a taste of my own medicine! I swear I'm gonna cry. I drag my tongue through my teeth and turn to my pots.

"Uthi mxm kimi?(you dragging me through your teeth?)" ,he says looking at me with squinted eyes.

"Hm.mh(no)"

He gives me one look and gets back to cooking. I finish up the pap and turn off ghd stove. Pluto is just laying there looking at us. I also cooked chakalaka and its done. I turn off the pots and start rinsing the plates. Langa lights a cigarette while waiting on the timer. I dry the plates and start setting them. I dish up for everyone and when I'm done the timer goes off. I take the cigarette from him as he takes the meat out.

"When are you planning on quitting?"

"Quitting what?"

"Ugwayi.(cigarettes)"

"When I feel like it.",I say dismissively.

"Watch your tone. Angilwi.(I'm not fighting)"

I put the cigarette out and close the window. I make a dishcloth wet.

"You're helping me with giving them food. And I shouldn't even be doing this. I'm not your wife."

"Told you to marry me."

I leave him like that and go give his brothers the wet dishcloth for their hands. How I know this? I read a couple of stories.

"Siyabonga Mkakhe.(thank you his wife.)",says Khulekani.

I smile at them and go back to the kitchen. Langa is eating.

"Patience. Patience Langa."

"When I'm hungry. I want to ravish my food right away." and yes he made it sexual.

He licks his fingers slowly while looking me in the

eyes. Seduce me Langa Khuzwayo. Seduce me.

"Ngabe ngikunambitha kanje.(I'd be eating you like this.)",he says biting into his morsels.

I need to get out of here. Very fast. I grab two plates and put them on the tray.

"Ngikukhota kanje.(licking you like this.)"

He licks his fingers slowly. That's my cue. I take the plates and walk out. I hand them their plates.

"Uright MaGema? You look flustered."

I nod and walk off. I bump into Langa with a tray of plates and he licks his lip and bites his lip before walking off. Jesus! Your son will be the death of me. Where are my cigarettes? I give Pluto some water and raw half cooked meat. Langa just took my dog without taking his food. He walks in as I light up cigarette.

"Woza uzodla.(come eat.)"

"I'll eat with Pluto."

"Pluto. Come."

Pluto looks at his food and than Langa. His indecisive. He finally chooses food. Hah! Langa exits defeated. After a few minutes everyone come with their plates and pulls bar stools before taking a seat. I look at them puzzled. Langa mara! They all smile at me showing off their dimples.

"I would be watching soccer while eating but Langa says you're lonely.",says Khulekani.

I look at Langa and he winks at me. He likes playing dirty lo. I put the cigarette out and close the window.

"You'll have to stop smoking when you're pregnant.", says Ndabenkulu causing me to choke on my own Saliva.

"Uhm... Yeah yeah.", I am flushed guys.

I sit down and we eat peacefully.

"Langa says y'all are dating. You're sure you wanna be in this family?",asks Bhekikhaya

We dating? I look at Langa and he smiles at me. Haibo. This is ambush.

"Uh yeah yeah we dating. I'm not really sure but I

don't wanna make hasty decisions."

"What do you see in his eyes?", asks Ndabenkulu

"Bafo", Langa tries stopping him.

"Thula bafo.(quiet brother)",Ndabenkulu cuts him off.

"I don't know if this sounds crazy but I see the ocean and the moon. It still leaves me puzzled why.", I say this looking at Langa. Staring into the ocean and the moon.

"You think uye bafo?", asks Khulekani.

"Sizozwa ngoKhuzwayo omdala. Bekunjalo. Makashadwe.(we'll hear from senior Khuzwayo. If it is what is. She must be married.)",answers Ndabenkulu.

I don't know what they talking about but I know it involves me. I look at Langa and he looks at me too. I get a feeling that in his ocean you don't swim and leave. You learn how to breathe under water. Leaving him will be hard in the future but why would I leave him? I ask myself that question again 'why would I

leave him?'. I look at Pluto and he looks at me. Pluto.
I don't know what I just walked into but its still you
and me. Always.

07

UNYEZI

I'm preparing for work right now and Langa is still sleeping. This man snores bantase. I had to put another pillow for him. I put on my clothes and I go check on Pluto. He is already up and barking at the door. I run towards it and open it for him and he runs out to the backyard. It stopped raining now. Its windy thou. I give him some privacy and leave the door open. I walk to the kitchen. Its still 05:43 so I start cooking soft porridge. Luckily they bought my laptop. I check Mr Mayas schedule for the day. He'll be out of the office today. I email him his schedule and his first meeting is with the board members which is a private meeting. I turn off the pots when its ready. I dish up for myself and add milk and some sugar. As I'm eating Langa comes in.

"Sawubona." (Hey)

"Morning."

"Why is the door open?"

"Pluto needed the toilet. I'll clean it up."

"There is a Gardner for that."

I nod at him.

"You want some soft porridge?"

"Hayi. I eat meat mina."

Amen! He takes out some Russians and pops them in the microwave. Actions of a bachelor. Its 06:22 and I need to leave for work.

"Can you drop me off at work than drop off Pluto at the estate?"

He nods eating Russians only.

"And the way you ambushed me izolo. I didn't even know siyajola.(yesterday. dating)"

"I know I know. Unyezi please be my girlfriend?"

Langa mara yazi! What am I gonna do with him?

"Okay Langalakhelihle."

"Sorry sthandwa sami."

He pulls me by the waist and kisses me. I never get tired of his kisses. I pack up my things.

"Put a shirt on asambe.(let's go)"

He kisses me one last time and walks off.

"Pluto!"

He comes minutes later.

"Time to go."

Where is my phone? As I'm about to go look for it in the bedroom Langa walks in with it on his ear.

"Lalela ndoda. Hlukana nomkami. Uphinde umphounele kuzocitheka igazi.(listen here man. Stay away from my wife. Call her again blood will be spilt.)"

He drops the call, takes his car keys and leaves. Its probably Zenande. His the only one that calls me. Thabani just waits for my call. He hoots and me and Pluto head out. I open the door for Pluto at the back and I get in front. His jaws are clenched and the way his gripping on that staring wheel I'm even scared to ask for my phone. He is driving very fast and I don't even tell him to slow down. Pluto is sleeping at the back and I wish I was him. Oblivious to this mans

anger. The tyres screech when he parks near the Khuzwayo Law and Order. I sit there looking at him. I don't know what to say so I kiss his cheek and exit the car. He drives off with my phone. I look at his car driving off before walking off. Its gonna be a long day.

I was about knockoff when I received a call from my office phone.

"Ms Sosibo. Mr Khuzwayo is here to take you home."

I guess that idiot is here to fetch me. I pack everything and turn off my computer. Mr Maya has already left the building so I head to the elevator. This is very large building. With my years of working here I still don't know the owner. They call him senior Khuzwayo that know him. I exit the building and he is outside smoking. We're looking at each other as I walk up to him. I stand in front of him.

"Evening."

"Yeah."

He opens the door for me before going to his side. He starts the car and drives off. We are silent in the car. I don't get why his angry really. He just came way too fast in my life I didn't even have time to cut certain people off.

"Langalakhelihle."

He steals a glance at me before looking back at the road. EThekwini is a buzz. People are knocking off and some are going to work.

"You can't be angry at me. You came in due life like an atomic bomb. I didn't even have time to cut certain people off."

"I'm not angry at you. I'm just trying to come into terms that there were other guys before me."

"Don't storm off on me. You talk to me."

"I know. I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry too."

He enters the estate and parks in front of apartment.

"Would you like to come up for coffee?"

"No thank you. I'll call later."

He says handing me a phone. This is not my phone. Its even knew.

"Everything in there is yours. I got and smashed your phone."

I'm looking at him defeated. Amen. I try opening the door but its locked. He grabs my face and kisses me. I kiss him and we break it off later.

"Ngyakuthanda MaGema."

I don't reply but just look in his eyes. The waves are calm and the moon beautiful. I get that warm fuzzy feeling again.

"Ulale kahle(sleep well).

I exit the car and he drives off only when I shut the door behind me. I am met by a sleeping Nana and Pluto. I don't wake them up as I undress. I start on the pots and light up a smoke. I am done cooking and dish up for me and Nana. I wake her up.

"Hey. You hungry?"

"Yes Unyezi."

I hand her the plate and we start eating.

"That guy who came to fetch your clothed and Pluto. Your recent?"

"His my boyfriend."

She looks at me surprised. I can't remember the last time I had a boyfriend it even sounds weird saying it. We eat and she leaves later. I rent a movie on BoxOffice and cuddle with Pluto. I'm crying halfway the movie. A call disturbs me. I have to change this ringtone on this phone. The caller ID is written "myeni wami" iyafana no Langa keh leh.

"Myeni wam?"

"Mkami. You sound like you were crying."

"I was watching a romantic movie."

"Pho ukhalelani?"(why are you crying?)

"Its sad."

He laughs at me. We talk till I fall asleep. I really adore this man.

LANGALAKHELIHLE

I just got off the phone with Unyezi. I just hope she's the chosen one for me. The real one this time. The Khuzwayo clan is cursed or blessed. Our great great great grandfather was a witchdoctor. His first wife had had an affair with his brother and made khokho believe that it was his children for years. When he met his second wife she had given him a son. Secrets don't stay hidden forever so he found out that the kids were not his but his brothers. He put a curse on the following generation. Khuzwayo men and women shall never have children if not with their 'chosen ones'. Nkosinathi and Langalami aren't my biological sons. Bongeka tricked me into believing she was the 'chosen one'. She had heard Khuzwayo omdala talking to Ndabenkulu about this and started saying stuff like she sees the moon in my eyes. She fell pregnant with Nkosinathi and knowing she's the chosen I was happy. When Nkosinathi was born he looked like her. Our genes are very strong but I thought maybe hers are stronger. With her

upholding the 'I'm the chosen one' act dad asked to meet her and she had us all fooled trust me. When we wanted to pay dowry so she can officially be my wife she said she was pregnant and postponed the whole thing. For the baby's sake we agreed. When Langalami was born he looked nothing like us. Women and their lies, she said he looked like her dead grandfather and her mother backed her up on that. I started dreaming of an old man in healer clothing telling me to get rid of the snake in my house. I didn't get this and neither did I know this old man but I could see he was of the Khuzwayo family. When I had a talk with dad and described the old man he told me it was ukhokho. We consulted with our aunt who inherited the gift. She said she has been waiting on us. I didn't really believe in all this Sangoma stuff. We were let in on the matter that history has repeated itself. The kids were not mine. Bongeka wasn't the chosen one. I didn't believe all that. We had DNA tests done secretly and the results confirmed everything. Possessed by my great great grandfathers spirit I killed Bongeka. We faked her escape. Nobody knows of her death. It shall remain

that way. We going to eChamtu to visit our aunt. She must confirm Unyezis assumptions on what she sees in my eyes. I hope she's the one cause I've fallen hard. I never loved after Bongeka. I was a smash and leave kinda guy. Unyezi was just that light at the end of the darkness. I know its too early to marry her. With all the information I have on her I still don't know her parents whereabouts. I have my goons searching for Sosibos in KZN. I've never met a Sosibo before. I had to google her clan names. I head to the boys game room and they playing video games. I took them in as my own children. I never hid the fact that I'm not their real father. Went as far as asking them if they would like to meet their father and they declined. They stay with me in our house in YellowWood. I'm filthy rich but thats a story for another day.

"Baba.", Nkosinathi calls out.

"Bafana bam(my boys).", I say sitting on a duffel bag and ruffling Langas hair causing him to hit my hand.

"Y'all living already?",asks Langalami

"Yes. Gogo will be here to look after y'all. uSbhamu uyeza naye(sbhamu is coming too)."

"Okay Baba. Uphi uAunt(where is aunty?)"

"That's your mother Nkosinathi. Her name is Unyezi."

"We have a mother?", asks Langa.

"Yes boys. You'll meet her soon."

They nod and get back to playing their games. That's my cue. I exit and head out. I leave a message on the fridge.

"This is Unyezis number. Call her if you need anything and can't reach me. *****"

I walk out and get into my car after alerting the security of my departure. I drive to Khuzwayos house. We leaving today and don't know when will come back. I didn't tell Unyezi I'm leaving. I'll explain when I come back. For once in my life I pray to God that Unyezi is the one. She has to be. Even if she's not I'm staying with her. Fuck Khokho.

09

UNYEZI

I knocked off about an hour ago and I'm trying to call Langa again and his phone goes to voicemail again. I know I should give up calling since its been two days with him MIA but I am worried. I'm stuffing my face and I'm a mess. I was released early at work today cause I had a breakdown. Mr Maya went as far as giving me some time off work. I am stuffing my face with pancakes I made. Its a bit late for pancakes but I don't care. Pluto is with Nana. My mood is setting him off and I don't want that. I text Langa again "Langa please answer my calls and texts. If you're ignoring me than man up tell me what I did." I send it and decide to call him again. Its still goes to voicemail. I leave a message "Khuzwayo. Are you okay? Why are you ignoring me?! Langa I'll shoot you in your fucken scrotum if you don't call me back!" I just cry and drop the call. What if his hurt? He did say not everyone likes the Khuzwayos. I'm disturbed by my phone ringing. I answer without checking the caller ID.

"Langa?"

"Uh cha ngane yam. UMam'Thandi lo."

"Oh." I'm a little bit disappointed.

"I work for Mr Langa. I'm his kids nanny."

"Oh okay ma. Is he around? Is he okay?"

"No. He left with his father and brothers to attend a family matter. I just got a call that... that... that my husband has died and...i-i-i have to go home to prepare for his burial."

"I understand ma."

"Can the kids stay with you? Langa said we should call you if we need anything."

I keep quiet. I've only met Nkosinathi once and we didn't talk. I have to look after two boys who don't even know who the fuck I am?! I'm gonna kill Langa!

"Uh ma."

"Ngyak'cela ngane yam.(please my child.)"

I sigh and rub my glabella.

"Okay ma. Please send the address."

"Thank you."

"I'll be there to fetch them soon."

I hear her call Nkosinathi. There is shuffling on the other line before a voice speaks.

"Ma. UNkosinathi lo."

Ma? Langa!

"Yes boy. Uh... I'll fetch y'all okay? Send the address."

"Okay ma."

I drop the call. Ma? KuUnyezi Sosibo? I don't even bother changing out of this onesie as soon as I receive the address. I grab my car keys and inform Nana I'll be out for a few. They stay in yellowwood and my little car doesn't fit in this neighborhood. The walls are high. Its dead quiet here. No sound of a child playing. Nothing. Not even music. I park in front of a very tall gate. I press the intercom.

"Unyezi. I'm here to fetch the kids."

The gate opens up or maybe the first gate opens up.

I'm instructed to get out of the car and I do so. My car is searched and they finally let me in when they see its safe. I am met by a long driveway and I am looking at this house and I have to say. I only see these kind of houses on HomeChannel. I park my toy car and walk out looking like I ran from the asylum. There are security with guns standing still in positions. I'm very curious of Langas occupation and bank balance right now. I am met by a tall scary man by the door.

"Uh. Hi."

"MaGema wakhe. Igama uSbhamu."

Sbhamu? What kind of name is that? He should've named himself 'Skhali' cause he looks like a weapon.

"We will accompany you with 3 SUVs with my men inside. We are to insure your safety."

I just stare at this man wide mouthed. SUVs? I only see those on movies. I think I'm gonna faint.

"You're okay?"

I nod fast making me dizzier.

"Shit!", I say balancing myself with the wall.

"Let me help you."

He helps me inside and it's beautiful as hell. The tiles are so clean I can see myself. He sits me on the couch. I feel like a roach on these white couches. He comes back with a woman in her late 40s. She looks very beautiful but you can't miss the dark bags under her eyes. I guess she is Mam'Thandi. She hands me a glass of water and I drink it down.

"Thank you for coming."

"It's okay ma."

"Bafana!", Sbhamu calls out.

I hear footsteps and the dragging of a suitcase. I look up and you can see the upstairs. I swear that staircase is made of marble. Nkosinathi and a very cute boy comes down. They stand next to Sbhamu.

"Sawubona Ma.", they say simultaneously.

"Uh hey hey. You okay?"

"Yebo ma.", answers Nkosinathi.

"You will be staying with me till your father comes back. And uh... Since school is closed I'll take some time off work."

"Baba said you are our mom. Are you?", says the little fellow.

I look at Sbhamu and Mam'Thandi and they just look at me.

"I-uh. Yes. I am your mom from now on."

Oh Jehovah! I am sweating right now.

"Lets... Let's go."

Sbhamu takes their suitcase and leads them outside.

"Ma. Are they allergic to anything? Are they choosy when it comes to food?"

"No. They eat anything as long as there is meat. Their bank card is in the other bag. Its a black card so no password needed."

Did she just say? No way these kids have a black card! I don't even have one myself! I nod and walk outside. The SUVs are ready and the kids are in my car. I get in and look at them through the rear view

mirror. They just sit there looking at me. Lord be with me. I drive off with the cars following behind me. I'm playing some Drake in the car and Nkosinathi sings along. Good taste you have kid. I explain to the guards about the SUVs and I lie a bit. I drive in and they follow behind. When we get out they go in first to check if everything is safe. I've never been in this situation before. I notice Andrew and Nana walking towards us with Pluto on their tail. I miss him. Before they even reach us they are stopped.

"I know them. Its okay."

They are let through and Pluto barks at these men. His anxious I can tell by his tail and the hair on his back.

"Its okay Pluto. Come here."

He runs to me and I brush him till his a bit calm. Still doesn't trust these strangers.

"You can enter. All clear."

We make our way inside with the kids and I sit down as soon as I get inside. The things Langa puts me through kodwa.

"What's going on Unyezi?", asks Andrew.

"Its nothing. Y'all can leave Pluto."

They leave with worry looks.

"Nkosinathi and Langa. Mind sharing a room?"

They shake their heads.

"Huh?"

"Cha ma."

"Okay. This is my dog Pluto. He sleeps in the room at the end of the passage. Your room is next to his. Mine is the first one. Thats the kitchen and this is the chilling room. Its a small space."

"Its okay ma. We appreciate you looking after us."

"Are y'all hungry?"

"Yebo ma."

Thats the bathroom. Hot water is there. Shower and a bath. Go take a bath and get comfortable in your room I'll cook something."

They stand up and head towards the passage. Okay.

What am I gonna cook? I stand there with the fridge open. Wors and pap? Let add a bit of chakalaka. I have some orange juice. Okay. I start cooking.

I'm halfway through with the pots when they come back dressed in Fendi track suits. These kids are like the 'richest kids in mzansi' actually I'll look that list up.

"I have netflix. BoxOffice. DSTv Explora all channels paid for. My laptop has really good movies. And there is WiFi here."

"We don't have phones. Baba says we young.", says Langa.

"Good. The food will be ready soon. Grab some snacks in that cupboard there. Langa is the first one.

"No sugar Langa."

He takes out popcorn. Nkosinathi takes chocolate biscuits and Simba salt and vinegar chips.

"There's juice in the fridge. Milk too."

Langa takes juice and they go sit down. As soon as the pots are ready I dish up and leave the food to

cool. They watching a movie so I quickly go take a shower. I stand under the cold water and just soak it all in. They all left. No call nothing. I didn't think this is how I'll meet the kids. They seem well groomed thou. I get out before I start crying and wear some swagpants and hoodie. They still watching a movie.

"Come eat."

They pause the movie and stand up. We sit on the counter.

"Let's pray.", says Langa.

I put down my spoon and hold their hands.

"Dear God. Bless this meal and the hands that made it. Thank you for this meal as others may not have it. Amen."

We all say 'Amen' and start eating in silence. I'm taking them on some shopping for snacks and maybe winter clothes as its winter season. Maybe we can go to Shaka Marine World. Pluto is eating his dog food. Oh Pluto. We are way into deep now. I look at this kids. They don't look anything like the Khuzwayos. Its none of my business so I don't dwell

on the thought much.

10

UNYEZI

I'm in the ocean. Its a strawberry full moon today. Langa walks over to me and he smiles at me. We both naked and I don't know how but the ocean opens up and he leads us inside. He stands in front of me and covers my body with his and the ocean falls on us. I think I'm gonna drown when I take normal breathes. He let's me go and when we turn around we met by women and men. An old man walks up to us and he smears us with something and pushes me back.

I wake up sweaty and catching breaths. What was that? I'm used to nightmares but this one felt real. Even that push. Its like I was being pushed to consciousness. I wake up and its 05:24 and I don't have work. I light up my cigarette and go through my phone. Still nothing from Langa. I just listen to music till its 06:33 and I get out of bed. I start on breakfast. The boys are up by seven and I'm making pancakes now. They look clean and smell good. They clean freaks.

"Good morning ma.", they say.

Langa hugs me and takes a seat. My eyes well up a little. When was the last time I got a hug. Never mind Langas. He just made my day. I even stop worrying about that dream.

"Eat up and after that we can go to Shaka Marine World and Pavilion."

"Oh ma. I forgot. Here is our card."

Nkosinathi hands me a Nedbank Black Card. We may need this for the day.

"Okay zithandwa. Let me go bath. Please pour Pluto some dog food if he wakes up while I'm still bathing."

"Okay mama.", says Langa.

Man this kid wants to make me cry. I smile and head for my room. Mama? To me? I get that warm fuzzy feeling. I undress and walk to the ensuite and get the water ready while I smoke a cigarette. I get in when its ready. I take a 30 minutes bath and walk out with my skin wrinkled up. Jeans and kicks. Where's that

2pac hoodie? Uh there you are. I finish dressing up and I just spray my unruly afro a bit. I find the boys done eating and watching TV. Pluto is sitting with them and they brushing him absentminded. I take a picture.

"Okay boys. Let me eat and than we'll get going."

"Okay."

I dish up what's left of breakfast and eat. I text Nana. I drink some juice and burp.

"Excuse me."

I get my handbag and check if everything is there. Where are my car keys? Yes.

"Let's go boys."

I open the door and I'm met by men. What the? Shit I forgot about them. Nana walks towards us. She empties all her pockets and she is let in. Nkosi passes Pluto to her. Langa gives her his bag.

"Thank you. I'll see y'all."

I lock the door.

"Where are y'all headed?"

Eish Sbhamu Mann!

"We going to the Shaka Marine and Pavilion."

"Two will accompany you in the SUV."

"So I'm not driving?"

"No."

I pass him my keys defeated and head towards the big black SUV. You can't see shit from the outside. Its just black. They open the door for us and we get in. The kids are used to this I'm the only uptight one. The drive is silent. They drive into Shaka and pay for parking. We get out. They maintain a distance from us. If you don't know they with us than you won't know at all. I have Langas hand I'm mine. We head for some cotton candy first.

"I love cotton candy!",shouts Langa.

"Yes baby."

We buy and head towards the aquarium. We under the ocean just protected by glass. We walk in and the sea creatures move around us.

"A shark!"

Langa touches the glass and he admires it.

Nkosinathi is invested on the other side. Jelly fish. I am also enjoying this. I love animals. We walk out after enjoying ourselves. We go into every place before finally going to get some food. We are at a buffet store and the kids are enjoying the food and so am I. After eating we head back to the parking lot. They open the doors for us.

"Pavilion."

They start driving and Langa is on a sugar rush from the candy he's been eating today. He's telling me about how kids at his school will be so jealous that he has a pretty mom. He makes me promise to attend his meetings so he can brag to the teachers. This kid is the sweetest. He falls asleep on my lap and Nkosinathi sleeps on my shoulder. From eThekweni to ePava is quite a distance. I am woken up by the guard calling me.

"Ma'am. We've arrived."

"Thank you."

I shake these two and we all get out still disorientated. Langa is holding on to me. We walk inside and I take them to SportsScene first. No kid will wear Fendi and Versace before 18. That's a waste of money. I pick out jeans for them. Hoodies. T-shirts. We pay and head towards Studio88 for kicks. Nkosinathi picks out his choice and I choose for Langa. We head to MrPrice. I buy hoodies and boxers. We hand the clothes to the guards. We head to Woolworths and I get my self some knitted jerseys and Langa takes one too. I buy them toiletries and skin product for Langa. I think thats enough. Pyjamas! I buy them warm pyjamas and head for grocery shopping. We purchase and order some pizza. Its a bit late and some shops are closing. We head to the car and we are tired.

11

UNYEZI

I feel like a single mother lately. Nkosinathi went out with his friends yesterday and he came back smelling like weed and alcohol. I questioned and he answered me like udilika esihlahleni. I whipped his ass and his cleaning the house alone today.

"Nathi!"

"Ma!"

He comes in wiping his hands and stands in front of me.

"Ma?"

"When you done washing the dishes iron Langa clothes."

He nods and walks off. I won't live with a stoner and alcoholic. I haven't smoked weed since they arrived here to be a good example and I don't smoke cigarettes in front of them. Langa is busy on my phone. All I do is clean and cook since I took some time off from work. I miss having something to do

sometimes. I get up and Nkosinathi is packing the dishes. It's 15h45 and I better start cooking. I start taking out the ingredients.

"Ma."

I turn around and Nkosinathi is standing there.

"I'm sorry about yesterday. I don't smoke and neither do I drink. Yesterday was a mistake. I know you missing work to take care of us and I should appreciate that. Sorry for the things I said too."

Now that's what I wanted to hear.

"Come here."

He lands in my arms and we embrace each other. This child is so tall.

"I don't know anything about being a mother but meet me halfway. I'm trying my best here."

"I think you're doing good mom."

I get that warm fuzzy feeling again. I never thought I'd be a mother. We let go and I get back to cooking. It's been two weeks and they still not back and their phones go straight to voicemail. I miss Langa so bad

and I need to get laid soon.

"Ma. Your phone is ringing."

"Thanks Langa."

I take the phone. Its an unknown number.

"Hello"

The other person just breathes into the phone.

"When you're done breathing hang yourself."

I drop the phone and Langa is gone so I put it on the counter. As I'm getting done with my last pot it rings again. Its the same unknown number.

"Done breathing?"

"Sorry about that."

I am gobsmacked as I recognise the deep voice.

"Langa?"

"Unyezi?"

"Where have you been? Do you know how worried I've been? Actually don't answer that. Fuck you!"

I drop the call and I feel tears well up. Dont cry! I

missed him. I missed him. He should've told me he was leaving. He is back maybe. I take the phone and call the number again.

"Hello."

"Langa?"

"This is Ndabenkulu. Let me give him the phone."

There is shuffling and yelling before his voice comes through.

"Unyezi. Uthuka mina?(you're swearing at me)"

Who does he think I was swearing? I won't apologize for that futhi I'll say it again if I want to.

"You left without telling me. Do you know how I was worried? I had a fucken breakdown at work thinking maybe something happened to you or maybe you just didn't love me anymore. I had to take the kids in cause Mam'Thandi lost her husband! I had to be a mom! I dont know shit about being a mom Langa! Do you know how frustrating it was?! You let kids! Kids! Wear clothes worth my rent every month! I'm sexually frustrated Langa! Don't you get it? I fucken

love you! Actually fuck you again!"

I drop the call and I sit down crying. Langa as Nathi walk in.

"Mama. Mom."

I quickly wipe my tears.

"My babies. Are y'all hungry? We can order some pizza before dinner time comes."

"Mom. You're not okay."

I look at them. They look so cute. Nkosinathi looks really feminine but you can't miss the masculinity and Langa is a cutie. With Langa coming back I'll miss staying with them. I have even gotten used to the guards outside.

"Let's go sit. Grab snacks."

We grab snacks and I switch off the stove.

"We watching action."

"Choose a movie."

We sit down and Nathi goes through movies.

"Your dad called."

They look at me and get back to watching TV. We all chill and watch movies till we all hungry. I stand up and go dish up. Somebody opens the door abruptly. I look up and its Langa. His breathing heavily.

"Get out."

"Unyezi."

"Get out. Knock."

"Mkami."

"I said get out and knock!"

He heads for the door pissed and knocks. I head for the door and open it.

"Hello."

"Unyezi. Can I come in?"

I make space for him and the whole Khumalo clan walks in. My apartment is not that big as they sit on couches and others find space. The boys are happy to see their uncles. Langa is standing in front of me.

"Can we talk?"

I nod and we head for my bedroom. He starts pacing as he enters and I close the door. I'm waiting for him to stop pacing.

"You are making me dizzy. You'll pace a hole into my carpet. He stops and looks at me.

"I thought I was gonna lose you. I thought I-I-"

He grabs me and kisses me. I missed this. I miss him. I kiss him back as I pull him closer. I thought we were gonna talk but this is talking enough. He lifts me up and puts me on the bed. I'm all over him and the way his humping on me with his bulge is driving me crazy! A moan escapes my mouth and he groans. That sound again. His groans are so enticing.

"Langa.", I moan out.

He kisses my jaw line and trails down to my neck. He licks and blows air earning a moan from me. I remember his family is in the living room and I didn't close the pots.

"Khuzwayo stop."

He stops kissing me and rolls over to the bed and

covers his face. We both breathing heavily and looks at me. I missed the ocean. The ocean seems calm today and the moon looks beautiful. My own little haven.

"Uthe fuck you kimi.(you said fuck you to me.)"

Oh that.

"You said it twice. You raised your voice at me Unyezi."

I sit up and look at him. He has his hands behind his head and the look his giving should be making me wet my pants but the only wet thing is my panties cause does he look sexy angry.

"I'm not gonna apologize for that. You deserved it. Sorry for raising my voice at you thou."

"Do you love me?"

He sits up makes me sit ontop of him. I look at him. Do I love him? Yes. I've fallen so hard I swear his all I think about.

"I do. I do love you."

When he left without saying goodbye I thought I lost

him. I kept on creating scenarios in my head of what may have happened to him and I broke down. The one that scared me the most is him dead. I feel his fingers rubbing my cheeks.

"I'm sorry. Stop crying. I know I was wrong but I didn't know how I'd tell you where I was going with what awaited me at home. I was scared."

"Where were you?"

"I went home. EChamtu. I needed answers."

He kisses me and we go to the others. I dish up and its not enough so I make noodles for me. They take their plates and I hand Langa his.

"Why are you eating noodles?"

"The food wasn't enough for all of us."

"Come eat with me."

Langa thou. He makes me sit on top of him and feeds me.

"I'm full now."

"Eat. You've lost weight."

He keeps on feeding me till I feel like I'll burst. He stops finally and I try getting off him but he shakes his head. He eats while talking to his brothers.

"You're sleeping over right?", I whisper to him and he nods.

He thinks he got away easy. I want him to tell me why the fuck he left without even texting me. Plus I need to get laid.

12

UNYEZI

Langalami is sharing how I whipped Nathi's ass and made him do the cleaning and they laughing.

"Baba. Ebonza so(he was doing this)"

He then mimics Nathi while screaming "mama yoh! Sorry ma! Ngeke ngiphinde! Mama yhiii!" and these big heads are laughing.

"Yekani umtanami. Woza."

Nathi sticks his tongue out and comes to me.

"You'll turn these kids to pussies.", says Langa

"So Nkosinathi awusho. Bakushayeleni?", asks Khulekani.

He looks at me. I'm not gonna lie for you.

"I came back home late. Drunk and high and I was disrespectful to ma."

"Did you say high? Ubhema intsangu wena?(you smoke weed?)", Langa asks him and Nathi doesn't answer.

"Disrespectful? Disrespectful Nkosinathi? Woza la!(come here)"

He attempts to grab him but I jump in front. They all stand up.

"Khuzwayo. Mxolele. Sengimshayile(forgive him. I've hit him.)", I try reasoning.

"MaGema hlehla. Nkosinathi woza la.(move. come here.)"

Ndabenkulu tries snatching him and I pull him away from him.

"Sengimshayile kodwa bo Khuzwayo. Uxolisile futhi.(I've hit him. He apologized.)"

"Baba. Ungamshayi.(don't hit him)",Langalami tries reasoning too.

"Phumani.(leave)"

They all send looks towards Nkosinathi and he holds me tighter.

"Go to your room. Don't forget to brush your teeth."

They go to their room with Langa apologising for

telling them about the incident. I go open the door and they getting inside the SUV. The guards are still here. Langa closes the door and comes towards me. He lights his cigarette and I close the door and stand next to him.

"I'm sorry for Nkosis behavior. We'll talk to him."

"Its okay. Puberty hits hard. Just don't hit him."

He hands me the cigarette and pulls me to stand in front of him. The guards are looking at us.

"You'd make a good mom."

"No. I am a good mom."

He looks at me and smiles. Those dimples again. I blow smoke on his face and he coughs.

"Hayi man Unyezi!"

I laugh at him as I put the cigarette out and we walk back inside. I clean around and put the dishes in the dishwasher. I check on the kids and they sleeping. I refill Pluto's water and close his window. His been playing with the kids and they love him. I walk in my room and its empty. The shower is running. I strip

naked and I stand by the door admiring him. His got very nice legs and they look great with those brackets. His got very muscular thighs and they have those v's. I never noticed what a cute butt he has. His back muscles flex as he moves his shoulders. How did I get this man to be mine? His perfect. His got this beautiful golden brown skin that looks beautiful as the water streams down his body.

"I can feel your eyes."

He turns around and he smiles. His smile literally makes me weak.

"Join me."

I walk in the shower and the water is cold causing me to shriek. I turn the water temperature. As it gets warm I feel him behind me.

"So you ready to tell me what you had to do back home?", I ask without turning around.

I feel him wash my back.

"We have... Its a curse... No actually its a blessing. You probably won't believe me."

"No. Try me."

He turns me around and starts washing my chest.

"Its a Khuzwayo thing. We only shall impregnate or get pregnant by a soul chosen for us by the ancestors. Its sort of like a soumate. Those soulmates will see a certain scenery in our eyes. The moon and the ocean."

"That means you've found your soul mate and its not me. Its the boys mother."

He hold me as I try pulling away.

"The boys are not my biological sons. Their mother overheard a conversation she wasn't suppose to hear and used it as an advantage. She had us fooled. Made me believe...made me believe the boys were mine. She left as soon as she realised we had found out the truth. But you. You're are my true chosen one. Even if you weren't I would still choose you."

"I'm an athiest and neither am I traditional. If that's how it is than okay."

"Did you have any weird dream of me?"

"No. Actually yes. We were in the ocean. I could breathe under water. Weird right? There were people there. This old man smeared us with something and he pushed me. I woke up after that."

He smiles and kisses me. He presses me against the wall and he uses his knee to part my legs. His hand goes to my vagina and he parts my folds and rubs my clit. He inserts one finger and he inserts another and I flinch a bit. I haven't had some in a while.

"Still intact."

And he goes back to kissing me as he pumps his fingers in and out while his thumb rubs my clit. I feel a build coming. I grip his shoulders as I cum. He lifts my leg up and puts it around his waist. He inserts himself and I squirm a little. Man I forgot how big he is. After a few seconds he starts moving. I have to admit. I was having a hard time with my cravings but the kids kept me busy. He starts off slowly. His kissing my neck and running his hand up and down my thigh around his waist. His other hand is playing with my nipple.

"I love you MaGema."

I look at him and the moon and ocean are there.

"I love you too."

He goes in deeper and I arch my back as he hits my g-spot. He keeps hitting my g-spot and I cum. My legs are shaking as I begin to slide down the wall but Langa picks me up. He turns off the water and walks to my bed. He lays me down softly.

"Can I get a bit rough? I'm a little agitated."

Did he just ask for my permission? I nod my head.

"Use your words."

"Yes."

He stands up and takes out his string from his swagpant and comes back to me. Man I love being tied. He ties my hands together.

"Keep them there."

He goes out and comes back with icecubes. He puts one in his mouth. He comes towards me and he kisses me and he starts tracing kisses from my

jawline downwards. The coldness of his lips is sending me over the edge. He plays with the ice on my nipples and he traces them down till my belly button. He leaves it there and turns me around. I feel him enter from behind and he goes deep. Shit! He starts going really fast and he is going deeper. I'm trying to keep it down for the sake of my kids. I use the pillow to subside my moans. He spanks my butt and holds my hips as he starts drilling in me. He pulls on my hair and it allows him deep penetration.

"Langa! I'm gonna cum!"

"Cum for me."

I let it all out. He turns me around puts both legs on his shoulders. He enters slowly and you know that deep "mmh" sound when he puts it all in. We maintain eye contact as he thrusts in me. His hitting all the right spots and I won't last. He starts moving faster and I still have my hands tied and I wanna do something with my hands.

"Please untie me."

"No.", and he ups his pace.

I need to grab something. I am biting my lips so I don't wake up the kids.

"Langa. Mmmmh."

"You like that?"

"Yes. Yes."

He keeps on hitting my g-spot over and over again and if I knew the Khuzwayo clans I'd be praising him right now. I cum really hard.

"Can I take a ride?"

He looks at me and unties me slowly. He lays down and I get on top of him. He helps me insert him and he feels bigger in this position. When I'm comfortable with his side I start moving back and forth and moving my waist. Heat by Chris Brown plays in my head and I'm moving with the beat. Up down. Sideways. Front to back. When I'm really feeling it Langa steals my shine and hold my hips humping from underneath me. Can't he be submissive for a few minutes? I can't say I'm not loving the way his moving his waist thou. There is something about his strokes. I'm trying to keep up

with him but his like a fast mixtape. I'm holding onto his thighs with my back arched and my titties keep on bumping. He grabs one and pinches my nipple and that is the end of me causing me to cum. He turns us around and makes me hold my thighs to my chest. He inserts himself and moves his waist in circular motion. He starts with his fast pace again and this position is giving me a lot of sexual advantage. Our groins are rubbing and I am scratching his back. He is kissing my neck. His thrusts are deep and his strokes really fast. I'm gonna cum.

"Langa."

He let's out a growl and I squirt. After we get down from our climax he takes himself out. He kisses me.

"I love you.",and he rolls over. He takes out a cigarette and lights it. My head is on his chest. I take the cigarette and smoke.

"Can I take you on date tomorrow? With the kids?"

"Yes. I'd like that."

"Thank you for being there for them while I wasnt

around."

"Khuzwayo. How rich are you?"

"Like Own jets and helicopters kind of rich. Don't ask my bank balance. I wear that on my wrist."

He takes out his watch and I have no idea what it is but those are diamonds I swear.

"Otherwise Bill Gates. Keep your rich life away from me."

"Independent mami."

He spanks my butt and kisses me. I put out the cigarette and we lay in each others arms. We moving fast I know but love makes one lose balance.

I received a call from a reader and she sent me data. Please let yourself known under this post. You're appreciated.

13

UNYEZI

I woke up to an empty bed. His side was still warm so I knew he just got out. I sat up and the burning between my legs and the stiffness reminded me of yesterday's activity. I stood up gently and went to the bathroom. I filled the tub while brushing my teeth. My body had love bites all over and I smiled a little. As soon as I soaked myself a sigh escaped my mouth.

"Mkami!"

"Bathroom!"

He leans on the doorframe and fold his arms. Does he have to look this enticing? We look at each other. No words said. Me swimming in his ocean eyes. I am not a traditional person but what he said

yesterday about the chosen one and its been on my mind. Maybe its the truth. Thats a huge MAYBE.

"I love you Khuzwayo."

"I love you. Adore you. Appreciate you. MaGema."

"Are the kids awake?"

"I'll be done. I'm sure they hungry."

I stand up from the tub.

"Wait. I ordered pizza."

I look at him. Maybe his joking. I laugh and his serious.

"What? Pizza? For Breakfast? Kill me!"

He shrugs and walks away. Who in the world gives kids pizza for breakfast? I walk out the tub. The pain has subsided and I can tolerate it. I have that "I just got banged" glow. I dress up and go to the kitchen. The kids quickly close the pizza box.

"It was Dad's idea.", Langa voices out.

"Make some noodles while I fix y'all something. Did Pluto eat?"

"I fed him ma."

I walk up to them and kiss their foreheads.

"Good morning kids."

"Good morning mom."

"Where is your father?"

"He took Pluto for a walk. His never walked a dog before. We told him Nana does it and he said and I quote "ngeke ngihlulwe into encane as walking a dog(I won't be defeated by something as small)" so we let him be.",Langa fills me in.

"Your father is gonna give me white hair."

We laugh and I get breakfast ready. I miss work honestly. I have to talk to Langa about the kids visiting me on weekends cause I love having them around but I'm not Bill Gates daughter so I got work. I am dishing up when Langa walks in. His heaving and sweaty. Did he go for a run or what? He pours himself some water and gulps it. Pluto follows after him and heads for his water bowl.

"And then?"

"I took Pluto for a walk and ended up running after him. Never again!"

I laugh at him as he heads for the bedroom. Pluto is not even on a leash. His never taking Pluto on a walk ever again.

"Breakfast!"

The boys come running and take their seats.

"Guess the walk didn't go well.", Nathi says.

"He ended up running after Pluto. Who takes a dog for a walk without a leash?"

"Stop discussing me.", he cuts in.

"But shame myeni wami. Stick to wearing Brentwood and leave the dog walking to Nana."

He clicks his tongue and sulks and we dead with laughter. This is so beautiful. It was me and Pluto but now I have this small little family. Family? Let me not get ahead of myself. We have breakfast making fun of the dog walker.

LANGALAKHELIHLE

I think I'll admire dogs and keep it like that. I'm not walking any dog in this lifetime again. I put the pizza in the fridge. Guess we won't be eating that. The boys are out on the couch. Staying at home bores them. A call from Senior Khuzwayo comes through and I answer.

"Baba."

"Ndodana."

"Unjani?(how are you)"

"I'm okay. When am I meeting my daughter?"

"Ah Baba. Wait until a few months pass by."

"She works at one of my law firms son. I'll introduce myself."

"Baba you can't-"

He drops the call. This old timer is giving me a headache. A text comes through from Thando.

"Can I have the boys sleepover? I miss them."

Heeh! I get texts now? No 'hey big brother'? Abo

Thando bayakhula yazi. Unyezi is standing by the window in her room smoking. She's just in my t-shirt and her thick legs and thighs look creamy. Lord her booty! And the way she bend when I'm hitting it from the back! Its like God holds my hand and is like "Don't cry my son." everytime.I walk up to her.

"Babe."

"Mmmh."

"Ngenzeni?(what did I do)"

"Nothing. I'm just thinking."

"About?"

"I need to get back to work. Can the kids visit on the weekends?"

"We'll talk about that. My sister wants to see the boys."

"Why does it seem like you're asking for my consent?"

"Cause I am."

"Why is that?"

"You're their mother."

She turns around and puts out the cigarette. She needs to stop smoking but I won't voice that out. She'll chew my head off.

"That's... Wow. Uh... Thank you?"

"Unyezi. Thank you yani?"

"Thank you for trusting me with your kids."

"Sthandwa sami. I trust you with my life."

She throws her hands around me. Her hugs are so warm. She is like a teddy bear. A real human teddy bear. The fuck?! What am I even saying? I inhale her scent. She smells of me. That's the most perfect scent she can ever wear. I kiss her head. We stay like that till she breaks it up.

"She can fetch them. When is she bringing them back?"

"Tomorrow maybe?"

"Okay. I'll pack their clothes.", she says yawning.

She must still be tired from last night. We slept late

with all that heat we had up in here yesterday.

"Catch some z's. I'll pack."

"You're sure?"

"Yes I am Mami."

She smiles and kisses me. Her kisses are so addictive. They always leave me with a whole zoo inside my stomach. She pulls away. I look at her and she looks back. We having one of those intense eye contact moment. She has beautiful brown eyes and they look beautiful. She's beautiful. I lead her to bed and tuck her in. She yawns and hangs her hand over the bed. I walk out to go pack this boys clothes. I text Thando the location. The boys room looks really clean. Surprising. When I open I'm surprised they bought so much clothes from home. I start packing and I realise half these clothes are new. MrPrice? Khuzwayo boys? MrPrice? I look at all the tags and most of the hoodies are from MrPrice. Since when? This has Unyezi all over it. My sister will definitely get along with her. She thinks purchasing expensive clothes online for kids is a waste. Its a man thing I

don't expect women to get it. I pack their new normal clothes. Nkosi comes in as I pack his Gucci hoodie in.

"No. Put it back. Mom said those clothes are for special occasions. That's why they're on the other side of the closet. You want her to kill me? She looks really soft but trust me her beatings ain't."

He takes it and folds it nicely and puts it away. Is this my son?

"You can fold now? Wonders of Unyezi!"

"Guess all we needed was her."

"Sit down with me son."

We sit on their bed.

"Are we leaving already?"

"Not yet. You're going to Aunti Thandos place."

"Oh okay. I've missed her. I can't even call her."

"Slick. You getting a phone on your birthday."

"I'll wait."

"Do you smoke?"

He shifts away from me a bit.

"No dad. It was a one time thing."

"Lalelala. If you think smoking makes you cool than you're wrong. If you feel you have to smoke to fit in than those friends aren't real. You need to know your purpose kid. You're a smart boy. Don't ruin that by being a junky. I smoke yes but I work hard for my money. I was born rich but I know what its like going to bed hungry. We had tough love. We grateful for it too. Your mkhulu may not be the world's greatest dad but trust me when I say without his teachings and punishments I'd probably would have died at 18 on drug overdose at an expensive apartment cause I was a spoilt brat."

"I get you dad."

"I love you son."

"I love you too dad."

"What about me?"

We met by Langa standing by the door.

"We love you too."

He comes towards us and pulls us in for a hug. Wait till I marry Unyezi. We'll be together. Happy. Hopefully.

14

UNYEZI

Its been a few weeks since I've been back to work. The boys do come to visit every weekend. Mr Maya is going through a divorce so I'm dealing with a grumpy old man. He has court today and I am dreading walking inside his office. I stand up and stand at the door for a few minutes before knocking.

"Ngena!(come in)"

I walk in and he still keeps his neat persona.

"You have court in an hour sir."

"Okay. You can leave."

I stand there for a while. Did he just? No I doubt he did. I chuckle and he looks up at me.

"Humor me too Unyezi."

"No disrespect. A simple thank you won't kill you."

He looks at me and I stare back. I don't care if he is my superior right now but I deserve a minor 'thank you'.

"Thank you Unyezi."

"My pleasure sir."

I walk out and take a deep breathe as I exit his office. I've been losing my cool a lot lately. I'm sure my periods are on the way. I need a smoke. I head outside and when I light the cigarette I just end up putting it out. I don't feel like it no more. I light it up again. I take a few puffs before going back inside.

"Unyezi."

I look at the female in formal clothing. She works here. I think her name is Thembi.

"Thembi."

"My name is Thandi."

"Oh sorry. How may I help?"

"Its okay. You don't talk to us either way so I get it if you don't know my name."

If she's trying to make me feel bad than its not working.

"Thando get talking please."

"Thandi."

"Forgive me. I have a thing with names."

"Anyway we hosting a party for us colleagues. Friday night. Would you like to come?"

"I'll be there."

I smile and walk away. I'm not going there. I'm not looking for friends. I walk to my station and start working.

I am disturbed by people leaving. Its knock off time already? I finish up when that pain on my side hits me again. I stop what I'm doing and sit still. I've been having it for a few weeks now and I'm starting to get worried. I stand up and pack up. I walk to my car with my pressed to my side. I get inside my car and I let the tears fall. This is really irritating and painful. I drive to the Garage and buy water. I drink pain killers with some water and drive home. As soon as I arrive at my apartment my phone rings. Its Langa.

"Khuzwayo."

"MaGema."

"How are you?"

"I'm okay just missing you. And you?"

"I'm okay."

I want to tell him I haven't been okay lately but I don't want to worry him.

"Langa says I must ask you if you can attend his meeting at school."

"When is it?"

"Friday after school."

Great excuse to miss that party at work.

"Okay sthandwa sami. How is Nathi?"

"His okay. You know I like it when you call me sthandwa sami."

I lay on my bed pressing my side.

"Ngempela sthandwa sami?(for real my love)"

"Ngempela mkami."

"I love you Khuzwayo."

"I love you too MaGema."

"Isho futhi(say it again)"

"Ngyak'thanda MaGema."

"Let me sleep a bit."

"You're okay?"

"Just a headache."

"I'll check on you later."

"Okay."

"Bye."

"Bye."

We drop the call and I close my eyes with my hand still on my side. This pain better end soon.

(I know it's short but something before y'all sleep.)

15

UNYEZI

The boys are coming over for the weekend. I am cleaning around when I cut my finger. As soon as the blood starts oozing I have a flashback.

"Please let me go. I won't tell anyone. Just let me go.",my voice comes out hoarse.

I choke on my sob as he groans and spills his sperm on my face.

"You slut!"

The bossy one comes towards me. He takes out a knife and kneels in front of me. I am scared and my body hurts. Somebody help me. Why me? You keep on failing me God. You did it again. You promised and let me down again.

"With this mark. You belong to me. Any man you sleep with will see this."

He holds my thigh and draws an X on my inner thigh. The blood oozes. Crimson red blood staining white tiles. I feel myself succumb to darkness.

"Unyezi?"

I look up and its Langa and the boys. He sends the boys away.

"Are you okay?"

I look at him. How does such a perfect specimen fall for such a broken soul? He helps me up and cleans the blood off my finger. I stand there watching him clean up my blood. Another flashback flows in.

I kneel there scrubbing the white tiles of my room in the orphanage. "Make it quick Unyezi. Before they see." I scrub till the shine comes back. How I wish I can scrub my soul till its as clean as that floor.

"You okay? Unyezi?"

I just look at him. I'm sure he knows. I'm sure he gets disgusted when he looks at me. I see him approaching me. Don't touch me! I let out a blood curling scream and he stands back. Fight it Unyezi! Fight it! I sit down with my chin on my knees. Fight it! Fight it! I feel him touch my back and it arouses me. I turn to look at him. I pull him in for a kiss. He hesitates before kissing me back. He pulls away and

I pull him back in. I need you right now. That's the only way I can forget. He stands up with me in his arms. He leads us to my room and puts me down on the bed.

"You sure? You don't seem okay."

"I'm sure. No foreplay. Be rough."

He looks at me and he starts taking off his clothes. I take out mine before pulling him in for a kiss. He kisses me back hungrily. His hands are all over me and I just want him inside me.

"Khuzwayo."

He nods at me and positions himself at my entrance before he slams into me making me arch my back and hold him tighter. He tries kissing me but I duck and he ends up kissing my neck. He starts being really rough when he sees I'm rejecting his affection. This is what I wanted. I am trying my best to keep it down. He keeps on drilling into me and making sure he goes deep. He bites my neck and the pain sends me over the edge. We both cum and he collapses beside me. He used all his energy. I know it's selfish

of me but he said he could handle my addiction. My addiction has a flaw. When I can't handle my past. I am not looking for a make love session. I want you to ram into me. Make me feel pain. I close my eyes and let my hand hang over the bed and as always the demon under my bed grabs it. I let the darkness take me. I'll wake up better.

16

UNYEZI

I wake up to someone looking at me. I open my eyes and I'm met by Langa. I sit up and the burn between my thighs makes me groan. His just sitting there looking at me. He wants to say something I can tell. Guess he won't talk so I stand up and head for the bathroom.

"Unyezi.", his voice sounds different.

I halt in my steps but don't turn back.

"Look at me."

I turn around slowly. His now standing up and walking towards me.

"Do you love me?"

"Yes."

"Do you trust me?"

Where is this going?

"Yes."

"You don't keep secrets from someone you love and trust. What happened... I've never seen you like that. You rejected my affection. You were hurting I saw that but that shouldn't be an excuse to hurt others."

I look down guilty. I can't help it. It just happens and I can't control it.

"Why can't you trust me? Not only with your body but your heart and soul."

He stands in front of me with his hands folded. His giving me an intense look and I can't maintain eye contact.

"Look me in the eye."

I look at him. The moon is still there and the ocean.

"You're troubled. Your heart is at war. Why do you keep fighting it? Your ships have sunk. Your capital is dying. Make an alliance with me. Let me help you fight it."

I try holding him but he moves back.

"When I tried to comfort and you screamed. You scared me. I thought I've done something until I

looked into your eyes. Your eyes looked dead."

I try moving towards him but he moves back.

"Khuzwayo. Hold me."

"No MaGema. I gave you every inch of me. I trusted you with my kids. You fail to give me your heart. You fail to trust me with your soul. So I won't hold you. You need what I give you right? The only time I'll hold you is when you decide to use my body for your own addiction again."

"Langa."

"I'll order supper. I told the kids you weren't well."

He walks out and I stand there. His words playing in my mind like a broken tape. Over and over again. I walk into the shower and the water is cold. I sit under the water and cry. I wish it was easy. I wish I could just pour my heart out and let him in but I'm so scared of my past. I feel hands lift me up and take me out under the cold water. I'm shivering and I am going to catch a cold. Langa sits me on the bed and he smears Vaseline on me. He dresses me in his hoodie and swagpants and he hairdrys my hair. He

starts doing cornrows and I just sit there. He finishes his cornrows and he puts a hat on me.

"Let's get you warm."

He tucks me in and he kisses my forehead. I haven't felt like this for so long. Its been a year. I take my phone as soon as he walks out. I look for her numbers. 'Dr Sambo'. I call her number and it rings before she answers.

"Dr Sandra Sambo."

"Uh hey Doc. Its Unyezi."

"Unyezi? The last time you called was to cancel therapy."

"I need help. Please send that Sex Addict Group address."

"Really?"

"Yes. I think I'm ready."

"You met someone didn't you?"

"The address Sandra."

"Okay. I'll send it through email."

"Thank you."

"Bye."

I drop the call and open my front camera and take out the beanie. His cornrows are neat. I wonder where he learnt to do that. I can't even do cornrows myself. He walks in and he has a tray with a bowl. Lord I'm gonna die. What is he bringing?

"I can't cook but I know how to make noodle soup. Here."

I sniff and he hands me a tissue. I have a runny nose. I blow my nose.

"Open up."

I open my mouth and he feeds me. I am going to that group for him and those two kids in the living room but mostly me. He keeps feeding me till I'm full. He hands me pills and I drink up.

"Get some sleep. We playing video games. Shout if you need me."

He walks out and as always I let my hand hang over the bed and the demon under my bed grabs it and I

fall asleep.

17

UNYEZI

I sit up in the morning and the heavy feeling in my heart is still there. I look at Langa and his still sleeping. I envy his long eyelashes. Thou he has really thick eyebrows but I have to admit mine are thick and bushy well I am a hairy being. He licks his lips and his eyes falter open.

"You're okay?"

"Yes. Can we go out today? The beach maybe?"

He sits up straight and the blankets fall off till his torso exposing his upper body causing me to look away.

"Yeah. I'll tell the kids."

"No. I will. I haven't seen them since they arrived."

I look at him and his looking at me. He looks pained.

"What's wrong?"

"You pale. Your eyes are puffy. Damn mami."

"Damn mami? Who taught you that?"

"Nkosinathi."

"Uthanda izinto!(You like things.)"

"Damn mami!"

I chuckle and he smiles. He got the deepest dimples and the most cutest smile. He got small lazy eyes and when he smiles they look smaller.

"You're staring."

"You're perfect.", I say absent minded.

Did he just blush?

"Did you-? Langa!", I say laughing.

"He.e mahn Unyezi."

He stands up and hurries to the bathroom.

"Khuzwayo!"

He closes the door and I chuckle. That was so cute. His phone rings.

"Langa your phone!"

"Answer it."

It's an unknown number.

"Langalakhekihle Khuzwayos phone."

Damn he has one long ass name. I ran out of breathe saying it.

"Langa.",its a female.

"His not available right now. Would you mind leaving a message?"

"Who are you?"

"Unyezi."

"Unye- what?",her tone is unappreciated this side.

"Ma'am. Do you have any message you'd like me to pass on?"

"Tell Langa that I know what he did to my sister. Tell him Ntokozo Mayeza called."

She drops the call and I shrug my shoulders placing it down. I do the bed and have a smoke waiting on Langa. He walks out with a towel around his waist. I look away as he walks closer.

"Who was it?"

"Ntokozo Mayeza. She said to tell you she knows

what you did to her sister."

Fear passes his eyes before he covers it up very quickly.

"Oh. We won't be going to the beach. I'll call Sbhambu in. I have something to deal with."

"What is that?"

"We'll talk when I get back."

I leave him there and go to take a shower. He walks in later dressed. I walk out of the shower and take out the shower cap.

"I'll be out for the day. I'll call you."

He kisses me and he pecks my forehead.

"I love you."

"I love you too."

He kisses me one last time and walks out fast. I have my own shit to deal with so I get dressed. The boys are watching TV.

"Good morning."

"Mama."

Langa runs towards me and I lift his heavy ass up. He gives me a kiss and he hugs me. I missed this little fellow. I put him down.

"Hey ma."

Nkosinathi hugs me and holds on.

"You're okay now mama?"

"Yes. Mommy had some flu."

"We're hungry."

"Soft porridge?"

"Yes please."

I leave them with their TV and go to the kitchen. I listen to music on my phone. Is there anyone who isn't healed by music? Speak by Jhene Aiko comes on and I sing along.

"Im moving on.

I'm putting on my favourite dress

The one you hated

said I looked naked in

Fuck your opinion about it

I'm feeling best I wont hide it."

I pass the mirror in the hallway and I notice how pale I am. I smile a little for 30 seconds till my brain gets the message and my hypothalamus sends positive emotions throughout my body. I hear cars parking in front of my apartment. I open the door and its two SUVs and Sbhamu and his men walk out and I wave and they nod. I walk back inside and check on the pots and kids. I check my emails and Sandra sent the address and even sent their phone number. I decide to call it and it rings for awhile before a female answers.

"Sex Addiction Group. Hello."

"Hey. I want to start attending the group meetings."

"Okay ma'am. We are open on weekdays. You can sign in as a member after one meeting with the group. From 18pm-20pm."

"Thank you."

I drop the call and I turn off the stove and dish up. I leave the bowls there to cool off.

"So Langa what is this meeting about that I'll be attending?"

"I'm entering a poetry competition. So our teacher wants to talk to our parents about it. She should've sent letters but private schools and unnecessary meetings."

"Okay. I'll be there. I want to meet my daughter in law futhi."

"She still is beating around the bush. I told her last week that I love her."

"Love her?", I ask his smiling self.

"Yes. I asked Dad if he loves you and he said yes. I asked him how does it feel loving you and I quote "When I see her after a bad day I immediately find a reason to be happy. She gives me a whole zoo in my stomach. When she smiles something tugs at my heart. She's all I can stare at. All day. Everyday. I don't mind." and he said a whole lot."

I smile and I feel a bit emotional. That's the most sweetest thing I've heard someone say about me.

"Is that how you feel about Samantha?"

Yes. My daughter in law is white. She's all Langa tells me about when I call them.

"Yes mommy. She's so beautiful. I think she's an angel. You're an angel too mommy."

Cute. I smile and kiss his forehead.

"Nkosinathi."

"Mom don't."

"Come on. Any girl?"

"No/Yes.", they both say.

Nathi gives Langa a death stare.

"Ah so there is. Tell me. Is she beautiful?"

"Moooom. The food is getting cold."

He gets up and walks out on us. Me and Langa laugh.

"Come let's go eat.", I say grabbing Langas hand.

We walk to the kitchen hand in hand. We seat on the

bar stools and grab our bowls. We're the only ones that eat soft porridge. Langalakhelihle is a 'meat is important for my body.' well I guess thats just the MAN in him talking.

"Do you want a birthday part Nathi?"

"Yes. Something small thou. Few friends and the family."

"Your girlfriend will come too?"

"Mom."

"Okay okay. I'll found out who she is thou."

"Oh God. If its not dad its you mom."

"I'm sure your father knows her already. His sly that one."

"I begged him not to search for her."

We carry on talking while eating.

"Your phone mama."

Langa passes it over and its Langa. I never changed his contact name. Its still "Myeni Wam" nanamhlanje.

"Sthandwa sami."

"You sound happy."

"I am. Langa and Nkosinathi have me in fits."

He chuckles before he talks to someone on the other side. Its very noisy wherever he is.

"Where are you?"

"I'm ordering us lunch."

"Okay. You've dealt with everything?"

I emphasize on the dealt part. I could tell by his tone and by his body posture that his type of 'dealing' was a different but I don't wanna know something that may taint the little bit of innocence I have left.

"Yes. I'll be home in a few. We need to talk."

We need to talk? Does he know how those words can give one anxiety. If he wants to take a break from us than be has another thing coming. His all I got so he ain't going nowhere. Man I sound like a psycho right now. Maybe he wants to tell me what he was dealing with. I dont even want to know. Maybe he wants to... Argh let me stop thinking too

much into this.

"Unyezi?"

"Uh... Yes."

"Don't worry. Its nothing. I'll see you when I get back."

"Okay."

I drop the call. What to do? We stuck indoors eitherway. Nathi is washing the dishes. He knows we have a dishwasher but thats for when the dishes are a lot.

"Langa?"

"Mama."

I follow his voice and his in Pluto's room. They playing and Pluto is barking happily. I join them and we are playing fetch indoors. His room provides enough space. We keep throwing balls and he fetches them till we all tired. We all lay on the floor. Nkosinathi peeps in and laughs.

"Really? And y'all didn't invite me?"

"Next time buddy.", I say heaving. Man I'm getting old.

"Let's go."

Me and Langa stand up.

"Let's go Pluto."

He just looks at us with his tongue out. His not getting up from that floor. We walk out of his room and I need to get a house with a big outside space for Pluto to play.

"Where's my phone?"

"On the couch."

I take it and open the camera.

"Selfie?"

They all come and sit next to me. We take pictures and even go live on insta. My followers love the kids. They love Langas cuteness and his blabbermouth and the girls love Nkosinathis masculinity and his feminine looks. Khuzwayo walks in as we google his clan names. We all stand up and praise him.

"Khuzwayo. Gumede. Qwabe. Mguni KaYeyeye.

Khondlo.", we get stuck and I start ululating and the boys start dancing and they are nailing the Zulu dance.

Langa is looking at us and smiling. He puts the take aways down and make him stand in front of the camera. He starts dancing with the boys and we all dance. We all stop laughing. He kisses me.

"I love you. I'm happy to see you smiling again."

"I love you too."

I hug him tight.

"Okay. We are here too.", Langa bursts our bubble.

He takes my phone and stops recording the video. Langa sits us down and shows us the video. I look at myself and I have to admit I'm happy. I look at Langa and the kids. These three men make me happy.

"I bought lunch."

We all stand up and go to the kitchen and the kids go fill Pluto's bowls. When I open the first takeaway its pap. I open the second one and it tribe. So he bought us tribe? I open the third one and its still tribe. So

much tribe? Its not like I mind.

"Where did you buy it?"

"This other place in eMlazi."

I take a piece and put it in my mouth. My taste buds dance and I moan a little.

"You eating chilli with me or you eating with the kids?"

"I'm going chilli."

I open the cupboard to take out plates but he stops me.

"Usu? Eplatini? You're a so modern.(tribe? On a plate?)"

He takes the takeaways and heads to the kitchen. I take out juice for us and his castle lite. I sit down on the mat too like the rest. Langa prays for the food and his the first one to grab a piece.

"I missed this.",Langa says.

"I know.",Khuzwayo answers.

"So this is a frequent thing?", I ask.

"It's our little family tradition. We usually do it with aunty and uncles.", Nathi enlightens me.

"I haven't met your aunty."

"She comes down for our birthdays. She'll probably be here for my party.", Nathi says.

"What theme should we go for?"

"Black and silver."

"You never go wrong with black.", I agree.

"So will you invite Amahle?", Khuzwayo says laughing.

"Amahle?", I am confused.

"That's your son's girlfriend.", Langa says joining his dad in laughter.

"So her name is Amahle? I'm sure muhle."

"Oh yes she is. My son chose well.", Khuzwayo gloats.

"I can't wait to see her. We'll have her Mrs Party chair right next to yours."

"Mom. Dad you see your actions?", Nathi whines.

"I can't wait!", I say clapping my hands.

We get back to eating talking here and there. I have to tell Khuzwayo about the Sex Addict Group I'll start attending. I'm going to try and abstain for now

LANGALAKHELIHLE

I am driving to Unyezis place to fetch her. She is attending one of her Sex Addiction Meetings and she asked me to accompany her. When she told me about it I won't lie I was happy. I was just happy that she is finally getting help. I don't know anything about this group but she's been calling me after these meetings and she says she likes them and likes how no one judges her. I'm also 'abstaining' with her. Its a Friday and she left for work early and we have about two hours before her next meet up so I want her to sleep over for the weekend at my place and I need to convince her. I park my car and walk out and I knock before entering. She's smoking weed by the smell of it and Pluto comes and jumps on me.

"Hey Buddy."

He licks my face before running off. I walk into her room and she's smoking in just her g-string. I haven't had some in two weeks since she started her meet ups and I have been beating my own meat but with

that booty looking like that I'm trying so hard to not seduce her right now.

"MaGema."

She smiles at me and offers me her joint which I accept. Her eyes are red and small and she can't stop smiling. I wonder how many of these did she smoke. She got the strongest weed and I steal some of her joints sometimes.

"Uright?(you're okay)"

She nods and she smiles wider this time.

"You're really high aren't you?"

"You have no idea."

"How are you going to participate with the group?"

"I still have two hours to calm down. You are here early."

"I know I wanted to talk to you."

"Talk? Okay."

I sit next to her and she climbs on top of me and I surpress my groan. She can't do this to me right now

cause I don't know how long I can hold on.

"I... I wanted to ask you to sleepover this weekend."

"At your place?"

I nod and clear my throat. She is going to kill me. Her breasts are all up on my face and I'm keeping myself by frequently licking my lips from sucking them. I invented sex by Usher comes on and I feel her move her waist to the beat. BoKhuzwayo help a son out here.

"I have never been to your actual place and I want to see how large your garden is and maybe we can have Nkosinathis birthday there."

"Yeah its big enough."

"I know its big enough.", she says seductively.

She makes me down and kisses me. I am going to cum by her just dry humping me alone. She is trailing kisses down my neck and she helps me out my T-shirt. I try turning us over but she retaliates and I let her have her moment. She trails kisses down my chest and she traces her hands on my down to my

pants and rubs on me. I try grabbing her hand but she just inserts it inside my pants and takes my already hard dick in her soft small hand and rubs it up and down.

"Unyezi."

She shushes me and pulls my track pants down and grabs my dick with both her hands and she breathes on it. I am breathing really heavily and my body shoots up when she licks the tip.

"Dammit!"

She puts me in and my hand goes straight to her hair and grips it. Her mouth feels so warm around my dick and I kick off my shoes. Her other hand plays with my balls and I'm praying "God don't let me bust quick."

"Unyezi. Shit!"

She deep throats me and I sit up. She circles her tongue around and uses her hand to go up and down and her mouth follows it.

"If you agree to let me ride you with no interruptions

than I won't make you cum right away.", she says looking up at me as her hand still moves up and down. I shake my head and she deep throats me again and squeezes my balls gently.

"Fuck! Okay! Okay!"

She smiles and removes her underwear and I kick my pants off. She climbs on top of me and balances her hands on my chest. I help her get it in and she winces a bit. Man the way she feels around my dick makes me teary. She starts moving up and down and I think the song playing is Pussy Fairy by Jhene Aiko and don't ask me how I know that. She goes back and forth and she has her head facing up with her eyes closed with her mouth open and I spank her ass and she increases her pace. I am groaning and the fact that I'm holding myself from turning us over is making me feel like I'm on edge. She clenches her walls around me as she cums and that causes me to groan and I cum after her. This is why I hate this position.

"Man I missed that.", she says taking me out.

"Weren't we abstaining?"

"We were but I needed at least one round that's why I made you cum quick."

"Made me cum quick?"

"I know a few things about the human body. Damn my breathe smells like dick."

We both laugh and she stands up to go wipe herself and surely brush her teeth. I get dressed up and I look at the time. We still have some time left. I'm hungry so I head to the kitchen and she had cooked so I dish up and eat. She comes out dressed up and puts her hands on her waist.

"You should've dished up for me too."

"Sorry?"

She drags her tongue through her teeth and dishes up for herself. She's gained a lot of weight and her booty looks like a meal.

"Stop staring at my butt."

She turns around gives me stink eye and I smile.

"Eat up so we don't run late."

She nods and sits next to me. We eat silently and she pours me a glass of water.

"Let's go!"

She takes my hand in hers and smiles at me. She's been very affectionate lately. She even calls me when she feels down and let's me hold her. I can see a great change since her meetings with that Sex Addiction Group started. I open the door for her and jump into ghs drivers seat before driving off. She has her hand on my thigh and I keep stealing glances at her. She's really beautiful. She is very hairy. Her face is hairy and she has a little moustache which I find cute. I'm still looking for her family and we might have a trace.

"I love you."

I look at her and she's smiling.

"I love you too MaGema."

She squeezes my thigh and looks outside her window again. I still have to tell her about me

searching for her family. I need her as my wife. I need her by my side forever. She's my peace. The only swimmer in my lonely ocean.

UNYEZI

"I was kidnppaed for 11 years by my father. He kept me in the basement and everyone deemed me missing. He had turned me into his slut. I'd fall pregnant and he'd give me abortion pills. It was the most painful pain I've ever felt. I've had 5 abortions already."

She cries and her mother holds her hand with tears in her eyes and I envy that but I have Langa. She calms down and continues.

"I had too many unprofessional abortions that I had an infection and I thought I was dying. I'd lay there at night and I'd hear my mother pray I came back. I wanted to scream and let her know I was under her kitchen floor. When he came as usual when .mom was out he found me laying silence. I had lost consciousness. He called an ambulance in panic. The most stupidest move but smart move. I woke up in hospital and... My mother was there with a detective. My father next to them looking at me. I

blabbed. I told them everything is his presence. He was arrested but the fear in me followed me around. I had lost the ability to produce. I resorted to crack and I slept with old men. I was an addict of sex and drugs. Mom never stopped praying. I almost died cause I was on crack overdose. I knew I had to seek help. Spent a year in rehab before coming here."

The group is silent a bit with everyone holding back their tears. I bought Langa over today cause I was to open up the deepest of secrets of myself.

"Thank you Serena. Unyezi."

I looked at the woman in charge of this and I looked at Langa. He nodded at me and a tear fell from my eye.

"I am Unyezi Sosibo as you all know. I lived in an orphanage. I-"

I look at Langa and he squeezes my hand.

"The first time it happened I was 18. They were 3 boys all of them lived in the orphanage. I still remember their names till today. Sthembiso was the leader the first one to taint my innocence. I've never

cried so much in my life. Esethu held my mouth shut. Vuyo was the last one and when he was done he spilled his sperm on my face and called me a slut. When they were all done Sthe walked towards me with a pocket knife he carried around and made an ex on my inner thigh. Their was so much blood."

I choke on my sob and Langa pulls me closer to him. His grip is firm around me and his jaw keeps on moving.

"I stood up and cleaned the blood. I scrubbed till the tile was clean. I would scrub myself till I bled but I still didn't feel clean. It continued. Countless times. I knew I had to get out of there. I slept with a investor in the orphanage and he got me a job as a PA at a lawfirm. I started using ken for sexual pleasure. I got addicted to the way they made feel and I liked having them succumb to me. On dark days I'd get flashbacks and the way out of all that pain was sex. Not any kind of sex. The rough sex."

I look down as tears stream down my face and for once I acknowledged what happened to me.

"No amount of sex will make it all go away.", Langa whispered in my ear.

He was very tense and he kept flaring his nose. I rubbed my hand down his arms and he looked at me. The ocean was wild and the moon shined brighter. His pissed. I lay my hand on his shoulder as my tears kept falling. Something fell on my hand that was on his thigh. Water? I looked up and there wasn't any sign of dripping. I looked at Langa and he was crying. I gave him a hug and his body shook in my arms.

" Dismissed. We have individual sessions from next week since we finished our last talkers. "

I stoop up with him in my arms and I walked us outside. We stood in each others arms and his body was shakingm.

"Khuzwayo. Calm down."

He looked at me and I wiper his tears and stoop on my toes to kiss his eyes.

"It's not your fault. Its not mine either."

He nods and opens the door for me before hopping into his seat.

"We fetching your clothes?"

"Yes."

He drives with his hand on mine. I feel like something has been lifted off my chest. I steal glances at him and he catches me.

"I love you. Thank you for being with me today."

"I love you. I'm always here for you."

That pain on the side of my stomach shot back and I grimaced. I had forgotten about that. I even developed a mkhaba. I close my eyes as the pain hits my lower abdomen.

"Shit!"

"What's wrong?"

"I have this pain. Mmmh. Fuck!"

He takes a left to Durdoc Private Hospital. I hate hospitals. I feel wetness in my origin. I look down and my light blue jeans have blood. Periods? I havent

had them in 2 months. I look at Langa with my eyes wide. No! God please no! I remember we haven't been using protection and I haven't been taking morning afters.

"I'm bleeding Langa."

He looks down and his eyes go wide and his speed accelerates. I scream as it gets worse and for the first time ever since I was me I pray to someone.

"I don't know what I've done to have you hate me God but please don't take my baby away from me. Please. I've let you let things happen to me and this time around if it is what it is please don't let it. I beg you. I swear I'll start believing. Just do this one thing for me. I'll do more good."

"Baby?", Langa asks wide eyed.

They wheel me away as soon as they see us and his question remains unanswered. I am sedated cause I am screaming for them to save my baby. I can't lose another part of me. I won't survive it. "BoSosibo abahle. Help a daughter out. Ngiyanicela boGema. OMshingila. OThusi." And I lose consciousness. God

if my suspicions are correct than I beg you. How come I didn't notice soon? I was gaining a lot of weight. My stomach had grown plumper. My moods were everywhere. I hope its not what I think it is. Let it be severe period pains.

20

UNYEZI

"Langa answer me."

He keeps looking at me with red eyes. I have been asking him what happened and his just looking at me. A black female walks in a doctors coat and she clears her throat.

"How are you feeling ma'am?"

"I'm in pain."

She walks up to me and checks these hospital devices before writing everything down.

"What happened?"

"You were 9 weeks pregnant."

"Were?"

"Yes. You lost the baby ma'am."

I close my eyes. I guess I'm not Gods favourite.

"What caused it?"

"We are doing tests and waiting on results. Do you

smoke ma'am?"

"Yes. I didn't know I was pregnant thou. I would've stopped. I swear I would've stopped. This is my fault."

"We're not sure what's the cause of the miscarriage ma'am. I'll be keeping you here till the test results are ready. Mr Khuzwayo said the foetus will be buried."

She walks out and I can't even cry. At least if tears escaped I'd cry it all out. I didn't notice I was pregnant. Sure I've gained a bit of weight and all but I just thought it was because I'm happy. I look at Langa and he has his head in his hands. I'm sure he blames me for this. I was so sure my life was taking a different step. I was so sure that I'll finally get a chance to be happy but I guess that is not for me.

"I'm sorry."

He lifts his head up and he stares at me right in the eye. His ocean is really wild and his moon is very dark.

"Its not your fault. I should've used protection."

"We're both to blame on that."

"I called the family. They're outside. Should I let them in?"

I nod slowly. I want to cry so bad but nothing is coming out. The whole Khuzwayo clan walks in and there is a girl and an old man with them.

"Sawubona ndodakazi.", the old man says.

His really not that old but he has a few wrinkle lines and the resemblance in this room is serious.

"NgiwuBaba wabafana baka Khuzwayo. (I'm the father of the Khuzwayo boys.)"

I figured. They stand around the bed.

"Langa told us what happened. Has the doctor said anything?"

"No. They waiting on the results."

"They won't find a medical explanation."

"Sorry?"

Ndabenkulu opens the door and tells someone to come in. A very good looking woman dressed in

traditional beads and cloths walked in after him and stood at the foot of the bed. I look at Langa and he nods at me.

"Sosibo. Gema. Thusi. Mshingila." She chants my clan names.

I'm still very confused as to what's going on here.

"Nayi indodakazi yenu ilandelwa ifu elimnyana ngenxa yezono zikanyoko.(Here is your daughter being followed by a dark cloud because of her mother's sins.)"

"Sondelani kuye nimbonise indlela egodukayo.(come closer and show her the way home.)"

She starts grunting and dancing around the room.

"Ngithi vumani bo!"

"Siyavuma!".

She stops and looks me straight in the eye.

"Your mother committed a sin. Her sins are on you and the ancestors had taken away your daughter. You need to go home and apologise on your mother's behalf. Is not you might as well kill

yourself."

Did she have to be so insensitive? She walks out.

"I don't even know my mother. Why do I have to be the one suffering? I fucken hate her and if I find her alive I'll cut her womb out!"

Langa holds me and being in his embrace triggers something and I let the tears fall. Why does my life always take a left when I'm happy? Why does it have to be me that suffers? My mom is probably living in peace and here I am. I lost my child for something I have no knowledge about. I don't believe in traditional stuff but I have to do this. Where the fuck am I going to find my family? I cry even louder and Langa just holds me. She said it was a daughter. They took away my baby girl. All because I was birthed by a snake of a woman! I don't think I'll bounce back from this. I might as well kill myself as that traditional doctor said. I have been through so much already and just when I thought I was getting my happy ending this happens.

"I bought you some food.", the girl says and smiles

at me.

"I'm not really hungry. I just want to go home."

"Dad can organise that but if only you eat."

Langa takes the food from her and grabs a spoon.

The mood in my ward is so tense and sombre. My

heart aches so bad. Langa hasn't cried or said

anything. He feeds me as his father walks out. I

move my face away after 4 spoons and he puts it

away. He goes back to his corner and sit there.

Everyone looks so sad. I lay down and hold my

stomach. I let the tears fall again and my sobs are

the only thing heard in that ward. Another part of me

taken away forcefully. Why do people think that they

can take from my life all they want?

LANGALAKHE

I think what hurts the most is that we didn't know we were expecting. It was there and it was gone. No one would've prepared me for this. When Unyezi told her story and I heard her sobs something inside me moved. I can't believe our fellow brothers break women like this. Dad had gotten Unyezi discharged and he is sad that he had to meet her like this. We were doing alright and this had to happen. Unyezi is sitting in the passenger seat with her head facing up and her eyes closed. She has her hands on her tummy. Ngibonga uMama by Blaq Diamond and I blink away the tears.

"Ngibonga uMama ngempilo enginayo. Ungikhukise uwedwa ngingena baba. Oh ashabalala amaphupho wakho. Wazinikela kimi njengomtana wakho."

She sings softly before a sob breaks out. She cries really painfully and let's out a scream. I stop on the side of the road and everyone does too. I open my door and head for hers. I open it and take her in my

arms. We sit on the floor and she cries. I hold my tears back. I need to be strong for her. My brothers and sister crouch in front of us.

"Stop holding it bafo. Khala(cry?)", Khulekani says.

I shake my head and pull Unyezi closer as her hold tightens on me. I feel a lump on my throat and I try swallowing it.

"Khala ndodana.(cry son)", Dad says.

I can't cry. If we both cry who is gonna comfort the other. She needs me as strong as I can be. Thando tries pulling Unyezi from my eyes but I hold her tighter.

"Let me take Unyezi. Come on bhuti. She's still in pain and holding this tight to her might hurt her.",Thando says pulling Unyezi away from me.

They walk to Dads car and they drive off. I remain on the floor looking at where the car went. She needs me. I try standing up but Bhekikhaya pushes me back down.

"What did I teach you Langa?", Dad says.

"That real men cry."

"Now why are you not doing do?"

"I have to be strong for her Baba."

"And who do you expect to be strong for you?"

"O bafo. Nawe."

"And we can be strong for the both of y'all. Hand all your leads to Ndabenkulu and he'll resume looking for the girls family."

I look at Ndabenkulu and he nods and pats my shoulder.

"Khala bafo."

I put my head on my hands and the first sob escapes my lips. They sit next to me as I cry.

"Tears of pain.

An innocent life lost.

Her mothers womb left empty.

Her fathers heart scattered.

Tears of a broken man.

Cries of a broken woman.

An angel lost to the ancestors.

A sacred soul taken in revenge.

A daughter paying for her mothers sins.

Her wails piercing hearts.

His sobs ringing out to the world.

OKhuzwayo basezinhlungwini.

We hold hands.

We cry together.

We had all lost.

A daughter.

A niece.

A sister.

A granddaughter.

May her soul rest in peace.

We shall keep her in our hearts.

Her soul living amongst us all.", Bhekikhaya says this

poem and my sobs fall in sync with Khulekanis humming.

I remember this ritual of ours. We started doing it when mother died and Dad was sad. Bhekikhaya freestyled a poem as we hummed. We carried on doing it for everyone of us who was sad. It never got old. They help me up and I let Bhekikhaya drive. My cries are heard in the car as Dad keeps on telling me to let it all out. I've never felt so much pain before. I can't even remember the last time I cried after Bongeka. We all get out after the car is parked. We walk inside and Thando is in the kitchen with her elbows on the counter and her hands entwined and her head balanced on it.

"Amen."

She ends her prayer and looks at us. She nods at me and I head to my bedroom and I find Unyezi sitting on top of the bed. Her eyes never looked so dead. I sit next to her and hold her hand. I feel a strong urge to pray. I pull Unyezi down with me and we go on our knees. I can't pray but I'll try.

"God."

Words get stuck on my throat and I just cry. We both cry on our knees and she holds me close. God I can't say anything but hear my cries. My heart says all I want to say. I have to find her family soon. We have to do the necessary to help her find peace. I was going to father a daughter. I hear the door open and I look up to find Langa and Nkosinathi.

"Mkhulu told us."

Langa just throws his hand around us and cries. Nkosinathi joins in and we mourn the death of our daughter and their sister. We going to get through this. We have to. I just need a little more time to come into terms with yesterdays activities. Bhekikhayas poem plays in my head and I feel more tears flow down. I feel a headache coming.

LANGALAKHE

Its been week of pain and tears. Dad had gotten Unyezi a leave but no one told her its because he owns the company. We decided to bury the foetus. It hadn't developed really but we very traditional. We are also going to have a cleansing ceremony for Unyezi and Dad suggested that I get cleansed too since I'm the father. We also found a lead. Its in a village not far from ours and if its the correct lead than we're idiots. I go check up on Unyezi outside. She's laying on the grass with Langa and Nkosinathi and they are looking at the moon and stars. She really loves the moon. I love the moon too but her. Unyezi. The moon. She has taken a liking of the garden and she spends most of her time here. Thando stands next to me.

"She's beautiful bhuti.", she reminds me.

"Her beauty suppresses that of the moon."

"She's Unyezi after all."

We stand there looking at them and I nudge Thando

so we walk towards them.

"Mama", Langa calls out.

"Boy."

"Daddy says Sphiwo is in heaven."

She smiles at looks at moon. I missed seeing her smile.

"His wrong."

Haai!

"Than where is she?"

"Up there."

She points at the moon and we all look up. Thando sits next to Nkosinathi and I sit next to Langa.

"Mommy loves you."

"Daddy loves you too."

"Bhuti Langa loves you."

Bhuti Langa? We all chuckle.

"Bhuti Nkosi loves you."

"Aunty loves you too."

"Mkhulu loves you.", dad's voice makes us turn around.

"Malume loves you."

My brothers all follow and I take Unyезis hand. She's getting a bit emotional.

"Mkhulu."

"Yebo Mzukhulu."

"Sphiwo is with Gogo."

My dad smiles with tears in his eyes. After all these years he still loves her.

"I love you Mkami."

We all look up at the moon. I love you Ma. I smile and kiss Unyезis hand. She has given us her love for the moon.

"Thando weren't you supposed to call them for food?"

"I was but this moment was better than food."

I help Unyezi up and I kiss her forehead.

"I love you mama wabantwana bam."

She smiles and wipes away her tears.

"I love you baba wabo."

I hug her and she returns it. I never get over her hugs.

They are the warmest and softest hugs I've ever had after moms. I kiss her head and I look at the moon.

Two moons in my life. What more could I ever ask for? We walk inside and we join everyone on the floor. Its family night as Thando cooked African bread and Tribe. Langa pray and we dig in. I feed Unyezi as much as I can. She has lost weight but she's still as beautiful as the first day I met her.

"We found two leads on your family.",Ndabenkulu fills her in.

"One in eGugwini another in Swaziland."

"eGugwini? Just around the corner?",dad asks.

"We will head there after Sphiwosethus burial and your cleansing ceremony."

"What if-"

"No what ifs makoti.", Khulekani interrupts her.

I take another slice of ujegqe and feed her.

"When you all done eating go to sleep. We leave early tomorrow. Sphiwos body has arrived and Gogo Pumle is waiting on us.",dad says standing up.

"And wena Langalakhelihle. The poor kid is full.",he scolds.

I put the slice down and Khulekani laughs. I help her stand up and the boys follow us.

"You sleeping with us?"

"Yes. We promised mom."

God! Its another night of Karate from Langa. Langa makes us pray before we get into bed. As soon as he falls asleep he lands a slap on Nkosinathi.

"Shit! Hayi Baba. I'm gone.", Nkosinathi says running away.

Langa turns around and kicks my stomach and I groan. Shit! I hold it in as I don't want to wake Unyezi up. If he kicks me I'll pinch him. I fall asleep with Langas sleeping vertically. Its gonna be a long night.

UNYEZI

I am waken up by a foot in my mouth. I move Langas foot away. I sit up straight and look to Khuzwayos side and it's empty. I hear the shower running and I stand up. I look at myself in the huge mirror in his room. My eyes have eyebags under them and I've lost a bit of weight. I stand there for a few minutes and the heaviness in my heart pushes me down on my knees. Thando has a huge impact on my life right now. She's doing psychology so she stands as my psychologist. We spend most of the time together talking. I've let her in the darkest depths of me that even Langa doesn't know. We are leaving today for her burial and my heart hurts. I let the tears as I try keeping quiet so Langalami doesn't wake up.

Thandos words come to mind like they always do when I'm about to breakdown. "Pray. No pain can beat prayer. Pray. I know it gets tiring talking to someone you can't see and who doesn't respond but He hears you." I get inside Khuzwayos closet and kneel down.

"God. The pain is weighing me down. I have suffered enough and I am starting to think I'm your least favourite. I was still trying to heal from other wounds and a wound bigger and much more raw opened up. I don't have enough strength to fight away the pain. I'm holding on to the last bit of hope but I'm slowly slipping. Why does it hurt so much? Why does it have to cut so deep? Why do I have to be the one suffering for another persons sin? Someone I don't even know. I'm tired. Emotionally and physically. I don't know... I don't know how to take the next step. My feet are heavy. Just hear me out this once. Let the pain subside. Please.", I let myself lay on the ground and I sob.

How long does it take before the pain goes away? I cry as I lay on the floor in Langas closet. It hurts so bad. I didn't even get a chance to attend one doctors apartment. She was there and then she was gone. My cries get louder as I replay what happened in the car. Why didn't I go to the doctor when I first felt the pains?! Its my fault! Mine!

LANGALAKHELIHLE

I walk out the shower with Langalami leaning against my closet door with tears streaming down his eyes.

"What's wrong boy?"

"Mama. She's in pain Baba."

I walk towards the door and I hear her cries.

"Go to Nkosinathi. I'll take care of mom."

He nods and walks away. I open the door and Unyezi is laying on the floor her body shaking as she cries. My heart bleeds at this scene. I take her into my arms and she cries on my chest. I let my own tears escape. Her hands grip me tighter as she cries harder.

"Sthandwa sami."

She looks up at me and her tears don't stop flowing. She even has hiccups now.

"Why do you do this to yourself?"

"It hurts *hiccup* so much.", she says as a sob

breaks out.

"I know. It hurts for me too but you want to know what gives me the strength to hold one?"

She shakes her head.

"You. The boys. My family."

"At least you have a family."

"At least WE have a family."

She looks at me cries. I'm trying to make you feel better.

"Want to know what helps me hold on more?"

She nods and wipes her tears but fails as more come out and I close my eyes.

"Your love for the moon. You gave us the best gift ever. When you said my daughter was in the moon. I knew that every night she'd be following me around all night. I knew that whenever I missed her I'd look up at the moon."

"Do you ever wonder what she would've looked like?"

I smile and bring her closer to me and make her face

the mirror in the closet.

"She would've looked like us. With your beautiful skin and loving personality and she'd have my eyes, nose and smile."

"And the dimples."

"Obviously. The dimples are the charm."

"Well its the eyes really."

"I love you."

"I love you too."

"You're not in this alone."

She hugs me and I help us up. I lift her up and walk to the bathroom. She has to take a shower cause we don't want Dad breathing down our necks. She walks in the shower and I sit on the toilet seat.

"I'll be right here."

She nods and start taking a shower. My eyes trail down her body as the water cascades down her body. She has beautiful legs that are connected to the most thickest thighs. She has a small waist and

a very small stomach. Than its the titties. They are like my joystick. I use them to control every part of her body. I love the stretch marks on her ass. She has a tattoo on the side of her booty "my body. my art." and I want to take a picture so bad. I put my hand over my boner. She turns around and my eyes go to her belly button. She has a belly button piercing and I love it. My eyes go to her tits and her nipples are erect and the water cascading down them. I lick my lips and clear my throat. I'm still in a towel and I'm not doing a good job at hiding my boner as her eyes go straight to it and she laughs. Glad you find this funny.

"Woza la.(come here.)"

I shake my head and she laughs at me.

"Woza. (Come)"

"Geza Unyezi.(bath Unyezi)"

"I want your help angithi. Can you wash my back?"

I groan and stand up and discard the towel. She turns around and I take the scrubber from her. We haven't been intimate since we lost our baby and

having her ass this close to my dick is driving me crazy.

"Khuzwayo."

I stop staring and realise I haven't started whasing her back. I start washing her back and she put her hand on the wall as I wash her upper back. I feel her ass touch my dick and I groan. She's doing this on purpose.

"Unyezi."

"Mmh"

"Ha.a(no)"

"Ngenzeni?(what did I do?)"

"Qhubeka uzobona.(carry on you'll see.)"

She pushes her ass nearer and it takes everything in me to not hold her in place and separate her legs and enter her from behind.

"MaGema khuzeka.(be reprimanded.)"

"Kodwa ngenzeni?(but what did I do?)"

"Okokugcina ngikukhuza. Qhubeka. Uzophuma la

ungakwazi ukuhamba.(this is the last time I'm reprimanding you. Carry on. You'll get out here unable to walk.)"

She ignores me and pushes her ass futher. I feel my dick twitch and I hold her waist and separate her legs with my legs. I rub myself on her and I notice she's already wet so I enter and it feels like home.

"Khuzwayo."

Shes still has her hands on the wall and I grab a fistful of her hair. I pump into her real hard and I let my frustrations out. I let go of her hair and hold her tit and bring her up to me. Her head is on my shoulder and her back is arched as I pump into her. Her moans drive me crazy as they escape her lips. I rub on her clit and she screams out my name as she cums. I turn off the water and pick her up and lay her on the bathroom floor. I put her legs on my shoulder and enter her. She moans out as I go deeper and she scratches my back. The slapping of our flesh and my groans and her moans are all that can be heard. By the sound we making I can tell she is even wetter. She cums and I fuck her through her orgasms till I

cum and she squirts all over me. I let go of her legs and they fall beside me shaking. We both breathing heavily.

"Was I too rough?"

She nods and smiles.

"Sorry."

"It wasn't that bad. My scalp and boob hurts though."

"Sorry. I just let everything out."

"It's okay."

"Can you stand up?"

"My legs are shaking I doubt."

I pick her up and she's still dripping. I put her on top of the toilet seat and go wet a towel. I wipe myself and I wet it with warm water. I wipe her and she hisses.

"My clit is still sensitive."

"Sorry."

I wipe her clean and pick her up. I take out my

swagpant and hoodie for her. I help her dress up and she makes the bed while I get dressed. I check the time when I'm done and we are dead. We're an hour late. We walk out and head downstairs. Its empty. I head to the kitchen. There is a note on the fridge with Dads writing.

"When you're done banging drive after us. We left thina. Dad."

I laugh and take the keys and the container on top of the counter. We'll eat in the car.

"Where are they?"

"They left us. We driving ourselves."

"Is it far?"

"No. Its about 4 hours away."

I hand her the container and she opens it and takes out a piece of wors. I tell the man left around the house to let the housekeeper in. I get into the drivers seat.

"Our luggage?"

"They took it with."

She nods and carries on eating. I'm glad she has a bit of appetite. I drive off playing maskandi and I know she'll insert her phone as soon as she gets bored so I enjoy the moment. I steal a glance at her and she catches me and smiles. I know it still hurts but we'll get over it together.

24

UNYEZI

He parks in a very huge yard that has nicely built round houses built around it and in the middle is a big modern house. He opens the door for me and there are dogs, cats and chickens running around the yard. A chicken comes towards us and I stand behind Langa.

"Ha.a mahn Unyezi. Ayilumi.(no man. It doesn't bite.)"

"Ha.a Khuzwayo."

He sighs and gives me a piggy bank and walks to a rondavel near by with smoking coming out the windows. A China dog passes us.

"Put me down."

"Hayi mahn Unyezi."

He puts me down and I run after the dog. Its childish of me but seeing this dog just made me miss Pluto. The dog stops and looks at me.

"Hey buddy. Woza la."

He walks away. That was rude. I take a cat that is walking past and stroke it. It makes that "grrr" sound and I smile. I love animals except chicken,cows, goats man the list goes on.

"Unyezi!"

I look at where Langa is standing and I walk towards him.

"Leave the poor animals alone. They waiting on you inside."

I put the cat down and it walks away. I walk towards Langa and he holds my hand as we walk inside and there is smoke everywhere. The smoke stings my eyes and I feel my chest close up but I maintain a straight face.

"Sanibonani.",I greet the elders.

"Sawubona makoti."

Makoti? Uh okay. I sit down on the mat next to Thando and we smile at each other.

"Ninjani kodwa?(how are you?)"

"Siyazama zama Baba.(we trying.)"

The old man stands up and burns incense and he calls me and Langa. We kneel besides him.

"Khuzwayo. Gumede. Qwabe. Mguni kaYeyey. Khondlo. Osidlabehelezi bakaPhakathwayo. Abathi bebedla bebe yenga umuntu ngendaba. Nayi nkosana yenu iyakhalaza. Ize nomawaba ntwana bakhe. Balahlekelwe yindodakazi isaseswini.(here is your son. He came with the mother of his children. They most a daughter while she was still in her mothers womb.)"

The woman who was kneeling near him starts making sound. I recognise her from the hospital. She starts chanting and someone beats a drum and she dances with her shoulders. I've never been in such a situation before and I think its beautiful how Africans can indulge in such. Being black has to be my biggest flex right now.

"Niyavuma?!",she says groaning.

" Yebo siyavuma."

"AboKhuzwayo bathi makangakhali uma wengane. Sibanike impilo yengane. Bebefuna eyakho.(The

Khuzwayos are saying the mother of the child must not cry. We gave away the child's life. They wanted yours.)"

Huh? I don't understand this? Why would the Khuzwayos be fighting for my life? I'm not even married to Langa yet.

"UKhuzwayo Omdala athi ungokhethekile. Umphefumlo waka ma wengane ugade yibo.(Khuzwayo senior says you're the chosen one. Your soul is guarded by them.)"

Here goes this chosen one nonsense again. She stops with the grunting and the drum stops too.

"We will lay Sphiwos body to rest tomorrow. We will cleanse the mother and father."

Langas father named my daughter. I love the name. She was gift. And then she was taken. Her soul in exchange of mine. They should've let me live a bit longer till I gave birth and then took me. She didn't deserve to die before she had even fully developed. I wipe away my tears and I walk out the rondavel. I walk down towards what seem like mountains. I sit

at a rock far from sight when I feel something furry brush against my leg. I look down and its the cat I was craddling earlier. I pick it up and put it on my thighs. Its still small and its pure white with a black tail. It meows at me and I giggle.

"You know I had a miscarriage. I didn't even know I was pregnant. I am sure she was gonna be beautiful. Its her funeral tomorrow. We burying a 2 month feotus. Unusual I know. It hurts to know that all of this is my fault. If maybe I had searched for my family sooner in life I would've found out about this black cloud following me around. Maybe I'm starting to lose my mind.",I giggle at the end.

"I mean I am talking to a cat."

It purrs as I stroke its fur.

"Unyezi."

I turn around and Langa is standing behind me. I didn't hear him.

"Are you okay?"

"Yeah. I just needed to be alone."

He sighs and takes his hands out of his pocket and sits next to me.

"I know its painful. Please stop hurting yourself. We laying her to rest tomorrow. You can cry as much as you want tomorrow. Today just be my moon. My Unyezi. I need you."

I lay my head on his shoulder and we look at the sun.

"Let the poor cat go now."

I let it go and it goes in the direction I came from.

The sun is setting now and we looking at it holding hands. The mountains create a perfect scene and we embrace each others presence.

"Unyezi."

"Khuzwayo."

"Cela ungishade.(please marry me.)"

I laugh at him and when I look at him he is serious so I stop laughing. The sky is pink and orange and he looks so handsome right now. I look into his eyes

and the ocean is as calm and the moon strawberry. I know these scene. He is happy. I look at the sun and him again. Do I want to marry him? Yes. I nod.

"Yes?"

"Yes. Yes I'll marry you."

He kisses me and lifts me up. He starts dancing the Zulu dance and starts whistling.

"Nina boKhuzwayo! Wadla Mguni kaYeye!"

He is so Zulu kodwa. He didn't even have a ring. He takes a streak of grass and ties it around my left marriage finger. I laugh and he kisses me. I should stop watching movies cause this was not a dinner at an expensive restaurant where he would kneel down and ask me to marry him I have imagined.

"Ngiyakhuthanda.(I love you.)"

"I love you too."

"Ngithe ngiyakuthanda MaGema.(I said I love you.)"

"Nami ngiyakuthanda(I love you as well.)"

He kisses me and we look at the last bit of the sun

set. I look at my left hand and the grass is nicely tied around my finger. I can't wait to tell the moon about this moment. I know Sphiwo would be listening.

25

UNYEZI

"Unyezi. Let's get going."

I shake my head and wipe my tears as I play with the sand on the tomb.

"Mkami please."

He lifts me up in bridal style and I cry on his neck as he holds and exits the Khuzwayo Cemetery that is down hill from the yard. He walks with me in his arms as he tries soothing me with words. We had laid her to rest a few hours ago and I've been there since. I just needed to let it all sink in. I'm getting a headache and my eyes are droopy and sore from all the crying I've been doing since last night.

"Sleep sthandwa sami." (My love)

I sniff his scent and the scent of his cologne soothes me. I relax my tense body as I allow sleep to consume me.

"Nyezi vuka."

A hand shakes me and I open my eyes and yawn.

"Sorry but its time for cleansing.", Thando says.

I get out of bed and I notice Langa had changed me.

"Please pass me that dress."

She hands me the dress and I strip and wear it. I'm not one to wear dresses and skirts heck I didn't even own one but Langa bought a few for my trip to the rural settlement. This dress is very long thou. It is tight from my waist up and flows downwards not giving much away but leaving something for imagination as my ass pops out a bit. I wrap a doek and I'm not a neat doek wrapper so its just wrapped for the sake of wrapping.

"Where's Langa?"

"His waiting at the kraal. I suggest you wear no under garments as you are gonna be stripped naked."

"Huh?"

"Yes. Come. Let's go."

She drags me outside our rondavel and the air is

calm. She points me towards the kraal and I approach it. There are cows inside and I can see Langa kneeling next to Gogo Pumle barefoot and shirtless. I think this is the most sexiest I've seen him. His black Levis jeans are hung low on his torso. He signals for me to come in with his hand and I shake my head causing him to stand up and walk up to me. He stands by the gate of the kraal.

"Ngena. Gogo Pumle is talking to the ancestors."

"The cows. What if they chase me?"

He chuckles and opens the kraal before pulling me inside. I stick close to him as we walk past sleeping cows to the middle of the kraal. We kneel besides Gogo Pumle and she starts chanting and she dances around. I still wonder why they call her 'Gogo' cause she looks to be in her late 30s and she looks very beautiful.

"Wozani. Khumulani.(come. Strip.)"

We strip naked and kneel down. Langa holds my hand as she pours us with water that smell very bad and make us drink something from the calabash

that tastes like iron and shit. I hold myself from gagging and a very cold shiver runs through my spine and I feel Langa shiver too telling me he experienced it too. I start feeling a presence but when I look around there is no one.

"Woza ndodakazi. Bingelela uyihlo nonyoko.(come daughter. Greet your father and mother.)"

An albino snake about the length of a table spoon crawls to us and I can't seem to recognise the snake. It comes towards us and passes us and we instructed not to look back till we arrive at our rondavel. We are told not to take a bath tonight and that water had grass on it and its itchy. Gogo Pumle walks in front of us praising our clan names as we follow her without looking back. I stare up at the moon and I smile a little. We walk inside our rondavel and we sit on top of the bed in silence. I take off the dress and toss it on the chair and Langa discards his jeans.

"We smell horrible.", I say and he chuckles.

"Thats because we smell like cow shit."

"What?"

"They used cow shit they put in that water.
Tomorrow they'll bring in Intelezi."

"Intelezi."

"Let's just say its gonna be the most painful bath of
your life."

He laughs and gets inside the blankets. Cow shit? I
think I'll vomit. I get in beside him and he makes me
lay on his chest and I listen to his heartbeat.

"What was with the snake?"

"That was our daughter."

"How?"

"She took the form of a snake. I guess she took your
family form since our ancestors show in the form of
grasshoppers."

"Weird. Very weird.", I say closing my eyes. "I love
you."

"I love you too."

He brushes my back and I trace over his tattoos with

my finger and we lay in silence. The heaviness in my heart is not as heavy anymore but I know it'll take some time before I heal completely.

UNYEZI

I scratch myself as I sit on the bed. We were woken up early and bathed in Intelezi. My skin is so itchy it burns. Langa is laughing at me.

"Stop laughing."

He kisses my lips and lays on the bed.

"Stop scratching yourself. You're making it worse."

I give him a death stare and carry on scratching myself.

"Scratch yourself one more time and I'll chew your nails off."

"Geez! Fine!"

I get up and start dressing up. He spansks me on my way out. I walk inside the kitchen in the main house and the wives are cooking. I stop on my footsreps as my name is mentioned.

"That Unyezi thinks we will cook for her. She can't keep a child and she can't even fill her husband's

stomach. With those bastard children bragging my food. They should go find their father."

I walk inside and they stop talking. The one with the big mouth looks at me and clicks her tongue. I pour myself some water in a glass and look at them as I drink.

"Tell me. So you open a fan club without my knowledge. Want autographs?"

The other wives look away and carry on with there chores. The blabber mouth who looks like shes 18 folds her arms.

"And you. You look 18. You hear blabbing your mouth about an independent woman who receives a paycheque in a kitchen thats not even yours."

She clicks her tongue and I before I walk out the kitchen I twist my wrist landing water on her face and I put the glass down.

"Call my kids bastard again I'll strangle you. I miscarried but self respect is still there. Can't say the same about you thou."

I walk out as she wipes her face. I even lost my appetite. I walk down hill and I sit on my rock and pick up rocks. Did she really have to bring up my miscarriage? I wipe a lone tear and throw rocks in the air. It wasn't my fault. I stand up and walk towards the cemetery. I enter and the aura gets thick. I kneel over grave and caress her tomb.

"Mommy has been doing so good even though my body is itchy and all.", I laugh and sniff.

"Somebody said I failed to keep you today. It almost sounded true. I almost believed it. We're going to look for my family today and I'm so scared."

I sniff and wipe my tears.

"Mama."

I turn around and the boys are standing outside the cemetery.

"Boys?"

"They're calling for you."

I nod and they walk in front and I walk behind.

Nkosinathi comes with water for me to wash my

hands before I enter the yard. We walk hand in hand to the rondavel kitchen. The girl from earlier is on the mat crying dramatically. The boys walk out as I sit on a mat too. The Khuzwayo brothers are seated next to each other and there is an old man too. Langa's father left after the funeral.

"MaGema. Thobani's wife Siyanda says you have used force on her."

"Force?"

"She also stated that you spilt water on her face."

"Oh that. I actually wanted to drown her in the sink."

Khulekani laughs and Siyanda cries harder.

"Haibo! Langa khuza.(reprimand)"

Langa looks at me and I notice his jaw tick. He can get pissed all he wants but I won't be nice to her after what she said about me.

"Just apologize Unyezi.",Langa says.

So no one is willing to hear my side. I look at Thando and she shrugs.

"I won't be apologizing. She can bash me all she wants for whatever reason but not Langa and Nkosinathi."

I stand up and walk out furiously. As for I used force on her! She insults me and calls a meeting on me? She's bulshitting me. I enter our rondavel and I head for the bathroom. I wash my face and I hear the door open and close. I peek and it's Langa. He locks the door and walks towards me.

"Unyezi. That's not how things are done in this family."

"Than y'all ain't doing shit."

"Go apologize. You owe the elders an apology too."

"What should I apologize for? Doing something about an uptight teenager?! Angifuni!"

"Don't raise your voice at me."

"Voetsek! Uzowenzani?"

He looks at me and I regret saying that. He walks closer to me and I move back.

"Uzokhala Unyezi.(you'll cry.)"

"Ngizokhaliswa yini Langalakhelihle?(What would make me cry)

He runs his tongue over his teeth.

"Ngizokushaya Unyezi.(I'll hit you)

I gulp and look away.

"Hamba uyoxolisa.(go apologize)"

"But I am not in wrong."

"I didn't say you were."

He sits down and pats the space next to him. I'd rather stand here. He wanted to hit me not so long ago.

"I won't hit you."

I sit beside him and he looks me in the eyes. The moon and ocean never leaving.

"Mele uyiyekhe ibhari izenze iclever. Wena clever uzenze ibhari.(you should let an idiot act smart. And you act dumb.)"

"But she said some really hurtful things. She said I couldn't keep a baby and I can't keep you full. She

basically called me a failure of a woman."

"I'm sorry sthandwa. Go apologize so we can avoid drama."

I nod and he kisses me hungrily. He lays me down and his hand goes under my dress and he rubs my clit on top of my panty.

"Langa."

"Mmmh?"

"The meeting... apology.",I say while moaning.

"After this."

He takes my dress off and I help him out of his clothes. He positions himself before slamming hard inside me and I scream grabbing him. [REMOVED]

[REMOVED]

I nod and he kisses me hungrily. He lays me down and his hand goes under my dress and he rubs my clit on top of my panty.

"Langa."

"Mmmh?"

"The meeting... apology.", I say while moaning.

"After this."

He takes my dress off and I help him out of his clothes. He positions himself before slamming hard inside me and I scream grabbing him.

"Langa!"

He holds my hands on top of my head as he pumps into me. Its painful pleasure and he isn't stopping. He rubs my clit with his other hand and just as I'm about to come he stops.

"Langa."

He takes himself out and I sit up.

"Go apologize."

"Langa. At least let me cum."

"Weren't you swearing at me earlier on? Now you want me to make you cum?"

I was so close to cumming. He is punishing me like this?

"Langa I'm sorry. I'm really sorry."

He kisses me again and he enters me slowly. He holds one leg up to my chest and he penetrates deeper. His going slow and his banging me so good that his rubbing on my clit.

"Langa."

"You like this?"

"Yes."

He holds the other leg and I arch my back towards him and my breasts come in contact with his warm chest. He circles his waist and I moan out loud. This shouldn't end cause his doing me so good right now.

"Yes! Yes! Right! Right there!"

I scream as I cum and he makes me lie on my

stomach and puts a pillow under me. He spreads my legs as he enters me. He stays still for a moment and I push my ass towards him and he starts moving. I grip the sheets as he keeps on hitting my spot repeatedly.

"Fuck! Aaaaah! Langa!"

I lift my ass up and goes deeper and I bury my face in the sheets as I scream in pleasure as I arch my back and curl my toes. I clench my walls around him as I feel a build coming.

"Shit! Shit! Fuck Unyezi!"

We both cum together and he falls on top of me. We stay like that as we breathe heavily. He rolls onto the side. He looks at me with beads of sweat on his face.

"Raise your voice at me again and you'll regret it. Ngizokushaya ngempela.(I'll hit you for real)"

"The only time you should shout at me is when you're under me shouting at me to go deeper.", he says getting up.

I cover my face as I smile. Langa is so nasty.

27

UNYEZI

"Let me grab an apple from the kitchen. I'll find you in the car.", I say while kissing his cheek.

I walk to the kitchen and Sandisiwe is there cooking. I walk in and she smirks. Langa made me apologize earlier on and she thinks she won. I get an apple from the fridge and get a knife and I peel it while looking at her.

"Please get out. I want to finish cooking for my in laws since some of us are married."

I laugh and point the knife.

"Lalela la wena skhwama se dickies. I grew up in the hood. I'll slice your fucken clit off. If you ever be a bitch towards me I will and oh trust me sisi. Khozo gone.(listen here. Clit gone.)"

I walk towards and slice her cheeks and blood trickles down to her wife attire that seems way too hot to be in in this hot weather.

"I'm sorry for using force on you. Forgive me."

I chuckle and walk but stop on my step when I get to the door.

"Oh and no one will know about this." I say smiling.

I throw the knife at her and she ducks. I walk out while biting the apple and I'm so pissed but I'm smiling so Langa doesn't notice. I felt like puking when I said sorry in front of the whole family.

Nothing pisses me off more than being put on the stand for something I didn't commit. The boys are leaving with Khukekani and Thando as it is school tomorrow.

"Please behave."

"Mom. We always do.",Langa says.

"You? Shame."

I kiss the cheeks and Nkosinathi goes on about how old he is now. I get in the car with Bhekikhaya,Ndabenkulu and Langa. They accompanying me and I know they just want ti shoot at anyone who tries something.

"You're okay?",Langa asks and I smile.

"Yeah. I'm good."

He nods and I look out the window as maskandi blasts in the car and I think I'll get a headache. They stop eMzimkhulu to go buy some food.

"We can't go to another mans house empty handed.", Ndabenhulu had said.

They come back and put everything in the backseat. They smoke outside and Langa opens my door.

"Smoke?"

I look at the cigarette and I remember I haven't smoked in a while.

"No."

He looks at me and smiles and I realise he was testing me. Mxm. I close my door and I just listen to this song that's playing. I don't understand how someone listens to this kind of music. Its giving me a headache. I take out my earphones and play some Kehlani. I sigh and sink back into my chair. Now this is music. They get into the car and Langa drives off. He shakes me and I open my eyes while yawning. I

guess I fell asleep along the way. I look at the yard we parked outside of and there is 2 rondavels and one main house that doesn't look that much. The yard is empty except the old man who is sitting under a tree shade. We get out of the car and I almost trip on this long skirt. I click my tongue. We stand at the gate and the old man just looks at us. Langa raises his hand and the old man looks away. Such rudeness. A group of boys passing by look at us.

"Ishoni izithakazelo zakhe.(say his clan names.)"

We look at the boys and they pass. Ndabenkulu steps forward and takes off his hat and holds it with his knees a little bent and his back bent a bit forward.

"Sosibo! Gema! Mshingila! Thusi! Ncobeni! Sisacela ukungena.(please let us in.)"

The old man lifts his hand up and screams for someone. A male comes out and looks at us. He walks towards us like he is stepping on eggs. He has the meanest look ever that I see the boys cast their eyes down and hold their hats tighter. He opens the

gate.

"Ngenani.", his cold baritone makes the boys jump and enter.

I stand a bit and look at where I will step inside. Something pushes me forward and I walk in. A thunder struck in the yard and everyone jumps. A black cobra emits from where the thunder has struck and it raises its head up. Langa pushes me backwards behind him.

"Myeke mfana ngeke imenze lutho.(leave her boy. It won't do anything to her.)", the old man says still seated.

It starts raining with wind and I shield my eyes as Langa stands next to me. Where did this rain come from? I hold onto Langa as the wind almost blows me off my feet. The snake comes towards me and I'm not scared of snakes actually I love them but if this shit bites me I am in the middle of no where and I'll be dead withing 10 minutes without antivenom. It circles it self around my leg and I feel a drop of piss. The rain stops and the hot weather is back like it

never rained. I look up to the sky and the sun is out again like it never rained. I look down at the snake and its not there and I swear I almost faint.

"Unyezi.

Langa is cook to hold me and lifts me up. I'm so dizzy right now. A woman comes out with a grass mat and Langa is instructed to lay me down on it. This trees shade is so cool and calming. I hear voices whispering and I think I'm losing my mind. I try sitting up but its like I'm paralayzed. The old man burns incense and circles me while chanting his clan names. This is not how I thought things would be done. I thought we'd sit down and I'd say my story and they'd fill me in if I am theirs or not.

"Sowubuyile ndodakazi. Sesizokukhusela.(you back daughter. We'll protect you)"

He picks two leaves from the tree and grinds them in the calabash.

"Ngabayena iza nochefu wenyoka.(bring the snake poison.)"

Snake poison? I see Langa step up and Ndabenkhulu

holds him back shaking his head. I look at him and he sees the fear in my eyes and mouths 'I love you.'. The guy named Ngabayena comes back with a small bottle of snake poison and I think I'll lose consciousness. The old man mixes it with the leaves and he shakes it around the burning incense. Ngabayena holds my head up as the old man makes me drink the mixture. It tastes like death. I start coughing really bad and what seems like black blood comes out of my mouth and they make me vomit in a bucket.

"Khipa. Khipa konke ukuncola kanyoko.(take it out. Take out all you mothers sins.)".

I gag and I vomit one last time and I feel like my throat will snap in half. A black ball if I don't know what falls into the bucket and I lay back again with tears in my eyes. I finally have full control of my body when I wipe my tears. Ngabayena sits next to me and rubs his eyes.

"Thula ndodana. Usebhuyile.(don't cry son. She's back.)",the old man says sitting down again.

His eyebrows meet on his glabella leaving no space. They thick and bushy. I guess this is where my eyebrows come from. I rub on my throat as I try talking.

"Ungakhulumi.(don't talk.)"

Everyone comes out from the house and stand around the tree smiling. I hear the whispers again and I touch the tree as one voice becomes loud from them all. Its one of a female.

"I'm trapped Unyezi! Forgive me so I can be one with my own clan again."

I remove my hand so fast like I just got burned.

"Unyezi?"

I look at Ngabayena. What kind of name is that?

"Bayini labafana nawe?(what are these boys to you?)"

Boys? I notice how they tick the jaws at that statement.

"Langa is my fiance. Those are his brothers. They helped me find you.",I say pointing at them.

"Antiza bazele izihlalo.(bring them chairs.)"

A young girl runs to the house and comes back with chairs.

"Ningahlali phansi komthunzi. Anibona balayikhaya.(don't sit under the shade. Y'all not family.)"

So my man has to burn in the sun because of a stupid tree shade? These people are crazy. Langa rolls his eyes and they sit down.

"We will have you cleansed tonight to remove the final curse of your mothers sins."

"What did she do?"

"Touch the tree again and ask her."

Ask her? I put my hand again on the tree and the whispers start before one voice becomes clear.

"Unyezi. Get me out of here."

"Mbuze wenzani. Igama lakhs uNokuthula.(ask her what she did. Her name is Nokuthula.)"

"Ma- Nokuthula wenzani(what did you do)?"

"Ngiyaxolisa. Ngadlisa uGogo wakho ngoba ngifuna iskhwama sakhe sobunyanga.(I'm sorry. I poisoned your grandmother because I wanted her healer bag.)"

What? Just a healer bag? I had to suffer for that? I remove the hand from the tree.

"Your grandmother was a healer. Chosen one to protect the tree. Look at the tree"

I look up and the leaves are dry and falling off but the shade is that of a healthy tree. What the actual fuck? I look at Ngabayena and back at the tree and the leaves are green and healthy again.

"The tree is dying. It captures the souls of our loved ones and your mother is trapped inside as well. She was married to me. She was here to steal the gift from our clan sent by the King in Swaziland so he can give it to his son."

This is confusing.

"It starts way back. We're Swati. From a village in Swaziland called Ntabatetsu. We're Royal. My mother. Your grandmothers mother had the gift. It

was passed on generation to generation. She was fooled by love and married someone from our enemy clan. She gave him the throne. She fell pregnant and after birth he had killed her so he can rule alone. My mother had the gift passed on her. She had access to the bag when she was of age. Her father wanted it for himself. He had tried to kill her so she ran. She met my father and he took her her in. She was given a seed. She planted it here in this yard. The tree growing as the one in Swaziland died. When I met your mother I thought it was real. My mother hadn't been warned about her. When she was pregnant with you she finally had the guts to..."

He pauses a bit and rubs his face.

"Qhubeka ndodana.(carry on son.)",the old man urges him to continue.

I feel like I'm listening to one of those fictional stories kids are told by elders around a bonfire.

"When she killed him and took the bag. She ran away while still pregnant with you. I don't know the story about how you ended up here but when we had felt

another soul enter the tree we had listened to the voice and it was your mother. We called a seer and she let us in that my grandmother was angry and her fury fell upon you since your mother had died. We had begged her to leave you alone but she was blinded by anger. The gift had been passed onto you and the fact that when you came of age you didn't take your responsibilities angered her worse. You still have to find the bag and get the throne back to us again. I have tried everything but without you our clan will die and the throne will carry on being ruled by the wrong clan. Sosibo Kingdom are run by women. It is an abomination for a man to rule the kingdom."

I just sit there and look at the man who is supposedly my dad.

"This is a joke right? I just came here to be cleansed. Get my shit in order and than marry Langa."

"If you don't find the bag and be the protector of the tree. Our Kingdom will carry on dying and you'll be dying with it. That's why bad things will follow you. Acknowledge your gift. The rest will follow."

I look at Langa and he looks like he is about to stand up and chop the tree down. So we not getting our happily ever after? Shit is still going to be tough for us? And I'm Royalty? Mina? Unyezi? This has to be a joke!

"Leave her. We will cleanse her tonight."

"We won't be able to leave her.", Langa speaks out.

"You're not married to her and no lobola has been paid. She's our daughter. Leave son."

Langa chuckles and attempts to steal inside the shade when something pushes him back.

"Langa!"

I stand up and attend to him. I lift his shirt up and he has a red hand mark on his chest.

"Shit! I thought our family was weird with all their traditional stuff but this!", he says as he grunts.

"Are you okay? I'm so sorry."

"Leave son. You've angered my wife. You're not allowed under the tree until you're make a wife of our daughter."

He stands up and walks away with his brothers following.

"Langa.", I whisper.

He turns around and he notices the tears in my eyes.

"Don't leave please."

"I'm not leaving you. We will be in the car. I'll have your lobola paid by end of sundown tomorrow."

They walk out the gate and get into the car and they park it across the road. I just stand there defeated as my head spins.

"Oh mother what did you get me into.", I whisper.

Couldn't she have fell pregnant into a less complicated family?

"Let's get inside."

I stand there and Langa looks at ms through the window. Please pay dowry quick. I need you on this crazy journey I'm about to take. And why aren't they bringing in the food they bought?

Its a fictional story after all

28

UNYEZI

I keep on looking out the window and they still standing there. I think its been two hours of them standing at the gate shouting my clan names.

"Baba ngyakucela(dad please.)"

He just looks at me and sips on his tea. My uncles are seated drinking alcohol. I've been begging him to let them in but he ain't budging and my grandfather is sitting under the tree pretending as if he can't even hear them. I got outside and sit next to Mkhulu.

"Mkhulu ngyakucela.(please.)"

"We want a letter first."

A letter?

"How about an email?"

"Email?"

"Okay mkhulu. You'll charge them extra for not bringing the letter. Please."

He looks at them and looks at me.

"Do you love him?"

I look at him and nod the smile on my face involuntary.

"A lot Mkhulu. Langa makes me happy and he supports me."

"Has he ever hit you?"

"Not even once. He respects me."

"Has he ever cheated?"

"No."

"Does he have kids?"

"Yes. Three."

"Three?!"

"Yeah. Two are not his but we take them as they our own. One I miscarried."

I look down and he sighs.

"My wife wronged you mtanam. She let anger blind her she forgot that you were one of our own. Just lost."

"Langa has been with me every step of the way."

"Y'all love reminds me of mine and Nomvulas love. Pure."

"You loved her didn't you?"

He smiles and puts a hand on the tree.

"I still do."

He looks at Langa as he gets out of the car and talks to his uncle.

"Does that boy know that you can't take his surname? You will be a Queen? That you will be a healer? Will he withstand days when he will wake up with you fighting in your dreams? You will be more powerful and richer. You will know parts of him even he doesn't know. Will he be comfortable with that?"

"I don't know Mkhulu but if he loves me enough he'll be by my side."

He looks at me and nods before standing up and heading inside the house. My dad comes out with my aunt Lugengani behind him.

"Unyezi. Ngena endlini(get inside)."

I follow behind my aunt as we walk to the rondavel and my cousins follow behind us. I look outside the window as Dad talks to the men at the gate and they give him a bottle of whiskey and money. He takes it inside and my uncle comes out and let's them in. Thank you Mkhulu! I wish I can hear what's going on but we are not in the main house. I sit on top of the bed and take out my phone and call Langa.

"Mkami."

"Sthandwa."

"Your family is brutal."

"I think being heartless is a family thing."

"Thank God I got the angel."

I smile. If only you knew.

"I miss you."

"I do too and my body hurts from sleeping in the car."

"Sorry. Have y'all eaten?"

"We ate some of the bread and polony we bought

yesterday."

"Ah kodwa."

"Plus I almost died yesterday. Just because of shade?!"

"Uyaphapha nawe(you're also forward.)"

"Mxai. I still have chest pains na manje."

"Drama Langa. Have the boys called?"

"Yeah. They arrived safe."

"I thought we were getting our happy ending."

"We are but not now. I can't believe you're royalty. I have a million ready for your lobola in case they charge me for that too."

"A million?"

"I wanted to pay in diamonds buy Ndabenkulu said I'm being dramatic."

"Vele hawu!", Ndabenkulus voice says on the other side.

"He was right. Diamonds? You're crazy!", I say

laughing.

"I'm serious. Wait. My uncle wants to talk to me."

"Okay."

I drop the call and we sit there and I'm biting my nails. I hope they don't want live cows.

LANGALAKHE

My uncle walks up to us in the car.

"Heh ndodana. Kunzima.(son. Its hard.)"

"What's wrong?"

"Bayabuza ukuthi umthole eseyitchitchi yinj?(they asking if you found her a virgin?)"

I nod and my brothers look at me.

"They also charging us R2000 for nor writing a letter alerting them."

"Pay them. Malume. Give them whatever they want."

He nods and walks back inside. My brothers look at me with folded arms.

"What?"

"A virgin?"

"No but they don't have to charge me less cause of pussy."

"I hope they want live cows and talking goats.",
Bhekikhaya says.

"Nxai voetsek wena!"

He laughs and lights a cigarette.

"Umakoti ngowethu! Siyavuma! Ozosiwashela
asiphekele!(the wife is ours! She'll do our laundry
and cook for us.)",Bhekikhaya sings.

"Cook for wena nabobani?(you and who?)"

"Siyajiva siyumdeni!(we dancing we family)",he sings.

"Thula mahn Bheki.(keep quiet man.)"

He looks at me and laughs.

"Malume is coming out again."

We wait for my uncle till he reaches us.

"They are charging you R50 000 for the child she lost.

R10 000 yevula mlomo. R60 000 for her lobola. In total its R120 000 and we're negotiating for at least R100 000."

"No. Don't negotiate. No Khuzwayo wife is worth R100 000! She's royalty right?"

"Yes."

"Good. Tell them you'll pay R50 000 extra for the future Queen."

"Mshana."

"Pay it Malume."

He nods and get back inside.

"R220 000? Udakiwe wena!(you drunk!)"

"Wait till you meet your chosen one Ndabenkulu. I'll accompany you to the bank."

He looks at me and shrugs. I see three girls exit a rondavel and I can't tell Unyezi is the one in the middle. I text my uncle.

"The one wrapped in a red blanket."

I put my phone back in my pocket. I don't know how

many cigarettes I've smoked. We hear ululations and I smile. She's mine. My brothers whistle and we start dancing.

"Wadla Khuzwayo!"

We laugh and hug each other. We sit in the car and I call her.

"Myeni wami.", her soft voice comes through.

" Mkami.", I say while grinning.

"Whipped.", Bhekikhaya coughs out.

"Everything went well. How much did it cost?"

"Thats for me and my uncles to know and your family to never tell you."

"My aunts are going on about a virginity price. What's that about?"

"I don't know shame."

"Okay. We're dishing up for y'all now. I love you."

"I love you too."

I drop the call smiling. Ndabenkulu gets inside the

car.

"Dad says he is proud of you."

"It feels like a dream."

"What if it is", Bhekikhaya says.

I forgot how dumb this one can be. Him and Khulekani are idiots. We notice a girl calling for us and we get out of the car and walk inside. She directs us into a rondavel and we sit there. They come with food and serve us. I have to drive home today and I'll only see Unyezi when she gets a chance to go to town.

"Who cooked?", Bhekikhaya asks and Ndabenkulu kicks him.

"Aunt Unyezi."

I smile and take the plate and we dig in.

"When you and Unyezi are King And Queen can I move in with y'all?"

I look at Bhekikhaya and raise my fuck you finger at him.

"Uyibhari wena!(you an idiot.)"

He laughs and eats his food. I smile as I hear the ululations in the yard. She's always been mine but it feels different now.

29

UNYEZI

Everyone is asleep now and its late. I walk out as soon as Langa texts me that his outside. I am sneaking out like a 15 year old. When I am about to near the fence my aunt comes out of the toilet. Shit!

"Unyezi?", she whispers.

"Aunty."

"Uyaphi?(where are you going?)"

"Etoilet?(to the toilet?)"

"Wa buza mina? Uyaphi?(you asking me? Where are you going?)"

"Angiyi ndawo.(I'm not going anywhere.)"

"Ungangenzi islima wengane. Ngizobiza uyihlo.(don't make me an idiot. I'll call your father.)"

"Eish Aunty."

"Akusiyimotor yamkhonyane leya?(isn't that our son in laws car?)"

I look down and she laughs lowly.

"Hamba. Ubuye before kuphuma ilanga.(go. Come back before sunrise.)"

I smile and hug her before she walks inside the house. I near the fence as Langa gets out of the car. I have to jump since I can't open the gate cause Mkhulu will hear it. I'm sure I can still jump fences. I walk backwards a bit.

"Unyezi wenzanu?(what are you doing?)", Langa whispers.

I ignore him and start running and I step on the small steep of sand before jumping over missing a step in my landing and rolling onto the floor.

"Shit! Unyezi."

Langa helps me up and he gets the dust off my dress. Its so dark out here. He walks me towards the car and helps me in. I think I twisted something. My foot hurts. He starts laughing as soon as he gets in the car and I join him.

"What were you thinking?",he says laughing.

"I used to do that when j was a kid but that was an epic fail."

He laughs harder and I pinch him.

"Ouch! True colours avail yourself. I always knew you were abusive."

I roll my eyes and he laughs.

"You almost broke a leg jumping fences for dick."

I laugh and he joins me. I laugh as I double over and I notice his staring.

"What?"

"You're beautiful."

I smile and look down as I feel my cheeks get hot.

"Look at me."

I lift my eyes and meet his. The moon and ocean. The moon is strawberry and the ocean calm. I missed this. I missed him. I know it's been two days without sleeping next to him but I'm just so used to it.

"You kno-"

I cut him off with a kiss and he replies and I moan at the feel of his lips on mine. We pull out and he puts his forehead on mine and we stare at each others eyes.

"I love you."

"Jet'aime."

"Huh?"

"Waah Unyezi."

"Hayi isiFrench esani?(what's the French for?)"

"I'm trying to be romantic here. You such a hood girl."

"Hah Langa!"

He laughs and kisses me.

"Ufuna ngithini? Ngiyakuvatela?(what do you want me to say? I love you?)"

"Ngicwele ngawe.(I love you)"

He laughs at me.

"What do you know about kasi taal?"

"Ngicava ezibaie Njayam. Ngikhule ngiblome emakoneni.(I know a lot my dawg. I grew up chilling by the corner.)"

"So vele uyayipusha inombolo?(so you speak kasi slang?)"

"Ngiyawuphakamisa useven amathekeni namajita sebayazi ukuthi uguluva seka fikile.(I cause havoc. Girls and boys know that the O.G has arrived.)"

"Salut!"(salute)

"Salut' lova.(sakute gangster.)"

He smiles and we bump fists.

"I always knew you had a bit of gangster in you since you cut my cousins wife's cheek."

"Me? Cut who's cheek?"

I look away and he makes me look at him.

"You know exactly what I'm talking about. Siyanda is walking around with a scar on her cheek and she says her child scratched but I know a knife cut. I also knew it was you."

"It wasn't me shame."

"You're sure?"

"I swear."

He narrows his eyes at me and I look around the car.

"If you say so."

I smile at him and start laughing.

"Don't tell me you've lost your mind now."

"Mxm. I guess she listened to me after all.

"I knew it. Unyezi."

"What?"

"I can't marry you anymore. You're dangerous."

"Don't even think about leaving me. I'll boil your balls."

"Ah. You see? I want my money back."

"Khethile khethile." (You've chosen.)

He smiles and kisses me.

"I chose well."

I smile and enterwine our hands.

"You have really ugly fingers Langa."

"You don't complain when they inside you."

I look at him with my mouth open. Langa!

"Close your mouth before I stick my dick inside your mouth."

I laugh and he joins me. My stomach hurts with all the laughing I've been doing.

"You so nasty."

"You like it."

"I don't. I'm so innocent and you've ruined all that."

He looks at me and laughs.

"Wena? Innocent? (You?)"

He laughs and I fold my arms.

"Ah Langa! Ah Deeper Langa! Faster! Yes! Yes! Aaaah!", he screams imitating me.

"I don't sound like that."

"Oh yes Langa! Go deeper pastor daddy!"

"Langa uyabona?(you see!)"

He carries on imitating me. I jump carefully to the backseat without hurting my already injured foot. He looks at me.

"Okay. I'm sorry.",he says still laughing.

He jumps next to me.

"I'm sorry."

"Mxm."

"Look."

I look at him and he smiles causing me to smile too. I'm so weak thou.

"That was too easy!"

"What would you have preferred?"

He smiles and inches closer to my face.

"Would you have preferred if I laid you down?"

He moves his face away as I'm inching closer.

"If I kissed you hungrily?"

He speaks next to my ear his breathe bouncing off

my skin causing me to shiver.

"If I sneaked my hand inside your dress and rubbed your clit through your panties?"

He kisses my neck and licks it before blowing cold air on it causing my breathe to hitch.

"And then I'd take them off. I'd get in between your thighs and insert myself inside you slowly."

I clench my thighs and he notices and he moves away.

"Is that how you'd prefer it?"

I look at him with my breathe quickening as I start imagining him doing all that to me.

"Or would you prefer I do it like this?"

He kisses me with hunger and I reply with as much hunger. He lays me down gently. Thank goodness he came with an SUV so its more comfortable. His hand start going down until he gets it under my dress. Where his hand has touched feels hot and he removes my panty slowly. He rubs his thumb on my clit and I moan.

"You like that?"

I don't answer and he stops.

"I asked you a question."

I nod fast "I do."

He carries on and puts his index finger in and moan.

"How does that make you feel?"

"Good.", I moan out.

He inserts his middle finger and curls them inside of me while his thumb is playing with my clit.

"How about that?"

"It feels... It feels- Fuck!"

He pumps them inside of me and his still rubbing on my clit.

"Answer me or I stop."

"It feels... Goo... Good!"

He ups his pace I moan a bit louder.

"Fuck! Ah yes!", I moan out as I cum all over his fingers.

He takes them out and licks them while looking me in the eyes and makes that "mcah" sound and I laugh.

"You're so nasty."

"You taste good."

He kisses me and lifts me to sit on top of him. The hoe in me screams.

"Don't get too excited."

"Okay."

He lowers his pants and Khuzwayo springs out and I smile licking my lips.

"Stop looking at it like a kid who just received candy."

"I can't help it."

"You're weird."

"And you love it."

He puts his lower lip between his teeth and his dimples show. Does he have to be this sexy? He helps me insert himself in me. I put one hand on the window as I feel him in me. I put my other hand on his thigh balancing myself. I start moving slowly and

he grips my waist. His eyes are closed with his lower lip between his teeth and he is looking up. I moan as he starts rubbing on my clit.

"Mmmmh Langa."

He takes out my boob from my dress and starts sucking my nipple. I put my hand on his shoulder and start moving my waist and he lays his head on my shoulder. His groans turn me on even more and I up my pace.

"Fuck Unyezi!"

He spans my ass and I up my pace. I lay my hands on his chest. I clench my walls around him as I cum and I feel his warmth as he shoots his sperms inside of me.

"Fuck!"

He grips my butt cheeks tighter as he shoots the last of him.

"I love you."

"I love you."

He lifts me up and takes himself out causing his

sperm to drip out. He takes a towel and wipes me. He pulls his pants up and I lay on his chest.

"I have something for you."

He reaches for his pocket.

"Give me your hand."

I sit up straight and he takes my left hand. He opens up a small box and a ring shines under the moon. Its beautiful.

"Its a late engagement ring."

"I love it."

He puts its on and I look at it smiling with tears in my eyes.

"Its beautiful. It looks expensive."

"No matter how much money I waste it can never match your worth. If I was a Kleptomaniac I'd steal the moon for you."

"Lunar Klepto. The moon stealer."

"The moon stealer."

I lay on his chest and I look at the moon outside the window. Its beautiful as always. I smile looking at the diamond ring on my finger. Sphiwo Mommy loves Daddy. We're getting married.

KUHLEKONKE SILANGWE

I get on the stage and I circle around the pole. I lift myself up on the pole as my mind erases everyone around me. I start moving up the pole and I slide down and land with a stretch and the crowd screams throwing money. I carry on dancing for an hour. I collect the money on the stage and I walk off the stage as soon as Princess walks in. I get into the changing room counting my money and I made quite a buck. I change into my short uniform and get behind the bar.

"Two finger vodka. 4 ice cubes."

I pour him his drink and put it in front of him.

"You looked really great on that pole. I'll give yoy R2000 for one night."

"I'm a stripper. Not a prostitute."

I move on to the next customer. Its a bit busy on the pole side so I'm not too busy this side. Two guys call me over.

"Double scotch. No ice."

"Same."

I nod and pour them their drinks.

"What's a pretty girl like you doing here?"

"This is not a movie. I won't fall in love with you and you'll be my knight in shining armour. We live happily ever after. I'm not Cinderella."

I move to other customers and serve them their drinks. They call me again.

"Refill."

I pour them their refills and the other guy is looking at the pole section. He turns around and our eyes meet when he takes his drink. His eyes have stars in them. I almost drop the bottle so I put it on the counter. I can't move my eyes away from his. I look at the other guy and his eyes are normal. I turn to the

alien again and the stars are still there. I'm losing my mind.

"Are you okay?"

I jump at the sound of his voice. Its so deep and refreshing. I'm losing it.

"Yeah... Yeah."

He smiles and dimples show on the side of his face and I keep steady with my hand on the counter as my knees get weak. He must be an alien. He has stars in his eyes. I hurry to the next customer. I serve people avoiding the alien dudes eyes.

"Refill."

I refill their glasses.

"You good on the pole."

"Thank you."

"Bhekikhaya Khuzwayo."

"Kuhlekonke Silangwe."

"This is my stupid brother Khulekani."

"Nice to meet y'all."

"Same here."

I serve people when Khulekani asks for a glass of water.

"You have beautiful eyes.", I say randomly and Bhekikhaya smiles.

"Thank you. Its just regular brown eyes thou."

"No. You have these stars in them. They're beautiful."

He looks at me and than his brother. They give each other knowing looks.

"Thank you Kuhle."

I smile as I move around the counter. My feet are killing me and I have 30 minutes left till knock off time. The two Khuzwayo brothers seen to be having a serious conversation and I bet you its about me by the way they keep looking at me. I shrug it off and hand over my duties to Natasha. I head to the changing room and get out of these heels and clothes. I wear my jean and oversized hoodie. I wear my all stars and grab my money I made tonight. I

walk out and I wait for my uber outside.

"Kuhle!"

I turn around and I'm met by stars again.

"Hey. Uhm. I was about to drive home. Want a lift?"

"No. I'm fine."

"Come on."

"What if you're a murderer?"

He walks and laughs.

"I'll murder you as we go."

I laugh and follow him. I check my pocket and my pocket knife is there. He opens the door for me and I get in absorbing the warmth of the car and comfortableness of the seats. He gets in and starts the engine the car roaring as it comes to life.

"Where do you stay?"

"Emlazi."

He nods and starts driving.

"Where's your brother?"

"He said he was staying behind. He didn't come with me anyway."

I nod and look out the window looking at the stars.

"You're beautiful."

"Thanks.", I smile at the compliment.

"Can I see you again?"

"Uhm..."

"Please. You seem like a nice person."

"Oh but I'm always working."

"Whenever you're free. Call me. Put your number on my phone."

I take the phone and open it. He doesn't have a password. I save my numbers and put his phone down again.

"Thank you."

"For what?"

"Your numbers."

"Its okay."

We sit in silence till we drive in eMlazi and I start directing him. Here I am being driven home by a stranger with stars for eyes. Its been a weird day.

30

KUHLEKONKE

I had woken up to prepare my little sister for school and I got back to bed when she was gone. I work night shifts this week so I get to sleep the whole day till I have to wake up and go to work. I spill the dirty water I was birthing with and got dressed. I am going back to bed since I have nothing to do. My phone rings as I get under the blankets. Its an unknown number so I answer and keep quiet.

"Kuhlekonke?"

I don't recognise the voice.

"Ufunwa ubani?(who's looking for her?)"

"Bhekikhaya Khuzwayo from last night."

"Oh you."

"Yes me. Can I see you?"

I thought this guy would forget about me and we'd both move on with our lives.

"I can't. I'm sick.",I don't even try to make the sound

convincing.

"Unamanga. I'm outside.(you're lying)"

I sit up straight.

"What?"

"Ngingaphandle.(I'm outside.)"

"I can't go out. I'm sick.",I say faking a cough.

"Okay. I'm coming in."

What?! Is this guy crazy?! You don't just force yourself into someone's life. I shouldn't even have showed him where I lived!

"No! You can't-"

He drops the call and I quickly get out of bed checking how I look in the mirror and fixing my hair. Why am I even worried about how I look? I mean I dont even like this guy. I hear the door open and I jump back into bed. Did he just barge in?! Oh God! What have I gotten myself into?! I start coughing and sneezing.

"Kuhle!"

His a psychopath! What if his an alien and he wants to eat my brain? If I pretend I'm sick I'm sure he won't suck my brain. He walks in as I cough really hard and I wince at the pain in my chest.

"That sounds really bad."

"You can't barge into someone's house like this!"

"I'm sorry but you lying and trying to get rid of me."

I roll my eyes as he sits on the bed and smiles like an idiot. This has to be the most weirdest position I've been in. What does this guy want from me? I'm just trying to get my little sister and I through school.

"Cut the act."

I stop coughing and he looks at me. The stars shining brighter today than they were yesterday. I still think his an alien.

"You need to leave."

His smile fades and he furrows his brows.

"I'm just trying to get to know you."

"There's nothing to know. I appreciate the lift last

night but please leave."

He stands up and he puts his hands in his pockets. He looks down at me and I notice his jaw tick.

"Kuhlekonke. I am not going to beg you. You have my numbers. When you finally stop thinking your clit is made of gold you have my numbers."

He walks out with his nose flared and bangs the door. Did he just? No he didn't! No way! I laugh and follow him.

"Bhekikhaya right?"

He stops opening the gate and turns around slowly.

"Listen to me. Very carefully. You don't come into my house uninvited and insult me. I'll stab your fucken eye out. If you trying to get a free fuck sorry I may be a stripper but I'm no prostitute. Who do you even think you are?"

He looks at me and chuckles but his not amused at all.

"If you were my girl I'd fuck some respect into you. If I wanted to fuck you trust me you'd be under me

right now moaning."

I cross my arms under my boobs and I notice his eyes go there. So much for "if I wanted to fuck you..."

"Now look Kuhlekonke I'm a nice guy. I don't know your reasons of being so closed off but that shouldn't be an excuse to be rude. I'm not trying to get into your pants. Yet."

He opens the gate and step out closing it behind him and I watch him get into his car and drives off. I've never been so speechless in my life. I stand against the wall still shocked. I get back inside and sit on the bed. Maybe I was a bit rude and I let a cute guy walk out. But fuck his sexy ass. There are other hot guys. I video call Noxolo and she answers. This one always looks beautiful.

"Sthandwa."

I smile and I notice she's drinking wine.

"Alcoholic tendencies. On a Monday?!"

"I'm thirsty! In more ways than one.", she says laughing and I join her.

"What happened to Vusi?"

"His married mgani! His wife called me swearing at me. You know me and drama don't get along. I apologized and cut the nigga off."

"Why am I only hearing about this now?"

"I've been busy with work."

"How's that going? Ms Bakery Owner."

"Great. I am getting a lot of orders from housewives for every event they throw."

"That is great babe."

"That offer still stands Konke."

"I know but I applied online to various law firms and I have hope."

"You'll finally get out of that club."

"Don't judge."

"You know I'm not. You're way too smart to be at a strip club. I want to see you in court."

"I just wish I get one law firm to take me."

"You should send your CV to Khuzwayo Law And Order. They're a big law firm. You'd make some money there."

"No Nox. I don't want to get ahead of myself. The likes of Khuzwayo lawyers don't even up in court. Everyone is scaref of going against them. I'm not that good."

"Why do you take yourself for a poes?" (Pussy)

"I just know my limit and its way below Khuzwayo's law firm."

She facepalms herself and gulps her glass of wine.

"I'm coming over with wine. We going to drink. Get drunk. Call in sick for your shift. Send your CV to Khuzwayo Law And Order and we'll wake up tomorrow with a hangover awaiting a reply."

"I need some wine. Bring two bottles."

"What's wrong?"

"I turned down a very hot hunk today."

She screams at me.

"What?! I'm coming there!"

She drops the call and I laugh. Noxolo is crazy. We met at the strip club. She was my mentor and taught me the ropes or should I say poles. She was the first person I let in and cried to. She is a great baker and she took a short business course and she had saved up some money to open up her own registered bakery in town and she's been trying to get me to work for her but I'm not meant for the kitchen. I'm a dancer and a graduated law student. The only eatable thing I can make consists of noodles and an omelet. My teenage sister is the one that cooks I just buy groceries. I still treat her like a kid even though she's 15. She'll always be my baby. She's all I have left.

UNYEZI

The alarm on Langa's phone wakes us up. It's still a bit dark outside and my ankle is swollen and painful. I pop gum into my mouth.

"My back hurts.", Langa whines.

"I'd give you a massage but its late. Can you help me jump?"

"You really hurt. I'll fetch you later so I can take you to a doctor."

"Okay."

He kisses me and I smile into the kiss.

"Please don't mention my name to your father when he asks what happened to you. You know he doesn't like me."

"He likes you. Aunty says the Sosibo men are all naturally mean."

"He has one of those 'I'll kill you' looks."

"As if you'd let him."

"I would. Can't say the same for my brothers and father."

"Poor taima.(dad)"

"So when are we going back to Durban?"

"My leave ends next week."

"Kambe you have work."

"I missed work. I am also applying."

"For what?"

"Psychology."

"Really?"

"Yes. I want to help people."

"I'm proud."

"I love you and appreciate your support."

"I love you too. I promised."

We kiss and get out of the car. He lifts me up and helps me over the fence. I kiss him and limp back inside. He watches me get inside the house. I get inside and my aunt is already up drinking tea.

"Besengithi awusabuyi!" (I thought you weren't coming back.)

"Ha auntie."

I limp to the couch next to her.

"What happened to your ankle?"

"I fell while jumping the fence."

"Ukunika kamnandi bo umkwenyana. So ngaze ulimalele isende?(our son in law must be giving it to you good. You rather get hurt because of dick?)"

"Aunty!",I say laughing.

"Angikuxeki. Hamba uyogeza unuka ucansi phu!(I'm not judging. Go bath. You smell of sex.)"

I laugh and stand up limping to my room. Its actually my father's but he said he will sleep with Mkhulu in his rondavel. Aunty is way too blunt I think shaking my head as I take the hot water she boiled for me. I strip naked and I remember the activities of last night. I look at the ring and smile while putting a hand on my chest. After taking a bath I do my morning ritual. I light the incense and candles and start saying my clan names. I feel presences in the room. I feel the hairs on my neck stand up and I still haven't gotten used to it. Dad suggested that ngiphahle(consult with my ancestors) every morning so they can light my journey. I start thanking them for Langa and I tell my grandmother I forgive her and

I feel wetness on my shoulder. I wipe it and its wet. I look up and there's no sign of water. I look at the candles as they glow brighter. I know Gogo. Ngyakuxolela.(I forgive you.)

BHEKIKHAYA

I am parked outside her place for the second time today and I'm smoking my cigarette. I went to her workplace and they said she didn't come in today. I get out of the car and I stand at the gate for a while. We exchanged words earlier on and I know I should stay away but something keeps pulling me back to her. She may be the one I've been looking for. I haven't even told my brothers about her yet only Khulekani and Thando knows about her. Thando said girls like it when you pest them but what of she hates it. I stomp on the cigarette as I open the gate. I walk inside the yard and I stand in front of the door. There are voices inside. All feminine. Fuck it! If she talks trash again I'm fucking some sense into her. Images of her on that pole yesterday flash in my mind and I shake them away. If she's the one than

she's gotta quit. No group of men will gape and get erectiok over my woman. I finally decide to knock.

"Come in!", a voice yells inside.

I open the door slowly and walk inside slowly. I have 6 eyes on me as soon as I close the door behind me.

"Sanibona.(hello)"

They all keep quiet and just stare at me. I'm used to this reaction from ladies. I keep my eyes on the only two pairs of eyes that may belong to my future wife.

"Ah. Bhekikhaya?"

"Yeah. I thought I might come back and talk about what happened earlier."

She stands up and she balances herself on the coach. I notice the bottles of wine on the table.

"Sisi. I'm going to sleep.",a young girl says.

"Uh okay sweety."

The girls goes to one of the two rooms.

"Uh... Noxolo this is Bhekikhaya."

The girl on the floor smiles.

"I've heard a lot about you."

I look at Kuhle and she looks at the girl introduced as Noxolo. So she's been talking about me? Good.

"We can talk in my room."

"Already? Thatha girl.",the girl called Noxolo says.

I laugh at that and Kuhle walks to her room. She is dressed in shorts and sport's bra and damn she's got mean ass legs. I stare at her ass and I feel the little man down there get excited. Now is not the perfect time for a boner. She sits on her bed like a kid with her legs crossed and I can't help but imagine the around my waist as I stroke into her. I can see her pussy print and bro's mami got it thick!

"Khaya!"

I stop staring and she takes a pillow and hides away my good view. Damn!

"Talk."

"About earlier. You don't have to apologise."

She looks at me like I've grown a dick on my head.
Did I say something wrong?

"What?"

"You're the one that insulted me. Barged into my house. You should apologise."

"Me?"

She looks at at me.

"Okay. Uhm... Sorry?"

"You're fucking with me right now."

"I won't mind really."

"Khaya listen-"

"Sssh."

I put my finger on her mouth.

"Say it again."

"Say what? Remove your finger from my lips!"

"Say it again. Please."

"Khaya mahn!"

I remove my finger and smile.

"Say it more gentle. Actually moan it out."

She looks at me and I stare into her eyes. The atmosphere thickens.

"Say it."

I pull her legs and get in between them. I dry hump her.

"Khaya.", she moans it.

I think this is the perfect moan I've ever heard. I get off her as hard as it is. Dad taught me patience. I sit where I was seated and she sits up straight. I bite my lower lip as she takes breaths and her boobs move up and down.

"I don't want to take advantage of you. You're drunk. I'll come back tomorrow ekseni.(in the morning.)"

I stand up and fix my boner.

"Wait."

I stop on my steps. I look at her and she looks at me.

"Never mind. Tomorrow."

I smile and walk out.

"Bye Noxolo."

"Ciao."

I walk out and as soon as I get into the car I hit the steering wheel.

"Fuck!"

I drive off with a boner. I guess I'll be DSTV today.
Self service.

LANGALAKHE

I park across the road text Unyezi I'm outside. Her grandfather is sitting under the shade as usual. I'm never nearing that tree ever again. This family is weird and very rude. I see Unyezi kneel next to her grandfather. We usually talk for hours and at 00:00 we pray than we talk till one of us falls asleep. Her aunts comes out of the house and walks towards the gate. She stands by the gate with her hands on her waist and shouts for me.

"Mkhwenyana!(son in law)"

I get out of the car and walk towards her. I take out my hat and wring it in my hands.

"Sawubona aunti(hello aunty)."

"Wangasa ngeni?(why aren't you coming in?)"

"Eish aunti uyazi angamulekile. Bengisacela uUnyezi ngimuyise ka dokotela.(you know I'm not welcome. I just want Unyezi I want to take her to the doctor.)"

"Hayi wena! Sowulikhokhelile ikhekhe lakhe. Ngena.

(No man! You've paid for her vagina. Come in.)"

I enter the gate and she walks us towards the tree. If that tree gets off it's root and hits me with it's branches I'm cutting it down! I smile at Unyezi and she looks down.

"Sawubona mkhulu. Unyezi."(hey grandpa.)"

"Yebo ndodana.(hey son)"

Unyezis aunt gets me a chair and I sit a metre away from the shade. I don't want any mistakes. I notice Unyezi laugh behind her jacket.

"Besengiwe olukhulu ngawe." (I've heard a lot about you.)

"I hope its only good."

"Yes. Too good to be true."

He puts his elbow on his knee and points at me. This guys eyebrows or should I say eyebrow cause its just one straight line is so thick. Its like his mini hair.

"You've proven your love to my daughter yesterday. I respect you. You paid a lot of money for her and I hope you don't think you own her."

"No. Not at all. I wasn't buying her."

"Good. We still have a lot to talk about son but this one needs to go to the doctor since she jumps fences at night."

I cough and Unyezi pretends to not hear him.

"Jumps fences?"

"I know. This is my yard. I can hear even when there's an ant in the yard."

He squints his eyes at us and I cast my eyes down.

"Kodwa akusenani. Hambani. Wena Unyezi uyeke ukuzenza uJackie China!" (But then its not much of a big deal. Leave. You Unyezi. Stop pretending to be Jackie Chan.)

I laugh and Unyezi shoots me a death glare and I choke on my laughter.

"Jackie Chan Mkhulu!"

"Oksalayo ungitholile." (As long you got me.)

She limps out of the shade and I only lift her up when its safe.

"Sale kahle mkhulu." (Bye.)

He waves and I walk to the car with her in my arms. She's heavier than usual. She must be love the rural life. I put her in the car gently and I jump into my seat.

"You're okay?"

"Yes."

I smile and lean over to kiss her.

"I love you."

"I love you way more."

I start the engine and drive through the dusty streets with Unyezi sleeping. She must be tired. We hardly slept last night. I park outside Dr.Singh's practice and open her door and wake her up.

"Sthandwa sami.(my love)"

She opens her eyes.

"Ses'fikile?" (We've arrived?)

"Yeah. Woza."(come.)

I pick her up and we walk inside. Its not full we are

actually third in line. People opt for traditional medicine around here.

"Is it painful?"

"When I step on it hard."

"Karate Kid.",I say laughing.

"Kodwa Langa! Uyazibona?!" (But Langa! You see yourself?!)

"Okay sorry Thong Po.",I laugh harder and she smiles.

"Uyabhora shame.(you're boring.)"

I smile and kiss her cheek. I play with her cheeks as she is on her phone.

"Langa!"

"What?"

"Stop pulling my cheeks!"

"Okay."

I start playing with her hair. Its so fluffy. I rub her scalp and she moans.

"Hayi Unyezi."

"Carry on."

I carry on and the lady next to us is looking at us like we're idiots. I don't care I'm giving my woman a head massage.

"Ouch!"

"Sorry. Your hair got caught up on my watch."

"Ngyeke." (Leave me alone)

I put my hand around her shoulder and put my hand inside her dress and play with her boob.

"Ouch!"

"What?"

"My boobs are painful. Don't squeeze them."

I nod and start pulling her ear. She's on her phone. Instagram to be precise.

"How come you don't have Instagram?"

"I'm busy making money for posting pictures for followers."

"But-"

"Don't try convincing me. Post on my behalf on your page."

"You're such a bore. Bengizopola ngawe." (I was gonna secure the bag with you.)

"I'm already making money every second. I'm not greedy."

"I am."

"So you'd like it if women masturbated to my pictures?"

"Actually you're fine without Insta."

"You see-"

"Unyezi Sosibo!"

I help her stand and lift her up into the consultation room. I lay her on the bed and sit next to her. The doctor comes in and greets us. She touches Unyezis ankle and she winces.

"Be gentle.", I scold.

I kiss Unyezis hand as the doctor rubs ointment on her and puts on a bandage.

"She twisted her ankle a bit but she'll be fine. I'd give you painkillers but I can't in your condition."

"Condition?", Unyezi asks.

"Sorry. The pregnancy."

"Pregnancy?", Unyezi asks looking at me and I look away.

"You didn't notice? Want a scan? I'll charge thou."

"Its okay. Just scan."

She lays on the bed again and the look she's giving me has me looking all over this room. She lifts her shirt up and her stomach looks plumper and rounder. I try touching it but she slaps my hand. I remove it as the old woman applies gel on her and she hisses. She starts moving this thing on her stomach.

"Gudu gudu gudu."

"Thats the heartbeat."

I smile as I take out my phone and start recording. Unyezi starts crying and I wipe off the gel. I hug her and she cries. I don't say anything but just hold her. She finally calms down.

"You're okay?"

"Don't touch me."

"What did I do?"

"You keep impregnating me! Its too early!"

"Sorry but we both knew we'd get here with fucking raw."

She ignores me as the doctor comes back in and hands us the sonar scans. She said she's one month. My calculations are telling me she fell pregnant when we were fucking in the bathroom. I drive to my house with her just looking outside the window silently crying.

KUHLEKONKE

I take a huge gulp of the coffee. My sister is at school and Noxolo left earlier on. I have a headache and I look like I'm from a zombie apocalypse movie. I lay on the couch slowly and I yell at myself for drinking so much yesterday. After Khaya left we drank like fish. That guy left me all hot and bothered

yesterday I felt like crying. I still feel him hump on me when I imagine it. Is it wrong that thinking about him in between my thighs gives me an orgasm? He just released the inner hoe in me. A knock disturbs. Who the fuck is it?! I stand up groaning as I go open the door. He is standing there looking like the meal he is. I even forgot about him coming today. I'm not even going to try fixing myself up. As long as I took a bath. Appreciate the effort.

"You look like a mess."

"I know."

I move out of the way and he enters closing the door. I drag myself to the sitting room and lay on the couch again. He lift my legs up and sits down before putting them on top of him.

"Hangover?"

"A hectic one."

"Shame. Have you heard?"

"Heard what?"

"Underground was burnt yesterday."

I sit up and groan as my head throbs more.

"What? What time?"

"I don't know. Rumor has it the fire started after they closed."

"Great! I'm jobless. I have fucken bills to pay!"

"You can still find another job. Unless you loved your job."

"I hated it but it paid the bills."

"So what is your next plan?"

"I'll have to ask Nox if her offer still stands. I'm fucked!"

"I can help you out with the bills."

"No I always have a plan. I'll manage."

He nods and rubs my legs. I can't believe no one has told me about this. I don't even know where my phone is. I can't work at a bakery if I can't bake.

"You know I'm glad that place burnt down."

I look at him and he looks at me. The stars are bright.

"No man will be getting erections over you."

I don't answer him and his hands rub up a bit and he caresses my thighs. If this guy knew how long I haven't been touched like that he wouldn't be doing this right now.

"Sit up.", he tells me.

I sit up gently and faces me. My eyes go down to his dick and I can see it that its hard. I move my eyes away as my clit dances. Is it bitchy if I climb this guy and do as I please? Worse his a stranger.

"Are you in a relationship?"

"No. Why?"

"Good. I don't want to eat where someone is eating too."

"What are you eating?"

"You."

I laugh and he smiles. Those dimples Lord!

"Fuck!", he says rubbing his face.

"What's wrong?"

"I have never done this before."

"Done what?"

"This. Where I have to thread carefully around a girl cause she might push me away but I want to bang her so bad."

"You just say whatever you thinking heh?"

He puts his elbows on his knees and rubs his face with his palms. He moves his hands out of his face.

"I want to fuck you so bad."

I look at this cute alien in front of me. In my history of being with a guy this is a first.

"Konke. I'll take you to dates after but right now just let me... Let me hit it. Test drive."

God are you tempting me? Cause if you are its working. When I don't answer he stands up and heads for the door. He opens the door and closes it again and locks it. He turns around and looks at me.

"Fuck it!"

He walks towards me and pulls me by my legs. This

is becoming a norm. He gets in between my thighs and kisses me. His lips are so soft and I can taste cigarettes. He bites my lower lip and deepens the kiss. My mind is at war. Should I push him away? Should I go ahead and let him smash? The hoe in me screams "Yes!". His hand goes down and he rubs on me through my shorts. A moan escapes my lips as his pace gets faster. I arch my back as he carries on rubbing.

"Mmmh.", I moan slowly and he ups his pace causing me to cum.

He pulls out of the kiss and looks at his handy work and smiles.

"You're so fucken wet."

He takes off my shorts and since I'm not wearing underwear he is met by my shaved thick vagina. Thank God I shave every week! He takes off his pants and his size is pleasing to the eyes. He takes out a condom from his pocket and puts it on. I'm sprawled on the couch waiting for him. He rubs himself on me and enters me slowly and I gasp.

"Fuck! You're so warm and tight."

He starts moving roughly and I am screaming in pain and pleasure. If the neighborhood doesn't hear me than these walls sure can keep a secret.

"Khaya! Aaaah! Fuck!"

I can feel him in the deepest parts of me as he pumps hard and fast into me. I feel a build coming and he chokes me.

"Cum if you want to breathe!"

My body shoots up and I scream as I orgasm hard. He makes me hold onto the couch where you rest your back and he enters from behind banging me roughly...[REMOVED]

[REMOVED]

He is rough but I won't lie I'm enjoying it. He has me

on my knees on the carpet and he is hitting it from the back while his thumb is rubbing on my anus. He pulls my braids and he pumps into me real fast.

"Khaya! Ah! Ah! Shit!"

He grips my waist tighter and brings my ass closer to him as he puts all of him in. I gasp for some air and get some air in when he takes himself out. Before I can catch another breathe he shoves himself inside me and I scream.

"Fuuuuuck!"

He puts all of him and I swear if he could he'd shove his balls in as well. I swear the wag his so deep I can feel his dick greet my self esteem. I cum hard and he fucks me through my orgasm. I have my legs in my arms and he enters me slowly.

"Ah yes! Fuck!"

The slow pace doesn't last long and I'm screaming again. He has my neck in his hand and his not choking me to death but just has it in his hand.

"Fuck!"

He groans out and directs my hand towards my clit and I rub on myself.

"Scream my name!"

I don't follow his order and he presses hard on my neck going really rough.

"Khaya!"

He presses his thumb on my clit.

"Louder!"

"Khaya!! Ah Faster!"

He starts pumping really fast and I scream his name as I squirt all over the carpet. He fucks me through my orgasm and he cumes groping my boob in his hand.

"Fuuuuck!"

He shoots the last of him and collapses next to me. We're both breathing really heavy and my vagina is burning. I close my eyes as I sleep off my tiredness. I even forgot about the hangover I had.

32

UNYEZI

I am on the phone with my aunt and she's happy instead.

"So why are you crying?"

"I'm not ready aunty. I just lost Sphiwo. I just found y'all. I have a lot to do. I can't. I won't manage."

Langa drove us to his home and I'm on the phone with aunt and she's not getting me.

"Phahla. Seek guidance from your ancestors. Pray. God knows what his doing."

I wipe my tears as Langa comes in.

"Please tell Mkhulu and Dad I won't be home today."

"Okay."

I drop the call and cover myself with the blankets as I sniff. I can hear Langa walking around the room. I'm careless. How can I let myself fall pregnant again? Just after I lost a child? I still haven't dealt with my stuff. I still have to find the bag. I still have to get

back the throne.

"Unyezi."

I keep quiet and I feel the bed dip. He snatches the blankets off.

"Hlala ngezinqa." (Sit up straight)

I sit up straight and he sits with his elbows on his thighs.

"Unyezi. You're blaming me for your pregnancy?"

I don't answer but just wipe my tears.

"I'm sorry."

I shake my head and he looks at me.

"I'm sorry for impregnating you again."

"Don't apologize. I'm also at fault."

"Why do you have to push me away every time you're hurt?"

I look down and he lifts my head up.

"Look me in the eye and tell me why."

He looks me in the eye and the moon is dull and the

ocean tides high.

"Tell me why every time I try reaching out you always push me away."

"I'm... I..." I try saying something but words fail me.

"I love you. I'm willing to take the bullet for you but mostly you're the one holding the gun. It hurts."

He wipes away a tear quickly. My heart breaks at that.

"Let me in. We both lost a child. We both having another one on the way. You're not alone in this."

"Langa."

"No Unyezi. Do you think I like it when you cry?"

I shake my head.

"I'm sorry. I know you haven't fully healed from our miscarriage. You wanted to get back to school. You have to find your healer bag. The throne. And I may have taken you two steps back by impregnating you again."

I hold his hand and he looks at me.

"I'm sorry. I'm putting all the blame on you."

He tries talking and I shake my head.

"It hurts Langa. I'm scared. What if I lose this one too? I'm tired. My life keeps on getting bumpy and I keep on dragging you with. Every time I think I'm finding peace something always goes wrong. It's tiring."

He pulls me to his chest.

"God never gives a problem with no solution. He knows you'll manage. Just talk to me. I'm here. Acknowledge that."

I hold him tighter and sniff him. He smells good but one thing is missing. Tobacco smell.

"Don't you want to smoke?"

He looks at me questionably.

"You want to smoke?"

"No. Not me. You smell extra sexy with the nicotine smell."

He looks at me and smiles. He has the most cutest smile.

"I hope my child gets those dimples."

"They come with the package."

I put my finger in his dimples. They're so deep.

"Let me go smoke then."

"Just hold me for now."

He nods and lays down with me on top of him. His rubbing my ass and he squeezes it.

"Your booty is thicker."

"I know."

"I like it."

"Of course you would."

He chuckles and spanks it.

"I'm resigning."

"What? Why?"

"I still want to study. I'm already getting paid enough for posting a random picture and a lot of my hustles so I can still manage my lifestyle. I have a lot of money saved and I'm using it to pay for my fees."

"I'm proud of you. So I can't even hell out financially?"

"No."

"Well you'll have to suck it up. I work hard so my wife can be happy and live lavish and you are my wife."

"To be."

"You've always been my wife."

We sit in comfortable silence with me brushing his chest.

"Mkami."

"Mmmmh?"

"Mmmmh?"

"Khuzwayo?"

"When are you going to start preparing for our wedding?"

"As soon as I get back to Durban. The traditional wedding will be held here."

"Can we have our traditional wedding before we go back to Durban?"

"I doubt I'll get time to prepare everything. I'm busy with my ancestral stuff plus I'm being taught of our family history."

"I can ask Thando to help. As long as we unite the family and we exchange gifts. We'll have a proper traditional wedding after our white wedding."

"That sounds better."

"Now tell me what have you learned about your family?"

"Its a very strange family. I won't take your surname."

"Heh?"

"Listen. Mkhulu says I'll be Unyezi Sosibo-Khuzwayo. Also first borns are always girls so they can take the throne. Sphiwo was to rule after me. We have a Queendom kind of thing going on. Men don't rule. Thats why I have to take back the throne as soon as I get the bag."

I carry on telling him what Mkhulu and Dad has been telling me. I've learnt a lot really.

KUHLEKONKE

I wake up to my phone ringing. I realise that I'm in my room. I sit up and groan at the pain between my thighs. I look for the ringing phone. I find it under the bed but its not my phone. It stops ringing and I throw it on the bed. Where's Khaya? Maybe he left. I walk to bathroom and pass Amanda watching TV. I regret peeing as soon as I let the first drop of pee out.

"Shit!"

I wince and when I'm done peeing after what feels like ages. I start filling the bathtub with warm water. Amanda stands at the door and looks at me.

"What?",my voice comes out hoarse.

"So you have a boyfriend?"

"No."

"Bhuti Khaya disagrees. He said he'll be back with dinner so I didn't cook."

"What time is it?"

"17:43. You have been sleeping."

"I was tired."

"Mmmmh. Are you getting ready for work?"

"Our club was burnt down. Where's my phone? I want to hear the whole story."

"I put it in the charger. I found it next to the table. So what are we going to do since you're no longer working? We can take some money from our trust fund."

"No Amanda. That's for your studies."

I get inside the bath and sigh.

"What's that on your neck?"

"What?"

"Its like someone strangled you."

"Its nothing."

"Sisi.", she looks at me worried.

"Its not what you're thinking. I'm not being abused."

"Okay.", she says still looking at me warily.

She walks out and I rub my neck. Dammit Khaya! I

relax into the bath. I have to talk to Noxolo about her giving me a job. I should also check my emails. I need a job to keep the lights on. The bathroom door opens.

"What do you want Amanda?", I say with my eyes closed.

"I'm not Amanda."

I open my eyes and it's Khaya. I shy away and play with the bubbles in the water.

"Washalaza yindaba?" What's with the shyness)

"Nothing."

"I brought you something for the pain. I didn't think about getting you throat lozenges."

"It's okay."

"Look at me."

I lift my eyes at him and the stars are still bright and colorful. I still can't believe I see stars in his eyes. It's weird.

"Konke."

I like it when he calls me that.

"Khaya."

"Can you be my woman?"

"Like as in your girlfriend?"

"No. My woman. Girlfriends are for high school boys."

He sits on the closed toilet seat and looks at me.

"So?"

"I hardly know you."

"Don't give me that. Ngimdala Konke. I know what I want. I can't be running after you at this age. I'm 27 years old. Time is not on my side."(Im grown)

"Uhm..."

"Let's be clear here. I'm not actually asking you."

This guy keeps on amazing me. He just comes into my life and starts running it.

"I bought dinner since I heard you can't cook."

Amanda is forward! I know she told him.

"That's okay. Not everyone can cook. I'll teach you."

This guy is running this ship called my life all of a sudden. I get out of the bath and I look at myself in the mirror. I have marks on my neck. My waist too and my nuna is swollen.

"I'm sorry about the roughness."

He says coming behind me.

"Are you usually rough?"

"Yeah. I kind of lose control sometimes."

"Work on it."

"I know. I'm sorry."

I nod and wrap a towel around my body. He follows me to my bedroom. He hands me a dis-chem brown bag. I thank him and he helps me apply the ointment. I'll drink the pills after I've eaten. I get dressed with him looking at me.

"What?"

"Nothing."

I shrug and he follows me to the kitchen. I look at

the picture hung on the wall. Mama. Papa. If his intentions are good send me a sign. We sit down and Amanda hands us our plates smiling. I know she's waiting till we alone do she can bombard me with questions.

32

5 MONTHS LATER

UNYEZI

I am in the middle of nowhere. There are voices shouting "sita mhlaba wethu wena weknene!" (Help our land your Highness) there is a man who has his back to me. The scene in front of me is frightening as he slaughters people. My Granny stands next to me.

"Sitwe sethu siyafa." (Our nation is dying.)

I wake up sweating and Langa is asleep. I get out of bed slowly making sure I don't wake him. I check the time on the clock and its midnight. As soon as I walk inside the room Langa made indumba I feel the presence of my ancestors weighing down on me. I light my candles and burn my incense as I kneel down.

"Thonga lami.", I say clapping.

I see the flames brighten and get large. They're listening to me.

"Iphupho lami Gogo. Nkanyiseleni." (My dream. Light up for me.)

I grunt as I they talk to me. Langa once asked how I hear them. They use my mind to talk to me. They give me images of things I've encountered and I use that to listen. Its unexplainable really.

"Yebo Gogo! Thokoza!"

I play the drum as I feel a heavy presence on my shoulders. I stand up and start dancing(ukugida). The drum playing in my head as I dance around the room. I feel the presence lighten and I stop and kneel next to my candles and incense.

"Nina bo Sosibo. Thusi. Ncobeni."

I put everything out and I take off my cloths(amabhayi) and fold them neatly before putting them down again. I find Langa on the couch drinking milk. I sit next to him with a bit of trouble. My feet are swollen from this pregnancy and all that dancing. He hands me a glass of warm milk and rubs my tummy. I'm 6 months and I haven't put a lot of weight since I do yoga.

"You're okay?"

I nod wiping the milk foam of my upper lip.

"After my birth. I'm given 3 months to nurture my child after that I'm off to Swaziland. The throne is at risk."

"I'm happy how strong you are. You had to come face to face with your mothers past when you found that bag."

I found the bag in mom's yard where she stayed and I had begged and paid the current owners to let me dig up the bag. As soon as I touched the bag. The spiritual realm opened up and for the first week I struggled with the dreams, presences and a whole lot. I left for two months to Gobela so she can teach me. Isthunya sami is very powerful so two months was what I needed. It was sometimes tiring on how I failed some tasks cause I was pregnant. My family had took me out of Gobel's home with a cow and I had a ceremony done for me. I have indumba back at home too. Langa has been with me every step of the way.

"It's tiring really. I'm always tired. I'm always on edge. I know our sex life is also slacking cause I'm always in my indumba."

"It's okay. I'll wait."

I looked at him and I could see he was lying. I was gone two months and when I came back we hardly had time for sex with the kids around and me trying to figure out some of my family traditions. His phone beeped and I noticed he put it on silent after that. I stretched my hand for my glass of milk and he quickly snatched his phone. I looked at him and he put it in his pocket. I chuckled darkly and took a sip of my milk. My ancestors don't show me stuff that involve directly. I sometimes have to consult Gobela. I stood up and went to our room. I moved in since we married traditionally. I get inside my blankets and I look at the ceiling.

"Thongo lami ngikhanyisele. Thongo lami ngibonise.", I sang softly.

I heard his car driving out and I closed my eyes.

"Thongo lami khanyisa. Thongo lami veza konke.", I

sang rubbing my belly.

I held the tears in and I laid there in thought. I don't want to stress. I'm pregnant.

KUHLEKONKE

I just got off the phone with Noxolo and she's enjoying Gauteng. She moved there with her baby daddy and I can feel it something's not right. She won't say anything but she rejects my video calls but calls me or send text messages. She hasn't uploaded a picture on her social network in months.

"Baby."

I look at him and he smiles. I just look at him and walk pass him.

"Uhamba nini?" (When are you leaving?)

He looks at me and he runs his tongue over his teeth.

"I still won't apologize. If I could turn back time. I'd burn that club over and over and over and over and over-"

"Fine! You didn't have a right to! What if Noxolo hadn't offered me a manager position at her bakery?! What then?! That was my source of income!"

"I was going to take care of you. I have the money."

"Yazini? I don't want your money!"(you know what?)

"Uyabona Kuhlekonke soxabana bese ungikhupulela ilizwi." (You see Kuhlekonke we going to fight if you're raising your voice at me.)

I kept quiet and walked out of the kitchen. His voice made me stop in my steps.

"Angikucengi njalo MaSilangwe. If I feel like transferring a million into your account you have no choice but to use it. Futhi give me your account details." (I ain't begging you.)

He took out his phone and looked at me. I clicked my tongue and walked to my room. I heard the door closing and his car driving off. Peace. My phone beeped.

"Capitec money in. R1 000 000 has been transferred into your acc. From B.Khuzwayo."

I stared at the message wide mouthed. While I'm still shocked a message popped up.

"I'm giving you till tomorrow to spend all that money. I don't want even a cent remaining except that R30 000 that was in your account."

How did he know my balance? Let alone my account number. Another message comes through.

"Oh and if you don't finish that money. I'll fuck some respect into you."

I feel the temperature in the room escalate. His not playing on that "fuck some respect into you." part. We once had a fight and Khaya doesn't have filter he said some shit and I slapped him. He made sure I didn't orgasm during sex for a week. That was the most painful punishment ever and I couldn't walk without limping. Bhekikhaya doesn't apologize cause he feels his always right. We fight about that all the time and I always lose. His arrogant and a narcissist. I texted Noxolo and she called me.

"A million?"

"6 zeros. Where do I start spending it?"

"How about starting by buying a share in my Bakery."

"You're sure?"

"Yes. I've heard how you're running the one that side. I want to have another one in Cape Town."

"I'd like that. Something in my name too."

"Yes. I'll send you the contract fast before tomorrow ends."

"How much?"

"20 000."

Man! I still have a lot of money left. Amanda needs to get back from school fast. We need to think. How can Bhekikhaya do this to me? His challenging me and I'm a submissive and he knows it. He'll always win. I kind of like the tough love we have. It's not the love in movies. It's just our love. Yes. I said love. I love him. Amanda always wanted a laptop. I can erect new tombstones on my parents' graves.

Bhekikhaya likes expensive shoes. What else though? I smiled as an idea came to mind. "Be smart. When a man gives you money. Use it wisely. Don't buy shoes."

Invest." I remember my moms words.

NDABENKHULU

"A million?", I asked as I started laughing.

"A million. Uyadelela uKuhle. I'm actually testing her mentality." (Kuhle is disrespectful)

"What if she buys shoes and dresses?"

"She's smart. She craves independence. I've given her a card. Its up to her."

I shake my head as I sit up. My brothers have fucked up psychos. Thandolwethu walks in cussing. We look at her as she throws her bag at Langa and he ducks. What did this idiot do?

"Hey wena Langa!"

She picks up my vase and I quickly stand up holding her hand.

"Let's not break my things."

"Ngiyeke bhuti." (Leave me alone brother.)

I take my vase and put it back.

"What's wrong Thando?"

"I saw you! With your tongue deep down some hoes throat. Does Unyezi know you're cheating on her!"

We all look at Langa and Khulekani slaps him and hard at that.

"Is this true bafo?"

Khulekani is the asks questions later type.

"Bafo akuyilutho. Siyantjontjana kuphela." (Its nothing. Its just an affair.)

I sit down and look at him. Khulekani throws a punch and he doesn't fight back. He knows his wrong and if he dares fight back me or Bhekikhaya will have his ass. Thando starts crying and Khulekani stops.

"You're ungrateful bafo. You find your better half and you do this. Loyalty is what we always preach. You know how much I die to finally meet my one. Unyezi is pregnant and struggling with her stuff. You're in the streets fucking around. People are sick out here. What if you bring her a sickness while she was loyal?"

Ungiphoxile bafo." (You've disappointed me.

I walk out after saying that and head to the pool. I jump in and I take a swim. I still haven't met my other half and time isn't on my side. It hurts laying alone at night knowing she's out there somewhere. I crave her already. Just to have her look in my eyes and tell me what she sees in them.

UNYEZI

I looked at him as he sipped the coffee I made for him. He had a blue eye and a busted lip. He lied to me when I asked him about it. Thando had told me everything and I appreciate what she did there. She chose my feelings over her brothers. I had my suspicions but I was always busy I never had time to get into much thought about it. He groaned as he started sweating. I sipped my rooibos tea as he fell off his chair curling himself into a tiny ball. I stood up and sat beside him while calling an ambulance. I laid his head on my thighs.

"Don't fight it my love.", I say soothingly.

"Unyezi. Its... Painful."

"I know my love. That's the whole purpose of it. Pain. Embrace it."

He wretched and groaned.

"I love you sthandwa sami.", I say kissing his forehead.

Sirens rang outside and they came in followed by Sbhamu.

"Mkakhe kwenzenjanj?" (His wife what's wrong?)

"I don't know. He says his in pain."

We followed the paramedics till their vehicle.

"Unyezi. I'm sorry."

I just looked at them as they closed the doors and drove out. Sbhamu looked at me and walked away.

"3 days of pain only my love. Thats better than what I'm feeling right now.", I whispered and walked back inside.

The kids are at school and I'm all alone. I call his family and tell them his brother is in hospital. I send them the details of where they took him and got in bed. I wiped away a lone tear. I won't stress about it. My baby's health.

NOXOLO

"Msizi ngiyaxolisa!", I screamed as he put his knee

on my chest.

His having another bad day today. He came back drunk as usual and started calling me names. The abuse has been going on for months now. He started gambling and he lost everything. I bring food to the table and I'm thinking of an escape plan. He threatens my child's life if I ever try leaving him. He has bad connections. Ones where one phone call can make me history. I was seeing black dots as his knee pressed harder. I cant die now. My child. I tried getting some breath in my lungs to no avail. Everything became dark as I heard sirens. God please don't let me die right now.

LANGALAKHELIHLE

I woke up to pain again and what made it worse was I didn't know where it was. My whole body ached. The doctors say nothing is wrong with me. Dad came with Gogo Pumle. Guess my siblings are still angry at me. Where is Unyezi?

"There's nothing I can do bo Khuzwayo. Unyezi has

the antidote. In three days the pain will end thou."

"Unyezi? What does she have to do with this?"

"Your son wronged her. She's making him pay."

She packs her bags at that and exits. Dad looks at me and I feel my heart knot. I was wrong. I was selfish. I used my dick to think.

"What did you do son?"

"I... I... Cheated."

He looks at me and leaves too. I wretch and turn around crying. If she leaves me after this I won't fight. I broke a promise. My heart breaks at the thought of her leaving me. I fucked up. Big time. I don't deserve her. I send a voice note.

"Unyezi. I'm sorry. I know you know. I was a douche. There is no... Ah... No excuse for what I did. I don't... Deserve you. You can leave me.", I stop talking as another wave of pain hits me.

My phone falls to the ground. I let it fall and I cry.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry!"

Doctors walk in and strap me. They sedate me as I wiggle around.

"I'm sorry."

I fall into dark slumber. I'm sorry.

UNYEZI

I just came out of consulting my ancestors when Langa walked in. Its been tough these past few days. I just never thought he'd do that to me. He greets and walks past me. His lost weight and he looks lifeless. I feel tears well up and I take deep breathes till I calm down. I dish up for us and the kids are visiting Thando so its just me and him. I feel like screaming and crying but I dont want to stress. He walks out when I'm done eating and he grabs some water and he stands there looking at me.

"I'm sorry."

I ignore him and put my plate in the sink.

"I'm sorry. I know I promised I'll withstand it all."

"How many times did you sleep with her?"

"Once."

"You're lying!"

"I swear. Other nights we'd talk and kiss but I only slept with her once. I'm sorry. I'm moving out so you

can have your space. I'll support you and my kid. I'll be there during his birth."

I turn around and look at him.

"So you're running away?"

"No. I know what I did was wrong. My family isn't talking to me. I get that. I understand that you hate me. I'll be out of your hair by tomorrow."

I let the tears fall and he takes a step towards but something stops him and he shakes his head and turns around.

"I'm sorry I broke my promise. Just don't cry cause I was ungrateful and selfish. Don't hurt cause I let my dick do the thinking for. God knows I love you but I don't deserve you. Love doesn't hurt and I hurt you."

He walks out and I let a sob escape my lips. I hold onto the counter as I cry. It hurts so bad. It hurts so much. What hurts me the most is I still love him. I want to hate him so bad but I love him.

LANGALAKHELIHLE

I feel my heart tear as I hear her cries. What was I thinking? A message from Sam comes through.

"Everything is in place for Friday. I'll send out the invitations tomorrow morning. You just have to get her there."

I reply back:

"0*****3. Update her on the baby shower. She'll get Unyezi there. Cut all ties with me."

I didn't wait for her reply I blocked her number and I drove out in high speed. Sam was an event planner who I hired to help me with Unyezis surprise Baby Shower and we started talking. We got very close and she made a move on me. The guilt ate me up and that night she texted me so we can talk about what happened. We met at the Garage and had some ice cream. We agreed that it will never happen again and than she kissed me. I guess that's when Thando saw us. I couldn't even ask what was she doing at the garage in the middle of night. I've disappointed my family. Dad didn't even fetch me from the hospital. A loud crash disturbs my thoughts

as I feel my body get thrown forward and my car rolls over. Something jabbed my side as blood oozes down to my face. I get out of my seatbelt. Some one opens my door and pulls me out as I smell petrol. I'm dragged till the side and my vision blurry when my car catches fires. Sirens are ringing and I'm losing blood. I let the darkness embrace me. I hope they help me when its too late. I deserve to die. I broke the heart of a woman who genuinely loved me over a few rounds of sex.

KUHLEKONKE

As I walk out Khuzwayo Law and Order with a bounce to my step a call disturbs my joy. Its an office number all the way from Gauteng. I answer it.

"Hello."

"Is this Kuhlekonke Silangwe?"

"Yes."

"I'm calling from Randfontein Private Hospital. Ms Noxolo Khumalo was admitted three days and she

has you as her next of kin."

"Uh what happened to her?"

"I can't say over the phone."

"Okay. I'll be there."

I drop the call as I feel my hands sweating. I get into the car and the smell of fresh leather seats doesn't even drive me crazy anymore. My heart beat is fast and it feels like my heart is about to fly out of my mouth. I pass a very drastic accident and my heart beats faster. I try calling Bhekikhaya but his phone rings unanswered. I remember I have Khulekanis numbers. He answers when I'm about to drop.

"MaSilangwe. Bheki can't talk right now. We're in the middle of something."

His voice sounds like his about to cry. A woman's cry causes him to drop the call. I guess they're going through something. I text Amanda as I park at the airport. I run inside and people are pulling their suitcases and I'm in a pantsuit with just my handbag. I wait in line as people buy tickets. I look up at the screen and the next flight to Gauteng leaves in 30

minutes. I go first class as that's the only seat available. This is my first time in an airplane but my worry overpowers my fear of heights. I try Noxolo as soon we in the air and Sanele answers her phone.

"Aunty Kuhle."

"Hey boy. Uphi uMa?" (Where's mom?)

"Mom is in hospital. Dad is in jail. I'm at my aunts place."

"What happened?"

"Dad was trying to kill mom. I had her phone so I called the police."

I close my eyes as my heart sinks. Noxolo. I drop the call as I cry. The men in suits look at me and one passes me a Kleenex tissue.

For that reader who said she wasn't okay. Something short for you. Be okay sthandwa.

36

UNYEZI

I went to visit him again at the hospital and he just laid there with all the machines connected. The beeping heart monitor annoyed me and it seriously drove me crazy. I hold his cold hand wipe away my tears.

"You always said we should talk things out but you ran. Do you know how I felt when I heard you have gotten into an accident? You do all these things forgetting I'm pregnant. If you dont care about me think about our child at least. Wake up and talk to me. Tell me why you did what you did."

I wipe away the tears as a sob breaks out.

"I love you. You hurt me so much thou. I don't think I can ever trust you again. I want to hate you so bad but-

The machines started beeping and it was like he was

having a seizure. Doctors came running and pulled me away.

"Langa!"

He can't leave me! He can't do that to me! He has to explain. I was calmed down because I was pregnant. I had my babies heart monitored and my BP as well. I just let the tears as I heard doctors running around in the hallway.

KUHLEKONKE

When I landed I had a bit of a struggle finding the hospital. I had to hire someone who knew this place to drive me around. We were at a BnB I was renting and she was eating the food I made for her. I looked at her bruises and my eyes welled up.

"Why didnt you tell me?"

She looks at me and she stares at her food.

"I was scared. Scared you might judge me."

I shake my head and wipe my tears failing as more came out.

"I was scared you'll get involved and he'd come after you too. I was scared for my son. He threatened to kill him if i were to ever try leaving him or tell people."

She looked tired. She had bags under her eyes and she had anxiety attacks every time someone knocked.

"I was so scared Hlehle. He would beat me with a belt and he'd tell me how I made him angry. I would curl myself keeping my cries as quiet as I could so Sanele never heard anything. That day...", her voice breaks.

I stand up and sit next to her. I dont talk but rub her back as she opens up to me.

"That day I thought he was finally fed up. I thought I was going to die. I was scared for my son. I couldn't breathe Hlehle. His knee...", she sobs and I lay her head on my lap and I brush her hair.

"His knee restricted me from getting oxygen into my lungs. He'd call me a whore. A low grade stripper."

She let's herself cry. I just soothe her. She's in pain

and her acknowledging that is a first step to maybe a healing journey.

"He said I made him angry. He'd say it was my fault he beat me up. He'd say it was because he loved me. But love knows no pain Hlehle. All I did was love him and respect him. I tried my level best to make him happy. He lied to me. It wasn't my fault. He wasn't man enough to fight his demons but instead he fought me."

I nodded at her words and she carried on crying. I had stopped wiping my tears. The door opened and Sanele came in.

"Mama. Aunty. Niright?" (Y'all okay?)

I nodded and he looked at his weeping mother. He walked up to her and wiped her tears.

"Don't cry mama. I'm sorry I couldn't protect you."

My heart broke and Noxolo shook her head crying.

"You protected me. You called the police something I was so afraid to do."

These two have always been close and seeing them

embrace each other made smile through my tears.

"Oh and Aunty there are two men in the lounge waived for you. Malume Bhekikhaya and Malume Khulekani."

I look at him confused. What is Bheki and his brother doing here? How do they even know which BnB I'm at? I called him and told him what happened and he was angry that there are men that hit women. I walk to the little sitting room. They seated there on their phones.

"Hey."

His the first to look up and he smiles. The stars are a bit dull. What's wrong? I look at them and they have bags under their eyes. I sit next to Khaya and he just pulls me into a hug and holds me tight. His really not okay.

"What wrong?"

"I need you."

"I'm here. What's wrong?"

"My brother is in a coma. What's sad is if he dies he'll

die thinking we don't want him near us."

I look at Khulekani and his looking at the other couch without blinking.

"How did y'all know I was here?"

"Thats for another day. Just hold me."

I pull him to me tighter and he sobs. I've never seen him cry and it breaks my heart. Khulekani stands up and excuses himself. Its a tough moment for them. By the way he always talks about his brothers I know how he loves them.

"Its going to be okay. Pray. Nothing is as powerdul as God."

He wipes his tears and he looks so tired.

"Come."

I help him up and leaf him to my room. I take off his shoes and lay a fleece on him.

"Sleep."

"Where's Khulekani?"

"Ill go look for him. Sleep."

I kiss him and leave him to rest. I go outside and I find Khulekani smoking.

"Your brother is sleeping. I suggest you do too."

He nods and puts his cigarette out. He takes the couch and I give him a fleece as well. I sit down and text Amanda to check up on her. I hope the people in both these rooms heal. I kneel down and bow head.

"God. I don't have much to ask.", I start my prayer.

37

A FEW WEEKS LATER

KUHLEKONKE

Amanda and Sanele went to buy us some fried chips. Noxolo refills our wine glasses.

"So you just decided to buy shares and invest in Khuzwayo Law and Order? Wow. I'm proud."

"I was nervous at first. I mean the board members are very scary and the main share holder Khuzwayo Senior is so scary and he kept asking me questions."

"So you spent all of the money? So quick?"

I laugh and shake my head.

"No. I transferred some into Amandas account."

"Smart. I'm happy for you. You look happier."

"I am. I'm glad that moron is behind bars."

She nods and takes a gulp of her wine. She hasn't healed and she's attending therapy. She has made a great friend out of Khulekani and we thought they were dating but they don't even see each other that

way.

"A friend of mine from Gauteng just moved here. I'm meeting her today. I'd like it if she came here for dinner instead considering I haven't found a place and I'm still not comfortable with public places. Is it okay?"

"That would be nice. I'll try out this new recipe I found online."

"No its okay. I'll cook."

"Come on. Its an easy Indian chicken curry. I promise I won't ruin dinner."

She looks at me and makes that slurping sound with her wine.

"Come on. I'll do it right."

"You'll start early so if it backfires I'm ordering Chinese food."

"Argh. I'll prove you wrong."

She laughs and starts dancing. I join her and we dance like nobody is watching. She's a great friend and seeing her smile makes my heart dance. The

kids enter and we start eating.

"Sanele. Aunt Tshego is coming later on."

"Really? Yes!"

"And Aunt Kuhle will cook."

"Oh? Uh wow. Can't wait."

"Come on guys. A little faith in me?"

"Well Sisi. You either burn or your eggs are raw. So..."

"I promise y'all tonight's dinner will be tasty."

"Oh my! I'm calling Bhuti to die with us."

"Mxm."

I sulk and drink my wine. They laugh and dance.

UNYEZI

I walk into his ward and he is staring at the roof. I stand by the door looking at him and he hasn't noticed me yet. I close the door and he looks at me. The moon is dull and the ocean is tired. I stand next to his bed and we just look at each other.

"Unyezi. I'm sorry."

I look at him as tears well up and I sit down. I hand him the container and he thanks me.

"I know I've wronged you. I made it worse by running away. I broke your heart after I promised to protect it."

"Why did you do it?"

He looks at me and I think its going to be one of those days where he doesn't answer me.

"I don't know. It just happened. I-"

"You don't know?"

"Unyezi. Let me talk."

I nod and sit properly rubbing my belly. He looks at my belly and I notice him smile.

"It happened once. She was an event planner I had hired for your surprise baby shower which I guess didn't happen. We used to talk and I'd tell her my worries since you were always busy and I didn't want to sound selfish. It was meaningless sex and I don't even take it to mind. I never thought I'd do this to you.

I never thought I'd break your heart like this. What I feared the most is you leaving me so I ran before you did. I wanted to die in that car accident so you and my family can feel better without. I brought shame unto my father and my brother. I broke your heart. Putting my kid at risk. I'm really sorry Unyezi. I'll understand if you want to leave me."

I wipe my tears and take his hand.

"I love you Unyezi. You're the best thing that ever happened to me. I tainted the pure thing we have. I'm sorry."

"Langa. You're going to make me feel like a clown cause I still love you. I still want to lie in your hands. I...", I let out a deep breath.

"I will never trust you the same. My love thou will never change thou. You promised to be patient with me but... I've cried and talked to Dr Sambo and I feel better. I never thought I'd attend therapy again. You almost took me back to that dark place. I almost killed you Langa. You almost died. And next time you think of cheating on me remember this. I

cook for you. I'll poison you and bury you under our bed."

He looks at me wide eyed and he can see I'm not playing.

"Can I hold it?"

I pull my chair closer and he rubs my tummy. My baby starts kicking and I smile involuntarily. I have forgiven him for my sake but I haven't forgotten. I don't trust him. I'll be watching his every move.

KHULEKANI

We park inside Kuhles yard and we sit in the car for a second.

"Langa said he is getting discharged in two days."

"He looks like his dead."

"His still trying to apologize to Unyezi. I hope they pull through. They need each other."

I nod and we light our cigarettes.

"You think Dad is seeing someone?"

"Why would you say that?"

"I went to his house few days ago and I could hear moans bro and the way that person was screaming she was getting it good."

Bheki laughs and I join him.

"Dad? Senior Khuzwayo? I want to meet this woman."

"Bro. I ran out of that house like caster semenya."

"Uyaphapha nawe! Bowuyaphi?" (You are also forward! Where were you going?)

I laugh as I get out of the car. We knock and let ourselves. The first thing we do is sniff the amazing smell. They said Kuhle was cooking. There's no way it would be smelling this good. We walk into the kitchen and she is with Noxolo and a very beautiful thick yellowbone.

"Ladies.", we greet.

Bheki kisses Kuhle and I high the two ladies and I lift the unknown girl up a bit causing her to squeal.

"Haibo njalo Khulekani.", Noxolo says eyeing me.

I laugh and she lifts her glass at me walking away. She's doing good and she seems to be getting better. We dealt with her boyfriend. Bheki has some men on the inside ruffle him up. Men don't hit women. You deal with your woman in bed and if no man knows this than they shouldn't be considered men.

"I'm Khulekani.", I say smiling.

"I'm Tshegofatso.", she says avoiding eye contact.

I'm making her uncomfortable so I soften my gaze and she looks at me. A gasp escapes her plump lips and I eye them. Why is she making me feel like this?

"Your contacts are beautiful. I want them."

"My contacts?"

I'm very confused but she seems taken by my eyes.

"Yes. They have a rainbow. Its so beautiful. I love rainbows. I have a tattoo of it."

"Wait what?"

Bhekikhaya looks at me as I look at him confused.

"What do you see in his eyes?",he asks her.

She looks at me, Kuhle, Khaya and me again. She's starting to feel like a fool and she doesn't like it.

"A rainbow. Wait. Y'all ain't seeing this?"

"Only you can."

She looks at Bhekikhaya confused and he shrugs pulling Kuhle out of the kitchen.

"What just happened?"

"I'd explain but its too early. Now show me that tattoo."

She smiles and lifts her sleeve up. Its there in colours and it looks beautiful.

"Do you have any tattoos?"

"Yes I do. I have a lot actually. You'll see them when you undress me."

She chokes on her wine and coughs. She sips her wine again to calm herself down.

"What?"

"You heard me perfectly the first time. Don't worry. I won't smash you yet."

I open the pots as she looks at with her eyes wide.

"Bathong abuti o watswenwa hle." (This guy is crazy.)

"I don't speak now understand Sotho. Stick to English with me."

I lick my fingers and Kuhle walks in.

"Khulekani!"

She smacks my hand as I am about to grab a piece of chicken.

"Phuma."

She pushes me out and I wink at Tshegofatso. I wonder how does one pronounce that name.

"Nawe Tsego you letting him open up pots."

I laugh as I know that name isn't pronounced like that. I leave them and sit with the others. Sanele sits next to me and we do our secret handshake.

Therapy seems to be going good for him and his mom.

"Bafo?"

"We'll talk at home."

He nods and gets back to listening to Sanele talk. Amanda is showing me pictures of her new dish she's going to be cooking. This one loves cooking and poor Kuhle jumped the gun but her cooking today tastes delicious.

38

TSHEGOFATSO

I look around and everyone is laughing at Khulekani and Bhekikhayas jokes.

"I never thought Kuhle can cook a meal and we'd actually eat it."-Bhekikhaya

They laugh and Kuhle is sulking. My phone rings and I smile as the name pops up.

"Excuse me.",I disrupt.

I stand up answering the phone.

"Babe."

I go to the kitchen.

"You arrived safe?"-Tshepo

"Yes. I'm having dinner with a few friends and I'm enjoying it. They're so warm."

"I'm so glad you're alright."

"Me too."

"I love you and I'm coming to visit month end."

"I love you too. I miss you already."

"Okay bye."

"Bye."

We drop the call and I smile. Tshepo is such a nice guy and my Dad likes him. I'm going to miss him I have to admit. I walk back to the others and Khulekani is looking at me and I don't like the look he's giving me. I sit down and Noxolo smiles at me.

"Tshepo?"-Noxolo

"Yeah. He was checking up on me."

She nods and we get back to eating. I have to give it to Kuhle her food tasted delicious. The guys offer to wash the dishes and I'm shocked. I was taught that a man should never lift a finger around the house cause he brings food to the table. Sanele is clinging to me and he's sleepy but he doesn't want to let me go.

"You're sleepy?", I ask softly.

He shakes his head and lays his head on my chest again.

"So Tsego what made you move here?"-Kuhle

"School. I wanted to be far from Dad and his controlling self."

"He still thinks he runs the world?"-Noxolo

"You know him well."

"So how old are you?"-Kuhle

"I'm 21."

"How do you pronounce your name?",Kuhle asksm

"Tshego. Tshe-go."

"Tshigo.",she tries.

"No.", I say laughing.

"Hayi I give up.",she laughs.

"Just call me Maluda."

"Maluda sounds better but gangster."-Kuhle

"I know. Let me take this fellow to bed."

I lift him up and Noxolo points me to a room. I lay him down on the single bed with spiders. He looks just like his father pity his an asshole. I walk out and

the guys are getting ready to leave.

"Tshego. You can get a lift from the guys. They'll drop you off at res."-Kuhle

"We have somewhere to be. We can't drop her off.",
Khulekani cuts in.

"No we don't.", Bhekikhaya argues.

They look at each other and Khulekani walks out. I don't give a give a fuck about him. As long as I'm at my room otlae pona(he'll see himself out.)

"We'll come help you move in tomorrow."-Noxolo

I nod and hug them. I follow the guys and get in the backseat. I put in my coordinates in the GPS and Bhekikhaya starts driving.

"So Sego you're Sotho?",Bhekikhaya tries getting rid of the tension in the car.

"No. I'm Tswa-"

Khulekani puts the volume on max and starts moving his head. I look at him and shake my head. His very rude. I sit back and get back on my phone. This is going to be a long ride.

UNYEZI

I help him onto the bed.

"Ouch.",Langa exclaims.

I ignore him and put his bag down and he lays back groaning.

"Do you need anything to drink?",I ask him.

"No. I just want to sleep.",he declines.

"After your medication. Let me dish up for you."

He shakes his head vigorously.

"No! Uhm... I'm full.",he says rushingly.

"I won't poison you now."

"Uhm... Okay."

I leave him there and I dish up for him. I get a vision and I stop what I'm doing.

"Unyezi!"

The vision ends and I rub my eyes. I give him his food and he looks at me.

"You're okay?"

"No. I just had a vision. The throne is at its downfall. I always have these visions and they always leave me distraught. I'm scared. I don't know how to fight for the throne. What if I fail?"

"Don't. Don't think like that. You'll do it. Don't be scared."

I sit down and I feel him hold my hand. I look at him and he smiles. I missed his smile.

"I will try my level best to support you now."

"You've always supported me. You just let yourself get distracted."

He nods and eats. He is healing well but it'll all take time. I sit next to him and he feeds me. He'll never stop his ways of thinking I'm his child.

KHULEKANI

"So what are you planning on doing?"-Bhekikhaya

"I don't know but no man will be having my girl.",I say

pissed.

I get out of the car and bang the door. I open the door and Unyezi is washing dishes.

"Hey."

"Hey y'all.",she greets us.

We all rub her tummy before running upstairs. We find him laying on his back with his eyes closed. We all find a place to sit in the room and he opens his eyes.

"Bafo.",I say slapping his knee.

He sits up and groans.

"Easy there soldier."-Bhekikhaya

"How you've been holding up?",I ask concerned.

"Okay. And you all?",Langa asks.

"We've been... okay I guess.",I answer.

We grow silent.

"So tell us Death Rider. When are you getting to work?",Bhekikhaya

"As soon as I can move around without pain.",Langa.

"Dad has been complaining about the mines not being checked on and we're always busy.",I fill him in.

"I'll be getting back soon. Hopefully.",Langa

"Has Dad come to see you?",Bhekikhaya asks.

"No. His still angry at me.",Langa says sadly.

"He'll come around.",Bhekikhaya

"I think his new girl has him by the balls.",I say.

They laugh and Langa looks at me.

"Well talking about this makes me go through that trauma again but cause you're my brother I'll tell you.",I tell him.

I move and sit next to him.

"So I went to Babas place to ask him about a few things at the construction. I walk in with that Business Guru walk and I hear moans. I stop and listen. All I'm hearing is " Fuck me harder!" Ngashaya i360 same time."(I ran.)

"What? So Baba is getting it?",Langa asks laughing.

"Hard bro. 'Oh yess! Oh yes Daddy!' "

We all laugh and Unyezi knocks.

"Should I dish up for y'all?",Unyezi

"Yes.", I am the first to say.

Bhekikhaya looks at me.

"Didn't you eat before we came here?",Bhekikhaya

"That was an hour ago. I'm hungry now."

He shakes his head.

"Me too.",Bhekikhaya says causing me to look at him.

"Oho. Weren't you on my case seconds ago?"

"I'm a grown man Khulekani. I need food."

"Ndabenkulu?",Bheki says waving me off.

He nods and she walks out.

"Unyezi.",Langa calls out.

She turns back and looks at Langa.

"I'm also hungry.",he tells her.

She puts her hands on her waist and he smiles.

Guess they're on good terms again.

"You ate a few minutes ago.",Unyezi

"That wasn't enough.",Langa

"Yoh! Niyadla shame." (Y'all eat.),Unyezi

She leaves us and we start bombarding him with questions.

"So y'all okay now?",my nosey ass asks.

"Not entirely. I still have to start from the beginning with her trust.",he says softly.

"I thought she was gonna leave your ass.",Bhekikhaya chimes in.

"She should've.", Ndabenkulu says after his been so quiet.

"Bafo. You're okay?",I ask him.

"Yeah.", he says dismissively.

"Talk.",Bhekikhaya urges.

He sighs and rubs his face.

"What if I'll never meet my one?",Ndabenkulu says

defeated.

We all keep quiet since we've all found them. Well mine is in a relationship so let me keep quiet.

"Patience bafo.",Bheki advice's.

"I have been Bheki. Its been way too long. What if I am not meant to find one?",he says tiredly.

"You will. You just have to wait. Love finds you not the other way around.",I tell him.

Look at me being the love Guru. Sikes!

"It sure is taking its time with me.",Ndabenhulu

"I have a plan to cheer you up. How about a family dinner. Well invite Kuhle,Noxolo,Sanele and Amanda.",I say smiling.

"And Segoo too.",Bhekikhaya adds.

I look at Bhekikhaya and click my tongue causing him to laugh.

"Come on bafo. You're giving up already? You haven't even started.",Ndabenhulu says.

"She seems to love the guy."

"Did she say so?",Bheki asks.

"No."

"Manje?",Langa also chimes in.

Ndabenkulu sits up and looks at me. Brotherly advice coming up.

"Girls love attention. Be a constant nuisance but in a good way. Buy her flowers. Take her on dates. Compliment her. Don't and I am serious. Don't! Be sexual towards her. I know y'all. Be gentle and kind. Treat her like a friend and let her fall in love on her own. Most importantly don't stop doing this when she's yours.",he says seriously.

He sits back and we all look at him. I'm definitely sure that when he meets his destined he'll treat her good.

"Actually I just noticed I never did any of that with Unyezi. I just gave her orgasms. Made her smile here and there and gave her my million smile and she lost it.",Langa says chuckling.

We all laugh and high five. Ndabenkulu shakes his

head.

"Y'all are your fathers sons.",Ndabenkulu

"Well orgasms do make women happy don't it?",Bhekikhaya

"It does but sex is overrated.",Ndabenkulu

We all look at him and he moves his chair closer to us. Before he can carry on talking Unyezi walks in.

"Dinner is ready.",she says smiling.

"We are coming. Thank you.",Langa

She leaves again and we turn our attention back to Mr 'Sex is overrated'.

"Okay. How was sex before Unyezi?",he asks Langa.

We all turn to look at Langa and he just shrugs.

"Just sex man.",he answers

"Bheki?",Ndabenkulu asks him too.

"I don't know man.",Bheki answers shrugging.

"I won't ask you K.",he says.

I give him my middle finger and he chuckles.

"Now tell me about the current sex."he says looking at Langa.

"No man. I'm not telling you about my sex life."

We all laugh.

"I'm not asking for details.",Ndabenkulu

"Okay. Its great. It always leaves me fulfilled. Man its addicting.",Langa

"Yet you cheated?",Ndabenkulu bursts the mood.

He gives him the 'wtf' look and we all shrug.

"Y'all see? Sex with someone you love is beautiful. I just can't wait for it.",Ndabenkulu carries on.

He stands up brushing his hands on his jeans and slaps Langa's head on his way out.

"Ouch!",Langa

We all stand up and Langa grunts his way out of bed. I missed these moments with my brothers. They just made me feel better.

UNYEZI

"Why are you scared of telling your brothers? You say he saw the mountains in your eyes?", I ask Thando.

"I'm dealing with a lot right now. Yes. I can't believe I met my destined this early.", she says joyfully.

"I'm happy for you sthandwa. Whatever you're going through you'll come through. You also can tell me anything. Whenever you feel ready."

"I know. I just... I need time.", she says softly.

What is going on Thando? We say our goodbyes and drop the call.

"Was that Thando?"

I turn around at the sound of Langas voice and he smiles. He seems better today.

"Yes. Are you okay?", I ask worried.

"Yes. Are you okay?", he asks me.

"Yes. I'm worried about Thando thou."

"I haven't talked to her since the confrontation.",he says looking away.

I wonder how long is he going to walk around with this shame on his shoulders.

"Y'all should check up on her. Y'all always forget her. It's like she's not part of y'all."

He looks at me and rubs his chin before sitting down.

"We bad brothers aren't we?",he asks.

"Yes y'all are. Y'all are so caught up in your brotherly love y'all forget her. A lot of people don't even know y'all have a sister cause y'all cast her aside.",I say sitting next to him.

He brushes his head and sighs.

"I'll let the guys know. We'll talk to her.",

I nod and lay my head on his shoulder.

"Can we cuddle?", Langa.

I nod and he lays down on the sofa. I lay on top of him carefully without hurting him. I take in his after shave and cologne and sigh.

"The kids are coming back Sunday.", I tell him.

Honestly I've missed them but I needed some time alone. We talk on the phone and Langa is not taking the separation well.

"They know?", he asks warily.

"No. They know about your accident only."

He nods and kisses the top of my head.

"I'm sorry. I know I hurt you.", he apologises.

"We have to fix what's broken. We have a long way to go but we can do it.", I say rubbing his hand.

We lay in silence in each others arms and our breathes in sync. We're rubbing each others hands absent mindedly.

KHULEKANI

I knock on her door and she shouts from the other side. I remove myself from the wall and stand straight. I'm not trying to look cocky. She opens the door smiling and her expression changes as soon as

she sees me. Guess she's not much of a fan.

"Hey Seho.", I greet giving my best smile.

"Tshego.", she corrects me irritably.

I feel my smile waver as I get pissed and I feel my eye twitch. Calm down Khulekani. I plaster the smile again.

"I can't pronounce your name. I bought these for you.", I say handing her the flowers.

"Who said I like flowers? Should I eat them now?"

I take a deep breath in and run my hand over my wavy hair.

"Sorry. I didn't know what you like.", I say as calm as I can.

"That's cause we're not friends.", she says with attitude.

I roll my neck and look up with my eyes closed. I knew taking Ndabenhulus advice won't do it for me. If I stay here the next few minutes I'm going to fuck some manners into her. I look at her and she's looking at me. I walk away and leave her there. I turn

back around and she's standing at the door.

"Lalela Nkosazana. I'm just trying to be nice and since you new around here I'm trying to be your friend. The least you can do is meet me halfway.", I say sternly.

She looks down and I keep my eyes on her.

"I'm sorry. I thought you hated me since you were very rude last time.", she says avoiding eye contact.

"I'm sorry for that. I was being an asshole. Lunch to make it up for you?"

"I don't think that's a good idea. I have a boyfri-

"I'm not asking for your hand in marriage here. Just lunch as friends.", I cut her off.

"Okay. When?", she asks smiling.

She has a beautiful smile and the most prettiest lips. She doesn't have makeup on today and she is beautiful. I notice a scar on her forehead and I want to touch it so bad but I hold myself.

"Khuli?", she disturbs my thoughts.

"Khulekani. Khule.",I correct her.

She just shrugs and smiles.

" Get dressed so we can leave. Actually you're fine like that. Let's go."

She looks at her outfit and shakes her her head.

"No way! Let me wear something less revealing.",she denies.

"No. You look beautiful. You're safe with me."

"But my thighs. My cellulite. No."

"I don't care. You have beautiful thighs. Let's go."

I pull her from the door and she shouts for someone. A girl peeks her head out the door as I pull her down the stairs.

"Please turn off the stove!",she shouts out.

We get into my car and we drive off. I'm looking straight ahead to stop myself from looking at her thick as hell thighs. "Don't be sexual!" Ndabes voice screams in my head. Fuck!

"So where are going?",she asks drawing my attention.

"To the taxi rank.",I answer looking at her before turning my attention back to the road.

"Taxi rank?"

"Yes. They sell the best tribe. Than we'll go to the park and eat. Nothing big.",I say smiling.

"Man I love mogodu!", she exclaims.

"Mogodu?", I ask.

"Yes. Its tribe in SeTswana."

"So tell me about you. Your dislikes and likes."

I steal a glance at her and her yellow thighs. I regret making her leave in this short.

"I'm Tshegofatso Thango. 21 years. Doing my first year in Human Behaviour. I don't like lies,rudeness,hypocrisy and anger. I like food,music,cars,snakes and a lot more."

"Snakes? What's your favourite snake?",I ask grinning.

"Vine snakes."

"Shy but deadly. They're also very beautiful. Very rare

to see."

"You know vine snakes?"

"Yeah. I love snakes. I had a pet Python till it grew large and gave it up to the National Park but I'm tracking its movements."

"Wow. I'd like to see it.", she says excitedly.

"I'll check its movements and if its close by I'll take you."

She smiles and squeals. She's such a good vibe. Getting to her will be fun. I think I love her already. Plus she loves snakes so she's the perfect match. I look at her as I park near Mam'Thwalas container. She has the most beautiful face and I can tell she's also beautiful on the inside as well.

NOXOLO

I look at Sanele talking to Amanda and they're laughing. He seems happy and free again. My heart aches at what I let him go through. He saved my life. He saw his mother being beaten and strangled.

Thabang is behind bars and I'm happy but I fear the day he gets out. I have people who love me right here and I appreciate it.

"Okay. Come taste this.",Kuhle disturbs me.

"You're so obsessed with cooking all of a sudden. What you make? Noodles?", I say laughing and she throws the dish towel at me.

"No man! I made Chilli chicken briyani. Taste!", she squeals.

Oh lord who made her discover Indian dishes? We're dying of Ms Karishma here! I take a spoon and put some in my mouth. I close my eyes and moan.

"Is it good?",she asks eagerly.

I don't answer but take the whole bowl and eat.

"Come on! Its good?", she urges.

I nod with a mouthful. Mrs Silangwe would've been so proud of her right now. She's at her happiest and I've never seen her glow like this.

"Yes! I'm taking some for Khaya. I'm bringing him lunch since he said he'll be checking the books at

the office.",she says kissing my cheek.

I nod and carry on eating. I like how Khaya makes her so happy and to get out of her comfort zone a bit. His helping unwrap parts of her we've never knew existed.

Mom.", Sanele grins at me.

I squint my eyes at him. What does he want?

"Sanele? What now?"

"Can we go meet Amandas boyfriend?",he begs.

"Sanele!", Amanda shouts.

"Oh her friend.",he fixes his statement.

"Amandas boyfriend huh?",Kuhle asks.

"His just a friend. He is dating Amahle.",Amanda says and I can tell she likes him but his already taken.

"I'll drive y'all. I need some air anyways.", I volunteer.

I stand up and get my keys. I put on a hoodie only and sneakers on and leave with the kids texting this 'friend'.

"He says his at his uncles place in Umbilo. He just gave me his address. He also has a little brother Saneles age.", she says pressing the coordinates in.

I just nod and drive them. I am going to pass by the bakery after this. I'll bake something to take home there. Umbilo is for the rich and has high walls surrounding pools and glass houses. I have my car searched at the gate and I sign in. I get out of the car and look at this house than at Amanda.

"Your friends uncle owns this?", I ask looking at myself at the glass walls.

She just shrugs and Sanele starts going on about how his going draw houses like these. He wants to be an architecture and his obsession started when we watched HGtv and he never looked back. Two boys come out and the taller one looks very feminine but you can't miss the strong jawline and his masculine aura. The younger one looks cute and runs to hug Amanda. He looks at Sanele and hugs him too. His a hugger.

"Hey sisi.", he greets me.

"Sisi? Call me Aunty.", I laugh.

He smiles and hugs me too before pulling Sanele with him inside.

"Sawubona Aunty. I'm Nkosinathi Khuzwayo. I promise your niece is safe in my hands.", he says seriously.

His a serious young man I see. I look at Amanda and her cheeks are red. 'His just a friends.' She wants him lo.

"Okay fana. Is your uncle in?"

"Yes. He is in his study. I can take you to him.", he says respectfully.

I want to meet these kids mother. They're raised well. We enter the house and he offers me a drink which I decline. Manners. This house is beautiful and I feel like I'm out of place. He knocks in the door and it opens automatically.

"There he is. We'll be downstairs Aunty.", he says and leaves.

I walk into the study and the man is writing

something down and not paying attention to my presence.

"Sorry sir.", I say and I clear my throat.

He raises a palm signaling for me to give him a sec. When his done he sits up and I see his niceps flex. I just came up with a word. Nice biceps. Niceps. His Adams apple bobs as he swallows and I have a silent freak moment. He has dark lips and he licks them causing dimples to form and I feel an orgasm coming up. He has a strong jawline that can break an acorn. I meet his eyes and I close my eyes quickly.

"Shit!", I cuss rubbing my eyes.

"Nkosazana. Khona inkinga?"(is there an issue?),he asks standing up.

"Your eyes. They're bright. Man I think I will be blind.", I sa with my eyes still closed.

"Open your eyes.", I hear his voice near my ear.

He puts a warm large hand on my back and I sigh. His touch. Its so refreshing.

"Open your eyes.", he says softly and his breathe his

my neck.

I open them slowly and I rub them. I look at him and the brightness doesn't affect my eyes.

"A fucken angel.", I think out loud.

He chuckles and I look down shyly.

"No. Don't be ashamed. I'll take it as a compliment.", he says smiling.

His facial features look familiar.

"Ndabenkulu Khuzwayo.", he introduces himself.

" Noxolo Khumalo."

We shake hands and an electrical force hits us and we pull back. He smiles at that and I see his eyes shimmer with tears.

"Can I hug you?", he asks.

"Uh okay.", I agree weirded out.

He takes me into his arms and he gives the best hugs. His like a human sized teddy bear. His chest emits warmth and I sigh smelling him. I pull away and his fave falls.

"I'd like to leave my numbers. I left my niece and son downstairs. Please do call me when they want to leave."

"Yes Noxolo."

I write down my numbers on the paper on his desk and bid goodbye. I get into my car and drive off. Maybe he has a spacial eye condition that makes his eyes look like the sun than its a beautiful condition. He looks familiar thou. Like Khulekani and Bhekikhaya. I'll ask Kuhle for the surname. He said he was a Khuzwayo. I shake my head. Focus on yourself Noxolo. My brain doesnt listen as it keeps playing the whole ordeal over and over again.

THANDOLWETHU

I look at my new tattoo on the mirror and smile. I haven't been home and I think they better off without. I walk out of the tattoo parlour and walk down the street playing with my tongue piercing. I walk into the café near and order coffee. I sit down sipping my coffee and look outside the window. I didn't get much sleep last night like the other nights. I should be used to it by now but the bags under my eyes don't go unnoticed. I see students walking to campus and I follow their footsteps. I'm just another girl at campus. My family is the most richest but nobody knows I'm part of them and its okay. My brothers are always on cover pages with their names on every girls lips. I pull my hoodie over my head and walk into campus. I sit down on the first seat I can find and listen to the professor go on about methods to help suicidal patients.

I walk out of school with itchy eyes and the tiredness weighing heavily on my shoulders. I see him again today parked across the road and I start walking

towards him. When I'm a few metres away Sethu walks towards him and they kiss. I feel my heart break and I hold back the tears. He sees me and walks towards me when Sethu is in the car. He grips my hand roughly and due to my high pain tolerance I don't feel much. He has warm hands.

"Listen here. What happened that day was a mistake. Forget about that kiss you little freak. I don't know what's with your eyes but there is nothing special about you. Stop following me around.", he says angrily.

"I wasn't following you around."

"I don't care!", he looks around before lowering his voice.

"You not my type of tea. You won't fill my pockets. Leave hood girl.", he says pushing me away.

I look at him and squeeze his cheek in my hand.

"We'll meet again. Sthembiso Mthethwa."

I let go of his cheek leaving it red and walk away leaving him surprised. As soon as I get into my

apartment I slide down and cry. I've been a reject most of my life but this was hard to take. He lived off rich woman and he instantly saw that I couldn't afford. I have all the money in the world! I can afford him! Just cause I don't flaunt it doesn't mean I can't have the one person meant for me! I throw the vase near against the wall and scream. I disconnect the TV and throw it across the room. I pull my hair and scream. Scenarios play in my head and I laugh. No one will have you Sthembiso if I don't! No one! No one wants me! My phone rings and I look at it. 'Bhuti Langa.' I wipe my tears and answer the call.

"Bhuti.", I manage to master the softest voice.

Make them believe you're normal.

"How are you? Unyezi told me you weren't okay.", he says with worry.

So if she hadn't told you than you wouldn't have called. Typical.

"I'm okay. I had flu but its coming alright."

"Okay. We're coming to see you.", Langa.

Shit!

"Okay."

I look around the apartment and the mess is cleanable. I start picking up pieces cutting my hands. I clean as best I could but I can't explain the missing TV. I'll come up with a lie. I always do. I change into another hoodie and swagpants hiding my tattoos. What else? I run upstairs and hide my pills inside my speaker and run back to the living room and sit on the couch with a fleece and take a few deep breathes. I haven't taken my pills in days. I'll manage without them. I just have to keep up the sweet happy sister act. I know how to manipulate so I'm not worried about them ever knowing the real me.

NOXOLO

I wake up with a thrust and look around the room. Its just a dream Noxolo. Nothing but a dream. He won't hurt you.

"Are you okay?", Kuhle asks yawning.

"Yeah. Just had another nightmare."

"Its him again?",she sits up.

"Yes. He killed me this time around. The cops didn't come. Nobody came. He killed me.", I say as I feel my chest closing up.

It feels real as my mind plays scenarios in my head. He has his knee on my chest and his shouting.

"I'll kill you! You make me angry!",the voice repeats in my head.

I feel hands snake around me and I jump out of bed. I notice its Kuhle.

"I'm sorry Kuhle."

"No. Its not your fault. Breathe.",she says soothingly.

I take deep breaths.

"His not here to hurt you.", she carries on calming me.

I sit on the bed as my breath gets back to normal. I let out a wretched sob and she pulls me in her arms. She's losing sleep over me. I never knew I'd reach

this stage in my life. I had my life planned out so well. Guess everything breaks when you are the one building it and its not God.

NDABENKHULU

I get out the car ready to tell Thando and the guys good news. We walk in her apartment and she's sleeping on the couch. There is no TV. Langa shakes her and she wakes up.

"Hey y'all.", she yawns out.

I notice a tongue ring. Thats new.

"Hey sleepy head.",I greet her.

She sneezes and I pass her the tissue box. We sit and I notice the bags under her eyes. When she rubs her eyes I notice scratches on her hands.

"You have a tongue piercing?",Bhekikhaya asks.

Guess he also noticed.

"Yes. Just wanted to try something new.", she says looking down.

"What's up with the scratches on your hands?", I ask

her.

"My TV fell and broke. I cleaned it up and scratched my hands. I guess it wasn't stable."

I look at her and she doesn't seem alright. She keeps clenching her fists and her emotions are shifting. She's hiding anger and she's trying so hard that she doesn't see that she's failing.

"I know we haven't been the best brothers. Always excluding you. You don't have to feel alone. We're here.", Langa.

She laughs and her lip twitches and she clenches her fists tighter. Something isn't right here.

"Thando? Am I making a joke?", Langa asks.

He's pushing whatever anger she has and it's not good. I've never seen her like this. She's always been the quiet and isolated one in the bunch. The guys don't seem to notice this change of attitude. I'm more of an observer and than act after so I just sit quietly looking at her and watching her movements.

"We're having dinner Sunday at Khulekanis house.

How about you come?",Bhekikhaya.

He pisses her off and she bites her lips and I notice blood and she licks it away quickly. How is the guys not see this change of behavior. She scratches her head and her hoodie goes up revealing a tattoo.

"Thando. Is that a tattoo?", Khulekani asks inching towards with his hand stretched out.

"Don't touch me Bhuti.", her voice comes out rough and he gets the message and retreats.

This is not the Thandolwethu I know. I sit up and look at her till she looks me in the eye. Something is clawing at her soul and by her behavior I can tell its been eating at her for awhile.

"Thando. Whats going on with you? I dont know you like this.", I finally speak.

"Y'all don't know me. Y'all don't want me! Nobody does!", she screams standing up and we all do too.

We're so confused and shocked right now. She stands in front of me and heaves. I look into her eyes and they're emotionless. Something is wrong. I

need to call Khuzwayo.

"You. Big brother. What course am I doing?", she asks me.

"Nursing?", I ask unsure.

She moves to Langa.

"What's my favourite colour?", Thando

"Grey.", he answers.

She moves to Bhekikhaya.

"Second born ka Baba. What's my fear?", Thando.

"Spiders.", he answers confidently.

She moves to Khulekani and I notice an emotion.
Hope.

"Zalo. What's my deepest secret?", Thando.

They maintain eye contact and Khulekani looks at us and shakes his head. What's going on here? Thando nods at him and he sits down and covers his face.

"You have Bipolar. Only mama knew about it and when she died she told me. You feel like you're living

under our shadow and you grow out of shale because you're fighting to get sunlight but we in the way.", he says and he let's out a deep breath like a weight has been offloaded.

He looks at us and shakes his head.

"She's doing her final year in Psychology cause she wants to help with mental illnesses. Her favourite colour is black cause she finds peace in the dark. Her worst fear is dying alone cause thats how she always felt like. She's not the Thando y'all know.", he says and wipes a strand tear.

How can they keep such a secret from us? Are we really that ignorant?

"Where is your medicine?", Khulekani asks her as she starts crying.

"My hideout.", she answers laughing.

We all stand there looking at her and processing everything. How did I miss this? How did Khuzwayo miss this? I look at my brothers and we look defeated. If shame could smell this neighborhood would stink.

41

MONTHS LATER

NDABENKHULU

We sign her forms and Bhekikhaya helps her with her bags while Khulekani helps her inside the car. Langa drives off and we sitting in silence. She seems better than the last time we saw her.

"Are you okay?", Bhekikhaya finally asks.

She looks at him and nods smiling. I missed her smile. I thought she had lost. When Khuzwayo found out about Thandos situation he went crazy. He spent a week at the village and they said he'd spend days shouting at my mom. Our family split up and if it wasnt for Unyezi we'd be lost beings. We took Thando to a psychiatric hospital and we visited here and there. The first few months without her were hard. Unyezi was sad she wasnt there when she gave birth to Nkanyezi. Little Nkanyezi brought a different joy into our lives. I think what killed us more was sitting around the dinnner table on Christmas and she wasn't there. She was discharged today and

we have been planning for months how to get to know her better and Khulekani has been helping us.

"You're ready to meet your nephew? We'll go out for lunch after that.", Langa says parking.

"I'm ready. Can we postpone. I have something to deal with later.", Thando

"Something to deal with? What's that?", I ask her.

"Don't worry about it.", she smiles.

We're going to find out anyway. We get out of the car and walk inside. Unyezi is playing with Nkanyezi.

"Oh hey guys. Thando?", she gets all emotional.

Nkosinathi takes the child and Unyezi hugs Thando. She kisses her cheeks and they start crying. Women.

"I missed you. Can I see him?", Thando asks smiling between her cries.

"Yeah. Oh my God! I can't believe it's you.", Unyezi

Thando takes the kid and smiles kissing his cheeks. Nkanyezi is a Khuzwayo baby. The dimples never going unnoticed. Langa smiles and kisses Unyezi.

NOXOLO

"Sanele!", I shout at him.

He laughs and runs around our apartment. He's such a playful child.

"Sanele give me that phone!", I shout chasing him.

He laughs and as he scrolls on my phone.

"Ha! I knew it!", he says smiling.

I snatch my phone and put it inside my pocket.

"Uyaphapha!" (You're forward.), I say smiling involuntarily.

"Oksalayo. I can't believe you are stalking Malume Ndabenhulu.", he says laughing.

"I'm not. I...I...Nje.", I stutter.

"Weren't you the one saying you don't like him? That you not going to date a Khuzwayo.", Sanele

"How old are you again?", I ask sarcastically.

"Haha. I'm old enough to know that fear is eating at

you. Not every man is like dad.", Sanele

He kisses my hand and walks to his room. I stand there realising how true his words are. The doorbell rings. I sign for the flowers and Uber Eats brown bag. I read the note and I smile.

"Forgiveness(Noxolo). Please forgive as I won't make it to dinner as I promised. I'm attending a family matter. I bought lunch thou. Fistbump my nigga for me. Ndabenhulu."

I smell the flowers and put them in the vase. I'm used to the flowers. He has them delivered every morning. I open up the bag and its Chicken Licken.

"Sanele!", I call for him.

"What's up?", he asks taking a piece.

"Ndabenhulu says...", I fistbump him.

"He bought lunch?",he asks smiling.

I nod and take out my phone thanking him for lunch and the flowers.

"Do you think you'll ever move on?", Sanele asks.

I just shrug and we eat talking. His been a great son. We're more of best friends. I'm just not ready for a relationship and he likes Ndabenkulu but I'm working on building my business. Maybe as time goes I'll confront my feelings but right now. Me and Ndabenkulu will just be what we are. His never made a move on me. He has never asked me out. I'm certain he just sees me as an acquaintance.

UNYEZI

We left everyone in the lounge as they celebrate Thandos return. I'm so happy to see her.

"I'm leaving with you.", Langa

"I need to do this on my own.", I say shaking my head.

"You still have a month to think about this. You not going to Swaziland alone.", Langa

"I won't be alone. My uncles and dad will be there.", I try making him see I'll be safe.

"I can't lose you.", he shakes his head with tears in his eyes.

He kisses me and its slow and passionate. Nkanyezi is downstairs with the rest so we have this moment without disturbance. He climbs on top of me and kisses me again. His hands pull on my pants and I lift my butt up and he removes it. We go back go kissing as he rubs my clit. I'm already wet and his taking his time with me. He better make this quick before Nkanyezi starts crying.

He rubs himself on me before he enters slowly and I moan. He thrusts slowly and I arch my back.

"Mmmh Langa.", I moan out.

He is going slow and the passion is too much.

"You can't leave alone.", he groans in my ear thrusting slowly.

So his trying to make me agree by fucking me? If yes its working.

"I'm leaving with you.",he whispers.

He circulates his waist and I lose it. I grip the sheets tighter and he lifts my T-shirt up and grazes my nipple.

" Ah!",I moan loudly.

"I'm leaving with you.",he whispers.

"Yes! Yes! Yes!", I agree moaning softly.

He holds me in his arms and thrusts slowly while I'm moaning his name. I can feel him pulsating in me as he strokes deep and slow.

"Ah! Langa!"

My wetness is dripping and his slow strokes are taking me on edge.

"Langa!", I moan gripping him tighter and clenching my thighs.

"Cum for me.", he groans kissing my neck.

I dig my nails deeper into his back as I arch my back with my mouth closed. The most intense orgasm hits me and I'm left shaking under him. He cums on my thigh and groans out.

"Shit!"

He rolls of me and pulls me into his arms. He throws a fleece over us and I lay on his chest. Just a few

minutes before we go down to others. We've made the best of our love and I love him daily.

KUHLEKONKE

I look at this kid with my mouth open and dry. She's looking down and crying. I get out of shock and hold her closely as she cries in my arms. A knock disturbs us and I attend to it. I open and its Nkosinathi.

"Sawubona Sisi.", he greets.

"Nkosinathi."

"Can I see Amanda?", he says looking me straight in the eyes.

"I think you've broken her heart enough. You've made it clear you don't value her.", I say closing the door behind me.

We're standing outside and he has one hand in his pocket and the other is holding a dis-chem paper bag.

"What happened between me and Amanda was a

mistake. I didn't force her into anything instead she was the one who asked me to break her virginity because I was the only guy she trusted. Amanda is a great girl sisi but with you being with my uncle we could never be anything more than friends. I'm also in a relationship. Please understand. Give these to her please. Tell her im sorry for not loving her.", he hands me the paper bag and leaves.

When I was 16 I was worried about what colour dress was I going to wear. Abo Amanda already have virgin breakers. I'm not judging. She knows what she's doing. I get back inside and she's still crying.

"Nkosinathi dropped this off.", I say handing her the bag.

She wipes her tears and peeks inside. I notice morning pills.

"Did y'all use protection?", I ask frowning.

She shakes her head and I slap her.

"Amanda! Have I never told you prevention is better than cure?!", I shout.

"It was... We were both in the moment.", she cries.

"You didn't even mention this? Yazini!", I turn around to leave.

"Oh and he said his sorry for not loving you.", I say and than leave.

The whole Khuzwayo clan just bought drama. I click my tongue and call Bhekikhaya.

TSHEGOFATSO

"You've been postponing visiting me Tshepo."

"I know. I've been busy Tshego.",he lies.

Something falls on the other side.

"What's that?", I ask.

"Babe! What's going on there?!", a female voice shouts on the other side.

"Babe? Hebanna! Ke mang ou Tshepo?"(who's that Tshepo?)

He doesn't answer me but drops the call. I look at

my phone screen amazed. There is no way his
cheating. Maybe it was the TV. Who am I fooling? I
call him and he drops my call.

BHEKIKHAYA

I just got off the phone with Kuhlekonke and she is biting my bead off as if I sent Nkosinathi to break Amandas virginity. I walk back to the lounge and Unyezi and Langa come back. I take Nkanyezi from Thando and tickle him. Bafo has the cutest kid. Nkosinathi walks in bangs the door. We all look at him.

"Nkosinathi the virgin breaker.", I say causing everyone to look at me.

He walks past us and climbs the stairs. Langa stands up to follow him and Unyezi pushes him back down.

"Virgin breaker?", Ndabenkulu asks.

"Yes. He slept with Amanda.", I tell him playing with Nkanyezi.

"Ah! Nazoke mfana!" (There we go boy), Khulekani shouts laughing.

"So why is he angry?", Thando asks.

"He doesn't want Amanda. They didn't use protection. He even bought her morning afters. I don't get why his the angry one.", I say shrugging.

Khulekani laughs and Thando slaps his head.

"Ouch!", he grunts.

"Shut up! This is serious. Doesn't he have a girlfriend?", Thando asks.

"He is dating a girl called Amahle. Amandas friend. Yeyii! Its a mess.", I tell them.

"Langa!", Langa calls for Langalami.

He comes in with Unyezis phone in his hands.

"Go call your brother for me.", Langa instructs.

The boy runs upstairs and Khulekani keeps on saying "virgin breaker? ye 16 years? You raised a Casanova bafo." and laughing. He walks in and sits next to Unyezi. Protection. Smart move.

"You do realise you have to pay damage right?", Ndabenkulu asks him.

He nods with his eyes casted down. We've all been

in his situation and the heat is epic.

"So you won't get three months allowance.", Langa tells him.

"Kodwa Baba she asked for it. I didn't even make a move on her.", he raises his voice and Langa pulls him by his neck.

"Don't raise you voice at me. You penetrated her right? So you're paying!", he says firmly.

Khulekani is in stitches and he keeps getting slaps from Thando. My brother is an idiot.

"So tell me mshana. How was it?", Khulekani asks him.

"Shes not the first girl I've tainted Malume so its nothing to be excited about.", Nkosinathi mumbles.

Ndabenkulu cracks up and he fistbumps him.

"How many have you slept with?", Thando asks.

"Just two aunty.", he mumbles.

"Virgins?", I ask and he nods.

"Great. 6 months without allowance. We're paying to

both these girls.", Langa bursts our bubble.

Nkosinathi looks at him and tries begging his father but Langa doesn't buy it. Well we've all had been here. I'm sure Langa is happy that he can put the same pressure on someone else.

"Mama.", he says looking at Unyezi.

"Sorry boy.", she shrugs.

He stands up and leaves and as soon as his out of sight we all laugh.

"Man that felt good. Remember when Dad did that to his? Man it was torture.", Langa says laughing.

"Do you remember how every year Bhekikhaya was broke cause he always dated virgins.", Khulekani reminds them.

"They dated me. Not the other way around. They just love this.", I say and we laugh.

"I'm waiting for the day Thando breaks her virginity. We want 15 cows!", Khulekani says and we all agree.

Thando coughs and Unyezi laughs.

"Yini Thando?"(what's wrong Thando?),Ndabenkulu asks.

"Nothing.", she says standing up and going into the kitchen.

Unyezi takes Nkanyezi and follows her laughing. We get back to talking about our childhood memories.

NOXOLO

I am watching romantic movies and crying. Sanele said he can't handle my crying and went to his room. I take a scoop of ice cream and shove it in my mouth. The door opens and Kuhle and Amanda walk in. Amanda is limping and Kuhle keeps on giving her the stink eye. What are they fighting about now? They greet and Kuhle takes my spoon and eats my ice cream.

"Hey!", I say as she takes my ice cream.

"I need this. This one is going to kill me.", she says eyeing Amanda.

"What is it?",I ask.

"Useyidikazi." (She's no longer pure.),Kuhle.

"No wonder you are limping. So who was it? Iza Nazo." (Hit me.),I say inching closer.

"Talk.", Kuhle

"Let me get some wine.", I say standing up.

I fetch my wine and two glasses. I hand one to Kuhle and fill our glasses.

"Okay girl! Talk.", I eagerly say.

"It was Nkosinathi.", she says fidgeting.

"Wait. The one and only?",I didn't think it was this deep.

"Yes. I kind of seduced him.", Amanda.

"Haibo! Christian Grey the female version.", I laugh.

"Sisi! I just... I was stupid I know. I just wanted to feel closer to him. I... I thought giving myself to him will make him love me.",her voice breaks.

"Sthandwa. Sex doesn't keep a man. You still young. You still have a lot of time to meet a guy who'll appreciate you.", I say and sip my wine.

"And next time use protection Amoh. What if he didn't bring those morning afters? You hadn't told me anything. You old enough to fall pregnant. Be wise next time.", Kuhle says holding her hand.

"Now tell us how was the whole experience? Was he big? His stroke game? Was he gentle?", I ask.

Kuhle laughs and pushes me.

"It was really painful at first but I kind of liked it after a while. Is it okay for a guy to lick you down there?", she asks shyly.

We are dead and we high five. Man shes so innocent.

"Did you like it?", Kuhle asks her.

She nods playing with her fingers and we are dead again. Thatha Nkosinathi!

"Yes its a good thing. As long as his doing it right.", Kuhle says laughing.

"Yoh sisi. I was so nervous.", she loosens up.

"Now tell me the details. Stroke to stroke.", I urge.

"Noxolo!", Kuhle laughs.

"What? I want to hear this.", I say laughing.

"Okay. There is this thing he does with his tongue.", she hid her face and squealed.

We are sipping on our wine as we listen to this.

"It was painful at first and then he did this thing of moving his waist in circles.", she tells us.

"Circulation!", me and Kuhle say laughing.

We sit and listen to Amandas story. This generation is skilled! They even muff now.

TSHEGOFATSO

I've been trying to call Tshepo but his phone sends me straight to voicemail but his posting on Instagram. I guess he blocked me. He can't do this to me mahn! Tshepo tlampe ang'tlalosetse!(he must explain!) I get into the shower and cry. He said he **will try making us work even with the distance and** we had promised to visit each other. I get out of the shower and decide to get inside my blankets naked. I go through his account and his just posted a

picture of holding hands and the caption is "Hold my hand through it all." I have chest pains same time. Is this real? I restart my phone. Maybe my phone is giving me issues. I go back to Instagram and check his account again. The picture is still there. I cry and cover my face with the blanket. Does it have to hurt like this? I sob loudly.

SPECIAL PIECE

AMANDA

"No man Nkosinathi! You're cheating!", I exclaim pushing him with my shoulder.

"Just admit that you suck at FIFA.", he says chuckling.

We're playing FIFA in his room and Sanele and Langalami are in the Game Room. They have a really beautiful huge house.

"And I win! Again!", he fist bumps the air.

"I'm not playing anymore.", I give him the joystick.

"Sore loser.", he chuckles.

We've been friends for two years and I've never heard or seen him laugh. He always just smiles or chuckles. I steal a glance at him as he inserts the USB behind the TV. Nkosinathi is really tall and has what I call feminine masculinity. He is really dark skinned with sharp features. His smile looks more of a smirk cause its lopsided. He has one bracket and he always has one hand in his pocket. We're best

friends and I caught feelings but he doesn't know that. He really loves Amahle and I'm just his friend and I ain't gonna lie it hurts.

"Okay. Ms Horror. Movie?", he says handing me the remote.

I choose Annabelle Comes Home. I love that movie. Well I love every horror movie.

"Weed?", he asks.

His a stoner and I just smoke here and there.

"What if your Dad smells it?", I ask.

"They're not around.", he says shrugging.

He takes out his 'weed box' under his bed and starts crushing.

"You want to roll?", he asks.

"Yeah cool.", I say taking the rizla and weed from him.

"I'll go get munchies then.", he says standing up.

He comes back when I'm licking and he hands me a lighter.

"You getting better.", he says analysing my joint.

"I know right.", I say smiling proudly.

"Bless.", he says lighting it and handing it to me.

He locks the door so they don't come in and knowing Langa he'll definitely snitch. As soon as we finish smoking I press play.

"Shit!", he exclaims jumping and I laugh.

"I regret smoking than watching this. I'm so paranoid right now.", he says chuckling.

"Its not that scary.", I say shrugging.

He reaches over me and I freeze for a second. He smells so good. He comes back with a packet of marshmallows. I let out a breath when he gets back to his position.

"You're okay?", he asks with his eyebrows furrowed.

"Yeah... Uhm.", I gulp.

He shrugs and carries on eating. I take off my jacket and I'm left in my bralet.

"Should I turn the air-con on?", he asks eyeing me.

I nod and he takes the remote and I feel the air get cooler around us. None of us are watching the movie cause we're eating. He keeps cracking jokes and I'm high so I am dead with laughter.

"My stomach hurts Nathi. Whoa.", I say laughing and he chuckles.

"Okay I'll stop.", he says chewing the ice from his glass.

"You're crazy. Who chews ice?", I ask him.

"I'm dangerous Amanda. I chew water. Solid water.", he says taking another ice cube.

"You're just icy.", I say and he smiles.

"My history assignment is due next week and I haven't even started.", Nathi

"I'm done with mine.", I say.

"Can you do mine?", he asks me.

"No. You waste time high. You still have two days.", I say shaking my head.

"Please.", Nathi

"Fine. R100.", I say smiling.

"What? R50?", he negotiates.

"No. I'm using my brain. Time. Hands. Sources. R100.", I state.

"Fine.", he mumbles.

I laugh at him and he tickles me.

"Nathi!", I scream laughing.

He stops tickling me and when he is about to get off me I pull his face and kiss him. He pulls out.

"Amanda.", Nathi

"Shhh.", I shush him.

I pull him again and he responds this time around. He has really soft lips. I pull his T-shirt over his head.

"Amanda.", he says looking at me.

"Nathi.", I say looking at at him.

He shakes his head and I nod mine. I see his jaw tick and I pull him in for another kiss. I run my hands over his abs. His a soccer player. His hand goes on my

thigh and since I'm wearing a jean mini skirt he has access. When I start unbuckling his belt he jumps off and heaves. I sit up and he shakes his head.

"Amanda. We're friends. We can't do this. Plus you're virgin. No.", he says picking up his shirt. I stand up and sit on the bed.

"I know but you're the only guy I trust enough to take my virginity.", I say looking him straight in his eyes.

"You're not thinking straight. I know weed can make one horny so let's put the blame on it.", he says sitting next to me.

"I'm not saying marry me. All I'm asking for is orgasms.", I say bluntly.

"What do you even know about orgasms Amanda? No.", he says sternly.

I came here with a purpose and I sit on top of him. I don't know where I'm getting the confidence. He tries talking and I kiss him and dry hump him. I watched porn to know all about this and I'm praying I'm doing it right. He traces his hand from my thighs and lifts my skirt up squeezing my butt. He takes off

my bralet and he rubs his fingers on my nipples. I feel a wetness on my panties. He rolls us over and his now on top. He starts kissing my neck and a sound escapes my lips. He takes off my skirt and I feel my heart rate quickens. He notices I'm tense and looks at me.

"Are you sure?", he asks.

I nod and he shakes his head.

"Are you sure?", he repeats.

"Yes.", I say.

He takes off his pants and climbs on top of me again. His rubbing his hands all over me while kissing me. He traces kisses down until my belly button. He looks up at me and he uses his teeth to take off my thing. I bought thongs special for today. I close my legs as I start feeling self conscious. He opens them gently and he is still looking at me. I think I'm going to puke my heart out. I feel his fingers part my folds and he licks me. I moan and he puts his arms around my thighs and pulls me closer. I've never experienced this before and I'm enjoying it.

I feel something knot in my abdomen and I lift myself up but he doesn't let go of my thighs and neither does he stop sucking me. I calm down after what felt like a heavenly high. He comes back to my face.

"Thats an orgasm.", he says smugly.

He tries kissing me but I move my face and he chuckles.

"Taste yourself.", he says sticking his tongue in my mouth.

It tastes foreign and I like it weirdly. I feel him rub himself down there and I fidget.

"Relax.", he says kissing me.

He tries entering me and I move up. He pulls me back and tries again while keeping me intact. I feel something enter me and I pull out and scream.

"Uyangilimaza.",I say sobbing.

He stops moving and looks at me.

"Ngiyeke?", he asks.

I shake my head and he kisses my eyes and wipes my tears. He kisses me again and he enters deeper.

"Nathi!", I scream.

He holds my hands above my head cause I'm pushing him.

"Do you want me to stop?", he asks.

"No. Its just really painful.", I say.

"Thats because you're virgin. Just bear with me.", he says using his other hand to wipe my tears.

I nod and he starts moving. I bite my lip. It hurts more when he extracts. His groaning lowly and his other hand goes down to rub my clit and the pleasure kicks in.

"Fuck! You're tight.", he groans letting go of my hands.

He moves his waist around and I arch my back grabbing the sheets. He goes in deeper and I arch my back as my eyes roll with my mouth open.

"Nathi.", I moan out.

I can hear our skins slapping and he has my nipple in his mouth. My pussy farts and I hide my face with hands. He chuckles and removes them. He hasn't stopped moving.

"Don't be shy. Its normal.", he says as he does that thing with his waist again.

"Nathi!", I scream as I pull his hair and I orgasm.

He keeps moving and I feel him grab me tighter and he cusses.

"Fuck Amanda!", he groans out.

I feel warmness inside me and we stay like that. Both of us shaking and breathing heavily. He pulls out and I whine.

"Shit!", he says.

"What?", I ask.

"I didn't pull out in time. I'm sorry. I'll buy morning afters.", he says laying besides me.

I nod and I finally get a chance to look at his penis and I blink. How did that fit inside me? I look down and I notice I bled. That's normal. Sis Kuhle told me.

"Sorry about your sheets.", I say looking away.

"It's fine. I'll change them. Come.", he says standing up and lifts me up.

I'm surprised as to how he can lift me up but he doesn't seem to complain. He fills the water and once they warm, he helps me inside.

"I'll be back.", he says wrapping a towel around his torso.

"Wait.", I say hurriedly.

He turns back and looks at me.

"What now?", I ask him.

He runs his hand through his hair and shrugs.

"No one should ever know about this. Especially Amahle. We're still friends though.", he says and leaves.

I look down at the water and a tear drops. Stupid! Stupid! He doesn't see you that way! I bath and finish up. I need to get home. I dress up and when he comes back he gives me two painkillers.

"Mom is downstairs. My uncles and Dad are on their

way back. I'll ask the driver to take you and Sanele home. Sanele says he is going straight to his place. I'll bring the morning afters at your place. I just need to take a quick shower.", he says and kisses my as usual when he says goodbye.

I just take my jacket and bag and leave. I don't find his mom so I hurry out and the pain between my thighs reminds me of what had just happened. I look outside the window the whole ride and Sanele just holds my hand till we drop him off. As soon as he gets off I start crying. The driver looks at me through the rear mirror. I want to be in my room and cry in peace. As if he reads my mind he increases his speed.

43

KUHLEKONKE

"Nkosinathi is still pissed at us. He is broke as hell.",
Bhekikhaya

"As long as y'all paid the damages. Amanda has
been sulking too

",I tell him.

"Kids. They're getting laid.", Bhekikhaya says
climbing on top of me.

"Now I'm getting laid.",I say kissing him.

I'm just in his T-shirt so he already has his hand
down there. He is rubbing on my clit and his
fingering me at the same time. I help him out of his
sweatpants and he pulls the T-shirt over my head.

"No foreplay.", I tell him and he nods.

He rubs himself on me before slamming into me and
I already know it's going to be rough. He puts a
cushion under me allowing him deep penetration. I
am making noise with all my moans but we're at his
place so I can scream as loud as I want. He leads

my hand between us and I rub myself. I grab the sheets as he pushes deeper. I cum as he pinches my nipple. He puts my legs together and makes me hold them on my left and he enters. Sex with him is always enticing. He knows how to fulfill my every need. Its like he was created specially for me.

TSHEGOFATSO

"Okay I have a plan. Its petty but if it makes you feel better than okay.", Khulekani says sitting up.

I just shrug and he takes my phone.

"Password?", he asks.

"0410.", I tell him sitting up.

"Okay.", he says placing my phone on my study table.

He puts my camera on timer and video.

"What's that for?", I ask confused.

"We're going to pretend we're dating. You're going to post it on Insta and tag me. His going to see you moved on. Plus we look great together.", he says

smiling at me.

"You're so stupid. Who said that'll work? He won't even care.", I tell him.

"But you do. Come sit on top of me.", he says pulling my arm.

"No! That's too petty. Its not even real. I can't give people an impression I'm in a relationship when I'm not in one. I'll be single cause everyone will think we're dating.", I tell him.

"Than let's make it real.", he says looking me in the eyes.

"Are you shooting your shot?", I ask laughing.

"Well... Yeah. I really like you and its been months. I know its wrong but I'm happy that he cheated. He made things easier for me. And I think I love you.", he said and I notice his eyes shimmer.

He better not cry on me. I smile and one tear falls and I hug him.

"I hated being close to you and not being able to tell you how I felt. It's the most painful torture I've ever

been through.", he says and I wipe his tears.

"Stop crying. You're going to make me cry.", I tell him as I get emotional.

"Sorry.", he apologises.

"Don't. I understand.", I tell him.

"In all these months we've been friends. Do you think of giving me a chance? By any chance did you catch feelings? If not I'll understand an-",Khule

I cut him off with a kiss and he responds. Who wouldn't catch feelings? He was a good friend. I thought he didn't like me cause he didn't show any signs.

NOXOLO

I am at the bakery, baking and helping the other bakers. I got bored at home since Sanele is visiting his new friend Langalami. I look at the cake and smile. Perfect.

"Nox. Someone is asking for you at the front.", Pinky

"I'll be there sthandwa.", I say wiping my hands.

I find Ndabenhulu by the counter and he smiles when he sees me. The ladies are giving him looks and the jealousy inside me is brewing.

"Hey.", I greet smiling.

"Hey. You the first person I know that makes a Baker uniform look so good.", he says.

See why I like this guy? His always complimenting me.

"Thank you. Let's go to my office.", I say smiling.

I grab his favourite chocolate muffins and he follows behind me. He opens the door for me and we sit down on my office couch.

"Here you go.", I hand him his muffins.

"Thanks.", he smiles.

"I know you came for those.", I say chuckling.

"Yeah and you. I haven't seen you in a while.", Ndabenhulu.

"I know. I'm always busy. I'm opening new branches

and I've made a name for myself. My cakes are the talk of town.", I say and he smiles.

"I asked my poetic brother to hell write me a poem and he ended up making it sexual. I would give it to you but its inappropriate.", he says scratching his beard with his car keys.

"You just uptight. Show me.", I say inching closer to him.

"If you insist.", he says taking his phone out.

" I heard you're a Baker.

The chocolate biscuit with strawberry cream is the talk of town.

Only a few have had the chance to eat it.

I know it ain't for sale either.

With the most humblest voice

Can I take a bite?

I'll be gentle.

I'd part it and lick the strawberry cream.

Close it and dip it in milk.

I'll take a nip at it

If the taste it enticing

Than I'll devour it.

So Ms Baker

Can I have that biscuit now?

Don't tell me its out of stock.

I can see it through your tights.

Looking delicious between your thighs.

So now do you mind?

Its just a little bite.",he reads out and laughs.

"That is some sexual creativity.", I say laughing.

"My brothers are crazy.", he says putting his phone away.

"No. You are just uptight. I can't believe you asked help writing a poem. For me."

"Uh... I am not really good with words. I'm more of an actions guy.", he says looking around.

"That's so sweet. How about dinner at my place?", I ask nervously.

"Yeah. I'm tired of my own cooking."

"You can cook?", I ask surprised.

"Yeah. The best. I own restaurants so its a must.", he says shrugging.

"Let's make a deal. I bake for you once a month and you Cook for me twice a month.", I tell him.

"Why are you robbing me? 50/50.", he says.

"But I can bake a cake big enough to last you a week."

"And I can cook enough to last you a week too.", he shoots back.

"Okay. I bake two times a month. You cook two times a month.", I say handing him my hand.

"Deal.", he pulls my hand and hugs me.

This is so comfortable. We pull back and he eats his muffins. He feeds me a piece and I smile and open my mouth. He removes a lone piece from the corner

of my mouth and he licks it off his thumb. We carry on eating and laughing.

UNYEZI

Dad has Nkanyezi in his arms and he is a proud grandfather.

"He looks like his father.", he says smiling at Nkanyezi.

"Its like his not even mine. Its unfair cause I carried him for nine months.", I sulk.

"Sorry Mkami but my genes are stronger.", Langa comes in.

"Hey. You're back.", I kiss his cheek.

"Yeah. Where're the boys?",Langa

"Langa is with Sanele by the pool. Nkosinathi is still sulking.", I say and he nods.

"Baba. Ngiyathemba unethezekile ekhaya."(I hope you comfortable at home.),he says to Dad.

I decide to leave them and go check on Nathi. His

been in that room for weeks now. I knock on his door.

"Nathi. Open.", I knock harder.

He opens the door and he leaves me there and I follow him. I sit on his couch and he faces me while sitting on the bed. His growing up and that scares me. Next it will be Langa and then Nkanyezi.

"Have you talked to Amanda?", I ask after silence.

"Yeah.", he responds.

"And?"

"She just apologized for seducing me and making me lose 3 months worth allowance. She said she'll give me half of her allowance. More like forced me to accept it.", he says.

"Have you talked to Amahle?"

"She is going to boarding school. Her parents told her to dump me. She's blocked me.", he says rubbing his face.

"Are you okay thou?"

"Yeah. I just... I'm processing everything.", he shrugs.

"Why didn't you use protection?", I ask.

"It was a spur of the moment. I wasn't thinking straight. I bought her morning after pills.", Nathi

"You do know that they're not 100% efficient right?", I ask him and he sighs.

"I know and I'm praying it doesn't get to her being pregnant.", Nathi.

"Learn from this.", I tell him.

He nods and lays on his bed. This is really stressing him out.

"Well. Your Dad is driving me and Baba to mom's grave in KwaMakhutha. We'll come back tomorrow late. Take care of your brother. I asked Thando to come and sleep with ya'll.", I kiss his forehead.

"Mom!", he whines.

"Bye.", I say laughing.

I close his door and head down to the pool. Langa is going to throw a fit about me leaving. That kid

always wants me around him. I do too but I have duties.

THANDOLWETHU

I just got my belly piercing when Dad calls me for the 100th time.

"Dad."

"Ndodakazi. You alright?", he asks.

"Dad. You called me 30 minutes ago. I'm still fine."

"I'm just checking up on you.", Dad

"I know you worried but I'm fine. Abobhuti take turns on reminding me to take my pills. We just worried about you."

"Worried about me? I'm fine actually I'm great.", I can tell his smiling.

"Dad? Bhuti Khulekani says you have a girlfriend. Do you?", I finally ask.

"Khulekani is forward mahn. I'll tell y'all. Dinner? At my house. Saturday?", Dad.

"Cool. I'll tell the others."

We bid our goodbyes and end the call. I drive down to Merebank. I look at the address again and I wait. He comes out dressed in tracksuits and starts jogging. Right on time. I start the rental car and drive towards in speed. He dodges out of the way and falls on the pavement. I drive past him and send him a message.

"Next time I'll drive over you. Xoxo."

Sthembiso is about to regret meeting me. I drive the car back to the company and get into mine. I'm babysitting for the weekend. I drive to YellowWood. I missed spending time with my nephews. A message from Ndabenkulu comes through.

"Drink your pills. I love you."

I smile and park on the side of the road and down my pills with bottled water. I'm glad our relationship is improving.

UNYEZI

We've been here all night on our knees sipahla. Mom's soul has left the tree and we're here to ask her to show us the way back to my maternal home. She is holding back and I've been begging the whole night. I add incense and light it and sprinkle snuff. All I know is her surname is Madalane and that she's from Mpumalanga. Even Langa couldn't track her past movements. I grunt as I feel her full presence around me. I start feeling rejected. Her family disowned her. A heavy feeling of fear consumes that it leaves a bitter taste in my mouth. She's scared of her family's reaction about me.

"Mama. Show us the way. Leave the rest to me."

I stand up as the candles switch off and the incense too. I look at Dad and shrug.

"She declines. I think there's more to her being disowned. Langa please keep on trying. We need to find a BnB nearby. Seems like we'll be here for another day.", I tell them yawning.

"Sthandwa sami. Let's go get you some rest. We'll check on the kids as soon as you wake up.", Langa says dusting my knees.

"Mkhonyana uqinisile ndodakazi." (Son-in-law is right my daughter.), Dad says walking ahead of us.

He is angry at mom's selfishness but he needs to understand that going back to mom's place of birth we'll be unpacking her secrets. I get into the car and Langa holds my hand.

"Everything's will be fine.", he says kissing it.

"I hope so.", I say closing my eyes.

I really do cause I want to finish everything so I can finally be with my family. Mom is delaying me. A lot has to be done before I leave for Swaziland.

THANDOLWETHU

Nkanyezi is such a peaceful child. Unyezi left him some breast milk so he doesn't have much to cry about. I put him in his cot as he falls asleep after his birth. I would like kids of my own but with Sthe not

wanting me I'll never have that. I walk out of his room leaving the door half closed. I have the baby monitor in my hand. Langa is watching Ignition Channel. This kid and cars. I kiss his cheek sitting next to him.

"Has Nkosinathi come down for breakfast?", I ask him.

"Yeah. He took his plate and left to eat in his room.", he says with his eyes still on the TV screen.

I have a thing for cars but its not as deep as Langas. I'm thinking of purchasing a BMW X7 with a custom interior. A Mercedes Benz Barabus too would do. I love big cars. My phone rings and its Bhekikhaya.

" Bhuti.", I answer.

"Thando. Have you been taking your pills?", he asks.

"Yeah and Khulekani reminded me this morning.", I answer confused

"Its clear they're not working. Why are you stalking a Sthembiso Mthethwa? To the point you almost ran him with over and sent him threatening messages.",

Bhekikhaya.

"We have unresolved issues.", I say standing up.

"Which are?", he asks.

"He called me a hood rat. And there might be a possibility that his my destined.", I tell him sighing.

"So you think threatening him will change his view about you? Let him be.", Bhekikhaya

"Its not easy. You're have yours. Mine doesn't want me. You won't understand.", I am getting a headache.

"You right. But that doesn't mean you have to act so childish. Focus on yourself first. You have duties. Dad wants your plan on your business. Submit it instead of chasing golddiggers.",he ends the call.

So they have tabs on me. I sigh as I think his words through. My business plan is ready. I had time to draft it while at that asylum. I just need to submit and pitch. We're rich but Dad never spoiled us.

Education is also a very important thing in our family. I need to make sure my pitch goes well so he can fund me and I can build my psychiatric hospitals. If it

doesn't go well I have to go back to school. Let me get started on lunch. I check on Nkanyezi and his still sleeping.

TSHEGOFATSO

I keep on watching the video from yesterday and smiling. If anyone told me that me and Tshepo would end I would've laughed on their face. I still can't believe Khulekani cried. His text comes through as I'm watching the video for the millionth time. When I'm about to reply his video call comes through. He is wearing a durag and he looks so sexy.

"Hey.", I greet smiling.

"Muntu wami.", his grinning and his dimples are so cute.

I smile at him and lay back on the bed.

"Can I take you out for lunch today?", Khulekani.

"You always taking me out for lunch. No wonder I've gained so much weight."

"Okay let's change it. I'll ask my Chef brother to cook

his tribe and dumpling meal and we'll have it at my house. Netflix and chill.",Khulekani

"My Netflix and Chill probably different from yours.",I chuckle.

"What's your definition of Netflix and Chill?", he asks.

"O rata dilo. So what time?", I change the topic.

"Abo Seho. Around 13h00. I'll fetch you.", Khulekani.

"Okay. See you then.",I drop the call smiling.

It feels so good actually being with someone you have feelings for. It feels so good to choose someone by myself and not feeling like I need Dad's approval. Speaking of that asshole he disowned me and at the end of this year I have to find a way to pay for my school fees. He blames me that Tshepo cheated as if I sent him. His just bitter Tshepos father took back his vote for him to be a minister. His driven by power and he thinks just cause he gave his sperm I'm his possession. The worst thing is he has mom in his hand and she is his puppet. Always following his every order and enduring the abuse,the mistresses and the public humiliation. Even my

grandmother has given up trying to bring her daughter home but hey sperm always been thicker than blood. I have to call my grandmother but for now what am I even going to wear for our Netflix and chill. Something sexy and comfortable that also leaves much to imagination. Who knows? Maybe I'd get laid.

NOXOLO

"So you're the first born?", I ask as he stirs his pot.

We ended up agreeing to having breakfast at his place today. And I'm still awed by his house.

"Yeah. Bhekikhaya after me. Than its Langalakhelihle. Khulekani. Than the only girl. Thandolwethu.", he turns back his attention to me.

"Thats a lot of y'all. I can't imagine giving birth so many times. I'd die."

"Well I can't promise to not have you in the labour ward every three years.", he says shrugging.

I laugh and he chuckles. Its nice to see him letting

loose a bit.

"Should I dish up for you before Khulekani comes and takes his tribe and dumplings?", he ask looking at me intently.

I'm used to his eyes now. I even stopped asking about it.

"Please do.",I say sitting on the counter and flinging my legs.

"I made some custard yesterday. Help yourself.", he points to the fridge.

"Are you trying to make me fat? I've been eating since I got here.", I say heading to the fridge.

"Yet you're still eating.", he laughs at me.

"I enjoy food okay. How do you think I have this booty?", I climb on the counter again.

"What booty?",he acts to be looking around and I laugh.

"Please. You know exactly what I'm talking about.", I push his shoulder laughing.

"Here you go.", he hands me a bowl of tribe.

"Thank you. This smells great.", I say taking a spoonful into my mouth.

I moan at the divine taste with my eyes closed. This is great. Delicious. Nothing like I've ever tasted before.

"I'm going to hire you. I need a chef. My kitchen needs one.", I say opening my eyes.

His leaning on the sink and looking at me.

"I'm a great chef. I'm sure I'd take care of your kitchen very well.", and his sentence is embiquette judging by the look in his eyes. Slick.

"I hope you don't disappoint cause I love good food. I like being fed well.", I go with the flow.

"I sure do serve some good food.", he says nearing me.

He grabs a piece from the bowl and puts it in his mouth. He puts the bowl in the sink behind him and gets in between my thighs. He better kiss me cause if he doesn't in the next minute I'll go all HOE on him.

He runs his hands on my thighs and pulls me a little bit closer to him. This is a first. The only touching we did is hugs and the palm on my lower back when we enter a restaurant.

"I'm a man of principle and respect. I'm what you call old school with a tinge of modernity.", he inches closer and our groins are touching.

He better say what he wants to say 'fast quick' cause this closeness has me throbbing down there.

"Bengisacela ukuthi ube wumkami." (Please be my wife.),Ndabenhulu.

I widen my eyes and stutter. What?! He jumped from friends to wife.

"Uh. Ndabenhulu. That's... Wow... Huge.", I can't even form a sensible sentence right now.

"I'm not growing any younger as you can see the white hair surfacing. I can't be having a girlfriend when I'm about to turn 30. That just doesn't sound right. I want to make you my wife and we've gotten to know each other really well.", he rests his elbows lightly on my thighs and looks at me.

"Marriage is a big step. We haven't even had sex yet.", I say looking away.

"We can have sex if you want to.", he says making some real deep eye contact.

"I didn't mean it like that.", I meant it like that but hey.

"Than what did you mean?", he asks inching closer to my neck.

"Uh... I... Just that... Its... Uh...", I clear my throat as I feel his warm breath make the hairs on my neck stand.

"I asked a question Noxolo.", he nips my neck and I moan and clench my thighs around him.

He found one of my weak spots.

"Answer me.", his hands squeeze my thighs.

I pull his face and kiss him. Sometimes if you want something done you have to do it yourself. His hand goes under my shirt and he runs his hand in the middle of my back and I shiver. He unclips my bra and helps me out of it. His hand than grabs my boob while his thumb rubs my nipple. His other hands

unbottons and unzips my jeans. I like where this is going. The hoe in me is yodelling.

"Room?",he asks kissing my neck.

"No. Right here.",I untie his sweatpants.

"Fine by me.", Ndabenkulu.

I sneak my hand inside his pants and my little hand can't even hold him fully in. I massage his balls and he groans. [REMOVED]

KUHLEKONKE

"That should do it. Told you not to pull too hard on the handcuffs.", Bhekikhaya says extracting his hand.

I analyse my wrists and they're red. The ointment he just bought helps soothe the itchiness. He starts driving whistling.

"I never got to thank you for giving me a chance to be my own person. I'm renovating at home and can finally take Amanda to that Boarding School For Chefs in Cape Town she always wanted without stressing about our inheritance money running out.",I

say kissing him at the red light.

"I'm glad you used it well. You're taking Amanda to boarding school?", he asks looking at me before focusing on the road.

"Yeah. She insisted. She always wanted to attend there.", I say taking his phone.

"Man Nkosinathi is gonna lose it.", Bhekikhaya

"It's life. I think Amanda is also running away from him."

He nods and I take pictures with his phone.

"Hey. Include me in the pictures.", he says parking outside my house.

"Khaya.", I say moving the phone.

I give him his phone back and we kiss.

"Greet Amanda and Sanele for me. I have a meeting in an hour. I'll see them after.", he says kissing my forehead.

"Suits looks good on you. Sexier.", I close the door and blow him a kiss.

I find the kids watching a movie eating popcorn.

"Hey. Nox ain't back yet?", I ask sitting in between them.

"Nope.", they get back to watching TV.

I'm really tired since I didn't sleep much with my Zulu Christian Grey having me crying with orgasms. I still have to find a present for him. His birthday is in a week and I am gift searching. Being in love is the most greatest thing ever especially of you're in love with someone who feel's the same way.

LANGALAKHE

I look at her dressed in her sangoma cloths as she kneels in front of her mothers grave. She is clapping and grunting while the incense smoke raising up to the sky. I see her smile and stands up dusting her knees and walks towards us.

"She agreed.", she says hugging me.

"Kuhle ndodakazi.", her father says smiling.

"She says she's going to show me the way. Let's go home first and we'll leave in two days.", she says putting her ancestral bag over her shoulder.

We get in the car and I drive out of the cemetery. I'm glad she's getting somewhere with her journey.

"I missed my kids. Let me call Thando.", Unyezi

"I'm glad we're going home.", I say smiling at her.

Her father is asleep in the back seat. He must be tired. We've been waking up dawn.

"I am so exhausted. Wanna drive?", I ask her.

"Okay. We'll take turns along the way.", Unyezi.

I stop on the side of the road and we exchange seats. She pecks my lips and starts the car. I regret the decision of making her drive when she bolts on the road. I forgot this one thinks she's in a race course.

"Unyezi. Ufuna ukusibhodisa?" (You want to kill us?), I ask making sure my seatbelt is secure.

"Langa. Lala." (Sleep.), she says stepping on the gas.

I sigh in defeat and lower my seat. I look at her before closing my eyes. I fall in love with her everyday. She's still the center of my universe. I'm happy to be with her on her spiritual journey. I put my hand on her thigh and fall asleep.

KHULEKANI

Tshego is laughing at me as I tell her what I just went through.

"I have bad luck I swear.", I say drinking my beer.

"So you just took the pots? Khulekani no!", Tshego laughs again.

"This is not funny Seho. There were clothes on the bar stools this side I'm surrounded by moaning. I grabbed what I came for and ran.", I tell her.

"If its not your father its your brother? Wow! You need to be cleansed.", Tshogo

"Honestly."

We're sitting on the couch full watching some romcom on Netflix Tshogo chose. She's lying on chest and playing with fingers. There is some heavy kissing in this movie and I keep on looking at her lips.

"I'm coming.", I say standing up.

"Okay.", she has her focus on the movie.

I light my cigarette and smoke while taking out some snacks. Where are my chocolate biscuits? Ah.ha there you are. I put out the cigarette and take off my shirt cause it smells of tobacco and Tshogo has sinuses. I carry everything to the TV room. I'm thinking of having a cinema installed in my house.

"Snacks malady.", I say putting everything down.

She grabs a packet and looks up at me. Her eyes

start analysing me and she clears her throat.

"Nice tattoos.", she says looking at my v-line.

"Nice neh?", I ask folding my arms smirking.

"Very nice.", her eyes eye my trunk and I laugh.

"Okay. Stop undressing me.", I say sitting next to her.

She sucks her teeth and pushes me but ends up keeping her hand on my chest. She traces it down to my abs and I hold her hand when it goes lower.

"Ookay.", I say taking her hand away.

She looks at me with her lower lip stuck out while blinking.

"What do you want?", I ask eyeing her.

"You know what I want.", Tshego

"No I don't."

"Should I show you what I want?", she asks seductively.

"If you may.", I say laying back on the couch.

She climbs on top of me and her leather skirt goes

higher exposing creamy thighs. She kisses while her hands rub on me. A groan escapes my lips as she squeezes my dick through my sweatpants.

"Shit! Seho wait.", I say pulling back.

She retreats and I rub my face. This woman is killing me. While I'm trying to get my thoughts in check she grinds on me and I groan. I change our position and lay on the couch. She's wearing an oversized tee without a bra and I untuck it pulling it over her head. I take one nipple in my mouth and let it pop out.

"If you don't tell me to stop now I doubt I will.", I tell her unzipping her skirt.

"Don't stop.", she says lifting up her legs as I pull her skirt down.

I look at her and I love the stretch marks on the side of her bums and thighs. She has really nice thighs and legs. This needs a photo. I pull out my photo and she hides her face as I capture this beauty.

"Khule bathong.", she says laughing.

I get in between her thighs and trace love bites in a

straight line from her chest till her torso. She has a lace thong on. I twist it in my fingers hard enough for it to tear in half.

"Khulekani!", she exclaims.

I snap it again and it falls off from her body. She sighs in defeat. I run my finger down her vagina and she's wet.

"Mmmmh.", she moans in pleasure.

She pushes my head in as I nip at her clit. She tastes amazing. Her thighs shake and she pushes me in deeper while she thrushes around. I lick her clean and she looks at me and her cheeks are pink.

"Wait. I'll be back.", I say standing up and run upstairs. I take out some condoms and run back downstairs. She has condoms in her hand and I laugh.

"You were prepared neh?", I ask her getting between her thighs.

"Always.", she says tearing it with her teeth.

She rolls it on my manhood and I found it so sexy.

She grabs it and inserts it herself and I groan at the warmness. Man she's tight. She wraps her legs around me and moves her waist in sync with mine. She's perfect. Active. Tight and warm.

NKOSINATHI

I'm checking Amandas status. She posted an Acceptance letter to some Boarding School in Cape Town. I call her and she answers after a few rings.

"Hey.", her voice chimes.

"Amanda.", I am pissed.

"What's wrong bro?", she asks worry laced in her voice.

"You're changing schools? Cape Town? And you didn't even tell me?", the distaste in my voice clear.

"I was going to tell you."

"When?"

"Hayi Nkosinathi kanti yini?" (What's wrong?), she asks annoyed.

"Can you come over? We need to talk.", I say sitting up.

"I'm busy.", she lies to me.

"Be ready in 45 minutes.", I say dropping the call.

I thought we were friends and the least she could do was tell me she's leaving. I wear a jacket while shirtless and run downstairs.

"Aunty.", I say kissing her cheek.

I kiss Nkanyezis cheek and he laughs.

"Your mom and Dad are coming back.", she says handing me a sandwich.

"Okay. I'll be out for a while.", I take a bite of the sandwich.

I run back to my room and take uncle Khulekanis old apartment keys. Its mine now but I can only move out when I'm 18. I ask the driver to drive to Amandas place.

I text her that I'm outside and she blueticks me.

"I'll knock if you don't come out.", I text her.

I see her open the gate and approaches the car. I open the door from the inside and she jumps in.

"Really Nkosinathi?", she asks pissed.

"We need to talk. You've been avoiding me. I had to.", I say smiling.

She clicks her tongue and folds her arms. I tell the driver to take us to the apartment and she gives me the stink eye. Its a silent ride in the car with her on the phone. We get out and climb the stairs till we reach the door. I only come here when I need some time alone. Langa is always with Pluto or Sanele. I just come here to get high and play video games. I light a joint while throwing myself on the bed. Its a bachelor apartment so everything is near. Amanda sits on the couch and fold her feet. She's really beautiful and the realest friend I've ever had. She has dreams and goals.

"Come sit here.", I say patting the space next to me.

"No. What did you want us to talk about?"

"Why are you running away?"

"Who said I'm running away? From what?", she asks throwing her hands in the air.

"From me. Going to Cape Town won't reverse what happened between us.", I say sitting up.

"Not everything is about you Nkosinathi!", she raises her voice.

"Ungangibangeli umsindo mina Amanda. Ngikhuluma kahle nawe wena ungikhuphulela izi. Ngazongidina wena." (Don't make noise. Im talking nicely to you and you're raising your voice. Dont annoy me.),I say putting the joint out.

I hate noise and it agitates me when someone raises their voice at me and she knows it.

"Now when are you leaving?", I ask her calmly.

"Next year. They're waiting for my final report and I can be given my room number and the necessities.", she says playing with her fingers.

"I'm going to miss you.", I honestly say.

"Me too but this is for my future.",Amanda

"Come here.", I extend my hand.

She stands up and walks towards me. I move up and lay back and she lays on my chest. I've had time to think everything through and I do love Amanda but there is a 40% chance after she comes back from Cape Town we can still click.

"Did you tell your sister where you were going?", I ask playing with her hair.

She nods.

"I'm sure she hates me."

"Not really. She is not even entertaining it. She took me to the doctor last week and got me on contraceptives. It was so embarrassing.", she says covering her face.

"Your sister is crazy but cool."

"She's worse when she's with Noxolo. Psychos.", she shakes her head.

"You've never been in one room with my family."

"Family is cool thou.", she says smiling.

I nod turning us over and getting in between her thighs.

"Nathi."

"Yes?"

She shakes her head and kisses me. I'm glad she's wearing a dress cause I already have it tossed across the room.

NDABENKHULU

I look at her as she's asleep. Her eyes flatter open and she sits up wiping her eyes.

"Hey.", I greet kissing her shoulder.

"Hey.", she yawns out.

"I made lunch. Shower. Your clothes are on the line so pick some from my closet. There's an extra toothbrush in the cabinet."

She nods and gets out bed still half asleep. I can't help looking at her butt as she heads to the bathroom. Girl is thick. I change the sheets and go dish up for us. Guess Khulekani came and took his food with my pots and I'll never get them back knowing that idiot. I remind Thando to take her pills.

We're planning on asking her about this Sthembiso Mthethwa later tonight. They rejecting my idea of killing him so I'm letting them try to solve this. Noxolo comes down in my T-shirt and her birthmark on her thigh is beautiful.

"Come here.", I say pulling her to me.

"I'm so hungry.", she complains.

I lift her up and put her on the counter.

"Take.", I hand her plate.

"Thank you.", she kisses me.

I sit on the barstool in front of her.

"Give me your left hand.", I say searching in my pocket.

She places it in my hand and I slide the silver engagement ring with a pink diamond.

"Were you serious?", she asks looking at it.

"Yes. I'm too old for games."

"I... When did I say yes again?", she asks touching the diamond.

"When you were under me.", I say kissing her thigh.

"I wasn't agreeing... I... Yoh Ndabe.", she laughs.

"Im a smart man. Always get my way."

"I'm taking a huge step if I agree to this.", Noxolo.

"Ngiyakuthanda.", I tell her sincerely.

"Nami ngiyakuthanda.", she says getting emotional.

"Xolo ha.a", I wipe her tears.

"I'm sorry. I'm just... I can't believe this. I'm scared thou.", she let's me in.

"I understand that. I promise to never lift a hand on you. I was raised well. Plus I'm not to old to get a whooping from Dad.", I tell her kissing her cheeks.

She once told me about her previous relationship even though I already knew and was dealing with him.

"Stop crying. Its okay.", I embrace her.

Nothing makes me as angry as a man that abuses a woman. If you feel you can't control your emotions than get out. Get a smoke. Get some air. Come back

calmer and talk it out. No need to use your strength to hurt her. Its pathetic.

46

UNYEZI

'FALL OF THE THRONE'

We stand outside looking at what is called the Royal Palace.

"Did your ancestors tell you about this?", Langa asks picking up the ash and quickly let's it go.

"Nothing. I may have felt detached when we crossed the border but I didn't take much into it.", I say looking around.

"What happened? Where are the people?",Langa asks.

"I don't know. Everything is gone.", I say.

A light catches my sight and I head towards the brightness. It's a crown. I touch it and it glows.

I wake up heaving and the feeling of detachment making me grip at my chest. I whizz as I cough and feel as if my airway is closing up.

"Langa!", I cough out.

I fall from the bed and tears drip down onto the floor.

"Unyezi! What's wrong.!", Langa shouts picking me up.

"Imphepho!", I moan through my pain.

He runs through our house and puts me down on the floor.

"Lay me on top of the white cloth.", I tell him as I feel my joints stiffen.

"Lay my head on the blue and red cloth.", a scream escapes my dry lips as I feel an excruciating pain ripple throughout my body.

"Put the cloth with the face of King Swati on top of me.", I order him as my body seems to have lost its sensation.

He does as I say and I feel a crucial pain of fire travel through my veins and I scream. Langa lights imphepho and makes me sniff snuff and I feel the pain lessen but its still there just tolerable. I feel many presences at once and a headache makes me

grunt.

"THE THRONE HAS FALLEN! ASHES TO ASHES!", these words are chanted.

They're too loud and they're coming forward all at once. I feel something drip on my hand. I wipe my nose and come back with blood. Langa tries walking towards me but I shake my head. I throw the crushed herb from my ancestral bag and pour it inside the sea water filled bowl. What seems like a Royal Yard is on fire with people torching it in anger. I've seen this place in my dreams.

"No! No! No! Noooooo!", I scream realising my failure.

I failed! I was so caught up on my mothers past I forgot my quest. My head throbs as I lay on the ground. The room goes dark and I shiver as a chill runs through my spine. Langa is standing quietly in the corner oblivious to the figure in the room.

"Unyezi. Our throne has fallen. Burnt to the ground. Go retrieve the crown. A leader you'll bear will restore what's fallen.", the glowing figure kneels in front of me giving me a clear look of her face.

"Gogo? I'm sorry! It's my fault.", I say crying.

The headache is making me dizzy.

"What you've been gifted will be taken. Waiting to be given to the Future.", she says as her hand touches my head.

I fall back as I feel empty. No. They can't punish me like this. They can't take my gift. The feeling of another soul within me is absent.

"No.", I say faintly.

Langa picks me up and wipes my nose before taking me to our room. I feel like a part of me is missing. I claw at my chest screaming.

KUHLEKONKE

I vomit again and lay my head against the wall as I sit on the bathroom floor. Its about 09h00am and I feel like death. I stand up and flush. I brush my teeth and look at myself in the mirror. My eyes are swollen and my cheeks are pink. I wash my face and go to the kitchen while on my phone. Bhekikhayas video

call comes through. I click my tongue and reject it. I open the fridge and I start crying. Is this what my life will be? Waking up early puking and feeling like hell? I hate Bhekikhaya! I take last night's leftovers and warm them. I walk back to my room eating. The pregnancy test on the bed side catches my attention and I cry again. I've been suspecting that I may be pregnant since I missed an appointment and I've been doing it raw with Bhekikhaya. It came out Positive and I've been avoiding him since. I ordered Amanda to not let him in. I eat but it doesn't seem to go down and I start crying. He calls again. Leave me alone! I cry till I fall asleep.

NOXOLO

I've been trying to call Kuhle and she's not answering anyone's calls. I try again and it rings unanswered again. I'll pass by her place when I knock off. I look at my left hand and smile. Many might say it's too soon but it feels right. Tshogo has a new man and she is giving me the "it's too early to go public." excuse. She was happy for me and I wish Kuhle can

answer my calls so I can share this with her.

"No Sne. Ice it than cover it with mould.", I say.

"Okay.", she says nervously.

She's new and she's such a softie. I go to my office and find mom there. I hug her before sitting down. I told her about the engagement and she didn't even judge me when I told her we went from friends to fiances.

"My baby.", she smiles.

"You look beautiful.", I say noticing her new face lift.

"Its expensive trust me.", she says flicking her weave.

"I see.", I say than keep quiet.

We're not close. Mom is what you call a MILF. She's been married 5 times already and is currently married to this guy from England. It seems genuine but you never know with mom. She divorced Dad and married Aguero some rich Nigerian guy and I stayed with Dad who later died and to find out he was in debt. I had lost contact with my mom as she was on husband no.3 and I started working at the

Strip Club to finish my studies. That's where I met Kuhle. We found each other recently when I baked a cake for her 4th husband's daughter. She just got married after 5 years of marriage. She probably has done 13 surgeries. She has implants and the works. She believes in Dolly Parton's old words " Surgeons were not made so they can starve."

"So have you started with the wedding preparations? I researched your man and you took after me darling. He is filthy rich. Richer than any man I've ever been with.", she says fanning herself with those Chinese fans.

"Yeah. He's rich. I don't know where to start. I've never been married before.", I say shrugging.

"I've had my fair share of weddings and I am here to help.", she says pulling out magazines from her Gucci handbag.

"Thank you.", I say grabbing one.

"What kind of dress do you prefer?", she asks pointing at a column of beautiful dresses.

I'm glad she's here for me since my paternal side

and I don't get along after Dads death. Moms family consists of housewives and we don't click. I'm a hood girl and drinking tea with my pinky out is a sham to me.

BHEKIKHAYA

I look at her as she sleeps with the pregnancy test in my hand. Amanda let me in cause she was worried about her. She's been avoiding me and rejecting my calls. I put my hand on her stomach. Its still flat and I smile and wipe a tear. The idea of having a mini me is just amazing. I lay next to her and hold her. She's probably going to flip when she wakes up but I missed her.

AMANDA

I am worried about my sister. She has been sick lately and very moody. I make sure to stay out of her way. She'll skin me alive for letting Bhuti in after she ordered me to not let him or anyone for that matter. When I ask her what's wrong it's like she turns into

the Devils female version. I am practicing a new recipe. Its an Italian dish which I can't even pronounce. I make it look creative and take a picture. I post it on my Instagram and WhatsApp status. Cooking is my talent. The only time I feel special. It's one thing I can never live without.

KHULEKANI

I read over the file again on Tshego. I'm just doing a normal background check. She's clean. Her father thou. His a very 'dangerous' man. His into human trafficking and drug smuggling. I have records of his phone calls and texts. I know he disowned Tshego and why she hasn't shared this with me I don't know.

"Khabazela.", I call out.

He comes in and stand in front of my desk. I'm about to rattle someone's cage. I hand him the tale and file.

"Hand this over to the authorities."

He nods and heads for the door.

"Not just anyone. Make sure it ends up on Detective

Smith."

He goes out and I sit back on my chair. Serame Thango has a huge storm coming his way. Being part of politics won't help him when Dect.Smith is involved.

47

KUHLEKONKE

I wake up to Bhekikhaya next to me. He's still asleep and I look at him for a while. He's a beautiful specimen. Thick eyebrows accompanied by long eyelashes with a cute nose and dark lips. I look at the Pregnancy Test in his hand and the anger resurfaces and I pinch him causing him to jump.

"Ouch! Dammit!", he says rubbing his arm.

We make eye contact and the stars glimmer beautifully as constellations form. He blinks and I look at him as he looks at the pregnancy test in his hand.

"So vele ngizoba yitaima?" (So I'm going to be a father?), he says smiling.

"Yes. My life plan is ruined. I had a timeline but now...", I sigh as I get up and take the dish to the kitchen.

I find him seated on the bed playing with it.

"I thought you were on the pill.", he says looking up

at me.

"I was. My life has been busy. I missed one appointment and everything went downhill.", I say sitting next to him.

"What are you so afraid off? I can see the fear in your eyes.", he says holding my hand.

"Being a mom. Its not something you can go to school for. Graduate. Become a pro. You don't study it.", I say intertwining our fingers.

"You've been able to take care of Amanda after your parents died.", Bhekikhaya

"As a sister. Not a mom. This one changes everything. Man Mom probably is disappointed in me.", I say rubbing my eyes as they start to sting.

"I'll be here to support you. I'll help. Its my baby as well.", he says kissing my hands.

"Mmmmh.", I hum laying my head on his shoulder.

I guess his presence calmed the storm in me. I had planned to castrate him but I guess not everything goes as planned. He places his hand on my flat

stomach and I place mine on his. This is not how I planned having my first child. Heck! I didn't even plan to have one at all.

UNYEZI

"Think positive. We can focus on us more. Focus on yourself. You have lost touch with reality with always being stuck between the two worlds. Don't see it as a punishment but as a gift. A reversed gift. You'll be able to have more time for our kids. Mostly me.", Langa says as I lay on his chest.

I'm angry. They always giving me and when I grasp they take away again. Its sickening. A little prayer flashes through my mind.

"God. Don't ever bless me with a daughter. Ever! Cut off the Sosibo Queendom. Make sure I was the last one. Amen."

He kisses my head and takes my hand in his.

"I love you. You'll always be my Queen.", Langa says tenderly.

I feel a strong wave of emotions bust in me. Love the most. My chest warms up and tears fill my eyes as my love spreads throughout my body and I hear our heartbeats beat in sync like a beautifully made song of different instruments. The longer I listen the more I fall in love with this song. A song only me and him together can ever have.

"I love you too.", I say snuggling into him.

He pulls me closer and I sniff his scent and I smile at his manly but sweet cologne mixed with aftershave. The world is missing out on some beautiful thing. Love is beautiful.

TSHEGOFATSO

I am looking at the news stunned as I see my Dad being pushed inside a police van. His making headlines and I am surprised at the allegations. He was into human trafficking. Bile raises onto my throat as I think of the man I called a Father selling humans for money. Does he know the amount of pain he has caused to families? Leaving mother's

broken with the reality that their daughters have become another victim of greedy men. I can imagine the scared looks on the victims being auctioned to the highest bidder. Having old men finding debauchery in your fearsome soul and getting erections from your painful screams of horror. I shake my head as hate and anger overwhelm me. Its an ugly word and I take my phone and go live on Instagram. I hope my message is heard out there.

"Hey guys. I have lived all my life calling a heartless and greedy man 'Dad' without the knowledge of his malicious actions. Serame Thango is a man I called 'Dad' my whole life. After seeing the news today I realised the only man I thought I was safe around was actually my greatest danger...", I close my eyes and sigh before carrying on.

We're not safe anymore. Guess you can never know someone that well. My heart aches and I can't help but wonder how mom is doing in all of this. Will she reach out to me since Dad may be going to jail?

NDABENKHULU

I look at her as she goes on about the wedding plans and she's beautiful. She occasionally bites her lips without realising she's doing it. Her beautiful dark skin radiating beautifully under the little sunshine coming through the window. Her beautiful canine teeth as she smiles widely. I've never seen her this happy. Her eyes are glowing with positive emotions. Her energy is addictive and makes me feel like a love struck teenager again.

"I think a Black dress will do.", she says getting me out of my trance.

"A black dress?", I ask.

"Yes. Its a beautiful colour. Mom says I'm crazy but I love this black mermaid dress. I was watching Say Yes To The Dress Earlier and if I can have my dress designed by Randy.", she says dreamily.

"Well that can be arranged.", I say taking a look at the dress.

I don't really care what colour or dress she wears. She can come dressed in rags and I'd still stand

there on that alter and say 'I do' with pride.

"You love joking around.", she waves me off laughing.

She thinks I'm joking? I can arrange that to be done.

"I'm serious.", I say looking at her.

"We're talking about Kleinford Bridal Boutique here.", she says chuckling and pages through her magazine.

I guess she doesn't believe me. I'll prove her wrong anyway.

"Can I get some attention now?", I say picking her up and making her sit on me.

She smiles and I pull her closer by her firm butt. We inch closer to each other as our lips connect and a him comes from her. I can't seem to imagine life without her. I feel my blood rush and I get goosebumps and a tingly sensation in my stomach and I smile into the kiss. I wouldn't ask for anything else than this woman.

NKOSINATHI

I look at the piano and I brush it with my fingers. I haven't done a lot of things in a long time. Playing the piano one of them. I sit down and absorb the quiet and peaceful aura. I can hear Langa playing cars in the passage. Moms distinct singing to Nkanyezi as Dads loud voice talks over the phone. I play the first key and I close my eyes. My fingers play a familiar song and I let the memories play out slowly. Moms sitting next to me with Dad while Langa crawls on the floor. I open my mouth as I sing Dads favorite song.

"Dear God if you listening now. I need you do a thing for me. You see my baby she done up and walked out. I need you bring her back to me. I know I was wrong. I was guilty of sin. Probably not for all her tears. Dear God...", I sing out with my eyes closed.

Dad still loves this song and I still would like the story behind it. Hearing my own voice after so long gave me shivers and I couldn't help but feel like I am important. Its been so long since I sang and it feels like I'm discovering it for the first time all over again.

I play another song. I smile remembering how Mom used to sing this song after she and Dad fought. She had the most beautiful voice. I took after her.

"This is stupid. I'm not stupid. Don't talk to me like I'm stupid. I still love you but I just can't do this. I maybe dumb but I'm not stupid...", I sing out loud forgetting that I'm not alone in the house.

Singing makes me feel good and I haven't felt good in a long time not after what I saw. I sing louder as I try not to think about the past. I feel a tear escape my shut eyes and I don't bother wiping it. Its my own little secret. Even though it hurts knowing it sometimes.

48

UNYEZI

I sat down watching the video I took of Nkosinathi. Since I have been with Langa I never knew he could play the piano neither did I know he had such a powerful voice. He never mentioned it and so did anyone. I thought his talent was soccer. Its been days since I have heard him singing and I still am amazed. Langa walked in as I was smiling on my phone.

"Nkosinathi is going to take my wife. Everyday you're watching that video.", he said chuckling kissing my forehead.

"I'm just surprised.", I said putting my phone down.

"Why not ask him to sing for you? His downstairs. His kind of pissed thou. Amanda is not answering his calls.", he says sucking on my neck.

"Mmmmmh.", I moan out.

He lays us down and gets in between my thighs rubbing his hard on on me. He nibbles my neck and

sneaks his hand in between my thighs.

"You're so wet.", he groans dipping his finger inside me.

He still has this effect on me. He can still give me an orgasm just by smiling.

BHEKIKHAYA

I hand her the peanut butter and polony sandwich. She takes a bite and moans. I thank you God I am not eating that.

"Why are you looking at me like that?", she asks with annoyance.

"Uh... Sorry?", I say smiling awkwardly.

She puts her feet on top of my thighs and hands her sandwich to me.

"No baby. Eat. I'm okay.", I move my face away.

"Come on. Its not that bad.", she presses.

I sigh and take a bite and chew. I smile and she nods eagerly.

"Okay I admit. Its not as bad as I thought.", I say smiling.

She stretches her hand towards me and wipes the corner of my mouth with her thumb. I hold her hand and suck her thumb maintaining eye contact. She sucks in a breathe and I let her thumb pop out of my mouth. I smile at her as I notice her take shallow breaths and trying to control her animal attraction(lust). I run my hand on her thigh and squeeze it a little bit.

"Mmmmh.", she moans softly.

I feel my manhood get firmer and I remove my hand from her thighs. She runs her toes over my dick and I hold her foot.

"Hayi mahn Kuhle.",I hold her foot in place.

"But I'm horny.", she whines.

"You said we should hold back on the sex until we ask the doctor if its fine.", I remind her.

I told her the baby will be fine as long as I'm gentle but she doesn't want to take chances. I even made

Unyezi tell her but she stands on her point.

"You'll be gentle right?", she asks sitting on top of me.

Before I can say anything she kisses me. I like how she takes charge lately but my dominant side still overpowers hers.

"Fuck!", I grunt as she squeezes my balls.

This woman is going to drive me crazy. I'm having her right here on this couch.

NOXOLO

I look at them as Ndabenkulu teaches Sanele about blue prints. This man knows a bit of everything. His the type that can tell you what kind of wood a chair is made of and who discovered it. I take a picture of them and go back to checking on the pots. Cooking for a Chef is hard cause he knows if the chicken ain't marinated right. I feel hands snake around me.

"MaSilangwe.",he says kissing my shoulder.

I close the pot and turn around.

"Hi.", I greet him.

"Hi.", he greets smiling.

I lay my head on his chest and he lays his chin on my head.

"I missed y'all.", he says kissing my head.

"Well we'll be here for the weekend.", I say kissing his chest.

"Sanele is a great kid. I'm glad he is mine now.", he says causing me to look at Sanele across the room.

I feel my tears well up. When he told me he'd like to have a relationship with Sanele I was shocked really. I am happy he is willing to love my child and honestly he had my heart right there.

"We're having dinner on Sunday at my Dads. Everyone will be there with their partners. Can you come with me? They've been waiting to meet you.", he says as we pull apart.

"Your whole family will be there? What if your Dad doesn't like me?", I say slapping his hand as he opens the pot.

"I'm sure he will. Bake him Vanilla cake with strawberries and his yours.", he says groping my butt.

I kiss his cheeks as he exits the kitchen as he chews on wine gums. I look at his butt and its firms and stern. He looks at me and I bite my lip laughing.

"Stop looking at my butt!", he says chuckling.

"Mom! Euw!", Sanele says laughing.

I shrug my shoulders and join them after turning off the stove.

KHULEKANI

Tshego's video is trending and she's getting some positive reactions. She has been meditating a lot these days cause she says and I quote "my spirit is at war and my peace is not as it was." , her fathers arrest took a toll on her. I promised to join her for lunch today and she is cooking. I look at the necklace I bought her for the dinner with my family. Its a rose gold Scarlet necklace. It will go well with her skin. A text disturbs my thoughts.

"I'm craving that taxi rank dumpling and beef stew.", her texts reads.

I smile and stand up taking my car keys.

We still do enjoy taxi rank food. We spend most days eating it at the park. We bond over the smallest things. I guess we're not eating her food today.

NKOSINATHI

I try her again and she finally answers her phone.

"Amanda.", my voice cracks and I rub my eyes.

"Nkosinathi?", she says alerted.

"Can- I need you.", I say.

"Are you okay?", she asks worriedly.

"Please meet me at my apartment.", I says after clearing my throat.

"No.", she says sternly.

"Please.", I beg her.

"You can't call me for sex every time something is

bothering you. No."

"I just need you to hold me. No sex. I promise.", I try clearing the lump in my throat.

"I'll come if only you'll open up to me.", she reasons.

"Amanda."

"Okay. Bye then."

"Amanda ima.", I say hurriedly.

"Yes."

"Okay. Ngizokusikela udaba. Ng'cela uzwakale."(I'll tell you. Please come.)

She finally agrees and I rub my face. I throw my phone on the bed and go into the bathroom. As I'm about to strip naked Langa enters.

"Bhuti.", he says.

"Sho poi." (Sure boy)

"Can you play with me and Pluto?", he asks.

"Eish sani. Later?"

"You never play with me anymore. You hardly even

talk to me now. You don't love me anymore.", he says wiping his eyes.

"Hey hey. Don't cry. Harde poi. I promise to make time for you. I know I've been isolated but I'm dealing with something."

"I'm sorry. As soon as you're okay tell me. Hug?", he says opening his arms.

This kid is just cute and caring. I get on my knees and hug him. I missed our brotherly moments. I'm always buried in something these days. If its not my thoughts its inside Amanda. We separate and fist bump before he runs out of my room.

"Stop running!", I shout after him.

I chuckle as I enter the bathroom. I decide to take a cold one instead.

KUHLEKONKE

I look at him as we sit at one of his Brothers restaurants. The interior design is modern but yet traditional. Bhekikhaya is reading his menu with his bottom lip in between his teeth and his dimples are on display. His eyebrows are furrowed as he concentrates on what to order. We're sitting on a secluded table and there is a bit of sunlight coming from the window that hits his skin causing his melanin to bask in it. This man is beautifully handsome.

"Can I take your order now?", the waitress asks looking at Bhekikhaya with lust.

I look at her as she licks her lips and bites her lower lip. Such disrespect? Bhekikhaya looks up from his menu and looks at me.

"Babe. Have you decided?", he asks taking my hand in his.

"Rice and chicken curry with a chakalaka salad. Lemon water.", I say handing her my menu.

She takes it roughly and Bhekikhaya notices that. His jaw ticks and sized her up and down.

"You have a problem you wanna iron out with my wife?", he asks balancing his chin on his fists.

"No sir.", she says throwing me a look.

She's really pissing me off cause I want to cry now.

"Vaya. Call another waiter for us.", he says dismissing her.

"Wait. No. You'll attend to us as long as we'll be here. Baby order.", I say looking at Bhekikhaya.

He looks at me skeptical before nodding and ordering.

"I'm sorry about that.", he apologises after she left.

"For what? Being hot? She's just bitter cause you're with me.", I wink at him.

He smiles kissing my hand.

"I love you.", he whispers.

I look in his eyes and the stars are still present. Till this day I still don't understand what causes that.

Even Google doesn't help. The love in his eyes made me emotional. I love the way he looks at me.

"I love you too.", I say wiping a tear.

He chuckles as he wipes my eyes. I'll blame that on the baby. I don't cry this much.

THANDO

I am looking for my ringing phone and I can't find it. I finally find it under the sofa and the screen is cracked. How did it get here? I unlock it and it still functions well. I have missed calls from my brothers, Unyezi and Dad. I have been in the study. I call Dad first and he answers when I'm about to drop.

"Hey Nana... Stop it Nandi!", he says laughing.

Seems as if I'm disturbing something.

"I'll call you later Dad.", I say smiling.

"Oka- hahaha Nandi! Okay Nana.", he says dropping.

He seems happy and that's all I could ever ask for. I smile and call Khulekani.

"Ntwana yami!", he screams causing me to wince.

"Ntwana. You good?", I ask smiling.

"Always and you? I've been calling and your phone rings unanswered.", Khulekani

"Sorry. I've been busy. I've been contacting some best psychologists across the world to work at my hospital.", I sit down.

"How is that going?"

"Okay. A few have responded and I'm waiting on others and after that I'll let Dad in and he can sign the final paperwork for the machinery needed."

"I'm proud of you.", he says proudly.

I smile at his words. I'm proud of myself. I finally found something to nurture and help build.

"Thank you."

We say our goodbyes and I promise to come to Dads dinner next week. His probably going to introduce his woman. I call the others and they all seem alright. I promise Unyezi to visit soon plus I miss my nephews. I get dressed and head out for the mall. I

have been buried in work that my hair needs grooming. I drink my pills before getting out of the car. When I open the door I don't notice the car driving in hitting its mirror off. I quickly close my door and look at the car. It's a BMW i8 red and black in color. I get out as soon as the driver gets off. He looks at his car and his jaw is ticking. His large frame turns towards me and towers over me. I look up at him and swallow my saliva when I notice this eligible dark beauty.

"Uh... Uhm... I-I...", I clear my throat as words can't seem to form.

"Miss. Your car is not parked right. Stay in between the lines.", he says calmly.

The look on his face proves he's far from calm.

"I'm sorry. How much is that going to cost?", I ask taking my cheque book.

"No. It won't cost much. Park your car right before you damage someone else's car.", he says walking off.

I look at him as he walks away. He's in black jeans

that hold his firm butt and his very muscular thighs down to his bracketed legs and I like his calves. His physique seems like a regular visitor at the gym kind of guy or a soccer players. I walk inside the mall keeping an eye on him. His biceps flexing as it seems as he talks on the phone with someone. I bump into someone.

"Sorry.", I apologize.

I look up and I have lost him in the crowd. I feel kind of sad but I brush it off walking towards the salon.

NDABENKHULU

Sanele and Langa are making noise as they talk about houses. These two get along like a house on fire.

"This one is nice but I don't like the architect.", Sanele says.

I have to keep reminding myself that these are kids. I guess they do learn something on TV.

"I agree with you. If I was the builder. I'd use first

brick on this house to go well with the vintage architect.", Langa says.

I laugh and shake my head walking out. It would look better with grease painted brown wood and glass but its not my conversation and I think that house is built just fine. I miss my fiancée. I find her in my study on her laptop.

"Hey.", I greet kissing her.

"Hey.", she greets wiping the lip gloss off my lips.

I pull a chair and sit next to her.

"What are you working on?", I ask peeping at her screen.

"The decorations. How about gold and white? I wanted black but it'll look like a funeral.", she says looking at her screen.

"Gold and white is okay. Are you baking our wedding cake?", I ask closing the laptop.

"Yeah. I know what I want plus it'd be a waste of money paying someone else to do it.", her voice ever so smooth.

"You have been worried about the budget. We dont have a budget Noxolo. And hire a wedding planner."

I pick her up and put her on top of the desk putting her laptop on the chair.

"Khuzwayo."

I get in between her thighs and run my hands on them causing my T-shirt to inch up.

"Mmmmh?"

"Mom is paying for my dress. I'm baking the cake. Moms husband is paying for the wedding. You're paying for the suits and whatever else we'll need. I can pay for the wedding planner.", she says giving me more access to her neck.

I stop sucking on her neck and look at her.

"What? I'm paying for the wedding.", I tell her.

"He just wants to help plus its not much. Just half of what needs to be paid.", she tries reasoning.

"No."

I press the button under my desk and the door locks.

I push everything down off the table and she giggles.

UNYEZI

I peep into Nkosinathi's room and he's playing FIFA. I sit next to him and he pauses the game and hands me a joystick. We restart the game. Langalami is at Ndabenhkulus house visiting Sanele. I don't know much but all I know is that he is his fiancé's son. Langa went to check on his mine sites. Nkosinathi is whipping my ass on this game. I manage to score one goal and I still can't save myself cause he won.

"Mxm.", I give him his joystick.

He chuckles and puts them down.

"Hey."

"Hey mom."

"Are you okay?"

He's lost some weight and I know it's the weed. I know a weed smoker when I see one.

"I'm okay."

"You're lying.", I say looking at him.

He sighs and rubs his face.

"Honestly. I think Nkanyezi is crying."

"You're trying to get rid of me. Your brother is sleeping and I have his baby monitor."

"I'm seriously okay.", he lies again.

"When are you going to stop smoking weed?", I ask.

He chokes on his saliva with his eyes out. I rub his back and hand him the bottle of water in front of him. He drinks up and finally calms down.

"Talk. You're not old enough to not get an ass whooping.", I say calmly.

"Uh mama. Eish.", he scratches his head.

"You're not okay. I can see the bags under your eyes. You're always high. You're always at your apartment with that poor girl. Stop stringing her along. I've decided to get you a therapist."

He looks at me like I've lost my mind.

"I'm not attending that. Its soccer season. I'll be very

busy.", he tries dismissing me.

"I wasn't asking. I know you won't tell me but talking to a stranger will help. It helped me. Please think it through. They start next week Wednesday after school."

He sighs and rubs his face.

"Thank you mom."

"I love you mfana wami. Whatever it is I trust you'll tell us when you're ready.", I kiss his forehead.

"I love you too mama.", he throws his hands around me.

I hold him in my arms and I hear him sigh. I don't know what it is but it has to be big. We break off the hug.

"Hope you'll sing for me soon.", I say smiling.

"How-?", he seems shocked.

"I heard you.", I say closing the door behind me.

I smile and wipe the lone tear that manages to escape. Nkanyezis cry rips through the Baby Monitor

and I walk towards his room. I text Langa that I miss him. I love it when I miss him cause when I see him it feels like I'm falling in love with him all over again.

50

TSHEGO

I wake up with Khulekani still inside me and his erect again. My vagina is swollen from last night. I try taking him out but he holds me in place. I guess his awake now.

"Tshego.", he still has that Zulu accent when he pronounces my name.

"Mmmh?"

"Tshego.", he says more sternly.

His eyes are still closed and his eyebrows are furrowed in an annoyed way. Guess his still pissed at me.

"Khulekani."

"I hope what happened yesterday won't happen again. If you ever raise your voice at me you'll spend an entire week unable to walk. You shouted at me in front of my workers.", his voice is low but very intimidating.

His not one to get angry and I thought he was going

to slap me yesterday with the way he was so pissed. I saw files about me and I was angry he was digging into me instead of asking me. I respect his privacy and the least he could have done was respect mine. I was wrong for going at him in front of his staff at the office but I was just so angry.

"You slapped me Tshegofatso.", he chuckles darkly.

Oh there was that too. I may have slapped him and cussed at him. Mostly in Tswana and I'm glad he couldn't understand half the shit I said cause I'd be dead right now.

"I'm sorry. I was so angr-"

"So was I when you came like that at my offive? My work place. But did I raise my voice or slap you?", he cuts me off taking him self out and I wince.

"You didn't. I'm sorry.", I apologise sitting up.

"So am I but its protocol in our family to look into someone's background.", he says wearing his pants.

"Couldn't you trust me?", I ask.

"I do but Dad doesn't. It's what it is. I'm sorry for that

but I dont want to discipline you again.", he buttons his shirt.

I sit there watching him get dressed. I guess his still pissed cause his not even taking a shower before going back to his place.

"I love you.", he kisses my forehead.

He goes to the bathroom and comes back later and bids goodbye. I sigh as I get out of bed. The ache between my legs causing me to limp. He really did a number on me. His always been gentle but yesterday he was so rough and so deep. He went the whole night till I couldn't take it anymore. I couldn't feel my legs from all the orgasms that I ended up crying with pleasure. I get inside the shower and let the water cascade down my aching body. I'm sleeping in today. I'll ask for notes from Miranda.

UNYEZI

"Langa!", I scream out in pleasure as he strokes deeper.

I dig my nails into his shoulders as he penetrates me. I have my legs around him as he pins me on the shower wall. He hits it slightly from the left and I arch my back feeling his chest on my boobs. I feel a knot in my abdomen and I clench my walls around his penis and he groans with his head on my shoulder. We both cum as we pant under the shower water. I release my legs around him and he kisses my shoulder.

"I love you."

"I love you too.", I say tracing my name on his chest. We stay like that for a while embracing each other.

"Have you talked to Nkosinathi?", he asks as he washes my back.

"Yes. He agreed to therapy.", I smile kissing the hand on my shoulder.

"You should have let me talk to him."

"No. He needs some professional help. He'll be fine."

I turn around and he smiles. The moon and ocean. I smile tracing my eyes over his eyebrows. Beautiful.

"Let me go bath Nkanyezi. His irritated today.", I say getting out of the shower.

"That one is always angry.", he chuckles spanking my wet butt.

I blow him a kiss and leave him to shower. I am wet from Nkanyezi splashing water around. He keeps on crying and biting my finger. Langa walks in when I just finished dressing him up.

"His still crying?", he asks taking him from me.

"Yeah. He won't eat. He spit his porridge all over me.", I say as I point the stains on my dress.

He hums and puts Nkanyezis finger inside his mouth rubbing his gums and he stops crying and latches onto Langa's finger.

"Ah. His teething.", Langa says smiling.

"Didn't we buy something for that?"

He nods as he sits down. I start looking through the boxes of Nkanyezis stuff. Found them. I take one and rinse it before handing it to Langa. He puts it in his mouth making gurgling sounds.

"He's growing.", I smile with tears in my eyes.

"Babe. Don't cry.", he says taking my hand.

Lami walks in all happy as usual.

"Mommy. Daddy. Lil bro.", he gets kissing our cheeks.

"Hey soldier.", I greet.

Langa hands him Nkanyezi when he sits down and helps him hold him safely. Lami starts talking with Nkanyezi and Nkanyezi is laughing.

"Morning. Mom. Have you seen my tie?", Nkosinathi walks in.

"Oh. I think I folded it with Nkanyezis clothes. Check that drawer."

He goes there after kissing his little brothers cheeks.

"Found it.", he says walking out.

"Okay my baby."

I stand up and Langa takes Nka from Lami. We all head to the kitchen. I dish out for everyone and wait for them to go. I head down to the gym after changing.

AMANDA

I arrive at school before Nkosinathi. I still can't believe what he told me. He cried for hours after telling me everything. I've never seen him so broken. I wonder how he was able to keep this a secret for so long. I held him as he broke down in my arms. I see him get out of his ride and walking towards me. We share a hug and I hand him a fatcake. His friends call him for a morning joint but he declines.

"Why are you looking at me like that?", he asks swallowing after chewing.

"You never turn down a joint.", I say.

We walk inside the school.

"Therapy has been good. Instead of smoking Dr Sambo suggested I invest all that time in soccer.", he says.

I smile at him and he puts his arm over me. His never been this 'affectionate'.

"Good cause you were losing that six pack.", I say laughing.

"This six pack ain't going nowhere.", he chuckles.

He drops me off at my class and kisses my forehead before walking off with his one bracket.

"Disabled hotness.", I say laughing.

He turns around and gives me the middle finger and I smile getting into class.

THANDO

I am so tired and these heels are killing me. I was up all night preparing for that meeting and when I found out it was the guy I bumped his window a few weeks back I almost fainted. He looked so hot in a suit. As soon as I enter my office I take off my shoes. I sigh as I throw myself on my office couch. My office.

That sounds so good.

"My very own office.", I say sighing while smiling.

"Best believe it yours. Cute toes.", a voice disturbs my peace.

I sit up straight and I'm met with dark eyes. Mr Buthelezi. His that guy I bumped his car that was so

hot. He is donating millions into my hospital and I almost fainted. Dad checked him and his clean.

"Thank you.", I try sounding okay.

I cross my legs as his Cologne fills my office. He takes a seat next to me and clears his throat. I clench my thighs in hopes for the itch in between my thighs to go away.

"You're a clumsy lady Ms Khuzwayo.", he looking me in the eyes.

I clear my throat and clench my thighs tighter.

"I have to agree. Sorry about your car again.", I say embarrassed.

He chuckles revealing extra teeth and I suck in a breath. I have a weakness for people with extra teeth.

"Its okay Ms Khuzwayo.", he smiles.

"Just Thandolwethu."

"Thandolwethu. Beautiful name. Call me Ozo."

"Ozo?"

"My mom is Nigerian. She named me that. Sbusiso

is my first name thou."

"I like Ozo better.", I say smiling.

"Can you say my name again."

"Ozo?", I ask smiling.

"Perfect. Thando. You still owe me."

"Oh?"

"Yes. How about going out to dinner with me? I just moved here. You can show me around Durban.", he says smiling.

Am I being tempted here? How do I have dinner with this 'Alpha Male' who's voice alone makes me feel like stripping and lay Barr for him. Man I'm so dirty. I shake my head.

"No?", he asks.

"No. No. I mean yes... Yes I'd go to dinner with you.", I say smiling.

"Well I wasn't asking.", he says standing up.

He throws me a smile before saying his goodbye. As soon as his out the door I'm on the phone with

Unyezi. A text disturbs me.

"Tomorrow night. 8pm. I'll fetch you. NB:I won't need your address."

I read it and laugh. I could drive to your place as well as I have your address too. I forget about that gold digging jerk for a few minutes.

UNYEZI

I take a seat with Nkanyezi in my arms and give him his pacifier. Thando stretches her hands and I give him to her. We're having a meet up with the other girls. We met each other at the dinner and even though we thought we'd see Senior Khuzwayos new girl, we were very disappointed when he came alone. He said he just wanted to meet the new additions to the family and said we should not worry about his business. The lady's are very beautiful and they're very kind except for the ticking time bomb, Kuhlekonke who I later learned is pregnant. She will also be very pissed that we're meeting without her but its for a good purpose.

"Ready to leave?", Noxolo asks.

She's a very elegant woman who carries herself with confident. She has a resting bitch face and you can tell she doesn't take nonsense, well I doubt any of us do. We all stand up and take our bags. We pay the bill and leave for the mall. We're planning a surprise

baby shower for Kuhle. Noxolo had hired one of the most recommended Event Planners and I was surprised it's Sam Swanepoel. You couldn't have guessed better. The one who slept with my husband. I haven't told them that I know her ,just me and Thando know and its shall remain like that. We enter her shop and she has stuff layed out for us.

"Ladies. Nice for you to work with me.", she says smiling.

She starts giving us handshakes and when she reaches me she retaliates. I take her hand squeezing it in the process and she winces. Thando just walks past her and straight to the table ignoring her gesture.

"Uh... Ergm. I chose out some neutral colours since y'all don't know the gender.", she says giving us her practised smile.

We still have a few months till we finally surprise her we'd probably know by then the gender but I keep quiet. This better be quick. I have some papers to submit.

LANGALAKHE

My guys update me of my wife's location as always but I choke on my drink when I see she's at Sam's Shop. What is she doing there? I know my wife and I hope she doesn't do anything stupid. A text from her pops up with a picture of her smiling.

"I'm with your girlfriend. I look pretty don't I?"

My eyes are as big as saucers right now. I hope she won't be angry at me all over again. A memory of me in hospital comes to mind and sweat build up on my forehead. Its like I can feel that pain again. I take my keys and leave the mine. I'll have to postpone this meeting.

"Mr Khuzwayo!", my PA runs after me.

"Yes Sandile."

"Sir. The meeting?", he asks confused.

"Postpone it. Apologise on my behalf. Something came up."

He nods and goes back into the boardroom. I need

to apologize to my wife again. I need to get rid of Sam. She can't be a constant reminder to my wife about how I betrayed her.

KUHLEKONKE

We had just come out of the doctors consultation room and his looking at the scan smiling.

"Ngizoba yitaima. So fede ngizoba nengcosi."(I'm going to be a father so like I'm going to have a kid.),he says grinning like the idiot he is.

I get into the car and take out my bra. He looks at me confused.

"En nou?"(and now?),Bheki

"Its hurting my boobs.", I say rubbing them.

"Want me to massage them?", he asks seductively.

"They're sensitive lately."

"I read thats normal.", Bhekikhaya.

His been reading a lot of Pregnancy Magazines and its been helpful. His very supportive. I'm in my first

trimester so I'm not showing that much but you can tell that something is growing in me.

"Can you pass by Steers?"

"Why?", he asks brows furrowed.

"I'm craving some juicy steak."

"No. Ndabenhulu cooked enough healthy food for you. I think there's steak too.", Bheki.

I look at him and he just carries on driving. He had his brother cook food for me. Very healthy food. No oil. No spices. Mostly boiled. I can't cook for myself anymore. He annoys me sometimes. When he leaves I'm ordering that steak. Amanda is also under strict orders to not cook any 'DANGEROUS UNHEALTHY' food. I'm pregnant not stricken by some disease. I feel like strangling him right now. His phone rings and it's our kids heartbeat and him reciting a poem. It's also annoying me.

"Answer your phone Bhekikhaya. It's irritating."

"iPhone ya ba kanti le?" (Who's phone is this?), he asks letting it ring.

I take it and he looks at me and I open my window throwing it out. He looks at me wife eyed and back but he can't stop the car since we're on the highway.

"Kuhlekonke udakiwe? Uyahlanya wena. Or udakwe yingane le eseswini?" (Are you drunk? You're crazy. You're drunken by this pregnancy.)

I just look out the window angry and sad. I hate being pregnant. This is not what I wanted. I don't want kids. I don't even have control over my emotions.

"Ukhalelani? Ha.a mahn Kuhle zishani?" (Why are you crying? No man Kuhle what's wrong?)

I ignore him and look at passing cars. I just feel so sad. He sighs and leaves me alone.

THANDO

I hand Nkanyezi to Langa who just popped up uninvited. He was standing next to his wife with his hand in hers during the whole thing. He kept wiping sweat off his forehead. His poor girlfriend couldn't

even look at us. Unyezi didnt even give two shits but she looked like she enjoyed having these two under her pressure squirm. We all say our goodbyes and I drive to my house. I am tired and a glass of wine will do. I take a bath while sipping wine. I need to get a pet just to ease the quietness in this house. It gets lonely at times but I'm the only one without a life in my family. My job is my husband and it sounds sad but hey. I get out of the bath and just put on a towel on my naked body. The intercom goes off. I'm not expecting anyone.

"Thandolwethu Khuzwayo Residence."

"Thando."

That voice. Its Ozo. I look at the screen and indeed it's him. How the fuck does he know where I live. I send my brothers a code. I let him in and I hear his car drive in. I'm not even dressed. I run upstairs and pull on a some shorts and sports bra. I check myself in the mirror one last time. He knocks and I open the door. He leans on the door and smiles.

"Hey."

This dude should stop smiling. I don't trust myself to control myself longer. He hands me a bracelet with red beads.

"Uhm... Thank you.", I smile awkwardly.

"I didn't know what to buy you since you ditched me last time. Its a Nigerian bracelet.",he says helping me wear it.

I've seen it on those Nigerian movies Unyezi watches worn by actors. It blended well with my dark skin.

"Its beautiful. Oh sorry come in."

I shift and give him space to come in. An SUV drives in as I'm about to close the door. Sbhamu gets off with other guys and walk inside.

"Hands up ndoda.", Sbhamu commands.

Ozo looks at me and lifts his hands up. They search him and they walk out. Sbhamu walks towards me.

"We'll be outside. Scream if you need anything.",Sbhamu

He throws one more look at Ozo and walks out. I close the door and rub my arms awkwardly.

"Tight security.", Ozo breaks the silence.

"Yeah. How did you know where I lived?"

"I told you before that I know where you stay before you cancelled our date."

He sits down and takes off his blazer.

"Oh that... Juice? Water? Anything?"

"No thank you. Please lend me an ear."

I sit opposite him.

"I have a niece in Nigeria. She has schizophrenia and is struggling with it.", Ozo

"Yeah?"

"I hope she can have a comfortable stay at your asylum."

"She sure will. You do know you can sign her up online right? I have a feeling you didn't come here for that."

He inches closer and looks me in the eye. He has the most beautiful eyes. They were dark brown when I first met him but now under the sunlight emitting

through the glasses they're hazel brown with a light unnoticeable blue around his iris.

"I can't stop thinking about you. Your clumsy self. Your beautiful dimples and humble personality. Your awkwardness and soft but hoarse voice. Most of all your thighs."

He looks at my thighs and I clear my throat as I feel a dampness down there. I clench them and he smiles.

"I like the effect I have on you. Trust me you have the same on me but I'm better at hiding it."

He is speaking really slowly and his cologne is all I can smell. Manly. His aura is so dominant. I feel like getting on my knees with my palms on my thighs and submit to him. I feel his breathe next to my ear and my breathe hitches. He is now leaning over me with his hand on the armrests capturing me in. He bites tenderly on my ear lobe and I bite my lip.

"Ozo... We can't...", I breathe out.

"Tell me to stop."

"Ozo... This is not- mmmh."

He lifts me and lies me on the couch. He gets in between my legs and looks at me.

"Thando."

"Mmmh?"

"Tell me to stop."

I open my mouth and close it again. Do I want him to stop? No but the little voice at the back of my head is saying this is wrong. I hardly know this guy and- I am surprised by the feel of his lips on mine. I have kissed a few guys but I can't bet on my kissing skills. I follow his lead and his lips are so soft and tender I can't help pulling his lower lip between my teeth and he groans. Guess he liked that. He helps me out of my sport bra and he kisses my boobs. My hear rate quickens as one of his hands sneak inside my shorts. He rubs my clit while sucking on my nipples paying attention to each areola. He inserts one finger in my hole and I squirm uncomfortably. He tries inserting another one and I flinch. He stops and takes out his hand inside my shorts.

"Open your eyes Thando.", he commands.

I open them slowly and he gets off me. He sits next to me and I sit next to him.

"Are you a virgin?", he finally asks after a long silence.

My brain starts working again and I mentally facepalm myself upon realising that I was going to give my innocence to a complete stranger.

Something I had kept for my destined. My conscious screams 'the very same one who doesn't want you?' and I look down.

"Yes.", I croak out.

We keep quiet again and he runs his hand over his bald head.

"I'm sorry of taking advantage of you like that.", he apologises.

He stands up and wears his blazer. I look at his trunk and I gulp.

"I'll be going. I'll check on you later."

He kisses my temple and walks out. What just happened? I guess me being a virgin came as a turn

off. I mean I'm like 22 and I kept myself for someone who thinks I'm a hoodrat. I'm such a clown. I wish I can tell my brothers about this but they will go after Ozo and interrogate him. I had to beg them to let go of that gold digging bastard. I call Unyezi. She'd know what to do in this situation.

TSHEGOFATSO

"That was awkward.", I say getting into the car with Noxlo.

She nods and start the engine. I have never been in such a tense awkward position. The aura during that whole meeting was tense as soon as Unyezis husband walked in but that is none of my business.

"I still can't believe you're dating Khulekani.", Noxolo

"I know. It just felt weird that we're dating friends. His a nice guy.", I smile.

"Argh. Who cares? I'm happy to see you happy. You're glowing."

"He makes me so happy. He understands my love

for snakes and we went to see his former python pet. That had to be the most special thing that ever happened to me. It was so beautiful. He doesn't tell me to go on diets, he just doesn't mind my chubby self. I have never felt so confident in a forever."

Noxolo looks at me before concentrating on the road grinning.

"I've never seen this side of you. You're not that shy gloomy girl anymore.", Noxolo.

I blush and she laughs at me.

"Your engagement ring is beautiful."

She looks at it as she parks next to Kuhles yard. There is this glint in her eyes. She smiles and shakes her head.

"You love don't you?", I ask looking at her.

"More than I thought I would. His just... I don't know. He treats me so good Tshego that it feels weird sometimes and too good to be true cause I'm not used to this.", she says smiling lightly.

"Enjoy it babes. Don't over think anything."

We get out of the car and as we approach the house we hear shouting. We walk in and Bhekikhaya is sitting on the couch looking at a shouting and crying mess Kuhlekonke with furrowed eyebrows and one raised eyebrow. By the way he keeps clenching his jaw he is very pissed. We look at Kuhlekonke and she is crying.

"I don't want this baby Bhekikhaya! I'm not ready. I can't be a mother now!", she's crying hysterically.

"Kuhle stop shouting.", he says calmly.

"I hate you!", she shouts veins popping.

She slams her bedroom door behind her and let's out a loud scream. Bhekikhaya looks at us and stands up.

"Tell her we'll see her tomorrow. Bye.", I say pulling Noxolo.

She pulls her arm away from me.

"Bhekikhaya.", she calls him.

He turns back with the scariest expression and I really want to run.

"Don't hit her. Please.", she begs with tears in her eyes.

Sadness passes through Bhekikhaya's eyes before shaking his eyes. I hold Noxolos hand as it shakes.

"I would never.", he enters.

We stand there and I pull Noxolo out the door. She's shaking while crying silently. I guess the shouting brought back all the memories. I feel tears fill my eyes as I remember how she'd try hiding all those scars with many clothing. He never hit her face thou. I decide to drive as she sits in the backseat.

"Should I call your therapist?"

"No. Ndabenkulu.", she sobs.

I sigh and search for his tens but can't find them. She realizes and takes the phone. She talks to him and I listen to the radio to avoid eavesdropping.

NKOSINATHI

"Are you ready to tell me what happened that night?", Sandra asks.

I am laying down on the sofa with my eyes closed. When mom suggested a therapist I expected an old woman but Sandra is a petite woman with the curves and booty. I sit up and look at her as she scribbles down on her notebook. Her weave comes down on her face and she flicks it off.

"How old are you?", I ask.

She raises her head and looks at me. I maintain the eye contact till she sighs.

"I'm 26.", she finally answers.

"You look younger than that. 22 estimated."

She does really. She has the most tender eyes and its hard not to look at them.

"Okay. Nkosinathi do you feel like weed makes you forget that incident? The one you won't tell."

"At first I smoked it for that reason and than I realised there was more to weed."

She writes down and looks at me.

"More? Like what?"

"Sexual stamina. Appetite. It gave me this new feeling. Like it revealed the real me. I can think everything through when I'm high."

She looks at me and nods.

"You see those dark spots in your eyes?"

I nod.

"They're caused by weed. Your eyes lose that whiteness in them. You may eat a lot but you lose weight. It gives the brain so much happiness that it imbalances the hypothalamus and can cause bipolar in most cases. You can lose your mind from smoking weed. Your IQ decreases with each smoke you take. Ever noticed how dry your skin is? That's caused by weed. You become a chimney that your lungs are soaked with smoke that they can't pump enough oxygenated blood around the body."

I nod and let all this sink in.

"When was the last time you smoked?"

"A week after I started attending the first session with you plus I saw how it was hurting mom."

"So if I'm correct its been close to a month?"

I nod and she smiles writing down.

"How is the sleeping?"

"2 hours max and I'm up again. Its these nightmares. They...argh."

"They what?"

"They haunt me. Its like that exact moment plays again and again. It's like I'm there again on the staircase seeing him stra-", I stop abruptly.

I stand up and take my phone.

"Nkosinathi we're not done yet."

"We are."

I leave her office and get inside the awaiting car.

"My apartment Skere."

He nods and drives. I text Samke but end up deleting it. I call Amanda instead. Only she can handle my pain and anger.

"Nkosinathi."

I keep quiet for a while just breathing.

"Nkosinathi is everything okay?"

"I need you. Again."

"I thought you said we're better off as friends."

"I thought so too but... Amanda please."

A sob escapes my lips and I wipe a lone tear.

"I'm sorry but I can't. I will be there as a friend but I'm not sleeping with you. I love you and you know that but I can't keep doing this. I can't settle for less than mere sex. I deserve more than this and so do you. I'm coming thou as soon as I finish my after school chores. I'll hold you and cry with you. Thats all I have to offer."

"Anything as long you're with me."

We end the call and I sigh. Her words play in my head too. I'm starting to get a headache. I sit back on the car seat and look up with my eyes closed.

52

THANDO

A YEAR LATER

I have been ignoring Sbusiso since what happened and his not backing down. A delivery man just dropped off my lunch from him with a note that reads "I would've bought it myself but I'm going to Nigeria today." I don't know why I felt a tinge of sadness that I brushed off. Unyezi walks in looking beautiful.

"Baby!", she screams kissing my cheek.

She lays container on the table and sits in front of me smiling.

"What do you want?", I say eyeing her.

"Nothing. I just bought my children's aunt some lunch even though it seems someone beat me to it.", she grabs the takeaway from me.

"You lying but thanks for lunch even though Sbusiso already did."

She looks at me and sits straight.

"Okay. What's wrong? You're calling him Sbusiso and your tone is as low as some people would go."

"He's leaving!", I sigh.

"Leaving? To where? How long?"

"I don't know.", I shrug.

She takes my phone and hands it to me.

"Call him and ask."

"No."

"Call him."

I look at her and she nods her head. I press his contact and hesitate pressing the call option.

"Do it.", she says chewing.

I press the call option and it starts ringing.

"You're done ignoring me? After a year?"

That's what he says as soon as he answers his phone.

"Hey?"

Unyezi face palms and shakes her head.

"Hey.", he answers chuckling.

I clear my throat.

"So you're leaving?"

I hear a sigh on the other end.

"Yeah. I'll be gone for a while. I have some business that side as well."

"How long is a while?"

"3 to 6 months."

I close my eyes and Unyezi nudges me.

"Oh okay."

She frails her hands and takes a paper writing down. She shoves the paper in my hand.

"Can I see you before you leave?", I read out.

"Yes. I'll cook and we'll eat dinner at my house. That's okay?"

I nod and Unyezi pinches me.

"Ouch."

"What?"

"Nothing. Yeah dinner at your house is okay."

"Okay. I'll send the address."

I chuckle but don't tell him not to.

"Thanks for lunch."

"Pleasure."

"Bye."

"Bye."

We drop and I squeal like a love stricken teenager.

"So?"

"You're so nosy."

"I helped you. You'd be sulking right now."

"We're having dinner at his house."

"What are you going to wear?"

I shrug and open the takeaway and she bought steak.

"So I wanted to talk to you about something."

"Ha! I knew it!"

"Shut up!"

She scrambles in her bag and takes out an envelope. She hands it to me and sits back biting her lip. I open it and its a CV. Their is a certificate of graduation too.

"I was studying online. I got graduated a year ago. It was on Nkosinathis 17th birthday so I couldn't take the shine and I ended up forgetting. Langa doesn't know too. Being a stay at home mom was never on my list."

I smile and read over her CV. Seeing another woman chasing her dreams is so heartwarming.

"I can't believe you didn't tell me about any of this."

She smiles and shrugs.

"I'll hire you."

She laughs and takes my hands.

"Thank you."

She starts crying and I stand up. I hug her as she cries.

KUHLEKONKE

Bhekikhaya walks in with Sinenhlanhla and hands her to me. I take him from him wiping my boob and insert it in his mouth. I look at him and I hate how he looks like his father with no sign of me.

"Sthandwa sam."

I look up at him and he smiles kneeling in front of me while holding Sne's hands.

"Its been a tough year for you. For all of us. I'm sorry that I thought you were just acting up and that you hated our son. I knew nothing about postpartum depression."

I look down and he wipes my tear. I take out my boob and lay Sne on my shoulder and rub his back. After giving birth to Sne I hated him. I loathed him. Unyezi was the one who noticed something was wrong with me by how I didn't want him to feed. She told Bhekikhaya about Postpartum depression and signed me in at an asylum. I was always exhausted and I had lost a huge amount of weight. Amanda in her boarding school with no one to help me and the

thoughts that if my mother was here it would be better made things worse. Unyezi helped raise my child until I was out.

"Let me take him to his cot."

I hand him Sne and leaves. I was able to deal with the death of my parents and I finally contacted my father's brother and I went home. My child can have someone from my side. Bhekikhaya comes back as I'm cleaning around the bedroom.

"Kuhle."

I look at him and he hands me his hand in which I take. He holds me in his arms.

"Will you marry me?"

I move away from him and he takes out a ring from his pocket.

"Get down on one knee hawu."

He chuckles and gets down. He smiles at me.

"Will you make me the happiest man and marry me?"

I smile and nod with tears streaming down my face.

"Yes?"

"Yes!"

He slides the ring on my finger and stands up. He kisses me and we stay in each others arms.

"What time are we fetching Amanda? She texted me that she is ready for December holidays with her nephew."

"Let's take a bath. We'll fetch her after lunch."

NKOSINATHI

I throw the ball at Langa and he kicks it at Pluto who just looks at it. His growing old and always sleeping. We'll be saying goodbye to him next week. They'll inject him and he'll die peacefully. Mom doesn't want to let go of him but his old and sick. He has cancer and has lost weight. We stop playing and I sit next to Pluto. Him and Unyezi are the best thing that ever happened to me. Langa sits next to me and Pluto lays his head on his lap.

"Go take off your uniform before Mom comes back.

You know she's still waiting for one more mistake and your ass is whipped."

"It was my last day of school today so I won't need it anytime soon."

"I wish I was you. Matriculant and all grown up."

I chuckle and brushed his hair making him groan and hit my hand.

"Growing up is not fun. I wish I was 5 again. Clueless. Innocent."

He looks at me and squints his eyes.

"When will you tell me why you quit therapy?"

"You're just a kid Langa. There are something's better unsaid."

He nods and takes out wine gums from his pocket. He hands me some and I accept them.

"Do you miss her?"

I look at him confused and he looks at me and blinks annoyed. Oh her.

"All the time. School hasn't been the same without

her. I smell her in my room sometimes. I had to stop listening to our voice notes."

He nods and throws a wine gum in the air and catches it with his mouth.

"You love her don't you?"

I look at him chuckling.

"Haibo Langa. How old are you again?"

He shakes his head at me.

"I'm turning 11 but just cause I'm a child doesn't mean I'm stupid."

I look at him and nod. He keeps surprising me. Pluto stands up and runs in the house.

"Mom's home."

I run upstairs to my room to take out my uniform before she murders me. She walks in with Nkanyezi who is eating Simbas. Guess she fetched him from Aunt Thandos. Aunts maid looks after him when Mom has errands.

"Hey mom."

"Hey baby. How's therapy?"

Langa side eyes me and I clear my throat.

"Helpful."

She takes off her sunglasses and put them on the counter with her handbag.

"Do you know how much I pay per session?"

I shake my head and grab a handful of Nkanyezi's chips.

"R2000 per hour. Imagine how much I pay in a year."

I nod and she opens the drawers in the kitchen. I don't understand where this is going.

"The money I use for your therapy is my life savings money. I don't work."

She stand next to the stove with a wooden spoon in her hand.

"I met Sandra today."

Sandra promised not to tell her that I stopped coming.

"She told me you stopped attending your sessions and you threatened her not to tell me."

I gulp as she walks towards me. I move back. Sandra is going to pay for this. I didn't even threaten her. I just told her to not tell mom or pay her a visit. I was just joking. What could I do?

"Woza la." (Come here.)

She's crazy. Imagine getting an ass whooping at 18. Sikes!

"Mama."

"Nathi."

"Eish oledi. I'll go to her office right now."

"Very well then. I'll call her and ask. If not Nkosinathi you'll feel like your ass is on fire."

I nod and she throws the spoon at me and I duck running out the door. I shake my head when I get outside. Dad's car drives in and he gets out as the driver park in front of me.

"Uyaphi?" (Where are you going?)

"Therapy."

"She found out?"

I nod and he looks behind him before leaning on his car.

"What's wrong boy? I may not talk about it but I know and can see something is eating you up. It has been for years but now its at its peak. Is it your mother's death cause you changed after her death?"

I clench my jaw and hands.

"It is isn't it? Look son-"

"You won't get it Baba."

I get in the car and the driver drives off after I tell him where we're heading.

NOXOLO

I walk out with my mom of the Bridal Boutique.

"Those dresses were beautiful Noxolo."

"I know mom but I don't like them."

She rolls her eyes and we both get into our cars and hoot at each other as we drive off. I promised Ndabenkulu to have lunch with him today so I drive to his restaurant. I walk to his office and he has a indoor picnic setup going on. I smile taking off my heels and putting my bag down.

"Khulu.", I greet.

He smiles and comes towards me. He lifts me up and turns around with us.

"How did the dress fitting go?"

"I don't like those dresses."

"It's okay. We'll get another designer. Maybe Randy even."

I smile and kiss him. His kisses still leave me breathless. We pull out and smile.

"I love you."

I close my eyes and sigh.

"I love you too."

He holds me tighter and I lay my head on his chest.

"The chef cooked your favorite meal."

"He cooked you?"

He laughs and we sit down. Samp and beans with hot beef curry. I clap my hands causing him to laugh.

"Sanele is probably home by now."

"Yeah. I had his food dropped off at our house for him."

I nod smiling. He is all I've been dreaming about and more.

TSHEGO

I am at the internet café making photocopies. I am signing up for NSFAS with the hopes of getting approved. If I don't find a bursary soon I don't know how I'll study next year. I am running low on cash and I'm stressed out. I am scared of asking my grandmother to help since she's already helping with my groceries. My lunchtime is almost over. I take everything and stuff them in my bag. I run to work and when I get there I'm heaving and wheezing. I

didn't get time to eat and I'm hungry but I got to grind. I found this job as a waitress at some Indian restaurant and the tips are handy.

"I need you on table 5 Maluda.", Sandy orders.

"Okay where's my apron and heels?"

"Behind the counter."

I wear my heels and apron and walk to table 5. I put on my smile and take down their order. Its a very high standard restaurant and we wear formal. It pays well and I've been saving. I might be able to pay for the first semester. I dont have any classes today so I took a full day in.

NKOSINATHI

I enter Sandra's office and sit down. She looks up from her notebook and smiles. She stops smiling when she sees the look on my face.

"Are you crazy?"

She looks at me blinking.

"I couldn't keep lying."

"I asked if you were crazy not if you were going to keep lying."

She stands up ignoring me and gets my file which is thinner than the others.

"Let's start with our session."

I chuckle and sit up straight.

"You need to let certain things be Sandra. What I know is a secret deeper than Phoras lyrics."

She sits down and opens my file.

"The last time you walked out of here you nearly talked but you fear something. Someone."

She crosses her legs and her skirt goes up revealing her creamy thigh. She's wearing a blouse today that reveals her cleavage. Her jugs look beautiful should I say.

"Nkosinathi."

I look at her and she looks down at her book.

"Your mother. She died when you were young. Do

you miss her?"

"Sometimes. She wasn't that much of a mother. The only time I miss her is when I see a R100 000 worth Louise Vuitton bag. She cared more about her heels more than us."

She nods writing down. Her writing notes irritates me.

"Stop that."

"What?"

"Stop taking notes. I'm not a lecturer. Listen and ask questions. No notes.", I order.

"Its a must."

"Stop it Sandra."

She puts it down and leans back.

"Do you hate her? Your mother? Biological."

"No. Yes. I dont know. I hate that I miss her sometimes. She was a whore. Slept with the Gardner mostly when Dad wasn't allowed."

"The fact that she ran away leaving you behind. Does

it anger you?"

"No."

"Do you think you'll ever want to meet her again?"

I rub my face. How do want to meet a dead person Sandra? I groan.

"You're a beautiful lady Sandra."

She gulps and sits properly.

"Okay. Back to the-"

"Shut up."

She stares at me surprised.

"I don't want to talk about my mother. It pisses me off. Let's talk about you."

"Thats inappropriate."

"I don't care. Are you seeing someone?"

"No."

She stands up and goes to the little table at the corner and pours water in a glass. I stand up and stand behind her. I'm taller than her even if she's

wearing heels. Ms Sambo is a very short individual. She turns around and spills water on me in shock.

"Sorry."

"Its okay."

I take off my hoodie and I'm left top less. I have been working on my physique as a soccer player. It has improved I might say.

"We can... Uhm... Go back to our seats."

She says with her eyes all over the place. She's not even breathing.

"Breathe Sandra."

She exhales and gulps down her water. I put my hands on either side of the table trapping her in.

"What are-"

I cut her off by kissing her. She tastes like strawberries. She responds and man her lips. She is a good kisser I'll give her that. She pulls out just as it gets heated.

"We cant. You're kid."

"I'm legal."

"You're my patient."

"Stop with the excuses."

I kiss her again and she replies with just as much hunger. I pick her up and she is surprised. I lay her on the couch getting between her legs while unbuttoning her shirt.

"The door."

I get up and lock it kicking off my shoes. I get in between her legs again. I help her out of her bra and I rub and pinch her nipples while kissing her neck. She moans beautifully and I harden fully. I lift her skirt up exposing red lace. She looks good in red. Her thighs are beautiful and thick. I search my pockets and I find a condom. Luck. I tear it open with my mouth and insert it. She looks down at me.

"How old are you again?"

"18."

I slide her panties to the side revealing a Brazilian Wax. She's already wet. I rub myself on her before

inserting myself and her pussy walls swallow me in.

"Fuck! You're so warm and tight."

She's tight, warm and soft. I don't think I'll regret attending therapy today.

I thrust deeper and she moans biting her lips.

"Mmmmh."

I start moving and look down between us looking at how she swallows my dick inside her.

"Ah! Nkosinathi! Ah! Shit!"

She's moaning loudly and gripping my arms digging her nails in my skin. That's going to leave a bruise. They'll heal like the rest.

"Keep it down."

She bites her lips subsiding her moans. I might start attending therapy again if I'll get such.

LANGALAKHE

Unyezi is checking on Pluto wwith Nkanyezi. Langa

is visiting Sanele for the weekend. I open the safe and take out my gun leaving Unyezis. I put it around my tracksuit waistband and cover it with my hoodie. Unyezi walks in the bedroom and I closed the safe and exit the closet.

"Mawabo ngisacwala isganga." (I'm going out.)

"Oh. I wanted us to talk."

"I'll be back before dinner. I'm meeting with the guys."

She nods and kisses me.

"What should I cool?"

"You said you had a headache right? Order."

"Okay. I love you."

"I love you too."

I kiss her one last time and head to my car. I drive to Khulekanis house in speed. When I arrive everyone is there.

"I cut my lunch date short because of you.",
Ndabenhulu.

"Zishubile bafo." (Its heated.)

"Zishani?" (What's wrong?),Khulekani.

"Remember Nkanyamba Zikode?"

All the guys faces turn serious.

"What does he want now?"

"Langalami and Nkosinathi. His daughters children. If not he is handing me to the authorities for Bongekas death. He has recordings of us telling him we will give him his daughters body of he doesn't talk. He also wants R1million."

My dad stands up and fixes his suit.

"I left my woman for this? Bhekikhaya."

Bafo looks at dad.

"Kill him."

He nods standing up.

"You. Get rid of that Swanepoel girl. Its been a year. London seems like a good place for her to relocate."

He walks out mumbling and cussing us.

"I told you not to have a conscience and you went ahead and gave Zikode daughters corpse.", Bhekikhaya.

He stands up clicking his tongue.

"Leave Swanepoel to me. Deal with whatever Nathi is facing.", Ndabenhulu.

We all stand up.

"Get out of my house. I have to pick up my woman from work.", Khulekani.

We get into our cars.

"Remind Thando to take her pills." Khulekani reminds me.

I send her a text and drive off.

53

UNYEZI

Langa gets back and puts his gun in the safe. I wait for him until he sits down and he sighs.

"Do I need to carry my gun around? Should I stop driving myself?", I ask him.

He brushes his face and pulls me to him.

"No. We'll handle it. Its nothing big."

I nod and sit on his lap straddling him.

"You said we needed to talk."

I nod and clear my throat.

"Remember when I told you that I was studying online?"

He nods and lays on the bed with his hands under his head. I pull the envelope from the bedside and hand it to him. He takes it and takes out the certificate. He furrows his eyebrows and then smiles. He sit up and kisses me.

"What do I call you? Dr Khuzwayo?"

"Yes. Therapist in the house."

He smiles and kisses me again.

"I'm proud of you."

I feel my chest warm up and I shiver a bit from the goosebumps. Those words sound so special to me.

"Have you told your father?"

I shake my head and he takes out his phone dialing my Dad's number. It rings and he answers.

"Mkhwenyana." (Son-in-law.)

"Baba. I'm with Unyezi."

He looks at me and nods.

"Baba."

"Ndodakazi."

"Ngiphethe idegree yokuba yiTherapist la esandleni sami." (I am holding a Therapists degree in my hand.)

I hear shouting and my aunt and mkhulus voice comes through.

"Yililili! Nazoke! Gema! Mshingila!", my aunt ululates

and recites my calm names happily.

"Idlozi livumile mtanam." (The ancestors have blessed you.),Mkhulu.

My smile disappears and Langa looks at me.

"Bye bye. Sophinde sifoune." (We'll call.),Langa cuts in.

He drops the call and looks at me. He opens his mouth and I shake my head and he nods.

"Also. I gave my CV to Thando and she hired me. I'll be starting next week. I need someone to look after my kids while I'm at work."

He lays back down on the bed with his eyebrows furrowed.

"You're only telling me all this now?"

I look down and play with hem of his T-shirt.

"I wanted to surprise you."

"I'm surprised and proud but you know I hate surprises."

"Sorry?"

He face palms and shakes his head.

"Waaah. Where's Nkosinathi?"

"He came back and slept after therapy. I'm starting to stress Langa. Its been a year and still no progress. He changes girls every week. He is always at the gym. He doesn't eat dinner with us. He isn't being an 18 year old. I'm losing him."

"I'm just as worried and I don't know what to do. I'm thinking of letting Dad intervene."

I nod at this. Langa moves under me and his groin rubs against mine. He does it again and I put my hands on his abs.

"Come here."

I smile and he pulls my hand and I fall on top of him. He grabs my face gently and kisses me tenderly while his other hand unties my braids. I'm just in his T-shirt so he pulls it over my head and throws it across the room smirking. He traces his hand to my boobs and he squeezes them and I lick my lower lip. He runs his hand on my back and I shiver at his touch. I help him out of his T-shirt. He grabs my butt

and grinds me from the bottom causing me to match his movements. My hands pull his sweatpants down along with his Calvin Klein underwear and he lifts his butt up and kicks them off along with his shoes. His erect and his cock is dripping precum. His hand travels between my thighs and he slides my g-string to the side and slips a finger inside my vagina and I squirm. He sucks a breath.

"You're so wet."

"All for you."

He uses his strength and tears my g-string and he smiles winking at me. I'm used to him doing this by now. He lifts me up and I help slide him in. I moan and he groans gripping my waist tight. He starts moving underneath me while holding my waist tight and he thrusts are deep.

.

I'm about to cum and Langa pulls my hands. He is moving under me and I moan. My whole body shakes as I cum. Langa doesn't stop moving and I

am shaking. He thrusts one more time before spilling all his seeds inside me. He lifts me up and takes himself out. He lays me on the bed and I'm shaking. My body lunges forward and I moan as an after effect orgasm hits me.

"Shit!",Langa cusses.

I feel him harden on my thigh. A loud bang followed by a scream disturbs him as he is about to penetrate me again. We look at each other. We both stand up. I pull his Underwear and T-shirt on fast running out. I follow the raging scream and banging and its from Nkosinathis room. Langa stands next to me and looks at me. He tries opening the door but its locked. He kicks the door open and we find Nkosinathi with his head between his knees and his weeping.

"Babe. Go check the kids. I'll deal with this."

I nod reluctantly and leave the messy room. I head for Langas room and he isn't there. I find him in Nkanyezis room and they're playing cars.

"Join us mommy.", Langa.

"Come Mama.", Nkanyezi.

I sit next to then and grab a car. My thoughts wonder to the other room.

LANGA

I sit next to him on the floor. His hands are bleeding.

"Nkosinathi."

He raises his head and looks at me. He looks tired.

"What's wrong? You've wrecked your bedroom. Isn't therapy helping?"

"What is it suppose to help with precisely?"

"I don't know. Tell me. This behaviour."

"If I talked you'd go to jail. Do you think I like having sleepless nights? I have fucking nightmares! Have been for years!"

"Why would I go to jail? What nightmares?",I ask
confused.

"I saw you okay! I saw you!"

He stands up angrily and runs his hand on his head.

"I saw you strangle her! Your hands wrapped firmly around her neck as she choked and you looked into her eyes as she took her last breath. You lied to us and said she ran away and left us behind. Do you know that that did to Langa? He grew up thinking his own mother didn't want him? She didn't but he didn't know that!"

He sits down and cries louder. I sit there looking at him as I feel my heart beat extremely fast. No way! He couldn't have seen me!

"Nkosinathi. It wasn't me. I wasn't in my right state of mind. Physically it was me but mentally and spiritually it wasn't me. I know you won't believe me but your mother angered the ancestors with her lies and..."

I rub my eyes as I feel them sting. All the memories come back.

"Khokho took over me. Strangled your mother. I woke up the next day and my aunt Gogo the sangoma had pulled me out of the trance. I am sorry you had to see and keep that with you for so long.

I'm sorry I lied to y'all but I didnt know how to tell y'all. I was scared y'all might hate me if y'all knew. I'm so sorry son."

I wipe my tears and he stands up. He hands me a hand and I take it. He lifts me up.

"I can never unsee what I saw. Tell mom to stop with this therapy talk. Sandra is obligated to calling the cops on you if she finds out."

"Thank you. We all had a therapist when we were young. I'll call your grandfather and you can talk to him. I'm sorry."

"Its okay. I won't be sleeping home tonight. I need some fresh air."

I nod and watch him as he packs a bag and leaves. I sink back down on the floor and close my eyes. That kid will never be the same again. He never was anyway. Its all my fault.

NOXOLO

I show him the dress and he smiles at me.

"Its perfect. What changed your mind on Black and royal gown dress?"

"I don't know. I have been dragging this wedding. Its just a dress. I'm going to fitting next week and then we can set a date."

"Finally!"

I laugh.

"Should I drop y'all off?"

"No sthandwa. We'll be okay."

He nods and kisses me and hands me my keys.

"Sanele!",he shouts for him.

"I'm coming."

Sanele comes running out fixing his cricket bag.

"I don't understand why y'all carry such big bags."

"You never will then mom."

Ndabenkulu laughs and I punch him playfully. I kiss him goodbye and he fist bumps Sanele. We get in the car and Ndabenkulu gets in his. We drive out

and hoot.

"Mom."

"Mmmh?"

"Can I call Malume Ndabenkulu Dad? I mean you guys are getting married."

I steal a quick glance at him before focusing on the road again.

"Yes. If you want to. I mean... Wow."

I can't help the tears that stream down my eyes. I am so proud of how he is willing to open up to Ndabenkulu taking a father's role in his life. The car swerves and bullets fly inside the car. On instinct I cover Sanele as what I assume as a bullet ripples through my arm. Another goes through my thigh and I scream.

"Siri call Khuzwayo!", I scream in pain.

"Calling Khuzwayo."

The phone rings and he answers.

"Miss me already?"

"We just got shot down."

"What?"

"We... Shot. Hurry."

My words slur as I lose consciousness. I hope Sanele is okay.

NDABENKHULU

Just after her call I receive an alert from her insurance company and they're already taking them to the hospital. I am already calling the guys that follow her.

"Who the fuck shot her?!"

"Boss. We're followed the shooting car and we have one of the guys. One ran away. We're taking him to the HQ."

"Make sure he is ready for me!"

I drop the phone swearing and getting into my car. I drive off in speed heading to the hospital. Whoever did this will regret it. I run inside the hospital and the

receptionist tells me to wait. A doctor passes and I grab him.

"A Noxolo Silangwe. Shot. Where is she?"

"Err... She's still in theatre. Her son is in ward 15. 2nd Floor."

I let him and he falls. I run to the elevator and it takes time coming down.

"Fuck!"

I run to the steps while taking off my jacket. I run around looking into each ward until I see Sanele. I walk in and his looking at the news.

"Fiance and son of multi-billionaire business guru Ndabenkulu Khuzwayo have been shot down."

I switch off the TV and he looks at me. He has a sling on his arm.

"Hey son."

I sit on the chair next to his bed.

"Dad. How is mom? She stood in the way and she took all these bullets. I... She..."

"Did you just call me Dad?"

He nods and I hug him.

"Ouch."

"Sorry. Sorry."

I let go of him and rub the sting off my eyes.

"I haven't heard anything about your mom. They said she's still in theatre."

"I hope she's okay. I can't lose her."

"Me too son. Me too."

I lay my head on his bed and sigh. I'm so scared of what the doctor will say.

KUHLEKONKE

I drop the call and sit down. I thought she had received her happily ever after. Who'd want to shoot her? Noxolo doesn't have a problem with anyone. Bhekikhaya walks in with Amanda. Amanda takes Sne out of his cot and smiles at me. They notice my mood.

"What's wrong sisi?"

"Noxolo... She..."

I wipe away my tears.

"What's wrong Peach?", Bhekikhaya.

"Noxolo and Sanele were shot on their way to Saneles school."

Amanda sits down and Bhekikhaya takes his keys.

"Shit! Bafo!"

He walks out dialing on his phone. Amanda shushes Sne and I hand her his feeding bottle.

"Will they be fine?"

I shrug and my heart just drops. I stand up to get some fresh air. I go to the balcony in my room and look down. There are guards getting off SUVs with guns and Bhekikhaya is ordering them around. He turns around looks at me. He puts a hand on his chest and mouths.

"I love you peach."

"I love you too Khuzwayo."

He gets in his car and drives off in speed. My phone rings and its Maluda. I answer.

"Is it true? I just saw Noxolos car on the news live and its wrecked. What's going on Kuhle?"

"It's true. I don't know Tshego but whatever it is ,is about to take us for a long ride."

She sighs and we say our goodbyes. I call Bhekikhaya to ask what's going but he doesn't give me much. Noxolo and Sanele beter be okay.

TSHEGO

Car tyres shrieking disturb me from my train of thoughts. Khulekani bursts through my door.

"Let's go."

"Khulekani. Go where?"

He starts throwing my clothes inside my suitcase.

"You'll be staying at my house. Its safer there. Fuck!"

"I am working night shift. I can't be at your house."

"Quit work."

"What? I have fees to pay for."

"I'll pay your fees man Maluda! You won't be going to school if you're dead!"

He pulls me by my hand and he runs with me out to his car. There are guards next to him with AK-47 and bullet proofs.

"Khulekani kwenzakalan?"(what's going n?),I ask worriedly.

He throws me a look and we get into his car. The guards take the suitcase to the big black cars. They follow us as we drive off and I'm getting frustrated. Are we in danger? I can't even ask this Zulu man cause he'll give me 'the eye' only and I dont like the angry him so I just mind my own business.

NKOSINATHI

Dad fetched me from my apartment with Sbhamu and the other guards. Aunt Noxolo and Sanele got gunned today in the morning and everyone is all over

the place. Mom is making us something to eat with Nkanyezi and Langa on her side like they glued there. My phone rings and everyone looks at me. It's Amanda? I answer it and excuse my self.

"Nkosinathi."

"Hey."

"Hey."

"So you're back?"

"Yeah. Came back yesterday."

"Nice."

"Yeah."

"Look Manda. Its kind of hectic right now. Can I call you later?"

"Okay bye."

"Bye."

I drop the call and look at my phone. She's back. I want to clap around and sing but knowing how much I love her but still can't have her brushes me off the wrong way. I sit next to Dad and he puts his arm over

me.

"Why dont you just tell her how you feel?"

"She wants me to deal with my issues before we can pursue anything. I lose my temper a lot and it scares her. I can't even pinch a woman but she isn't taking chances."

He looks at me and nods.

"I ruined you didn't I?"

"Huh?"

"What you saw. It ruined you didn't it?"

"Maybe a little."

"Your mother has been complaining about the girls you 'bang'."

I chuckle.

"If it were up to mom. I'd be a virgin by now."

He laughs.

"I told her about quitting therapy and she agreed. She called Sandra and she said she can't let you

cancel therapy like that. She insists you need her help."

"Yeah right."

He looks at me before laughing.

"You slept with her didn't you?"

I try ignoring him by changing channels.

"You did!"

"Sshh. Mom will hear you."

He puts his fists on his mouth stifling his laughter.

"So did you?"

"Yes. She kept asking me questions and it was pissing me off."

"Your mother will kill you if she found out."

"Found out what?", Mom.

We almost jump out of our seats in fear.

"Nothing. What's happening at the hospital?", Dad.

"She's in an induced coma. She had two bullets. One on her arm. One on her thigh. She also broke a rib

from the force she hit the steering wheel.", Mom.

"Sanele?", Dad.

"Ndabenhulu is dropping him off here. He sounds... I don't know.", Mom.

"I'll be going with him when he arrives. There are guards outside. Don't leave the house.", Dad.

He stands up and runs upstairs as the guards alert us that Malume Ndabenhulu is here with Sanele. Dad runs downstairs and meets Sanele on his way out. He greets and runs out. Langa runs to Sanele asking him how he feels. Mom looks at me and I shrug. I go to my room to change than go down to the gym. My mind is crowded and I can't even leave the house.

54

THANDO

Ozo calls me and tells me his outside. I tell the guards to let him in. He walks in and sits next to me.

"You stood me up. Again."

"Didn't you say you were leaving?"

He chuckles and looks at me. He turns my head to look at him.

"I am here. I missed my flight cause I had the hopes that you'd pull up. I lost a billion deal cause I needed to see you."

I look at him and he rubs his thumbs under my eyes.

"What's wrong? You have eye bags. You look tired."

"My family may be in danger. My brother's wife was shot yesterday and we're on lockdown that's why I couldn't make it."

"What do you mean your family might be in danger?"

"Exactly that."

"You might be in danger?"

He takes out his phone and excuses himself. He comes back later.

"My guys are on their way. Your security ain't enough."

I look at him.

"What? My security is fine."

"I don't care. My men are more elite."

I look at him as he takes off his jacket.

"I always see you in suits."

"I came here before work. I just drove here instead."

"I see."

"Have you eaten?"

"My brothers ordered me some pizza. Nothing stays down. I'm agitated and frustrated."

"I can cook if it's okay with you."

I stand up and I look at him. He's taller than me and very intimidating.

"What do you want from me Ozo? Its been a year and you still persistent. Don't you have a wife? Girlfriend? A life?"

"I have a wife."

"Oh."

He comes closer to me and holds me by the waist. I try pulling his hands away but his stronger than me.

"Please leave. Your wife might be worried."

He chuckles and pulls me closer. I put my hands on his firm chest. He smells so good.

"You don't seem worried to me."

"Huh?"

"You said my wife might be worried. You're my wife."

"Slick. You can leave. I'll cook on my own."

"Let me get cooking."

He perks my lips and let's me go. He walks go the kitchen rolling up his shirt to his elbows. What the fuck?!

"Go take a shower while I make you something.", he shouts from the kitchen.

I look at him as he opens my cupboards singing some song. I shake my head and go to my room. I strip naked and get in the bathroom. I decide on a cold shower.

NDABENKHULU

We've been at HQ since yesterday and we still not getting some answers.

"Bafo. Ehlisa umoya." (Brother. Calm down.), Khulekani holds me back.

I push him away and grab the man who's responsible for my families shooting.

"Lalela! Ukozinyane ladliwa zingwenya kwa ceba iziziba!" (Listen here! Nothing happens without consequences.), I shout in his face.

"Boss."

We all turn around and Skhali takes off his hat wringing it in his hands.

"Yini?" (What?),Langa ask him.

"A group of elite soldiers just arrived and are taking our men out. They say they were ordered by a Sbusiso Buthelezi. I did a background check. An international business guru. Huge investor. No wife. No kids. Just his mother and father. No siblings.",Skhali.

I look at him and nod. He leaves and I call some of the guys.

"Make sure he talks. Fry his balls if you have to.",I order barking.

They nod and grab the culprit. I grab my jacket and gun and we leave. Khulekani is the one driving. We reach Thandos place and our men are outside.

"What's going on here?", Bhekikhaya.

The men point inside and the yard is filled with men with guns. Langa opens the gate and we walk in. They point guns at us and we pull out our own.

"Bhuti! Ima! Sbusiso tell them to put their guns down!",Thando screams dressed in her towel.

The guy next to her raises his hand and they put their guns down.

"Thandolwethu Beauty Khuzwayo! Kwenzakalani la?!", Langa shouts angrily.

"Ubani lo?" (Who's this?),Bhekikhaya asks.

Thando is just stares at us wide-eyed.

"I'm Sbusiso Buthelezi. Thandos Boyfriend.",the guy talks.

"Thandos what?", Khulekani asks.

"Boyfriend.", he answers.

The guys cocks their guns and Thando jumps in front of this Sbusiso.

"Imani." (Wait.),I tell them.

They put their guns down. I walk closer to the two.

"Uyasazi thina?" (Do you know us?),I ask.

"I do... Babe hlehla." (Move),he says making Thando stand beside him.

"Siwobani?" (Who are we?),I ask.

"Abafana..." (Boys...), he clears his throat when Thando pinches him.

"Amadodana akaKhuzwayo." (Khuzwayo sons.), Sbusiso.

"What do you want with our sister?", I ask.

He looks at her and smiles a bit. I throw a look to the guys and Langa shrugs.

"I love her. I made some reinforcements on her security just as you did with your wives. Sorry I didn't inform you.", he answers.

His prideful. He looks at Thando who rubs her arm. She's feeling awkward.

"Thando. Do you know this man?", Khulekani.

She nods.

"Is he your boyfriend?", Langa.

She looks at him and then us. He looks at her and I am looking at every emotion going past his eyes. So far his genuine. He looks at her like I look at Noxolo. He can't love her. He's not the one.

"Yes.", Thando lies.

Langa pushes through them and gets in. We follow him and I look at these two again. He puts his hand on her lower back and leans towards her kissing her temple. These two are not dating but there's something here.

"Go get dressed. I'll stay with your brothers.", he whispers.

I walk inside and sit next to the TV. I switch it off. He comes in and Thando goes to her room. He sits on a chair in front of us. We all keep quiet.

"Are you dating my sister?", Khulekani asks.

"Honesty no. I would like it if we pursue something genuine. I've known her for a year and I loved her the first time I saw her at the mall after she knocked my car mirror out.", Sbusiso.

"Do you think this is a movie? Or a novel perhaps?", Khulekani.

"No. Do you?", Sbusiso.

Mmmmh. I make a face and Bhekikhaya snickers.

"Neither do I.", Khulekani.

We go back to being quiet. This is so awkward.

"Do you know Thando is a virgin?", Langa

"Yes.", Sbusiso

"You will not bang my sister. You won't do as much as stick your tongue down her throat.", Langa.

"Okay. Thats enough Bhuti. I am old enough to make my own choices.", Thando jumps in.

"No. You're not having sex Thando.", Langa.

"I'm in my 20s. What do you expect me to do?", Thando.

"Anything but sex.", Langa.

"Leave her bafo.", Bheki.

"No Bafo. Yingane le." (She's a child.), Langa.

"Okay okay. Thando we will talk to you later. Nina lets go.", I say standing.

I look at Sbusiso.

"Wentsizwa. Kindly take a step back. You haven't

wedded our sister therefore she's still our responsibility."

He nods at my words and I pull these big headed fools with me.

"That man needs to leave.", Bheki.

"I agree.", Langa.

"Y'all have to come to terms that Thando will have sex. Y'all made the poor kid be a virgin till this long. Asambe!", Khulekani.

I get into the car and they follow mumbling. Fools. I drive to HQ. We have bigger problems than Thando having sex. I drop them off and drive to the hospital.

UNYEZI

I try calling him again and he finally picks up. I let out a sigh of relief as soon as he answers.

"Babe. You fine."

"Of course I'm fine.", Langa.

"Where are you? You didn't come home last night. I

was worked. I thought-

"Calm down. I'm fine. I was with the guys. I'm on my way home.",Langa.

"Okay. I love you."

"I love you too."

I drop the call and head downstairs. Langa and Sanele are watching movies. A kissing scene comes on and they laugh. Idiots.

"Where's Nkanyezi?"

"With Pluto.", Langa.

I head to Pluto's room and Nkanyezi is brushing his fur. Wait. Why isn't Plutks stomach moving? I kneel next to him and shake him. His tongue is sticking out.

"No. No. Nkanyezi how long has he been like this?"

"I don't know. Thole elele." (Found him sleeping.),he answers innocently.

"Okay. Go to your brothers my baby."

He nods and runs off excitedly. I don't even have the

strength to reprimand him. I lift Pluto up and into the garden. I take a shovel and dig under our Peach Tree. The Gardner comes to me.

"Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Digging a grave.", I answer wiping snot off my face.

"Let me help.", he offers.

"No. Let me."

He looks skeptical at first but gives in and leaves. I keep on wiping my tears with my jacket as I dig a grave. I sit down tired and cry. I knew he was sick. I didn't think he'd die so early. I wonder if it was painful.

"Babe."

I turn to the sound of Langas voice. He walks towards me slowly. He looks at Pluto, the half dug grave and me.

"Is he...?"

I nod and he closes his eyes. He takes the shovel from me. He rolls up his sleeves and starts digging. I hold Pluto in my arms. God knows how much I loved this dog.

"Baby. Lay him in."

I put him in slowly and brush his fur. I take off his collar and move away. Langa throws the sand inside and I watch it covering up Pluto's furry frame. I go call the boys. We all stand around the grave. Nobody says anything. Pluto was my best friend. The best nanny for the kids i could ever find. He was a likeable dog. Everybody loved Pluto. After our silent burial we go back inside. Langa follows me to our bedroom.

"You okay?"

I nod and get into his arms. He doesn't say any more but takes off his shoes. I wait for him as he takes off his shirt. We get in bed and I lay on his chest.

"How is everything so far?"

"Unclear. The guy we have won't give anyone up. We had an encounter with Thandos boyfriend. My little sister is going to start having sex."

"She's not little anymore. She news to start living especially after that Sthembiso guy broke her."

"I know but it's hard."

"Nothing is hard. Accept it. Oh. I finally cancelled Nathi's therapy."

He looks at me and before nodding.

"Nkosi'sathi saw everything."

"Saw what?"

He keeps quiet for a while. I notice his eyes glaze over.

"He saw it when I killed his mother."

"Wait what?"

He nods and rubs his eyes. He lifts my head and gets up.

"Did y'all talk about it?"

He nods and stands up going to the bathroom. I follow him but he has locked the door. I lean onto it and sigh. Let me give him space. I take my phone and my Facebook is having a day at the market.

"Unyezi Khuzwayo is cohabiting with another woman's man. My sister left when she threatened

her. She turned my sisters kids against us. What kind of woman basks in another woman's tears? She acts all holy cause she is an 'activist' while she is a home wrecker. You're not even married to that man already claiming his surname."

She even tagged me. Ntokozo Mayeza is her account name. I comment.

"I never said I was an activist. Futhi who are you? Stop being bitter and act matured. Umdala for this."

She replies calling me names and I just leave them there. Mine and Langas marriage and how it works is for the both of us. In court I'm officially his and traditionally. Just because we didn't have a huge wedding doesn't mean we're not married. I scroll down my news feed and people are sharing that post saying I'm a gold digger. One even went as far as calling me a 'trophy wife'. Why is all this happening? The very same Ntokozo tagged me again but with Noxolo, Kuhle and Tshego.

"They're a group of gold diggers. They targeted the Khuzwayo men so they can con them. It cant be a

coincidence that friends are dating a group of brothers."

What the fuck is this? I block and delete her posts and deactivate my Facebook account. We don't need this right now. Noxolo is in hospital. Heck! My dog just dies. Langa gets out wrapped in a towel?

"Who's Ntokozo Mayeza?"

"Bongekas sister. Why?"

"The one that once called?"

He nods looking at me. I show him the screen shots.

"What is this? I met you after Bongeka. I thought I paid her off."

He takes his phone and dials before putting it on his ear.

"Why is Ntokozo harassing my wife?! What?! Why am I only finding out now about this?! Why is she back in SA?! Argh! I'm coming!"

He dresses up in a haste.

"Where are you going?"

"I'll be back."

He kisses my cheek and leaves. What the fuck is going on? I have a feeling someone is out to get us.

KUHLEKONKE

Bhekikhaya walks in looking tired. I hand him a cup of coffee and head for my phone. I scroll through my timeline and hand him my phone.

"Read."

He looks at me confused before reading. He clicks his tongue before typing on my phone and puts it in his pocket.

"Who's this Ntokozo? She's been at us all morning. Unyezi even deactivated her account. What's going on Baba ka Sne?"

He stands up and rubs his face. He pulls me to him and kiss my forehead.

"I don't know Mawakhe. I'm trying to connect the dots here. This seems like a distraction. Something big is coming and because of that I have to go back."

"You haven't slept."

"I know. I'm tired but I can't sleep while there is danger lurking."

I nod and he kisses me passionately. I hood on to him for dear life. He pull back and lays his forehead on mine with his eyes closed.

"I love you Peach."

"I love you too."

He holds me tightly and we both sigh. Amanda walks in with a crying Sne.

"Come here Khuzwayo omncane.",Bhekikhaya

Amanda hands him Sne and he kisses him all over his face causing him to giggle.

"I have to take a shower and go back."

I nod and take Sne from him.

"Let's go bath baby and call Sanele."

"Sisi. I need some toiletries."

"Write everything down and give it to a guard outside."

They'll bring it."

She nods and runs upstairs. I look for my phone until I realise Bhekikhaya has it. I go upstairs to bath this little one. I wanted to check up on Unyezi and Tshego guess I'll call them later. I can't even go visit Noxolo since we're not allowed outside.

TSHEGO

"Why are you so stubborn?"

"I'm not stubborn. It's called independence. I'm not with you for your money. I'm already being called a gold digger!"

"I'm not having this conversation right now. I let you have your 'independency' but I won't have my woman working at a restaurant. You're even behind on your school work. Fuck it mahn Maluda you've lost weight!"

"You know what?"

I throw my hands in the air and walk away.

"Sego ngisakhuluma nawe." (I'm still talking to you.)

I ignore him and go to his room. My phone beeps again for the thousandth time since I woke up. That girl is at it again.

"Daughter of a pedophile and rapist. I'm sure you helped your dad traffic those children."

Whats wrong with this girl? My followers and Facebook friends drag her.

"Give me your phone."

I turn around and Khulekani has his hands in his pocket with his thumbs out and thumping on his jeans. I hand it to him. He takes it and reads it through and I see his hold tighten around it.

"Babe."

He looks at me. I hold his hand and he eases his grip.

"It's okay. It doesn't affect me. Neither should it to you."

"I'll stop this baby I swear."

I nod and wrap my arms around his torso. He lays his chin on my head.

"I know you will. I hate it when we fight."

"You're the one always fighting. You're always challenging me and it pisses me off. Just accept my money. I don't work my butt off for my woman to work as a waitress. Dad almost killed me when he found out."

"I'm just used to doing something's on my own. I love you and not your wallet."

"I know but I'd love it if you'd spend my money."

"I'll try."

He nods and kisses my head before pulling away.

"I have to go."

"Again?"

"Yes. If you need anything please tell the guards."

I nod and he kisses me. I rub at the stubble growing and feel it scratch my finger tips. I sigh into the kiss and relax into his hold.

NKOSINATHI

I have been up since 05h00am and I have been at the gym since. My body is aching but I keep on going. I get off the treadmill and go take a bottle of water. Mom walks in and stand by the door.

"Breakfast is ready. Aren't you hungry?"

"I'll be there mom."

I gulp down the water and a dizzy spell hits me. I hold onto the table and Mom walks closer to me.

"Boy?"

"I'm... Argh... Fine."

I get a grip of myself and I stand upright. Mom looks at me with worry.

"You didn't eat dinner yesterday. You didn't eat breakfast. You're exhausting your body with all these exercises."

"You're a doctor now huh?"

She looks at me and I rub my eyes.

"Sorry mom. I didn't mean to."

She clicks her tongue and leaves. I try walking after

her but my body fails me and I fall with a loud thump.
My vision blurs as I see black spots cloud my vision.
I hear running footsteps and mom's voice.

"Oh mtanam." (My child.)

I feel myslef slip into unconsciousness.

NDABENKHULU

I received a call from my brothers in the morning
telling me about Bongekas sister being back in town
and cyber bullying the girls.

"Sego is going to give me a hassle before coming
here.", Khulekani.

We're at a safehouse in KwaNdongaziyaduma. Its a
good mile away from Durban. I had Noxolo bought
here and hired a nurse and doctor. She's going to
wake up tomorrow. I dont know what I'll say to her
when she seeks answers as I don't have any right
now.

"I don't care how they get here. Dad is going to be
staying in the cottage with his woman. We'll be

occupying this house. Its big enohgh for everyone. I spoke to the Chief and he will make sure no one enters his territory without briefing us.", I tell them.

"I think Ntokozo knows who ordered that hit on Noxolo and Sanele. It can't be a coincidence that she comes back and her father threatens us and than Noxolo gets shot.", Bhekikhaya

"Maybe but what I dont get is why go after Noxolo and not my family.", Langa.

"What if its Noxolos ex?", Khulekani.

"Maybe but I have my guys on the inside watching his every move.",I say.

"Not every guy is on our payroll. Maybe he has someone doing his dirty work for him.", Bhekikhaya.

"Pay him a visit. Something is telling me that he has Nkanyamba in his corner. What I don't get is Ntokozo. Where does she fit in?",Langa.

We all sit down and we try making sense of a this.

"Call that Sbusiso guy.", Khulekani.

"Why?", Langa.

"We all dont like him but he seems like he has a great elite force.", Khulekani.

"I don't have his numbers.", I say hen they look at me.
I do but I'm not calling him.

"Okay than. I'm calling Thando.", Khulekani.

He dials her numbers and it rings for awhile.

"Hello.", the Sbusiso guy answers.

Langa rolls his eyes and mumbles.

"Where is Thando?", Khulekani.

"She is packing for that safehouse of yours.",
Sbusiso.

"Give her the phone.", Khulekani.

I look at him. Didn't he say he wanted to talk to this
guy?

"Y'all really think y'all are hiding where y'all at? Just
because y'all in the middle of mountains doesn't
mean y'all unseen.", Sbusiso.

I gesture with my hand for Khulekani to give the

phone to me. He hands it over. I put it off
loudspeaker and stand up. I walk away from the
guys.

"Sbusiso. Do you value my sisters safety?"

"Yes."

"Help us. Borrow us some of your men."

"That is easy."

"I don't know what your story is with my sister but
treat her like she's an egg."

"You don't have to worry about your sister. Just
cause I know your father I'm willing to help yall out.
I'll send over my geek guy and PI. With your team
and mine combined I'm sure we'll find who's out for
y'all.", Sbusiso.

"Thanks man."

We drop the call and I look at the guys. I walk
towards them and stand in front of them.

"Tell Dad we're coming over. Call your women and
tell them to pack.", I tell them.

I hand Khulekani his phone and he nods. I leave to check on Noxolo and she's sleeping peacefully.

" I'll be back babe."

I kiss her dry lips and her forehead. I walk out and tell the doctor to keep a good eye on her. I haven't slept at all and I won't be till we find out who's behind all this. These leads points to different places. My phone pings and I look at the message from Skhali.

"The hitman talked."

I throw my phone at Langa and grab my keys as they read through it. We all get into our cars racing.

THANDO

I pop my pills and drink water. I look at the bottle of pills and rotate it in my hand.

"You're done?"

I jump in shock and quickly shove the pills in my suitcase and zip it. I turn around and give him a tight smile.

"You're okay?",he asks.

"Yeah. Yeah. Uhm... When are you leaving?"

He laughs and walks inside closing the door behind him.

"Thando. A year has passed and you're still running from me. I love you. Genuinely. What are you so scared of?"

"What if you realise in the long run that I'm not the one you're looking for? Plus you're older than me."

He hold my waist and rubs on me using his thumbs.

"I'm not an old man. I'm old enough to know what I want. I'm old enough to know when and with to settle down with. I'm 7 years older than you. More wiser. I never thought I'd love someone as young as you but I do."

I look down and he lifts my chin up with his index finger.

"I'm not going to pressurize you into doing anything you're not comfortable with. Your brothers would kill me."

I laugh and he smiles. He doesn't look 30 but when he talks you can hear from his words that his mature and grown. He slept here tonight and had one of his guys bring him clothes. We didn't sleep on the same bed. He took the couch cause he didn't want to sleep in the guest room where we'll be separated by a wall.

"Sbusiso."

"What did I do?"

"Nothing but can you be patient with me."

"I have been for a year so my patience skills are on steroids."

"For a year and then you decided to just walk into my house and stay over without consent."

He shrugs and lift me up causing me to shriek. I wrap my legs around his waist.

"You needed me."

He sits on the bed I can feel his manhood under me.

"You're beautiful."

I smile and he pulls my head closer to his with hand

behind my head. He breaths and parts his lips. He sucks on my lower lip and I follow his lead sucking his upper lip. I untangle my legs around him put them on either side of his thighs. He grabs my butt and lifts me up. I have my hands on his biceps and they're flexing under my palms. He turns us around and pulls out.

"We're not going to do anything. Okay?"

I nod and he smiles. He helps me out of my T-shirt.

"Fuck."

He runs his hand over my breasts and squeezes them. He trails wet kisses from my neck and stops by my boobs kissing them. He sucks and licks on each areola. He blows air on my wet nipples and I squirm as they erect. He pulls down my spandex shorts. I'm stark naked in front of him and he looks like he's seeing gold. He is just standing there staring. I try closing my legs but he holds them apart. He lies between them and puts my legs between his arms and locks them in and pulls me closer to his face.

"You're so wet."

The vibration from him speaking so close to my vagina makes me moan. He let's go of one leg and puts it on his shoulder. He part my vaginal lips and his thumb rubs me.

"Mmmmh.", I moan.

He inserts one finger and his tongue comes into contact with my clit and I arch my back slightly. I've never had someone's tongue down there neither have I felt like this. He finger pumps inside of me while he sucks and grazes my clit. He makes a come here gesture with his finger inside me and I lift my butt up but he doesn't stop sucking on me.

"Ozo!"

I shake as what feel like a knot gets untied in my abdomen. I go back down breathing heavily and my legs are shaking. He takes out his finger and licks it looking at me and I make a face.

"You taste good."

He tries kissing me but I cover my lips. He laughs and let's me go.

"Im coming."

He stand up and I notice the bulge in his pants. Is it moving? He catches me staring and laughs. He walks to the bathroom and comes back with a towel and wipe me. He goes into the bathroom again. I squeal into my pillow. That was so amazing. I wear my T-shirt and fix the bed. His been gone for a while but I dont disturb him. I hear the shower running and I head down stairs. I try calling Unyezi again but her phone rings unanswered. She sent me screenshots in the morning and the things that were written there were pathetic. This is why I don't have Facebook. I put my phone away and I make us some sandwiches.

55

UNYEZI

"Is there electricity down here?"

"Yes Unyezi."

I look at the beautiful trees we pass. This place is beautiful. We're going to a 'safehouse' where we will be staying till all this blows over. Nkosinathi has been asleep the whole way. I look at him and his passed out. A sigh escapes my lips.

"He'll be fine babe."

I look at Langa and he smiles. I hope he does. When he fainted at the gym. I was so scared. He just laid there.

"Mama.", Lami.

"Yes Lami."

"We're hungry."

"Again?"

"Yes mama."

I give them the container with pizza slices. We've been driving for 2 hours and we entered the village a few minutes ago. Nkanyezi is sucking his thumb and he doesn't want to get over that habit. He stares wide eyed filled with curiosity and innocence at the passing trees.

"Sanele is your hand okay?"

"Yes Auntie."

"Okay boy."

We approach a very tall wall. I sit up straight as Langa drives in after they open the gate. There is a big house with a cottage on the side. We get out of the car and the guards take our bags.

"A pool!", Lami.

They fist bump with Sanele and run towards it. Nkanyezi follows after them tripping here and there.

"Stop running!", I shout after them.

Langa carries Nkosinathi into the house. I watch him as he lays him on what will be his bed. He throws a fleece over him and stretches his arms.

"Damn that boy is heavy."

I laugh and he joins me. I leave the door half closed and walk to what will be our bedroom. I sit on the bed and bump on it.

"When are the others arriving?"

"Bhekikhaya said he'll arrive soon. Khulekani is delayed by traffic. Thando was the last to get on the road."

I nod and stand up unpacking my bag. Langa leaves me to go check on the kids. I pack our clothes into the small closet. I find Langa outside watching the kids sit with their feet in water.

"Khuzwayo."

He turns around and looks at me. He has aged since this whole drama starter.

"Come. I need your help."

He nods and follows me after telling a guard to keep an eye on the kids. When we get into our room I take out a blanket.

"Get on the bed."

He sits on top of it. I take out his shoes and help him out of his jacket.

"Sleep."

He obliges and I throw the blanket over him.

"Sleep. I'll wake you up when everyone has arrived."

He nods and yawns. I attempt to leave but he pulls me to him and makes me get in with him. He lays his big head on my boobs and we stay like that till he sleeps.

NOXOLO

I wake up to pains and feeling drowsy. I look around and I'm in a room with machines connected to me. I try taking them out but realise only my right hand works. A Caucasian woman walks in and hurries towards me. I can only move my right leg but the other feels heavy.

"Mrs Khuzwayo you're not to move. Let me help you back."

She helps me back to bed and puts the blanket over

me.

"Where is my fiancé?"

"His out but he said I should call him when you wake up."

"Who are you?"

"I'm your hired stay in doctor. I'm glad you're awake."

She starts writing stuff down and examining me.

"Your ribs seem to be healing well. Just refrain from harsh movement."

"What happened to my rib?"

"It had a little crack. Nothing severe but still painful."

I nod and she changes the bandages on me and leaves pushing the machines out. I lay my head comfortably on the pillow and sigh. She comes back and hands me pain killers.

"Mr Khuzwayo will be here ma'am."

"Where is my son?"

"He just arrived."

"How is he?"

"He has a broken arm but he has a sling on so everything is going well."

I nod and she leaves. I close my eyes as the pills start working.

THANDO

Sbusiso is the one driving me and he keeps on stealing glances at me.

"Ozo."

"Mmmh?"

"What is it?"

"With what?"

"You keep stealing glances."

"It's just that you're so beautiful."

I smile and he chuckles.

"Your dimples make you look like a baby."

"I dont look like a baby."

"Of course you dont."

We both enjoy each others presence in silence. He is focused on the road now. After minutes of silence I get bored and I clear my throat and he doesn't look at me. I am wearing a leather mini skirt with a long slit in front. I lift it up a bit higher and fake a cough. He takes a short left and doesn't pay attention to me.

"Have you seen my handbag?"

"Its at the back."

I jump over the seats rubbing my ass on his face. I pretend to look for my bag. I open it and take out my phone and wine gums. I jump over the seats moving my ass near his face. I sit down and open my wine gums. He looks at me and laughs.

"What do you want?"

"Huh?"

"You've been trying to grab my attention. What do you want?"

"Nothing."

He pulls over on a mountain hill and looks at me.

"Come here."

I jump over to his seat and sit on top of him. He moves his chair back.

"What is it?"

"Since I will be with my family. When will I see you?"

"For someone who didn't want anything to do with me for a year you seem to take a liking."

I slap his chest and he laughs.

"Okay sorry. I would visit but your father might kill me."

"Oh."

"But you'll see me."

I nod and sneak my hands under his T-shirt.

"Your hands are cold."

"Warm me up."

He smirks and kisses me. He puts his hands on my waist and moves under me rubbing our groins together. He directs my hand inside his sweats and

helps me take out his thick manhood. I remember him saying something about being Nigerian as well. He directs my hand up and down his firm manhood. He stops helping me out and his hand sneaks inside my panty. He rubs my clit slowly. When I'm wet enough he makes me stop rubbing him and makes me grind on him instead. This feels so good.

"Fuck babe!"

I shake with pleasure as I cum and he grabs my butt harder as he cums. I lay my head on his chest and laugh.

"I can't believe I just did that in the middle of nowhere."

"That was hot though."

"I wonder if sex is just as good."

"You'll find out."

He takes out a tissue and wipes himself. I take out wipes from my bag and wipe myself clean.

"You fine?"

I nod and open my window.

"I love you."

I look at him and he blows a kiss before driving.

AMANDA

Uncle Bhekikhaya parks inside the big beautiful yard. I am the first to get off with Sne in my arms. His such a fat baby. He is sleeping peacefully in my arms and I can't get over his cuteness. We follow Uncle Bhekikhaya into the house and he leads us to our rooms. We didn't see anyone in the lounge so I guess they haven't arrived. As we pass a door it opens revealing a still sleepy Nkosinathi.

"Ah mshana senikhona." (Oh nephew y'all around.), Uncle Bheki.

He gives him his regular side smile. He has changed so much in a year. His hair has grown and is curly and beautiful that I want to run my hands through it. He even has grown out a goat beard and a mustache making him look mature. His height hasn't changed much thou but his physique seems firmer and his shoulders are broader. He still has that one bracket

that is wider than the other but in those track pants his bow legs don't seem uneven. I look at his trunk and quickly look away.

"Let me hold him.", he says nearing me.

His voice is hoarse from waking up and an involuntary shiver travels down my spine. I hold out the sleeping baby to him and he takes him out of my hold gently making sure not to wake him up.

"You'll choose a room Amanda. I want to unpack quickly. Put my kid back to sleep after cuddling him.", Sisi Kuhle.

I nod and drag my suitcase that is next to the wall and choose an empty room next to Nathis. Neutral colours has been used and it looks spacious. I take a seat on the bed and take out my sneakers sighing tiredly. Sne kept me and Sisi up all night. His been restless a lot lately as if he can feel the weight we carry around. A loud cry emits from the next room. I drag my tired ass to Nathis room. His trying to shush the awake Sne but is failing cause his shushing way too loud and is pacing way too fast.

"Let me."

He hands her to me and I avoid his eyes. I put Sne on my chest and pace around soothingly. His cries subside and he starts snoring lightly. A sigh of relief escapes my lips.

"You'd make a good mom.", Nkosinathi.

I look at him and smile while shrugging.

"Let me take him to Sisi.", I whisper.

He nods and I exit his room and exhale as soon as I stop being surrounded by his cologne. He still hasn't changed it. I knock on Sisi's room and she answers.

"Enter. Lay him in his cot for me please."

I lay him gently and he holds onto my shirt with that baby grip. Sisi helps untighten his hold and I lay him down.

"Thanks for helping with him."

"You struggled alone while I was at school. You've been there for me all my life this is the best I can do."

She smiles and kisses my cheek and I leave her room. I head to the kitchen and I find Nathi wiping vigorously at his vest. He clicks his tongue taking it off. I shuffle and leave.

"Amanda."

I turn around slowly and his gaze is intense. I glance at my hands and he nears me.

"Why are we so distant?"

I don't answer but shrug my shoulders instead and he sighs. We hear footsteps approaching and I move away from him to the fridge. He remains standing there shirtless.

"You're up already? How are you feeling now?", Aunt Unyezi.

"I'm okay mom. Stop worrying too much.",
Nkosinathi.

He kisses his mothers forehead and she embraces him. I've never seen him so affectionate and so raw.

"Oh hey Amanda. You're so grown up.", Aunt Unyezi.

She leaves Nkosinathi and hugs me excitedly. She

grabs a bottle of water and an apple and leaves leaving me with a shirtless Nkosinathi.

"Want a sandwich?"

"Please."

I smile and lay out the ingredients out on the counter. I cut out the crust and add more cheese without polony for him. I slide his plate to him and he smiles.

"You still remember?"

"Always."

He takes a bite and groans. He still appreciates food. He chews so elegantly and his jawline move. He swallows

"It's been a year since we last talked. I've missed you.",he say smiling.

"Yeah. A lot has changed."

I say looking at him up and down and he chuckles.

"Eish. I've been taking care of myself."

"I can see."

"You changed as well. Your ass is more rounder and firmer. Your thighs. Actually you in general."

He licks his lips and I laugh pushing him playfully.

"Are you okay now?"

He looks at me and his jaw ticks. He shrugs and eats his sandwich. I'll take that as a no. He still has unresolved issues. I eat my own sandwich as his aunt walks in.

"Zithandwa." (Loves)

"Aunt Thando.", we greet simultaneously.

She smiles and walks past us. She is so beautiful and reeks confidence.

TSHEGO

We're in traffic and its moving very slowly. We're sitting in silence. I open the window for some fresh air and I wipe the sweat off my forehead. It's scorching hot and we're moving really slow. What had caused this traffic? We can't even see with ye line of cars in front of us. I unclip my bra and slide it

off still in my T-shirt. Khulekani looks at me and shakes his head.

"What? It's hot."

"The skill y'all women possess to do that in public."

"Ngeyeke." (Leave me alone)

"You such at Zulu kodwa sthandwa sami."

I love it wen he speaks his home language. Its like is more manly and dominant.

"Ngeyazama." (I'm trying.)

"Ngempela futhi ngiyathanda mowukhuluma isiZulu." (For real and I love it when you speak Zulu.)

"Kao'rata."(I love you.)

He looks at me and smiles that dashing goofy smile of his.

"Nami ngiyakurata." (I love you too.)

I giggle like a teenage girl and he smiles. I take a bottle of water and gulp it down even if it is jot as cold as it was when we bought it. The car in front of us moves and we follow. It comes to a halt causing

Khulekani to hit the brakes and I jerk forward and than back spilling the water on my white T-shirt and my jeans. I sigh and try wiping it off failing massively. A breeze passes and I shiver at the sensation it sends throughout as the wet fabric caresses my nipples.

"What is this guy doing?! Are you oka-"

His eyes travel to my boobs that are viable through the wet shirt and licks his lips.

"I spilt water on myself."

"I see...erhm... Bengabe asikho la ngabe ngiyabhebha." (If we weren't hered I'd be fucking you.)

I don't what he just said but I know its nasty by the use of the last word.

"Take off that tee and take mine. You'll stretch it with your big boobs thou."

He makes a sulking face and I laugh. He pulls it over his head and hands it to me. I take it and thank him and take off mine.

"You're killing me here MaThengo."

"Sorry?"

"Mxm."

I laugh and put it on.

"Wait."

I stop pulling it down and he stretches over to my seat and grabs my boobs and kisses them than pulling his tee down will my torso. He sits back and smiles and gets back to the steering wheel. I smile and look out the window as we move slowly with the traffic.

NDABENKHULU

I got a call from the doctor that Noolo is up an hour ago and I just parked outside the house. I walk in and the girls are and the little ones are sitting chatting and laughing in the lounge. I greet and Sanele hugs me. I hug him back.

"You're okay?"

"Yes Dad."

I feel every ones eyes on us and I stand up.

"Your mom is up. Let's go check on her."

Everyone stands up.

"What? When?", Kuhlekonke.

"Can we see her?", Unyezi.

"Is she alright?", Thando.

"Oh my gosh!", Amanda.

"I'll go check on her and if shes alright than y'all can see her."

They nod and sit down still buzzed and excited yet worried. Me and Sanele head to her room and every step I take feels heavy and loud. My heart is beating out of my chest as I turn the doorknob with sweaty hands.

"Open the door Baba."

I look at Sanele and he nods towards the door. I open it slowly and we are met by the doctor packing her bag.

"Mr Khuzwayo and son.", she smiles at us.

I nod at her and look behind her but the bed is empty. She notices my gaze.

"Mrs Khuzwayo is in the toilet."

"Is she fine?", Sanele.

"Yes. She has to take her medication. Avoid any drastic movement. She has a problem with walking due to the injury on her thigh but other than that she'll be fine. Her sling is adjusted and her ribs will heal as long as she drinks her pills. Make sure to call me if y'all need anything."

"Thank you Katherine."

"Pleasure Boss."

She leaves and the bathroom door opens revealing my limping wife with a crutch in her hand. I quickly run over to her to help her out. I help her sit down and lay on the bed.

"You're comfortable?"

She nods and smiles at Sanele. He rubs to her and hugs her on her good side with his good side. They can't even give each other their bear hugs. This is all

my fault. I should've upped their security.

SHORT SOMETHING

(I'll see y'all tomorrow.)

NARRATED

Everyone had woken up and settled on the table. There was chatter and the sound of utensils. They swallowed the divine breakfast courtesy of the young chef. Kuhlekonke proud of her sister she kissed her cheek when she bent near her to take little Sinenhlanhla from her. Nkosinathi's gaze rested upon Amanda as she held the young child in her arms while she ordered the young boys who sat on a table for kids to eat. He couldn't help but wonder if she would've gotten pregnant had he not given her that morning after pill. She'd make a great mother. Amanda steals a glance at Nkosinathi as he shakes his head lightly trying to clear away his stray thoughts. He had lost the feminine look that she loved and he looked masculine and not 18. His shoulders more broad and his aura more intimidating. He may not be a Khuzwayo by blood but he is one of them. Her heart tugs at her hypothalamus playing with her emotions. They could

never be. She looked around the table as her new family prior to her sister and her new love and she smiled. Her smile faded as she realised that Nkosinathi was family now. She quickly looked away as a stray tear escaped her already moist eyes and she escaped the room full of laughter unnoticed with her nephew in her arms. Back in the dining room the family laughed and wondered who had their father bought and were eager to meet her. In the cottage a woman paced around causing the crystals on her neck to rattle.

"Dear stop worrying."

She got startled by the familiar voice of her lover and she wiped her sweaty hands on her tight faded blue jeans. She called those her lucky jeans she received from her sister who had passed on. She wore these very same jeans when she met the love of her life. He took her hands in his and kissed them lightly. She was anxious and her thoughts kept on getting the best of her. She was just a 27 year old doctor who was dating a man twice her age. Society wasn't what she worried about but the people across their

cottage could accept or cast her out. She was a spiritual person and had the spirit of an old soul and that is the reason behind her history of dating people older than her but never as old as her lover.

"Khuzwayo what if your children don't like me?"

The man who aged like fine wine smiled revealing his dimples and pecked her bruised lips that she had been biting all morning.

"Trust me. They'll love you."

He stretches his veiny big hand towards her and she put her small hand and he wrapped his thick rough yet soft fingers around it and made her stand up. He fixed her crystal and kissed her passionately arousing her causing a soft moan of desire to escape her captured lips. They pull apart and she looks at him. He looked more gorgeous and fit than all the men she's been with. His facial expression remained stoic but his eyes were tender and caring. She held onto his frame and he wrapped his muscular arms around her sniffing her vanilla and lavender scent from her scented sticks she burnt all

the time. He closed his eyes and inhaled than exhaled. He had thought he was unable to love after his wife had died. When he met her as she helped a young man who had been hit by a car breaking his leg. He felt like there was a magnetic force pulling them together and he liked how his heart rate quickened as she looked at him as he lifted the injured young man in his arms helping him into his car. She rode with them to her practice where she had examined the young stranger and had thanked him. As soon as their hands touched he knew he was going to make her his. He had gotten a second chance at love and he appreciated it everyday. They walked out of their cottage and every step the woman took felt heavy and delayed. Her heart felt as if she'll puke it. Her crystals suddenly became heavy and the clatter it made as they hit another was making her dizzy. She could feel her armpits sting as her nerves were haywire. Her thick afro matted to her face as she sweated. When the door was opened and she stood in front of a table full of beautiful strangers. She felt a heavy load of energies surge through her. Happiness overpowered most but one

caught her off guard. Fear. She looked at the young man who ate without conversing with the others. A young girl entered with a baby in her arms and by the redness and puffiness of her eyes she had been crying. The two youngsters shared a look and the love was so intense she got a headache.

"Sanibonani." (Hello.)

She removed her gaze from the two that loved each other but uncertainty and fear held them back. Aren't they family? But their love was so pure, she thought

The clatter quietened down the table as everyone looked at them.

"Naledy Phosa? Kharishma?", Unyezi exclaimed happily and shocked.

The noise started as they all started asking her who she was and how she knows her. The lady stood still confused as to how the young lady knew her.

Something short for y'all. I'm so lazy its not even funny.

56

UNYEZI

"She's a seer. Nudist. She gives dream interpretations online and consults online too. She's a doctor studying film production. Omg!"

I was very ecstatic of meeting 'Gogo Kharishma' as she's known that I only realized she's Mkhulus girlfriend when they moved towards the table. She had posted about her 52 year old boyfriend but I never thought it'd be someone I knew let alone my father in law. We all kept quiet and looked at the couple. Surprisingly they looked good together. Mkhulu wasn't your typical old man with a belly and wrinkled face. He was actually handsomely old with a great physique. He has his arm around her small waist. Mkhulu opens her chair.

"Thank you.", her voice is so smooth.

Mkhulu takes his seat and she dishes up for him.
Langa leans towards me and whispers.

"Poor me. I have to dish up for myself."

I kick him under the table and he grunts. No one has said a word and it's starting to get awkward.

"Oh so you the one that was moaning at Dad's house.", Khulekani.

We all face palm and Tshego slaps his head.
Khulekani says the most dumbest shit sometimes.
Mkhulu throws Khulekani while Naledy laughs. At least she found it funny.

"Kids this is Naledy Kharishma Phosa. She's the one who has been keeping me busy."

"Hi Naledy/ Hey/ You're beautiful.", we greet.

"So do we call her mom?", Khulekani.

He receives a head slap from Bhekikhaya this time around.

"Khulekani thula.", Ndabenkulu.

Khulekani gestures a zip over his mouth and throws

away the key. Tshego shakes her head.

"Siyajabula ukukwazi Sisi. Ngicela ukubhuza uneminyaka emingaphi?" (We happy to know you. Can I ask how old are you?),Ndabenkulu.

"27.", Naledy.

Khulekani chokes on his juice and coughs.

"What?", Khulekani.

"I'm 27 years old.", Naledy.

She removes her afro out of her face and blinks. She is more beautiful in real life. Her birthmark that fills half of her face is shaped like the African continent. I feel so star struck right now.

"Like you're 27? 2 and 7?", Khulekani.

His making her a bit uncomfortable.

"Yes."

"Wow."

Ndabenkulu stands up and walks out. His brothers follow him and Thando follows them when Khulekani touches her shoulder when he passes her.

Mkhulu tries standing up but she puts her hand on his shaking her head. Now this is awkward.

"Are you Tswana?", Noxolo.

"No. I'm Pedi and Indian.", Naledy.

"Your Zulu is so fine.", Tshego.

"I've been in KZN for a while.", Naledy.

"I can't believe I'm meeting you in real.", I say.

She smiles and makes eye contact and closes her eyes tightly.

"Why are you so angry?", Naledy.

Her question catches me off guard and I stutter for a while. She reaches for my hand and I quickly pull it back. I stand up and pick up my plate and leave. I hold onto the sink and exhale.

"I'm sorry I made you uncomfortable."

I jump at the sound of her voice and turn around. She is standing in the doorway and she has her hands in her pockets.

"Your soul is restless. You're angry. You've gotten so

good at faking happiness that you're starting to believe it. You have unanswered questions. You've turned your back on your ancestors. You've stopped praying. You're angry at God. Your heart still bleeds from the loss of your child. Your trust is wavering after your husband cheated. You still dream of your rape encounter. You may hide it well from others but your spirit is asking for help. Pray. Cry. Forgive. Forgive yourself for holding yourself back with hatred and anger."

She walks out leaving me with a thumping heart and in tears. I walk to my temporary bedroom and as soon as I close the door I slide down the door. I lay my head on my knees. The first sob escapes my quivering lips. I close my eyes as the flashbacks of when I lost my daughter comes back. It still haunts me.

"She didn't make it."

I hold my tummy as I feel like my womb is agape.

"You'll always be my slut!"

I hold my stomach tighter as it feels like I can feel

them forcing themselves in me.

"I saw them kissing at the garage. His cheating."

I choke a sob and I lay on the cold tiled floor. Tears stream down freely wetting my cheeks and I wipe snot from my nose. I feel the door being pushed.

"Unyezi."

Langas voice makes me cry louder.

"Are you okay?"

"Go away!"

"I'm going to open the door slowly."

He pushes it pushing me along with it. He peeps and sees me laying there and he kneels down next to me.

"What's wrong? I'm sorry if I did something."

He lifts me into his arms and I want to puke. What if he held her like this? What if he held he so close to him? I cry harder pushing him away. He holds me tight regardless till I get tired and cry in his arms.

"I hate you."

"I'm sorry."

He is just apologizing and he doesn't know for what!
Imbecile!

"I hate you! I wish you could vanish!"

"I know. I love you too."

He lays my head on his chest and cuddles me. Why did mom have to abandon me? I wouldn't have been raped! I would've knew about my roots and gift earlier and would've never lost my child.

NDABENKHULU

"It's blasphemy!", I shout.

"I don't get why you're so pissed off? I've never seen Dad so happy after mom's death. He was never the same. Ever since she came into his life I've been seeing a difference. He smiles more. Heck! He even calls and checks up on us! Dad stopped doing that when Mom died! His focus was our safety and financial state. He threw money our way! He worked his ass off to get us here. He killed! He manipulated.

He took the blame. Just so we can grow up and have something to stand on. Stop being judgemental.", Khulekani.

"Bafo. I'm with Khulekani on this one. My son who's 18 slept with a 25 year old woman and many might judge and call it taboo but his 18 and he knows what his doing. If he was 15 I would've opened a case against the woman even though he initiated it. If I had judged him and cast a stone at him as if I was innocent than I'd be a hypocrite. I have a son who thinks sex heals emotional pain and I'm dealing with that right now. I can't be worrying about Dad and his relationship. That woman is old enough to know what's she's doing. If they love each other than I am not going to be standing in their way.", Langa.

He stands up and leaves us.

"Dad is 52. She's 27. Can't y'all see anything wrong with that?!"

"We do Bafo. Its none of our business thou. It doesn't sit well with me either but if the relationship is pure than I'm not against it. Dad deserves to be

happy.", Bhekikhaya.

"She's 27 bafo. Its going to seem like Baba is a paedophile."

"I'm dating a 30 year old man while I'm 21. I don't see the age gap when I'm with him. He respects me. Maybe that's all she's looking for. Respect and someone wise. Someone older who knows where they stand in life. You have to find the person that shot your wife and stop sticking your nose where it's not needed. Focus on Noxolo and Sanele.", Thando.

She stands up furiously and exits banging the door. We all sit silence. It looks so wrong. What if she's a gold digger? Just looking for an easy meal ticket. I rub my face and sigh. She's a doctor so I guess her being a gold digger will wait. Khulekani busts in laughter. Bhekikhaya face palms and shakes his head.

"Usinekani?" (what are you laughing at?)

"Heh Nkosi slept with a 27 year old!", Khulekani.

"That's not funny.", Bhekikhaya

"I know but I can't believe how that kid took after you.", Khulekani.

Bhekikhaya clicks his tongue and slaps his head on his way out. Khulekani is an idiot. Bhekikhaya did have a thing for older women when he was in university.

"Let me go finish breakfast."

I stand up and Khulekani follows. He puts his hand on my shoulder.

"Mom is proud of Baba are she is. He gave love another chance.", Khulekani.

He leaves me standing here. Maybe she was the light at the end of the tunnel for Dad. Maybe.

NOXOLO

Khulekani, Bhekikhaya and Ndabenkulu walked back in and took their seats.

"Do y'all plan on marrying?", Ndabenkulu.

The two lovers looked at each other and both

nodded. Ndabenkulu ran his hand over his head and sighed loudly.

"What happened Dad? Do you realize the effect this could have on our profile? You'll look like a paedophile.", Ndabenkulu.

"I'm 27 and I am rational. I am not forced to be with your father. I love him and he loves me.", Naledy.

"Ndodana. I don't care about profile. This is for my happiness. I thought you'd be happy for me as my son and maybe my happiness would come first to you as it does to me. I love Naledy and if my elder son won't support my relationship than I'm sad to say that you'd rather disown me.", Khuzwayo.

He stood up abruptly causing his chair to fall on the ground. He exits and leaves us sitting with tension.

"You'll never see any other woman enough for your father except your mother and not only are you making him unhappy but your mother as well. You think she's the only woman fit for your father. This may sound insensitive but so are you. Your mother will never wake up. Stop holding onto her. She is

dead. Let her rest. Stop imagining your father with a ghost.", Naledy.

She stood up and left following her man. I shook my head as bright sun eyes met mine.

"You're being selfish. You fall under society and their views. The least you could do is support your father."

He frowned at my words.

"My mother must be turning in her grave.", he says pissed.

"If I had a son acting like you I would too."

Khulekani cleared his throat and Tshego put her hand over his mouth. He nods at her and she let's go of his mouth slowly. I try standing up but my clutch slips and I fall on my broken arm when I try balancing myself with it forgetting its inactive. A cry of pain escaped my lips as pain shoots through my arm.

"Fuck! Babe!"

Ndabenkulu is quick to pick me up bridal style. Everyone is on their feet and Sanele comes running

in followed by Lami,Amanda and Nkosinathi.

"Mama!", Sanele.

He picks up my crutch and follows behind Ndabenkulu as he carries me to our room. I cry loudly as the intense pain feels like I snapped my arm in half.

NKOSINATHI

After uncle Ndabenkulu disappears with aunt and sanele we all look at each other. Mkhulu and his girlfriend are not around and so is Dad and Mom and aunt Thando. Aunt Tshego stands up with uncle Khulekani and they leave as well.

"Thank you for the delicious breakfast Amanda.",
Bhekikhaya.

He pats her before leaving sighing as he goes. Aunt Kuhle shrugs and follows him. Lami looks at us and we both shrug. This took a wrong turn quickly. What happened even? I walk to my room and listen to my music. I didn't get much sleep last night. I had

another nightmare and knowing Amanda was just next door also frustrated me. I ended up going for a swim till my body grew tired. I feel my eyes droop but open them when I hear the door open. I raise my head as whoever opened it locks it. My eyes meet Amanda and I tiredly sit up. She gets in bed next to me.

"Hey."

"Manda?"

"I saw how tired you were today and I heard you groan yesterday and I wanted to wake you up when I saw you crying in your sleep but I grew scared and left."

"That still doesn't explain what you're doing in my room."

She looks down and plays with my sheets. She's beautiful.

"I thought...", she clears her throat not finishing her sentence.

"You thought what?"

"Maybe we can take a nap together."

I chuckle at her shyness. Where is the girl that literally forced me to take her virginity?

"You wanna cuddle?"

"Yes. I missed falling asleep in your arms and I know its wrong but-"

"Why do you say its wrong?"

"We're family. I'm like your sister."

"Udakiwe. Do I look like I'd smash my sister? So fede this is why you ended us cause you think we're family?"

"But we are."

"On what terms?"

"My sister is marrying your uncle."

"Wait so where do we fit in,in this family equation of yours?"

"You're Khuzwayo. My sister will soon be one."

I chuckle and shake my head.

"I still don't get your point. I've never seen you as my sister. Heck that's just sick. Is it why you told me to stay away?"

"Partially."

"Why vele?"

"You didn't see my worth. You treated me as a sperm dish. I love you Nathi and I really do but you just couldn't treat me right plus you're always so angry and I got scared sometimes."

"I'm sorry. I'm not good at this love thing. I love you and would never lay a hand on you. You irritate me sometimes and we fought a lot but have I ever made a move to hit you?"

She shakes her head.

"Use your words."

"No."

"What did I do?"

She looks at me with eyes wide. She opens her mouth and closes it again.

"What did I do to you after we fought and you pissed me off?"

"You... You would punish me.",she breathes out.

"How would I punish you?"

Her breathe escalates and she crosses her legs.

"You'd ram into me. You'd smack my tits."

"What else?"

I think I'm getting a hard on right now.

"You'd deny me an orgasm and make me beg while I apologized."

I can see her erect nipples through her tight top and my member twitches.

"After?"

"You'd give me orgasm after orgasm till I cried in pleasure and couldn't take it anymore."

I lay back on the bed and her eyes travel to my trunk and notices my erection. Its hard not to notice with precum staining my grey sweatpants. She quickly looks away and shuffles to her feet.

"Where are you going?"

"To my room."

"Woza la. Uthe uzosgidla nami nje." (Come here. You said you're sleeping with me.)

"What if they catch us?"

"They wont."

She takes off her shoes and gets in next to me. I pull her closer to me and lay her head on my chest. I grab her ass with my other hand and she snuggles into me. I'm so fucking horny right now but I just want to hold her nothing more.

"Tjinapotra."(girlfriend)

"Huh?"

"I love you."

"I love you too."

"What's tjinapotra?"

"Its your new name."

"Hayi. Don't call me that."

"Tjinapotra."

She drags me through her teeth and I chuckle.

"Nathi."

"Tjinapotra."

"Why dont you laugh?"

"I do."

"No you don't. You chuckle for like 10 seconds."

"That's me laughing."

"You're weird."

I shrug and squeeze her ass. Im going to wake up with blue balls I think when I yawn sleepily and close my eyes.

NALEDY

Khuzwayo is angry and I have never seen him this angry. I straddle him and wrap my arms around his neck.

"Mlungisi."

He looks up at me with red eyes. The veins popping on his head makes him look even more hot. I don't care what anyone says but this man is handsome.

"Calm down. He'll come around."

I hope because I can't compete with a dead woman.

"I thought he'd take it better than the others since his the understanding one."

"He feels like he'd be betraying his mom if he let our relationship continue."

He sighs and I grab his face between my hands and kiss him tenderly. It turns into a hungry and lustful kiss as our tongues dance in anger rubbing against each other as we both taste each other. He lifts me up and turns us around swiftly. Two loud thuds are heard as he kicks off his shoes. He helps me out of my T-shirt and unclips my bra expertly. He fondles with my boobs twisting and pinching my nipples. I help him out of his T-shirt and my warm palms automatically goes to his abs up to his hard firm chest. The dampness in my underwear reminds me of how he always arouses me and can always

satisfies me. He tugs at my jeans and pulls down the material between him and his forbidden fruit which he loves and devours so much. He takes his jeans off and climbs on top of me, getting in between my shaking thighs. I'm really aroused that when he attempts to go down on me I pull him up.

"Make love to me.", I command him.

He smiles at this and rubs his thick long cock on my wet pussy causing me to moan lowly. He slides himself in me smoothly and I gasp. His girth fills me up touching places only he can reach. He moves slowly while holding tightly to me. We move in sync to our familiar dance of lovers. His groans low in my ears falling in sync with my moans. We hold each other tighter as we engage in this love making session. I close my eyes biting my lip as he makes slow love to me.

UNYEZI

I sit up and rub my eyes. Its midnight and Langa is not here. We spent the day just cuddling and me crying. A paper catches my attention. By the ugly writing I can tell its Langa's.

"Baby. I'm sorry to leave like this but we found a lead. I love you and we'll talk when I get back home. We increased security. Keep everyone safe."

I sigh and stand up. I take out my gun and count the bullets. I have only 9 left. I leave the cassette on the bed and cock it than put it on automatic mode. I pull the trigger and it shoots blank multiple times. A thought comes into mind. I should've blown out that little hoes brains out the minute I found out she slept with my husband and shot that cheating motherfucker in his knee. I shake my head and put my gun back. I exit the room and head to the kitchen. I can hear whimpering coming from Nathis room. I listen carefully and his crying. I open the door and his crying in his sleep. I shake him.

"Its a dream baby."

"Mama!"

He wakes up sweating and heaving. He wipes his tears and sighs.

"Boy. Why are you doing this to yourself?"

"I want to forget Mama. I want to forget so bad but I can't."

"The more you try to forget the more the thing you running away from catches on with you. Something's are meant to be faced and dealt with. Running away from something that hurt you won't make the wound heal. You'll bleed till you grow tired and that hurts more. Life is a rollercoaster. It takes you high and brings you down in high speed that you weren't ready for. You can never prepare for pain in life but its up to you to learn how to cope and deal with it. Don't let what you saw define you. You're a great kid. Focus on dealing with this. You can talk to me anytime you want. I don't want you falling into depression. Don't do this to yourself."

He nods and attempts to hug me.

"Sies. With all that sweat? Go take a shower and join me in the kitchen. I'm making warm milk and biscuits."

He smiles.

"I'll be there mom."

"Okay mfana wam. I love you okay."

"I love you too mom."

I leave him and check on Lami who's fast asleep. I help him sleep properly. This one will break his neck one day. Nkanyezi is sleeping while sucking on his fingers. He won't let go of this habit. I kiss their foreheads and leave them. I find Kuhlekonke with Sne in the kitchen.

"Hey y'all."

She turns around and smiles shaking Snes bottle.

"Hey. I'm making this one a bottle because he doesn't want to suck on my boobs."

I take the bottle from her and squeeze a little milk onto my wrist. I take him from her and feed him. He looks exactly like everyone. No sign that his

Kuhlekonkes son. I hate the Khuzwayo genes. He starts crying and spitting out the formula.

"She did that with my milk too."

I open his mouth and look at his tongue.

"Uneyilonda." (He got sores.)

"Is that bad?"

"It happens to a lot of kids. Pass me his towel and some sugar."

She does so and I take some honey from the fridge and pour it on the towel than dip it in sugar. I open the little fellows mouth and rub his tongue with it. He cries but I don't stop. I pull out the towel and he finally is able to taste the honey and sugar.

"Pass me the bottle."

He feeds for a while before spitting again.

"Just keep rubbing his tongue like that and he'll be fine."

"Thank you."

I smile at her and hand the sleepy fellow to her. She

burps him and heads out of the kitchen. I wipe myself and laugh lightly. Nkanyezi used to take me for a ride as well. I warm up the milk and take out chocolate biscuits. Nkosinathi walks in looking fresh. I hand him his glass of milk.

"Thank you mom."

I nod and take a sip of my milk. I smile at the warm taste.

"You know mom sometimes I wish I never went out of my room when I heard shouting downstairs and I wish I never sat at the staircase and watched. I wish I never saw anything."

"And that's okay but unless you have a genie your wishes might come through. Do you miss your mom?"

"No."

"Why?"

"She wasn't exactly a mother. She cared more about a new pair of heels than be did for us. She cheated on dad. A lot. Dad used to go on business trips then.

She'd bring over her friends and by friends I mean guys. She didn't want us to call her mom. She said we were ruining her reputation. She never closed her mouth about how much of a mistake we were. The only time she faked caring was when Dad was around."

"How did her death make you feel?"

"I was so angry at myself for being happy. I didn't want to be but I was. She had not only broken us but Dad as well."

"Do you hate your father for killing your mom?"

"I could never hate that man. He knew we weren't his kids but still treats us as if we are. He has never even once made us feel like we're not. He gave us the best childhood memories. He loved us. He raised us well. What he did still haunts me but there is no ounce of hate towards him. I was angry at first until I talked to him."

"When you told him how did you feel?"

"I felt relieved that he finally knew. I was so tired of carrying his secret around. It weighed heavily on

me."

"Why do you think the nightmares are still there?"

"I don't know really."

"That's because you're so angry at your mother. You said you were happy she was dead? Maybe that's another reason. You bask in that image seeing the woman who gave birth to you but rejected y'all die cause it may give you peace that she isn't around to reject y'all again."

He sighs and wipes his tears.

"Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?"

He nods after running his hand through his hair. He needs a new haircut.

"The situation between me and Tjinapotra."

"Who's tjinapita?"

He chuckles and shakes his head.

"Sorry. I meant Amanda."

"Whooo. What's going on between y'all?"

"I don't know. She says we're family and that's one of the reasons she can't be with me."

"Oh. Do you love her?"

"A lot."

"Than why are you holding back?"

"I don't want to push too hard. She deserves better anyway."

"Who's better?"

"I don't know Mom."

"So you're willing to let her go? Let her be with another guy?"

He frowns at that and I stifle a laughter.

"No. She can't be with another guy."

"Don't you think it's unfair though? You have different girls in your bed every weekend but she can't be with another guy?"

"But-"

"No. If you're willing to let her be than her being in a

relationship shouldn't be your business."

"Will it be worth it thou? The pain?"

"As long as she's happy right?"

"Maybe but of I'm not the one making her happy than I can't."

I sigh and shake my head. This one took after his father and uncles.

"Than show her you love her."

He nods and takes a bite of his last biscuit. He comes and hugs me.

"Thank you mom."

"Anytime."

He leaves and I clean up. I look at the clock. It's 01:34 and they still not back. I go back to my room and pray.

AMANDA

I'm woken up by cold hands pulling me. I open my

eyes and rub the sleep off them.

"It's just me."

It's Nkosinathi.

"What time is it?"

"Probably half past one."

"Your hands are cold man Nathi."

"Sorry. Make them warm."

He puts them inside my pyjama pants and I shiver as his cold hands come in contact with my butt cheeks.

"Why aren't you in your room?"

"I missed you."

"So you chose to come and harass me."

"Mxm. As if you don't like it."

"Mxm."

The only light in this room is from the moonlight. I can see half of his face. I run my fingers through his hair.

"Ouch."

"Sorry."

I pull my fingers out of his tangled hair.

"I need to get a haircut."

"Why?"

"Its overgrown."

"I like it."

I grab a fistful of it.

"Of course you would. I look handsome."

"Psssh that's not even the reason why."

"Why?"

"Hayi."

He pulls my lips with his teeth. He pecks my lips. I close my eyes at the feel of his lips on mine.

"Open your eyes."

I open them and he gives me a lopsided smile. He pulls my face and our lips connect again. I missed his kisses. He gets in between my thighs. He pulls out and looks at me. He looks down at my exposed

breasts.

"Its a good thing you only sleep in your underwear."

His tongue jolts out and wets his lower lip. He attacks my lips again and I don't resist. His one hand cups my breast and twirls my nipple around his fingers. I'm putty in his hands and he knows it.

[REMOVED]

LANGALAKHE

We found a lead and left at midnight. We're opposite Nkanyamba Zikodes flat. We're looking at him sleeping through binoculars.

"I knew that he has a hand behind this.", Khulekani.

He has very no security yet he was going against us. He thought he was hiding. Ndabenhulu is the skilled with with long distance shooting. We all look at him as he holds the gun in his hands with his index finger wavering over the trigger. He wanted to be the one pulling the trigger on him. His been like that for a while with a stoic expression. We look at each other

and nod. He licks his lips and exhales pulling the trigger and the bullet ripples through the air silently breaking a window and passing through Zikodes head.

"Shit!", Khulekani.

This one can never keep quiet. We pack up and leave the empty apartment. We get into the stolen car and drive off. We leave it in the sugar cane farm and walk to across after burning our clothes till we find our car. We're all silent as we get in the car.

"We only have to get a 28 to kill that son of a bitch inside there and than we're going after Okiri.",Ndabenkulu.

"Dad can deal with Okiri.", Khulekani.

"Yeah but taima should focus on his relationship.", Bhekikhaya.

"Bheki is right.", Ndabenkulu.

We all look at him and Khulekani whistles.

"Sikhela mina guluva. Fede sowumthebelele ngalenumber epushwa yitaima naleya thekeni?"(tell

me bro. So you okay with what dad is pushing with that girl?)

"Bafo I realized I was being unfair. Mom is dead.", he takes a deep breath in and blinks.

He was the mama's boy and he took mom's death the hardest since his the emotional one.

"Dad deserves to be happy. I can't keep holding him back because I always picture him with mom. His a great taima and this is the least I could do for him.", Ndabenkulu.

Khulekani pats his shoulder as his sitting behind him.

We passing through eMlazi now and I realise this Toyota corolla has been following us.

"Bafo. Leya kari mzobane iseyithendeni."(that car has been following us.)

They all look behind us and Ndabenkulu steps on the accelerator. Khulekani takes out his gun and opens his window. He takes his upper body out and starts shooting. The other car starts shooting back.

"Fuck!", Khulekani.

Bhekikhaya pulls him back by his pants. He is bleeding.

"Its just a flesh wound.", Bhekikhaya.

We all release breaths of relief. That laaitie should stop watching action movies. He ain't Terminator.

"Let me take the wheel!", Bhekikhaya.

They exchange seats dangerously but we used to this. A bullet passes near my window.

"Holy Fuck!"

Bhekikhaya speeds off and takes a drastic turn into eMlazi ka A. Ndabenhulu has his T-shirt pressed on Khulekani who's busy shouting.

"Maluda is gonna kill me! Fuck! Fuck!", Khulekani.

I lost count of the fucks his said. Well we're all going to get killed. Unyezi is gonna have my ass as my ear is bleeding from that bullet. When we get out of eMlazi Bhekikhaya has lost them.

"What was that?", Bhekikhaya.

"I think we were about to be hijacked. The car

started following us the moment we passed V section."

"I don't give a fuck! Maluda is going to kill me!", Khulekani.

"Oh God!", Ndabenkulu.

"You're bleeding.", Bhekikhaya.

"Yeah. They almost shot my ear off."

"Great! Now Unyezi is gonna kill us too!", Khulekani.

"Shut up Khulekani!", Ndabenkulu.

We drive to my house in KwaMashu to change the wrecked car and get a first aid kit. I check the time. 04:23.

.

.

We drive into the driveway by 08:46 with a fresh car and fresh clothes. Khulekani is wearing a hoodie to cover up his bandage. Coward. Let me not judge as I'm wearing a beanie to cover my ear. We walk in and find Baba, Naledy, Unyezi, Tshego, Kuhlekonke and

Noxolo sitting around the dinner table drinking tea. When she sees us Unyezi is the first to stand up checking me over and hugs me. I sigh in relief silently when she didn't see my plastered ear. Khulekani is so tense when Tshego hugs him. Bhekikhaya pinches him and widens his eyes. This one is going to get us in trouble. We sit down and pour some coffee. Nkanyezi comes in running and trips but stands up and runs anyway. He piftsvhis hands up to me.

"Take."

I lift him up and he plays with my face. He's still in his pyjamas so I guess he just woke up. He takes off my beanie and pulls it between his hands before wearing it. Ndabenkulu stares at me wide eyed and Noxolo sees him.

"What happened to your ear?", Noxolo.

"My what? Nothing."

Unyezi looks at me and I swallow hard. Her eyes land on my ear.

"What happened?", Unyezi.

"We were on our way back and..."

I look at Bhekikhaya and he shakes his head.

"...and we were walking at the apartment we were renting to follow our leads and I didn't see the zincs that were packed on the wall and I just rushed in and it cut my ear. Yeah. Right guys?"

"Yeah yeah right.",the all agree.

She squints her eyes at me and nods. Dad chuckles and makes that loud slurping sound with his tea. I smile awkwardly at everyone. Nkanyezi is now asleep on my chest. This little fellow gets me in trouble and falls asleep.

NKOSINATHI

Amanda shakes me out of sleep. I rub my eyes and sit up.

"Hey."

"Hey."

We smile at each other.

"Everyone is up. We slept in."

She looks so scared passing me my clothes which only consist of my underwear and sweatpants. I dress up with my dick erect.

"Can't I get a morning glory?"

"Nkosinathi. No."

"But look..."

I show her my erect dick as it throbs cause she's naked.

"We'll get caught."

"We won't. I'll be quick."

She shakes her head vigorously. I take her hand put it over my erect dick and she holds it in her small hand. She uses her hand to help her accommodate me. She goes down on her knees and licks me first. I moan lowly. She plays with my balls before taking me in her small warm mouth. I lose it and grab her hair fucking her mouth. She gags and I pull out and after she catches breathe I pump into her mouth again.

"Fuck!"

I shoot my load into her throat leaving her with no choice but to swallow. I pull my dick out which is half erect. There is tears in her eyes and come dripping down her mouth. She slaps my thigh before standing up. She wipes her face with her T-shirt. I notice her juices running down her legs. I pick her up and lay her on the unmade bed.

"Nkosinathi."

"I'll be quick."

I insert myself into her and she moans. I've already come so I doubt I will be as quick as I said I'd be.

TSHEGO (Maluda)

We all go back to our rooms. We're walking to our room when Khulekani grabs my arm.

"Sssh."

I look around. I hear moans and groans. They're coming from Amanda's room. Before he can say anything stupid I put my hand over his mouth and

pull him away. He breaks into a laugh when we get into our room. Khulekani can be stupid when he wants to be.

"You must be tired."

"Yeah. We hardly slept."

"So did I. I was worried. You didn't say much on that scribbled letter you left heck I couldn't even read it."

"I was in a hurry. We had something to sort out nothing major."

He leaves for the bathroom and I know I shouldn't ask more. He may be clown but his still intimidating. I am sleepy so I take off my gown and got in bed. He walks in after a few minutes.

"I'm so tired."

"Get in here. Take off that hoodie."

"Its cold. I'll sleep with it."

His definitely hiding something under that hoodie.

"Mmhm."

"Yeah

He gets in bed and grunts. He pulls me to him.

"This cuddle would feel better if you were shirtless."

"Sleep Maluda. Its Cold."

"Mmmmh."

I let him be with his hoodie and fall asleep to the sound of his racing heart.

THANDO

I wake up to my phone ringing. Its a Face time from Ozo. I rub my eyes and check if there's anything on my face. I answer smiling tiredly.

"Good morning."

"Morning.", I yawn out.

"I miss you."

"Me too."

"I'll see you soon thou."

"I hope so."

"I'm going to work. Just called to check on you and

see your beautiful face."

I blush a little bit and he laughs.

"Cute. Go to sleep again sthandwa sami. I'll call you during lunch time. I love you."

"I love you too."

We drop the call and I smile. I yawn and close my eyes.

MLUNGISI

Ndabenkulu remains behind after a his brothers left. He rubs his face.

"Baba I'm sorry for how I reacted. I am still wrapping my head around this. If she makes you happy than I'm happy for you."

"Thank you son. I'm glad you came around. I expected your behavior from Langalakhelihle since his stubborn."

"He actually took it quite well."

"How did it go?"

"Nkanyamba is dead. We're dealing with Noxolos ex after this. Okiri might give us a problem."

Naledy stands up and gives us space when she notices the change of topic. She knows I get my hands a little dirty sometimes.

"How do they come together in this equation?"

"Nkanyamba was approached by Msizi so Nkanyamba could take out Noxolo. Okiri being our rival found opportunity and made a deal with these men. They were to take us out slowly. Nkanyamba planned the hit and the next one was on Unyezi. We all have weaknesses so they were the first targets. Sane wasn't suppose to get mixed in the crossfire and that caused a little bridge between them and it was easy get to Msizi. He coughed up quite a lot."

"Okiri is at it again?"

"Yeah."

I crack my knuckles.

"Leave him to me. I should've killed him when he put that hit on my wife."

"Don't let him get away this time around."

"I won't."

He stands up and I follow. We both part ways with thoughts in our minds.

58

UNYEZI

"I'm not lying mawabo."

"You're lying."

"I'm not."

"You are."

"I'm not."

"You are."

"Okay. I almost had my ear shot off."

He widens his eyes when he realised he just told the truth.

"That is what you wanted me to say right?"

"Don't pull that on me! You're a father now Langa! What if the bullet went through your head?! Worse you fucken lie about it!"

"I'm sorry but stop shouting. I'm sorry."

"If you ever go out again to do whatever shit y'all do in the middle of the night and get shot! Langa!"

I clap my hands.

"I will kill you and I won't miss like they did!"

"I know I'm sorry."

I turn around and he snakes his hands around my waist.

"Don't get angry now. Look at me."

He turns me around and smiles.

"I should've been more careful. I promise I won't be at the receiving end of a bullet."

"Stay away from bullets Langa. I don't know what y'all do but if you are a gangster I'll-"

"I know you'll kill me. I'm not a gangster. I'm just a rich guy with enemies."

"You better be. I'll leave your ass."

"You're never going to leave me. The only time you'll leave me will be in a coffin."

I look at him and he is serious.

"Are you threatening me?"

"Niks mabhebheza. Kodwa okuka kesaru kuyohlala kungo kwakesaru."(no band. But what belongs to me will always be mine.)

I like it when he gets all kasi on me but right now I dont like his tone.

"I'm not your belonging."

"Angishongo." (I didn't say.)

He kisses me grabbing my ass and squeezing it. He rubs his boner on my groin and I moan.

"You look sexy when you angry."

He whispers into my ear and nips at it. He licks my neck and bites it.

"Euw. I haven't even taken a shower yet."

"I like you sweaty."

He lifts me up and I giggle. Wait- wasn't I angry at him? I'll be angry at him after this. He lays me on the bed and unties my fluffy gown exposing my naked body. He smiles and makes a purring sound. He undresses himself and gets in between my thighs again. He positions himself and penetrates me

causing me to gasp for air.

"How many times should I tell you to not raise your voice at me?"

I knew I wasn't gonna get away with shouting at him but I had hope. I don't answer and he thrusts into me balls deep and I scream.

"How many times-"

"Always!", I scream out when rams into me again.

"Now why do you keep doing it?"

"I'm sorry."

He holds my wrists together above my head so I don't scratch him. He takes a pillow and puts it under my butt.

"Why?" Thrust. "Do.." Thrust. "You..." Thrust. "Keep..." Thrust. "Doing..." Thrust. "It?" Thrust.

I can't seem to form a sensible sentence as he keeps hitting my g-spot plenty of times. I try freeing my hands from his holds but he holds me tighter. That's going to bruise.

"Answer me."

"I... I... Aaaaaah Langa!"

My legs shake as I feel a build coming and my body goes rigid but he stops moving. No!

"Langa please."

He starts moving when he sees that I've calm down from my almost orgasm. His sweating and breathing heavily on top of me.

"If you don't answer me I'll stop completely."

I open and close my mouth a few times And he stops.

"I was angry."

He starts moving again. Slower this time but still deep.

"Do I ever shout at you when I'm angry?"

I shake my head vigorously. He pinches my thigh.

"No!"

He starts pumping into me fast and I try freeing my

hands to no success. I clench my thighs around him and he groans.

"Unyezi you're hurting me."

"You are too."

He holds my leg up and carries on thrusting into me. A build knots up in my abdomen and I arch my back shaking. I cum hard and he fucks me through it and I cum again and he follows. He climbs off me and rolls over to the side next to me. We lay in silence breathing heavily trying to get our breathing in order.

"I'm sorry. I'll be careful next time and I will stay away from bullets."

"I'm sorry too. I was just angry. I was scared."

"We've been together for 4 years yet you still raise your voice at me knowing very well I hate it."

"I'm sorry."

"Let's go take bath. Sleep. We'll talk about what happened yesterday that made you cry when we wake up."

I nod and he takes me in his arms and carries me to

the bathroom.

NDABENKHULU

I wipe her mouth and take the empty plate to the kitchen. I thank Kuhlekonke for the food and she smiles. I sit across her when I get to our room.

"MaSilangwe."

She raises her head and looks at me.

"Are you okay?"

She nods.

"Should I call the doctor?"

She shakes her head. I sit next to her careful not to hurt her.

"Ngiyaxolisa." (Im sorry.)

The silent treatment is killing me. She hasnt talked to me since the day she fell.

"I talked to Dad and we sorted out our problems. I was being unfair and I realised that."

"It's fine."

"I'm sorry that you fell."

"It wasn't your fault."

"Partially. If you didn't have to reprimand my selfish ways than you wouldn't have gotten angry and tried to walk off."

I hold her good hand and kiss it.

"I'm sorry."

"Its okay."

"I'll make you some vegetable lesagne."

She smiles a little and nods.

"Am I forgiven?"

"After a foot rub."

"I'm tired kodwa MaSilangwe. I haven't slept. It's..."

I look at my watch.

"12:24 and I spent all morning trying to talk to you."

"Foot rub yami Khuzwayo."

She relaxes back on the bed and wiggles her toes.

"You're a bully."

"Foot rub or I'll make that a full body massage."

"I wouldn't mind."

She laughs sweetly. She looks so beautiful.

"Of course you wouldn't."

I chuckle and get her massaging oil. I try not to make fun of her baby feet seeing how I'm still on rocky waters.

BHEKIKHAYA

I just woke up and took a shower. Kuhlekonke is not in the room and Sine is sleeping. I wake him up and he cries. I shush him. Kuhlekonke walks in with her apron on.

"His up?"

I nod while smiling.

"You woke him up didn't you?"

"I missed him."

"Bheki."

"Sorry Peaches."

She blushes at the name and I chuckle. I named her peaches when she was pregnant. She was thick and yellow. I used to say she was ripe like a peach and she hated it. She likes it now. Women.

"You're going to feed him."

"Fine by me."

She nods smiling. I balance Sine with one hand on my shoulder and pull his mother with the other towards me.

"Hey."

"Hey."

She smiles at me. I peck her lips and put my forehead on hers.

"Sthandwa Sam." (My love.)

"Ufunani?" (What do you want?)

"Nothing. Can't I just call the love of my life my love?"

"Bhekikhaya ufunani?" (What do you want?)

"A ps5."

"Buy it yourself."

"Baby ngyakucela." (Please.)

She rolls her eyes at me.

"Uzoyenzani iPs5?" (What are you going to do with a ps5?)

I laugh at the way she says it.

"Say ps5 again."

"Ps5?"

I laugh. She clicks her tongue.

"It's not funny."

"I know but you sound cute bewusisiza."

She slaps my arm and I kiss her. Sine cries and I break the kiss off groaning. I wish I didn't wake him up.

"Let's go feed y'all."

"What did you cook?"

I'm sure its some Indian dish.

"Some Italian dish I found online."

Thats new. I know we're going to be eating Italian food for the next few months till she finds another dish to obsess over. I liked her better when she couldn't cook but I love her more everyday. We find Amanda, Nkosinathi and Tshego eating. We greet them and i join them as Kuhle passes me Sines food.

AMANDA

We eat in silence. This food is spicy as hell but I make no effort telling Kuhle. Bhuti Khulekani walks in singing loudly and it wasn't pleasant at all. He kisses Sis Tshegos cheek and opens the fridge singing.

"Mina ngiyigagu.

Phumela ezansi.

Ozama ukungithinta lentsimbi yabelungu izokhala ka nthatu.

Bheka amacharts sonumber 1.

Unduku ziyiphabaza emculweni.

Mangifake isiphandla ngisithathe kimi phela mina ngiyibuzi eyigqumayo!",Khulekani.

He keeps quiet mumbling than takes off his earphones. He sticks them in Tshegos ears.

"Sing the Sotho part.",Khulekani

"I don't know Sotho.",Tshego

"Kanti what's your home language?",Khulekani

"Tswana.",Tshego

"Kyafana mahn.",Khulekani

He pecks her lips and sits next to her. I've never met someone this crazy in my life. I feel eyes on me and I turn around and look at Nkosinathi.

"You're beautiful.", he mouths.

I blush and look down trying to cover my face with my braids.

"Ayisamoyizeli intombi ka Nkosinathi." (Nkosinathi's

girlfriend is blushing.)

Everyone automatically looks at me and I cough.

"Khulekani!", Tshego.

"What? We all know these two are dating.",Khulekani.

"Awuthule Bafo." (Keel quiet.),Bhekikhaya.

I stand up and take my plate.

"I'll eat in...my room."

"Mlandele Nkosinathi. I know you want to." (Follow her.),Khulekani.

Oh God! I walk out faster. I get in my room and put the plate down.

"Fuck!"

I throw myself on the bed and scream into my pillow. That was so embarrassing.

NKOSINATHI

As soon as Amanda left Malume was on my case.

"Wena! Your mother and father are sleeping in the

next room but you're busy with the poor child.", Khulekani

Malume Bhekikhaya shakes his head folding his arms. Oh somebody shoot me.

"Khule hle bathong.", Tshego.

"You heard for yourself nawe baby.", Khulekani.

He lifts his hands and closes his eyes.

"Yes! Nkosinathi! I receive! Oh Go deeper!", he imitates a moaning woman

Everybody laughs. I cover my face with both hands. I run away when Mkhulu arrives with his girlfriend. His girlfriend. Sounds weird saying it. I sneak into Amandas room.

'Hey.'

She sits up and smiles at me. I scratch my head.

"Sorry about my uncle. His an idiot sometimes."

She laughs.

"I know. It's okay."

"Wanna play video games?"

"Sure."

She wears her slippers. She hands me her plate.

"No."

"Come on."

"My uncle will have my ass."

She stomps her feet dramatically and I follow behind her. I lean on the wall so they don't see me. When she enters the kitchen Malume can never keep quiet.

"Makoti. Uyayibona intombi ka Nkosinathi Baba?"
(You see Nkosinathi's girlfriend?)

"Khulekani leave my sister alone."

Amanda comes out and she pushes me when she sees me.

"What?", i ask laughing.

She'll get used to him.

OZO

I read the message I received from Senior Khuzwayo again. I truly love his daughter but I can't go against my own uncle. Yeah me and Okiri might not be best buddies but his family. I put my phone away and try getting back to work. I sigh rubbing my face. I take out my phone and call Thando.

"Ozo."

"Hey."

"You don't sound okay."

"I'm not."

"What's wrong?"

"I miss you and there's business."

"Talk to me."

"It's nothing big."

"When you're ready you'll tell me. Just don't dwell too much on whatever the matter is."

"Okay. I love you."

"I love you too."

I drop the call and text back Khuzwayo.

"I'll help you capture him but from there on wards you're on your own. Next time don't use my love for your daughter to try and get your way."

I send the text and throw my phone on my desk. What does Okiri want with the Khuzwayo's again? This time I'm not saving him. His putting Thandos life in risk.

UNYEZI

"After I cheated on you I realised what it did to you. I put our love at risk. I turned you into this monster. I ran away yet I was wrong. You humbled yourself and tried fixing things between us. I still regret it till today and I knew it still hurt you but didn't know the depth. I'm sorry I ever made you doubt my love. I love you Unyezi. I loved you the first time I saw you outside Dad's building smoking. I've loved you ever since. I'm sorry I ever did something like that to you. I promise on my life to never even get an erection for another woman."

His heart rate is beating rapidly. I have my head on his chest. A sob breaks through the air and I sit up and pull him to my lap. My man never pretends to be strong knowing very well his not. If something hurts him he'll cry and I love him for that.

"I forgave you. I'm trying to regain my trust towards you and you're making it easier for me."

"I was suppose to love you. Treat you with respect.

You deserve a happily ever after from me after all you've gone through. I promise I'm going to pull up my socks."

"You've gave me the best memories and you still are. I don't think I can love anyone else in my lifetime."

"I love you so much mawabo."

"I love you too."

He lifts the oversized T-shirt I'm wearing and kisses my inner thigh where my 'X' is and I wipe a tear that falls.

"Cry. Don't hold back."

He holds me and rocks us back and forth. I cry while holding onto him as if he'll disappear.

MLUNGISI

"You're unfair."

"I know but I was being honest. If he doesn't help me than my daughter will die."

"You didn't put it like that."

"I know. I'm sorry."

"I don't get you sometimes."

She gets in bed and covers herself. I sit next to her.

"My love?"

Silence.

"Mkami."

"I'm not your wife."

"You will be soon."

"Hamba Mlungisi. I want to align my chakras and pray for you." (Go.)

I pull the cover from her face and kiss her.

"Pray for me."

"I will."

I wear my black leather gloves and leave our cottage. Everyone is asleep. I get in my car and security opens for me. I honestly didn't think Sbusiso will have Okiri so fast. I drive to where he sent the location. It's by the ocean. I can't find them. I see two

people on the bridge over the sea. I run there. This is a public space. Why the fuck would he want us to meet up here? Where's the security? I get to them and Okiri is tied and on his knees. He look pretty beaten up.

"His all yours. Don't worry about the night guards. They don't see anything."

I nod at his statement. He leaves us there. Okiri laughs.

"Ah Khuzwayo my brother."

"Shut up."

"I'm surprised you caught me so fast. The last time you weren't so lucky."

"The last time you killed my wife."

He stands up weakly.

"She should've been mine! You came and took her from me and gave her those brats you call children! Those could've been my kids!"

"We both know you wouldn't have."

"Fuck you! If I could kill that bitch I would do it over and over again. She was sick anyways!"

"But you decided to do what I'm about to do with you right now. Play God."

"Come on Khuzwayo. We can work this out."

"A life for a life."

I shoot him on his glabella and he remains still. I shoot him on his chest and he falls over the railing and falls into the sea. I look at the moon and sigh.

"Justice has been served."

I walk on the sandy beach for awhile staring at the moon. I go back to my car with my heart a bit heavy. Tonight bought back a lot of bad memories. I drive for another hour back to our safehouse. Luckily the roads are empty I would've caused an accident with the way I keep zoning out.

(IN THE MORNING)

NOXOLO

I am woken up by Ndabenhulu on a call. It sounds serious so I limp to the bathroom. My leg is healing but my arm not so soon. He gets in when I'm brushing my teeth. He stands behind me and lays his chin on my shoulder. He looks at me through the mirror.

"I love you."

"I love you too."

I finish brushing my teeth and we stay like that for awhile. He closes his eyes.

"Msizi is dead."

My body freezes for a minute and I nod slowly. He holds my chin and I realise I've been nodding for a while. I won't lie my heart is broken a bit. I once loved that man and he gave me the most precious gift in my life.

"What happened?"

"He got into a fight with a general and he stabbed him to death."

"A general?"

"A leader of the 28's."

I nod and try to form words on how I'll tell Sanele his father is dead.

"Let me go tell Sanele."

We walk out together. I knock on Langa and Saneles room.

"Come in."

I hold Ndabenhulu's arm.

"I want to do this alone."

He nods and calls Langa. They leave us together.

"Hey boy."

"Hey mom."

"You're okay?"

"No school. Video games food. You're happy. Why wouldn't I be?"

I smile timidly.

"Your father..."

He frowns.

"Uh... He got into a fight in prison. They stabbed him."

"His dead isn't he?"

"Yes."

He remains still and blinks.

"He wasn't exactly the perfect father but he loved me. He died while I was so angry at him."

"I'm sorry."

"Can I please be alone."

I nod and leave him. I'm met by Ndabenkulu outside leaning with his forehead on the wall.

"Is he okay?"

"His a bit sad."

He nods and hugs me.

"I'll be out today. I'll give y'all some time to mourn him. I know you cared for him."

I nod and he pecks my lips and leaves with his shoulders hanging.

KHULEKANI

Its really hot and I want to take a nap. I hardly slept cause I know how sneaky Maluda is. She suspects I'm hiding something. I'm wearing a long sleeve right now and I'm sweating. I don't even take showers with her anymore. She walks in with a short towel on. It hardly covers her milky thick this. I've been avoiding sex cause she tries undressing me.

"You can go shower."

"I will."

I stand there looking at her. I know the nigga down there is already pulsating. She sees the tent on my pants and smirks. She drops her towel and turns around and bends exposing her pinks vagina. I clear my throat and go to the bathroom. I'm taking a cold shower. I strip naked and take off my bandage. I look at my wound and its still raw. I get inside the shower and put my hands on the wall. The door opens and I curse. I forgot to lock the door. She gets in behind me. She starts touching my arms till my shoulder. I bite my lip so I don't grunt. She squeezes

them.

"Ah mahn Maluda!"

I take her hand off and put my hand over my wound. I turn around and she has her arms wrapped and her boobs are on my face.

"Explain."

"It's nothing."

"Really? Why have you been hiding that wound so much? Unless you got shot that night."

"Got shot? Hayi mahn Maluda."

"Am I lying?"

She does this thing with her shoulders and neck and she's on her bitch mode. If I say she's lying she's gonna flip and start screaming that I'm calling her a liar. If I say she's not she's most definitely gonna have my ass that I got shot. Futhi how did she come to the conclusion that I got shot?

"I'm waiting on my answer."

"Babe it's a small wound. I scrapped my shoulder

blade nothing major."

"Let me see."

She stands on her toes and looks at my wound. She drags m through her teetch.

"Scrapped? Try again Khulekani."

"Okay I lost balance and fell on some bottles."

"Thats not a cut."

"What do you want me to say kodwa Maluda?"

"The truth."

Uyahlanya.

"What truth?"

"Khulekani."

"What?"

"Talk."

"Eish. Its a flesh wound baby. The bullet didn't go through."

She clicks her tongue and shoves her finger on my wound. I scream.

"Achu Maluda!"

She does it again and I hold her hand this time. This one is a bully.

"Why didn't they shoot your bloody brain out?"

"Eh you want me dead?"

"O stlaela vele. If o no tlokafetse ono tlo etsang?"
(You're an idiot anyway. If you had died what were you gonna do?)

Y'all see when she speaks Sotho she loses me.

"Khulekani o mo to a mahn. Hawu batla go swa o bue keo bulaye nna." (You're old man. If you wanna die die tell me and I'll kill you.)

I nod even though I don't understand what she's saying. I wish I had my phone right now. Translator would help right now.

"You heard me?"

"Yeah babe."

"What did I say?"

"That...uh wena uza bua." (You will talk.)

She pinches me and I jump.

"I said if you wanna die tell me and I'll kill you. With my bare hands."

"You're capable vele.", I mumble.

"Wareng?"

"Sorry baby. I'll be more careful. I'll stop acting like Arnold Schwazzenegar."

She points a chubby finger at me and turns around. I pull her back.

"Uyaphi?"

"I'm going to get dressed."

"Help me out."

"With what?"

"You know I'm hurt and I seem to be having issues with washing my dick."

She laughs.

"I'm going to get dressed."

I rub my erection on her ass and she purrs. My hand

travels to her shaved vagina and I part her lips. She's already wet. I rub her clit and she arches her back into me.

"Khulekani."

"Sthandwa Sam."

She moans when I insert a finger in her. She's wet enough. I turn us around and make her balance on the wall.

"You have to pull out. I didn't bring my pills."

Weeeeh shame mina ngiyibonela uma wengane zami. I insert myself in her and I groan at her tightness and warmth. Sdudla sami madoda! Ngyofela la efela khona!

KUHLEKONKE

Amanda walks into my room and gets in bed next to me. Her eyes are just as puffy.

"Happy Birthday sthandwa."

"Thanks sis."

We sit in silence. She's finally turned 18. She's grown so much. Its sad how a day where we should be celebrating is the most saddest to us.

"I went to check up on Sanele and Langa earlier on. I found Sanele alone crying. Apparently his father died. My birthday is really cursed."

"No sthandwa. Some things happen."

"But if we hadn't went to celebrate my birthday than we wouldn't have gotten into that accident. Sometimes I wish I had died and mom and dad survived. I took them away from you."

"No Amanda we're not doing this again this year. That drunk truck driver took them from us. I know it hurts but don't think like that. I can't imagine my life without you."

"I miss them sometimes. I miss Dad's jokes and mom's shyness. They were the happiest couple. Its been years but it still hurts."

"This kind of pain doesn't heal easily. It hurts me sometimes like when I went through depression and I wished mom was there to help me. I never met our

again cause he looked so much like Dad."

"I wonder if they ever miss them."

"Who wouldn't miss those two? They were the most kindest people I've ever come across. Remember how Dad bought hobos every week home and helped them on their feet?"

"He used to say they were our brothers."

"Those were the days."

We both sigh.

"Lets do something different today and stop sulking. Your baking skills have improved right?"

She nods.

"We going to bake a cake since our baker is hurt. We going to cook one of mom's recipe's. Set a table outside by the pool and have a mini party for you."

"I feel like staying indoors and eating ice cream."

"I'll get Nkosinathi to change that mindset."

"As if. He knows to stay away on my birthdays. I'm going to sleep."

"Please. Manda."

She gets out of bed and drags herself towards the door. I sit up and look at the door as it shuts behind her. I can't bake but I'm sure Noxolo can instruct me. I'm not good with cooking soft carrot pap but my brother in law is a chef. I know how she gets on her birthday. Poor Nkosinathi has to be the one to get her out of bed alone. I get in the shower. I hope Bhekikhaya fed my child wherever he is.

LANGALAKHE

Why I let Unyezi talk me into helping out with Amandas party. I'm frying the meat with a beer in hand. We hardly slept izolo and I'm tired. I yawn and she laughs giving me an energizer.

"Thando and Naledy did good."

She says looking around smiling. They sure did make something out of the space. She leans into me and I kiss her head. Dad is sitting under the tree already sipping his brandy. He hasn't taken his eyes off Naledy. His so smitten it's not even funny.

"Unyezi!"

She turns to Kuhle's voice. She walks over to her. I feel a tug on my leg and look down. Nkanyezi is dressed in his swim shorts.

"Khuzwayo."

I laugh and he giggles as well. He calls me that sometimes. He heard his mother call me that a few times and he never looked back. I lift him up and he

points at the meat. Now this a Khuzwayo. Real men love meat. I shake my head point at Unyezi who's carrying a bowl of food.

"Mama shouts nje."

"At least you know her well. Wait till we dish up."

Remind me why I have to speak English with my son? Oh so he doesn't struggle much in school. Kodwa my boy will be a pussy. Langa passes with Sanele and they're in a serious conversation. Sanele looks shattered and knowing my brother guilt is eating him up.

"Bhuti! Let me go!"

I put him down and he runs towards his brothers.

"Nkanyezi stop running!", his mother shouts.

He walks to them and hugs them both. They take him with and they go chill with Dad.

"Why is Dad not doing anything again?", I ask them.

"Hey! I have sons and daughters. Grandchildren ngaphezulu. Phitzelani. Futhi my wife should sit down."

"Eh. MaGema should also sit down."

"Awuthule wena." (Shut up.),Dad.

I mumble and he laughs while standing up.

"Bowubona intombi yakho uyaphapha." (When you see your girlfriend you're forward.)

"Heh? Uyakhuluma?" (You're talking?)

"Cah." (No)

Unyezi laughs at me and I throw her a look. I hand the meat to her and kiss her briefly. I put my hand on her waist and bend so I can whisper into her ear.

"I love you. Umuhle yezwa?" (You're beautiful.)

She giggles like a school girl and whispers.

"I love you too. Thank you."

I let go of her and she walks away. I follow her with my eyes. She comes back to me and yawns.

"Please go make me some coffee."

"You know you can't drink coffee."

"I'm not sick nje."

"But you will be. Caffeine can give you a cardiac attack."

"I still don't get what that has to do with me."

"You're human."

She shakes her head walking away. I don't know how long I can keep on lying to her. She's going to notice soon but better she finds out on her own.

"Unyezi!"

I look at her as she balances on Kuhlekonke. I run towards her and help her sit down. I hand her a glass of water Kuhle passes to me.

"You okay?"

"Yeah. I've been getting these dizzy spells lately and a little nausea."

"Maybe its the injection."

"I've been using this contraceptive since I gave birth."

I drop my eyes and clear my throat. Dad walks towards us.

"Makoti you're okay?",Dad.

"Yebo Baba.",Unyezi.

"Maybe he got you pregnant again.",Dad.

"No way.",Unyezi.

He smiles and walks away whistling after eyeing me.

"Probably because you're tired. Let me get you to bed."

I lift her up and take her to our room. I'm fucked.

NKOSINATHI

"Manda."

"Mmmmh?"

"Look at me."

She remains laying facing away from me.

"Tjinapotra."

She turns around. I lower the volume on her speaker. She sits up and looks at me. Her eyes are really puffy.

"You're okay?"

She nods and I rub my face. I suck at these emotional things.

"Can you not be sad today? Can you not close off on us? Just for today? Baby steps?"

She wipes away her tears and sniffs. I pull her on my lap and kiss both her eyes.

"I hate feeling this way but I can't help it. I hate reminiscing about that day. I hate how I remember their screams. I hate-"

She shakes her head and starts crying. I rub her back soothingly while whispering sweet nothings in her ear. She stops when she has hiccups. My T-shirt is wet with her tears and she's holding on tightly on me.

"I know it hurts. I wish I could make it better. I wish I could take all the pain on your behalf. I hate seeing you like this."

I wipe her tear with my thumbs and kiss her lips.

"Should I sing for you to make it better?"

She laughs a bit and punches my shoulder slightly.

"You? Sing? No. I don't want to ruin my hearing."

I chuckle at that shaking my head.

"I'm serious."

"Oh well. Kill me."

I let go of her and hand her, her phone.

"You might want to take a video cause this is this is the first and the last time I'm singing for you."

She rolls her eyes and I clear my throat. Just when I'm about to sing there is a knock on the door.

"Come in."

Malume Khulekani walks in and smiles his goofy dumb smile as usual.

"Romeo and Juliet.",Khulekani.

"Malume.", I chuckle.

"I heard makoti wasn't okay today. Was wondering why we were having porridge for breakfast today.",Khulekani.

We all chuckle. Mom made breakfast today and she made soft porridge as usual. Everyone complained but Unyezi Khuzwayo had them eating it and made

sure we finished it.

"So tell me what's wrong makoti?", Khulekani.

He sits on the couch and looks at us.

"Nothing much.",Manda.

"I could hear you crying across the hallway.",Khulekani.

We all keep quiet. This is so awkward.

"Well I was sent here to tell y'all to get ready by this ones bully mother.", Khulekani.

He stands up and opens the door. He halts on his step and remains standing with his back towards us.

"Amanda. I know the pain of losing a parent and its one wound that never heals. As grown as I am sometimes I need my mother. Don't dwell too much on the sadness. Get off that bed. Celebrate your birthday. Do it for your parents and Kuhlekonke. Carry the mindset that you're making them proud and they will always be with you around. Its never easy but crying won't make it easy.",Khulekani.

He steps out and comes back in.

"Oh and crying makes you lose weight.", Khulekani.

He closes the door again and we hear him singing some maskandi song down the hallway.

"You heard him. Get up."

She stands up and she does look like she lost a bit of weight.

"You're taking a shower with me?"

"No. We both know we'll never get out."

I nod understandingly smiling. I kiss her forehead.

"See you in a sec. Be alright."

She nods and I exit. I hear her music play again and I sigh.

KUHLEKONKE

"You're sure she's coming?", I ask Khulekani.

"Yes. Relax.", Khulekani.

"She better come. I'm wearing jeans for this.", Langa.

We all laugh at him. He's been complaining since.

"Let me get us some wine.",Unyezi.

She stand up and gets a bottle. She pours us girls glasses and hands it to us. We all stand up and go sit away from the loud men. Langa come towards us and takes the glass from Unyezi.

"Haibo. Langa.", Unyezi.

"Sorry babe. Can you stick to the juice for today?",Langa.

"Why? Give me my glass.",Unyezi.

"Can I talk to you?", Langa.

He pulls her aside handing the wine to Naledy. She gulps it down.

"Shame. Its going to be a long 9 months without wine.", Naledy.

We all look at her.

"Huh?", Thando.

"Nothing.",Naledy.

We all shrug talking and waiting for Amanda to pop up.

UNYEZI

"I can't drink now?", I shout whisper at him.

"Yes."

I look at him nasty and he rubs his face.

"Look. You can't drink."

"Why? Since when are you that husband?"

"Its not about that. Trust me. Just don't drink."

"I'm going to sleep."

I try walking away but he hold my waist.

"Unyezi."

I look at him.

"Calm down. It's not that deep. Just don't drink."

"If its not coffee it's wine. You're treating me like I'm pregnant."

He clears his throat and scratches his beard.

"No. Its just the kids are here and I don't want them to see you drunk."

"But-"

"Please. Don't fight me on this."

"Fine."

He sighs in relief and kisses me.

"I'll get you some orange juice."

I nod and he walks away. I look at him. His up to something and he can't even sit still with it. I walk back to the girls.

THANDO

I've been trying to get ahold of Ozo to no avail today. I really miss him. We last talked in the morning when I told him we'll be coming back soon. He did tell me about what transpired between my Dad and his uncle. I know my family's other dirty side. He also informed me about my hospital looking ready and that inspections were done and everything was safe and ready. Finally! I liked the little building we were using but it wasn't mine. Unyezi will like this. We're preparing for the grand opening. I hated doing stuff

over the phone. Everybody stands and sings as Amanda and Nkosinathi walks in. Poor child is so shy and awkward.

"Thank you.", she says shyly.

"Makoti!", Khulekani.

We all laugh except Langa and Ndabenkulu. They don't really like this relationship but Nkosinathi seems to like this girl. From what I've been told they should let these two date. They're not family after all but the last time I said that Langa almost bit my head off. Kuhle takes the mic. That was Dad's idea. Dramatic should I say. We can hear pretty well.

"Amanda my sister. Only. This is the first time in years we're celebrating again. I missed that. I missed singing the happy birthday song for you..."

I zone out after that. I don't like speeches.

Nkosinathi gets on stage and takes the mic.

"I don't really understand what the mic is for.",
Nkosinathi.

We all laugh. We all scream, " Its your Granpas idea."

"Yeyi! Use the mic!", Dad.

We laugh harder.

"Okay. I was going to sing for the lady of the evening earlier on but Malume Khulekani disturbed us. Mom thought it would be a good idea to sing now.",
Nkosinathi.

I look up from my phone and look at my nephew as he breathes in and out. I can't remember the last time I heard him singing.

AMANDA

Everyone is looking at Nkosinathi. His mother looks like she is about to burst in joy. No way Nkosinathi can sing. I've never heard him singing. Not even once.

"I meant it earlier when I said you might want to take a video of this Tjinapotra cause its a first and last.",
Nkosinathi.

Everyone takes out their phones. A beat plays. It sounds familiar.

"Are you on your way?

Are you comin' soon to me?

No parking in LA

So I'ma send a Uber to your place

Is my secret safe?

Safe with just you and me

We can't leave a trace

This is my favorite mistake

Ohh, look in my eyes

Can you find the lies? Do you feel alive?

Look in my eyes

Do you mind the lies? Do you feel alive?

Look in my eyes

We both know it's wrong but you're still comin' over

Even when you're gone the feelin' just grow stronger

Should leave it alone but you're still gettin' closer

We both know it's wrong, can't keep this for long

While it's going on, I'll put it in a song
Are you on your way? Are you comin' soon to me?
I'm gettin' impatient, look at what you do to me
Our secret's safe so you're my favorite mistake
That's why we gotta keep it on the low
Girl at home but she don't need to know
What's going on, it won't be on for long, no
Ohh, look in my eyes
Can you find the lies? Do you feel alive?
Look in my eyes
Do you mind the lies? Do you feel alive?
Look in my eyes
We both know it's wrong but you're still comin' over
Even when you're gone the feelin' just grow stronger
Should leave it alone but you're still gettin' closer
We both know it's wrong, can't keep this for long
While it's going on, I'll put it in a song."

He just sang our favourite song. I'm actually glad I took a video now. I didn't know he had such a great voice. I felt goosebumps on top of goosebumps. We all clap and he walks towards me smiling. We share a long hug. He wipes my tears and whispers.

"I love you."

"I love you too.", I whisper back.

We separate and take a seat. I wonder who cooked cause this smells amazing. I eye the cake and smile. Beautiful. I hold back tears. Mom would be so proud of the family her daughter is marrying into. I kiss Kuhles cheek and whisper a 'thank you.' she smiles with tears in her eyes.

61

MONTHS LATER

OZO

I walk out of the meeting carrying my briefcase and stand in front of the elevator. I reply to a text from my mom and put my phone back into my pocket. Her scent hits me again and I tense up a bit. We were in a meeting discussing opening another branch and her scent made me dizzy throughout the whole meeting. She stands next to me.

"Ms Khuzwayo."

"Mr Buthelezi.",she greets back.

I look at her and she remains looking at the elevator. Her phone rings as the elevator pings and arrives. We both step in and stand a good distance from each other. She's on the phone with that son of a bitch she left me for. I clench my jaws and loosen my tie.

"I love you too.", she giggles and ends the call.

When the elevator stops I exit first and pass the

reception. Everyone is looking at me and I'm sure they can see how pissed I am. I should've known that falling for a young girl was a risk. She left me for someone who was her age. I get inside my car and I punch the steering wheel furiously.

"Dammit Thando!"

I take off my suit jacket and my tie. I unbutton the first two buttons on my shirt. Its been over 9 months since she left me for that scumbag that called her a hoodrat. He found out she was actually very wealthy and started hitting on her and because she's a fucking clown she chose him. I don't get how she went to him. The sex was good. I respected her. I knew her period dates. I reminded her to take her pills. Argh! I see her getting into her car and I start the ignition. I drive off angrily almost causing an accident.

THANDO

I watch his car as it drives off. A bit of sadness does engulf me but I brush it off. His still angry at me and

I wish he could understand. Sthembiso is the chosen one from me. Speaking of him, I transfer some money to him. I get into my car and drive off the opposite direction. The kids are visiting me today so I have to cook early. I take a quick shower and get dressed in an oversized T-shirt. I cut the vegetables while I'm on the phone with Unyezi.

"Your brothers are not keen on meeting this guy of yours."

"I'd be surprised if they were."

"What did you say his surname was again?"

"Sthembiso Mkhwanazi. You're always asking me that. Why?"

"It sounds familiar but let's hope its not the one I know."

"Uh... Okay. Let me finish cooking before those brats of yours come."

"I'm still at work. I have one more patient."

"If Langas suspicions were real you would be at home with swollen feet and a big tummy."

"Your brother kodwa. I was ready to kill him. I can't have another kid right now."

"Nawe you were always having dizzy spells."

"I changed the contraceptive. I opted for pills this time."

"Heh! Guess who I saw today?"

"Who?"

"Remember we had a board meeting today?"

"Yes."

"And Sbusiso is a board member and a share holder as well."

"Ooooooh. The tension I can imagine."

"Yoh Unyezi! He didn't even take part in the meeting. He just signed the paperwork for the money needed since his our biggest investor and walked out."

"You lie! I thought he was going to pull out."

"Me too but his still investing."

"His a sweet guy thou. Hot too."

I laugh a bit.

"Worse when I went to catch an elevator naye he was there. Tension!"

"Hah! Awkward!"

"Yeyi! We stood there and my phone rang. When I said I love you to Sthe he lost it. Stormed out of there. He drove away so fast."

"Yoh! Your life is a movie shame sweetheart."

"I know right?"

"Very much. My patient is here. Bye babe. Love you."

"Love you."

We drop the call and I get back to cooking while listening to music.

NKOSINATHI

I just came back from soccer training and I'm exhausted. I open my apartment and leave the door open for fresh air. Its October and it is crazy hot! I throw my bag on the floor and lay on my bed. I took

a shower after training so I close my eyes. My phone goes off and I take it out of my pocket. Its an Instagram notification.

'MandaWaves21 is live.'

Thats Amandas username on Instagram. I click on it and her face comes to show. She's laughing at something. The camera moves and that simp nigga of hers comes to display. Things didn't work out between us so we decided to move on. She seems happy with this new guy of hers. Abo Amanda bayajola. Who dates a nigga with two ear piercings and a nose piercing? Nxai! I log out and throw my phone on my bed. I stand up and go close my door and turn on the air conditioner. I wish I could roll a joint and smoke but I'm trying out for Sundowns so I had to quit. I text one of my booty calls to come. The idea of another nigga tapping Tjinapotra is driving me crazy. I respect her relationship but she can't let that nigga smash MY pussy. We really tried making it work but we both agreed that we just met too early. I'm still going to marry her thou. She's mine.

LANGA

I drive off with Nkanyezi and Lami fighting.

"Khuzwayo!", Nkanyezi.

"Baba!", Lami.

"Stop it man you two! Lami leave the child alone!", I shout at them.

"Its my phone thou.", Lami.

"Borrow him."

He exhales and lays back on the seat. Sanele laughs shaking his head. His used to their frequent fighting. I am not! Its annoying! I park in the visitors parking. I see her cat walk out the building. I'm treating her quite good. She's thick and glowing. She gets in the car and pecks my lips.

"Euw!", Lami.

"Hayi suka! Unjani sthandwa sami?", Unyezi.

"I'm okay/I'm great mama!", me and Nkanyezi say simultaneously.

Oh I forgot his also her sthandwa. This child is

taking up my space. Unyezi laughs.

"Kids. Y'all ready for the weekend with Aunt Thando?", Unyezi.

"We always ready!/Yes!/Always!", they exclaim.

I drive off as Nkanyezi tells his mother about cartoons. This one can talk!

"Right Khuzwayo?", Nkanyezi.

"Yeah son."

I didn't even hear what he was talking about.

"I'm telling you mama! I want a PJ Masks bedroom too.", Nkanyezi.

"You had a Spongebob deco done months ago.", Unyezi.

That's already a no.

"Yeah but-"

"No Nkanyezi. Where are we supposed to get the money?", Unyezi.

She's so stingy sometimes. I don't even want to get

involved.

"Daddy?", Nkanyezi.

Now I'm Daddy? I look at his mom and she gives me an eye. I clear my throat.

"Son. Your mother is right."

And the crying begins. One! Two! Ass whooping!
Thank God I bought the Avanza.

"My phone!", Lami shouts.

"Aaaaaaaaaaah!", Nkanyezi screams as his mother slaps his ass.

"Ouch Nkanyezi!", Sanele shouts when Nkanyezi kicks him when his trying to run away from his mother.

I already have a headache. I'm glad Unyezi isn't pregnant. We're not ready for another child.

"MaGema. Yek' ingane." (Leave the child alone.)

She let's him go clicking her tongue.

"Ungalinge ukhale!" (Dont even dare cry.),Unyezi.

"Don't cry son. MaGema uyeke ukushaya iyingane zam. Zolo lokhu bowushaya uNkosinathi eguge kangaka." (Stop hitting my children. Recently you were hitting Nkosinathi while his so old.)

"Khuzwayo. Don't tell me how to raise my kids. Uneyingane wena?" (Do you have kids?), Unyezi.

"Sorry Mkami."

I park outside the gate. Thando waves at us as the kids run to her. Nkanyezi is already snitching.

"Unyezi! Why are you hitting my nephew?", she asks walking closer.

"He thinks his a white child.", Unyezi.

We say our goodbyes and drive off.

"MaGema. Yek' ukushaya iyingane." (Stop hitting the kids.)

"Uneyingane Khuzwayo?" (Do you have kids?)

"Watch your tone Mkami."

She throws a glance at me and takes out her earphones. She's angry. I'm sure if she could she'd

beat my ass as well. She looks tired today so I drive to my Shisanyama in KwaMashu.

TSHEGO

I wince as I sit down on the bench at the bus stop. Khulekani did a number on me yesterday. I notice his car approaching and I dread standing up. He parks in front of me revving his car creating unnecessary dust. Showoff. The kids from campus are looking at him. They're used to him. He enjoys the attention. I stand up and groan as a pain shoots throughout my abdomen. He opens the door from the inside and I get inside wincing as I sit down. I've had a long and painful day.

"Sawubona." (hello.)

I nod my head and he grips my thigh.

"Sawubona." (Hello.)

"Dumela."

He smiles and pouts his lips. I just look at him.

"My kiss MaThengo."

"I'm tired."

"Haibo."

He parks the car near the road. He looks at me.

"Tell me Seho. After all the punishment sex you received when are you going to learn to fix your attitude?"

"What attitude?"

He looks at me frowning.

"Haibo njalo Spura Maluda."

I roll my eyes and he slaps my thigh lightly.

"Didn't I tell you about rolling your eyes at me?"

I don't answer him causing him to chuckle.

"MaThengo. Who's the man here?"

"You."

"Who's the penetrator?"

"You."

"Who's the provider? The protector? The head? Umaquzu ubani la?" (Who's the boss?)

"You."

"Than stop fighting me for dominance. As long as I penetrate you ngeke ngizwe ngawe. Kanti ubani onesende phakathi kwethu?" (I won't be controlled by you. Who has balls between us?)

"Nguwe." (You.)

My Zulu is getting better.

"I hope I won't have to fuck some sense into you again ngoba I don't mind. With your attitude you're still going to be wearing my swagpants to school limping."

I nod and he kisses me.

"Now how about a warm bath when you get home while I make you something to eat?"

"I'd appreciate that."

"Okay. You're sleeping over keh."

He starts the engine again and we're back in the road. I really try getting my attitude in check but my mouth has a mind of its own. I rest back on the chair and sigh. No wonder everyone always complains

about Zulu men. I also have a story to tell about this Shaka Zulu of mine.

NOXOLO

"Thando better not bring that scumbag of hers to our wedding!"

Ndabenkulu just got the file on Sthembiso and it doesn't seem good. He is so pissed off right now.

"She doesn't know right?"

"No. A bloody rapist?! A whole fucken rapist?! And his dating my sister?!"

I've never seen him so angry. I just go through the file while he paces around.

"Does Langa know that his the same guy who...you know his wife?"

"I don't know. If his at home than he already knows."

"This so bad!"

I read over again.

"Had been convicted for rape, statutory rape, sexual harassment, illegal pornography and physical abuse. In one of his cases a friend who was also facing a case for rape with a higher charge said that this was not their first time gang raping. Apparently it started at the orphanage home with a girl called Unyezi (surname not granted) who wasn't traceable when police tried finding her. After her he said many followed leaving 'X' marked on their bodies. A few girls were found, though many had died due to suicide."

This so sick! Everything was here. The names of every girl he ever taken part of raping was there. His release date. Everything! Even his blood type. This resource sure knows his work. I close the file as Ndabenkulu drinks his whisky. His phone rings.

"It's Langa."

"Answer it."

He answers exiting and I sigh. Thando should've stayed with Ozo cause what's about to go down is gonna be bloodbath and she doesn't want her love for this guy making her get involved. I've never knew

Unyezis story but there's only one Unyezi I've ever known. I wipe my tears and sniff. Woman go through a lot. This just triggered me. Ndabenkulu comes back and notices me crying.

"Sdudla sami."

He engulfs me in his big arms and kisses my head.

"What did Langa say?"

"He doesn't know as yet. My guess is his not home."

We both sigh in relief.

"What now?"

"We just wait."

I nod and lay my head on his chest.

"You're okay Sdudla?"

"Yeah. I'm just a bit..."

"Triggered?"

I nod.

"Its understandable. When is your photo shoot with Tshego?"

"Naledy said she'll contact us. She's a great photographer."

"I saw her website. Beautiful."

"I can't wait."

"Sdudla."

"Mmmmh?"

"I'm hungry."

"You're such a baby."

I pecks his lips and stand get of the barstool. He sits down as I make something for us. Sanele is never here on weekends. Maybe we should give him a little brother or sister.

62

NOXOLO

"Y'all looks so fucken cute!", Unyezi.

"Most def.", Thando.

They're sitting in on the photoshoot. It's for plus sized people. Naledy is the photographer.

"I feel so sexy right now.", Tshego.

"You are!", Unyezi.

"Make love to the camera ladies! Yes! Show me the booty. Yes Tshego! Good Noxolo! Ah Perfect!", Naledy.

Me and Tshego change poses as Naledy takes pictures continuously.

AMANDA

"You can't come Sandile."

"Why?"

"Its for friends and family."

"Its because of that ex of yours. Angimusabi!"

"But I can't come with you at his own birthday party."

"Yazini vaya Amanda."

He stands up and takes his car keys and phone than leaves. I don't even run after him. I finish my food and pay the bill. I know he left me behind so I just decide on buying an outfit for Nkosinathi's birthday party. I see Sandile talking with that ex of his. Guess he didn't leave. I pass them and walk into MrPrice. When I see them enter I roll my eyes. His trying to make me jealous. The girl can't keep her hands to herself and I'm not moved.

"Stop staring at them."

I jump at the voice and turn around.

"Hey Tjinapotra."

I gulp and smile a bit. Does he have to look so good? He has a bunch of hoodies in his arm. His physique is appeasing and I can't help sizing him up for a while. Oh my gosh! He smells so good!

"Amanda."

I roll my eyes at the voice. Sandile wraps his arm around my waist. Nkosinathi chuckles shaking his head.

"Yah sani.", Nkosinathi.

Sandile looks at him up and down and looks at me.

"Let's get going babe."

Babe? Where is your ex Charlie?

"I'll see you around Tjinapotra. Nawe cheese boy.", Nkosinathi.

Nkosinathi walks away with his one bracket and chuckles and mumbles.

"What a simp.", Nkosinathi.

Sandile clicks his tongue and removes his arm around me.

"Let's go."

"I'll catch an uber."

I leave him standing there and pick out a few items. I request an uber while walking out. I stand outside for a while before a Black SUV parks in front of me.

Sbhamu smiles at me and I jump in next to Nkosinathi. I cancel my ride. We're both on our phones. The silence is comfortable. I receive a text from Sandile.

"Can you sleepover today?"

"No. I have an assignment to finish."

"Cool."

"Yeah."

Sbhamu drops me first and I wave goodbye at them. The gate is opened for me. I greet the security and get inside the house.

"Sawubona ma.", I greet Sinenhlanhla's nanny.

"Yebo mtanam."

She's in her late forties and still very beautiful. I walk upstairs to my room and strip naked. I notice the dampness on my panties. Nkosinathi! I jump into the shower.

UNYEZI

"Who's riding with me?", I ask grabbing my bag.

"Me!", Tshego and Noxolo say.

"Sthe is fetching me.", Thando.

My eye twitches and we nod.

"Bye Nana!", we tell Naledy.

" Bye.",Naledy.

We exchange hugs and walk out. Thando hugs us and walks to a white Polo GTI. I see him sitting on the drivers seat. He gets out to open the door for Thando and greets us. We don't greet back. Our eyes meet and I feel all the anger in me resurface. When Langa told me that Thando is dating that scumbag I didnt believe it but now here he is and I feel like strangling him. Noxolo holds my hand as I am about to pull out my gun.

"We're in a public space Nyezi.", Noxolo.

I nod and we get into my car. The ride is silent as I drop everyone off. Noxolo is the last to get off. She looks at me for a while.

"Its going to be okay. It always does.", Noxolo.

I nod and she gets out. The drive home is long and slow. I park my car and walk inside. Langa is making a sandwich.

"Mkami."

I turn around and he notices the tears.

"What's wrong?"

He walks up to me and engulfs me.

"I saw him."

"Him?"

"Yes."

I hear him sigh and his hold tightens around me. Flashbacks. My knees start to wobble but he picks me up. I'm now crying loudly. I feel like puking as I smell his scent.

THANDO

"So those are your sisters?"

He steals a glance at me and I smile.

"Yes. Noticed the eye contact between you and Unyezi."

"Who?"

I notice how he wipes his forehead and tightens his fingers around the steering wheel. I just keep quiet and thinking about all the women his hurt. I've known for months but I've never knew how to deal with it. We haven't been sexual ever since we started dating but I know he has several cougars. All I know is I have to eliminate him sooner now since Unyezi has seen him. He wasn't even supposed to be there so early! We get out of the car and walk inside with him texting on his phone. He heads for the fridge and I take off my heels. I look at myself on the mirror against the wall. You can do this! I take out my gun hiding it behind my back. I've went through this multiple times. I can do this! He turns around smiling down at me. I pull him in for a kiss swallowing the bile. He eases us on the tiled kitchen floor and I close my eyes shooting him on his side.

"Aaaaaah!"

I push him off me and shoot my foot and let out a loud scream. I kick the gun away from both of us and I start tearing up my clothes. I lay my back against the stove as he looks at me bleeding.

"You bitch!"

"You thought you could play me? You hurt women and you think you would get away with it?"

I feel my anger fuel up and I take a knife. He holds my foot and I stab his hand. I repeatedly stab him even when I hear the sirens! The door is kicked down but I carry on stabbing knowing very well he is dead. Hands wrap around me lifting me up. I let out a loud scream covering my ears. I can't see properly due to my anger but I can feel many presences around the house.

"Sedate her!"

I feel a prick on my neck and my screams die down as I fall into unconsciousness.

OZO

Thandos security company alerted me about gunshots. I drive there in speed, getting a ticket on the way. I park and there is a body covered with a silver bag.

"No! Thando!"

I get out my car and walk towards but I can't pass the 'crime scene'. Her brothers come out of the house and when they see me they tell them to let me in. I walk over to them and greet.

"Where is Thando?"

They keep quiet for a while and sigh.

"Is she-?", I ask.

"No! She's sedated and on her way to the hospital.", Khulekani.

"What happened?"

"She had a fight with that scumbag. She killed him.", Khulekani.

We all walk out and stand near my car. Langa takes

out a paper from his waist and hands it to me.

"Guess she knew after all. I know for sure she killed him purposely.", Langa.

"Have y'all found a lawyer?"

"Dad is on it.", Ndabenkulu.

I nod and throw the file inside my car. This is a mess.

"Why were y'all dragging y'all feet on eliminating him?"

"We couldn't just kill him. Our sister loved him. Or that's what we thought.", Bhekikhaya.

"This is a mess. Thando might go to jail."

"She won't. She might get sent to a hospice. We just have to wait for her statement before we start coming up with a plan.", Ndabenkulu.

"Let me drive to the hospital."

They nod and Ndabenkulu pats my shoulder.

"Thank you for loving her."

I nod and get into my car. I drive off trying to come

up with a sensible explanation to what happened.

NKOSINATHI

A knock disturbs me from my 35 pushup. I stand up grabbing a towel wiping my face. I open the door and find Amanda with the kids.

"Uh hey."

"Hey. Aunt Thando is in hospital and the whole family is up and about. Nkanyezi was crying for you so I asked the driver to drive us here.", she says without breathing.

"Breathe Manda.", I say smiling.

She exhales and I let them in. I'm so glad I bought a 2 bedroom apartment. Nkanyezi is clinging onto my leg. I lift his heavy ass up while Amanda takes a sleeping Sine to the guest room.

"Bhuti.", Sanele.

"Sho."

"Can we change the channel?", Sanele.

"Yeah boy."

I hand them the remote and take Nkanyezi with me to the guest room. He fell asleep. I lay him down next to Sne. Amanda throws a fleece over them. We walk out.

"Sisi. Ngicela ukudla."(can i have food), Lami.

"Okay sthandwa."

She starts by washing the dishes in the sink. I was going to do those later. She looks in the fridge and is met by my diet food. She shakes her head and takes out the meat from the deep freezer bending. I can't help but to look at her ass. I take out a bottle of water and take a seat on the bar stool.

"Can you please make sandwiches for those two while I cook?"

I just carry on running my eyes down her body.

"Nkosinathi!"

"Oh sorry. Yeah?"

"Please make sandwiches for Lami and Sane while I cook?"

"Yeah no problem."

I stand up and start taking out ingredients. I'll ask her later about Aunt Thando.

UNYEZI

We have been waiting outside her ward and no one has come to see us. We see a doctor approaching and I get out of Langas embrace.

"Doctor. Thandolwethu Khuzwayo. Is she okay?"

He looks at his file.

"Ms Khuzwayo is still in theatre. Her leg was almost shot off so we're trying as much as we can."

I nod and he leaves us there. The boys get out for another smoke. Poor Ozo has been sitting there with his head between his knees. Noxolo pulls my trembling body to her and shushes me. Khuzwayo and Nana walk in.

"I met the boys outside. She'll be okay.", Khuzwayo.

Who is he trying to convince? He looks like he

doesn't believe what he's saying to himself. Thando has been through a lot already! Naledy sits next to us and sighs. She wipes blood that trickles down her nose.

"Nana?", Khuzwayo.

"I'm okay. There is a lot of abandoned spirits here. Their presences are quite heavy on me.", Naledy.

Kuhle takes out a tissue and hands it to her. We remain waiting for some news on Thando.

63

OZO

Langa hands me a cup of coffee and I take it thanking him. We've been here all night. She got out of theatre really late but we still couldn't see her. They took the ladies home yesterday night and they arrived early in the morning with some food. I couldn't even eat. A doctor walks towards us smiling and we all stand up.

"Thandolwethu Khuzwayo?"

We all nod.

"She woke up an hour ago. Her foot is going to heal but it'll take time. I'll allow only one person to go see her. She's under police custody."9

We all look at her and Langa clicks his tongue.

"Have you seen how big this family is? And you're only allowing one person? Udakiwe! Asikuceli futhi asambeni."(you're drunk! We're not asking you! Lets go!),Langa.

"Sir it's protoco-"

"It's okay ma'am. You have to understand we're all agitated. Sbusiso.", Khuzwayo.

I look up at him.

"You can go in. Tell her we all here.", Khuzwayo.

I don't think its a good idea but that doesn't stop my feet from walking behind the doctor. We greet the police officer standing next to her door.

" 45 minutes. ",doctor.

I nod and open the door,slowly. I take a deep breath in. Our eyes meet and her tears fall. I notice one hand is handcuffed to the bed. I sit on a chair next to her bed. She looks at me.

"Ozo/Thando.", we both say.

"Go ahead.", I tell her.

"I'm sorry."

"For what?"

"Leaving you like that. It was all part of the plan."

"What plan?"

"I couldn't let him go away with what he did to Unyezi. All those girls. I couldn't. He deserved to die so I planned all this."

She inhales and wipes her tears. My hand holds her hand involuntarily. She squeezes it.

"You might go to jail for this Thando."

"I won't. I will say he was beating me up and trying to force himself on me and I grabbed my handbag causing my gun to fall. I grabbed it and he saw it. We fought for the gun shooting my foot. I kned him in the guts and took the gun and shot him. He was still alive and grabbed my foot so I pulled a knife in pure adrenaline and stabbed him."

I remain quiet for a while.

"How-?"

"I knew I had to shoot at close range so it can be more believable. He died with a boner so that will also help."

"But you should've let your brothers handle it."

"They dragged their feet."

"But-"

"No! I did what I had to do! I'm a woman too!"

"Okay. Relax. Have drank your pills?"

She shakes her head.

"I'll go fetch them and come back. Just stick to this story. Your Dad is getting you the best lawyer in town."

"Okay."

"Do you need anything?"

"Food,toiletries and my phone."

"Okay. I'll go tell everyone outside."

"Everyone?"

"Your brothers and their wives."

"Okay."

I stand up and head for the door.

"Ozo."

I halt in my steps and look at her.

"I love you."

"So do I."

I walk out and walk to the waiting area.

"Is she okay?",Langa

"She hasn't taken her pills. She also needs toiletries, food and her phone."

"Did she say anything about...?",Khuzwayo

"Yeah. I'll tell y'all. She seems to have it all covered. She's looking at three months if her lawyer is good or a year."

"I don't want her inside. She's not fit for that.",Khuzwayo

"We all agree. We will make a plan.", Khulekani.

I nod and take a lift downstairs. Thando should've left this whole thing to her brothers. She did a messy job! A messy one!

NKOSINATHI

I tried calling Mom again and she finally picked up.

"I still don't understand why I wasn't informed."

"Sorry son. We were just shocked and didn't have time."

"It's okay. The kids have been asking where are y'all. Worse Nkanyezi and Snehlanhla. They have been crying. I think they can sense that something is wrong."

"I know baby. We'll pass by and fetch them."

"Okay. Love you."

"Love you."

I go check up on the kids one more time. I go to my room and find Amanda asleep. I take a change of clothing and tip toe out.

After my shower I walk out to breakfast.

"Good morning."

"Hey. Slept good?"

"My neck is kinda sore. My sofa isn't designed to be slept on."

"Sorry."

"No. It's okay. What'd you make?"

"Not much. Omelets."

"Let me go wake those rascals up."

"Let me go shower."

I nod at her and move out her way. I rub my neck as I walk to the guest room. I slept on the couch cause I didn't trust myself.

LANGA

I look at her again and she's still zoned out. She looks so tired.

"MaGema."

She doesn't respond.

"Unyezi!"

She turns towards me.

"Are you okay?"

"Not really. Pass by Nkosinathi so we can fetch the

kids."

"No. You need to rest. I'll talk to him."

"Thank you."

This Thando thing is really clawing at her. I hope she doesn't relapse.

NOXOLO

I warm some leftovers for us and go join Ndabe on the sofa. I hand him a spoon and we start eating silently. I miss my son and he doesn't like staying with us. He has moved in with Unyezi and visits us. He says we always busy and he gets bored alone.

"Babe."

"Sdudla."

"I was thinking-"

"Whatever it is you want babe. I agree."

This one thinks his smart. This actually serious.

"So you agree that we cancel the engagement?"

He sits up and puts his spoon down frowning.

"No."

I laugh at him and he puts the plate on the coffee table. He reaches for me and tickles me.

"Ndabenhulu!"

"Cancel? Who proposed? Never!"

"Okay! Okay! I'm going to fart! Stop!"

He stops tickling me and we both laugh.

"So what were you thinking?"

"That I get off the pill."

He looks at me for a while and takes off his beanie and brushes his bald head. He looked good with waves but bald suits him more.

"Like try for a baby?"

"Yeah."

He keeps quiet again and sighs.

"Baby. I think Sanele is just fine for us. I've always wanted one child. I have Sanele. An heir."

"But don't you want to feel the kicks? The joy when you hold him for the first time? The nappy changing? Everything?"

"Honestly? No. A baby needs time. I'm always working. I hardly even have time for us. Plus you're still working on having branches across the country. We both hardly have time for Sanele. I don't think we're ready for another child."

"Oh okay."

I take the plate and stand up. I didn't expect this conversation to take such a turn. I am a bit hurt. I wanted kids with him. I always wanted a lot of kids. I feel his hands engulf me from behind.

"Sdudla. Don't take it personal."

"It's okay."

He kisses my neck and my body reacts involuntarily.

"We have... to go get ready for the hospital."

"They'll survive."

He pulls down my tights revealing my thong swallowed by my butt cheeks.

TSHEGO

I look at him as he lights another cigarette. I know his in pain because his sister is in hospital but his pissing me off. I snort and sneeze. He knows my sinuses act up when he smokes inside. I open the windows and spray the house. He goes ahead and carries on smoking.

"Khulekani."

He lifts his eyes at me, while blowing some smoke.

"Cela uyobhemela kontle." (Please go smoke outside.)

"Yikwam lab Maluda." (This is my place.)

I sigh and sit next to him waving my hand to clear the smoke.

"You aren't making yourself sick but me as well."

He switches it off and lays his head on my thighs.

"Yazi my sister is not cut out for prison. She won't survive in there. I feel so hopeless."

"She will be sent to a hospice."

"Still. She can't go back there. She was doing so good. She's been through a lot already. I wish Mom was alive sometimes maybe life would be different."

I massage his head with my fingers until he falls asleep. I sigh before laying his head on the couch and throwing a fleece over him.

64

MONTHS LATER

UNYEZI

I rubbed my temple and sighed as I sat a heavily pregnant Thando.

"He just wants to see you Thando. You're being selfish."

She shakes her head and brushes her belly.

"He cant see me like this. He cant..."

"Why not? Its his child right? Let him know he's going to be a father."

"What if he doesn't-"

"Hayi. I don't get why you're acting like this! Stop overthinking! That man loves you. He has been patience. Its been 4 months with you in here and you're 7 months pregnant. He'll do the math. You will be out in a few weeks and you can't leave this place with all these secrets."

She wiped a tear and nodded. She was very chubby

and lighter due to her pregnancy.

"Can't believe you had sex with him while that bastard wasn't getting."

"Unyezi.",she says shamefully.

I laugh and shake my head. My phone rings disturbing us and it's Langa.

"Its your brother. I'll visit again babe. Be safe."

I kiss her cheek and tummy than walk out answering the phone.

"MaGema."

"Khuzwayo."

"Kudala ngikushayela ucingo."(Ive been calling.)

"Sorry babe. I was with Thando. Whats wrong?"

"Lami is in trouble at school. Is Thando and the baby okay?"

"They're fine. Lami? Trouble? What happened?"

"He got into a fight. He beat up a white kid and we know how this is gonna end. Just hurry to his school.

We're waiting for you."

I drop the call and drive out of the asylum confused and angry. Lami has never gotten in a fight before. He is a sweetheart. He chose to beat a white kid nakhona?! I dont have time for court cases mina! Thank God it was my day off today. I am going to whip Lami's ass. He can't go around being Van Dam!

AMANDA

I sighed in relief as I saw the one line on the pregnancy test and threw it in the dustbin. I text Sandile "it came out negative." and get in the shower.

After my shower I get dressed and laze around. Sis Kuhle barges in my room and throws herself on my bed.

"Finally he is asleep!"

I laugh at her and she smacks me a little.

"Any plans today?"

"No. Why?"

"Can you go to the mall for me?"

I groan and she makes her puppy eyes.

"What do you want from the mall?"

"A few nappies and usual baby stuff. Bhekikhaya has a late meeting and can't go."

I didn't feel like going anywhere today! I nod and she smiles handing me her card. I forget she's rich sometimes with how humble she is. The Nedbank black card has her initials on it. I stan a queen. Many think she is dependant on Sbari but she is an investor and a share holder in big succesful companies. I want to be just like her. Be my own queen.

"You have classes tomorrow?"

"Yeah. 08h00am-11h40am."

"We will go visit the rents grave after your classes. Naledy says Mom and Dad are Sine's guardian angels. Apperantly thats why his room is cooler than any room in the house."

"Woah. That kid is blessed."

We keep quiet and she chuckles.

"Whats funny?"

"I miss them you know."

"Me too sis. Me too."

We lay there looking at my painted ceiling and reminisce.

KARISHMA

"Whats wrong?"

I look up at Khuzwayo and he smiles.

"Nothing. Just sensing a heartbroken soul. Its weighing me down. Im trying to locate it."

He nods and keeps quiet so I can connect with my spiritual being. I stand up and go to the teenage boy at the corner of the restuarant. I stand over him and he looks up with tired eyes.

"Hey."

"Hey ma'am."

"Mind?"

He shakes his head and I take a seat opposite him.

"Im Karishma."

"Boikganyo."

"Beautiful name. Being a rape victim is not your fault. I can feel your disgust,shame,hurt and anger. I know you're questioning your existence and feel like death is the only way out. Do you want to die an angry soul? So you can roam this earth angry and lost?"

He shakes his head. Im so glad he is letting me talk without asking many questions.

"You're scared that if people know they will laugh at you. You have distanced yourself from others. You're introverted with the fear of them seeing through you. Right now you're at your lowest point in life and feel as if God has abandoned you and life doesn't have meaning anymore but have you ever thought that maybe your rape is what should mould you and strenghten your faith in God. "I shall never forsaketh you." and he hasnt. Your father can't rest peacefully cause you're holding onto him and when you weep

and scream in pain he tries to comfort you but your anger pushes him away. He cant protect you when you're also angry at him. Tell your mother what your stepfather has been doing. She'll listen and help you. She loves you and it pains hee seeing you distached from everyone. She thinks you're angry at her. There is no excuse for hurting people when you're hurting. Asking for help doesn't make you weak. Take a stand of your own life. Fight so hard that even the devil cant fight back. You're a blessed kid. Its a pity you have to go through this for you to be able to heal others."

He breaks out into a loud sob and I inch closer to him hugging him. I let him cry with everyone looking at us. He calms down eventually.

"What are you?"

"A Spiritual Being."

"Thank you for that. Ive been battling with this issue ever since my step father started sodomizing me."

"It'll get better. I see a bright future ahead of you. You will heal hearts and travel the world."

"Thank You."

I smile and bid him goodbye. Khuzwayo looks at me when I sit down.

"Lets go home."

I nod and he packs our things and covers the bill. I cry as soon as I settle inside the car. I hate this part of my gift. I see painful things and feel them. That boys pain was so intense I had to hold myself from balling over and screaming.

"Its going to be okay babe."

Khuzwayo kisses my temple and starts the engine.

LANGA

When Unyezi walks in she throws her handbag at Lami and he catches it. The caucasian principal looks at her over her glasses in the "so this is where the violent nature come from." and I choke a laughter. The white boys parent keep on checking the boys face and shaking their heads. Unyezi sits down glaring at Lami whos chilled.

"Good day Miss.",Principal.

"Mrs.",Unyezi corrects.

"Oh sorry. Mrs.",principal.

"Why was I called here?",Unyezi.

"Your son punched Mr Van Riegteer today and broke his nose. I wanted to ask if everything is okay at home?",principal.

"Yeah. Everything is fine.",Unyezi.

"Your son is violent!",the caucasian mother screams.

"Ungangikuphuleli ilizwi sisi."(dont raise your voice at me.),Unyezi.

"What?",boy's mother.

"Do you expect me to accomodate you? I will not do that so I advice you get a translator here real quick.",Unyezi.

"I understand venacular.",boy's father.

"Kuhle. So nifuna malini for ukushayiwa kwengane yakho?"(how much do yall want for damages?),Unyezi.

"Why do you think we want money? We want your boy expelled. His a danger to this school and its learners.",boy's father.

"Kwenzakaleni vele Lami?"(what happened?)

Lami sits straight and clears his throat.

"Joyner was harassing the girls in the class lifting their skirts and remember dad you said that was wrong and I should kick a persons ass should they do tgat?"

I clear my throat uncomfortably as Unyezi glares at me. I probably shouldn't have said ass to a kid.

"You see? This whole family is toxic. The mother is also violent and ratchet-",boys mother.

"What? Violent? Ratchet? Mina? Unyezi? I'll stick this six inch louis vuitton heel in your behind if you dare insult me again. Sies! Nyatchet? Mina? Hehe!"

I dont know why she is so worked up. I hold her hand and squeeze it.

"We'll pay whatever amount needed for the boys medical visits. Ya'll should teach your son to respect

woman. He deserved it and more. His so young but cant respect a woman. What is to become of him when he's older? Yall raise rapists unaware."

I take my son and wife and leave with them. Unyezi has calmed down. Spitfire!

NDABENKHULU

She dances to a song playing on Trace and twerks. I laugh at her as she sings along. She doesn't even know the lyrics.

"Wap wap wap wap!",I think thats the only part she knows.

I turn off the oven after taking out the cupcakes. She has been teaching me how to bake. I can bake but not as good as she does. They smell really good. She walks towards and looks at them.

"They look good."

I smile proudly and she kisses my cheek.

"Lets leave them to cool."

I nod and leave them on the cooling rack. The entire house smells of baked goods.

"You're fetching Sanele today?"

"Yeah. I have to bring in him and Lami's volcano."

"You're done with it?"

"Yeah. Its really heavy."

"You exaggerated and made it huge right."

"Im a big man with big things who likes big things in life."

"Couldnt agree more."

I smile and kiss her. We haven't been the same ever since that talk but she's trying to pretend she's fine with everything. The kids topic is just not for me. I want kids but not now and I don't think she gets it. I always wanted one kid and I have one but I have to compromise for her.

"How is the allergy?"

She scratches her shoulder and shrugs.

"Its a bit itchy but the antibiotics are helping. The

swelling has gone down."

I nod and smile at her.

"Why are you smiling like that? What are you up to Ndabenkulu?"

"Im just smiling haibo. Why do you always think Im up to something."

"I know you. The last time you smiled like that Randy delivered my wedding dress himself."

"You were happy thou?"

"I was. Oh about the wedding the invites have been issued. As soon as Thando is out we're having her dress tailored again cause she's all chubby now."

"I cant believe she's pregnant! Im still going to kill Ozo for fucking my sister!"

"Stop being dramatic!"

She says standing up and heading to the kitchen. I can already imagine her pregnant. She wants a kid I'll give her a kid. I follow after her and she is stealing cupcakes.

"Ngakubamba!(caught you!)"

"Argh please!"

I grab a cupcake as well. Well, they do taste good. Not better than hers but good.

NKOSINATHI

I shoot my last bit of cum in the condom before pulling out. I wipe her and get up. I clean up the condoms and throw them away. I head for the bathroom and opt for a shower.

After my shower I get ready for soccer practice while she showers. I pack my gear and my shake. Where are my soccer boots? Ah ha. I stuff them in the bag and run a hand through my hair. She comes out already dressed and takes her stuff. I hand her a few hundred.

"No thank you."

I shrug and put them back in my wallet. We walk out and I lock up.

"Want a lift?"

"Please."

I open the door for her and rush to my side. My mom calls while we are stuck in traffic.

"Babe."

"Sthandwa. Your aunt will be out in a week and we are planning a welcome back party for her."

"Uncle Ozo?"

"Guess he will see her at the party and her baby bump."

"That is a big surprise."

"Tadaa!"

We share a laughter.

"You have soccer practice today?"

"Yeah."

"Make me proud."

"We have a sponsor from Spain coming in on our practice than the big game on Sunday. Ya'll coming right?"

"You know we wouldnt miss it for the world. Your uncles already bet on you."

"Oh God the pressure."

We laugh and say our goodbyes. Sandisiwe is just on her phone. She is my fuck buddy. We met through a friend and instantly fucked. She is not dramatic. She calls me when she needs me and I call her when I need her. I drop her off at res and she waves goodbye. She is a good girl with a dirty mind. I drive off towards the stadium jamming to some music.

KHULEKANI

Tshego has been starving herself for months now. She thinks I don't notice how she always doesnt have an appetite. I saw on social media they have been bashing her. She posted a picture of me and her on my yacht and the ladies started calling her fat and unfit for me. I walk into our room and she is drinking those weight losing pills again. She has lost a few pounds but nothing drastic. She is naturally big boned and she doesnt want to accept that. I put my

palm near her mouth and she looks up to me.

"Spit them out."

She does so slowly and I take the entire bottle and go flush them. I find her crying.

"MaTengo. Do you know how beautiful you are?"

She shakes her head. I sit next to her.

"You are beautiful. Just because you are fat doesnt mean you are not attractive. I love your tummy fat and thick thighs. I love how they jiggle. Lord knows your stretch marks give me a boner. Look at it right now. I can try making you feel better about yourself but I cant do that if you dont. You're a beautiful woman. Beauty comes in different shades and sizes. Just because society says you need to lose weight doesnt mean you have to listen. Entlek ngaye iphone yakho."(gimme your phone.)

She hands me her phone and I go to her instagram. I post pictures of her in her bikini with the caption "FAT never looked so gold." and tag myself. I take my phone and post pictures of us and caption it "Trust me when I say I wouldnt want her any fatter."

She cries some more and clings to me. I lay us on the bed and she holds onto me. I dont get the jealousy other females have on another. Its the women that bash her on socials. Toxic bitches. I kiss her scar on her forehead.

"I love you Fat-o."

"Mxm. I love you too."

I chuckle. She is everything to me and I hope she will eat the mogodu I bought from the rank with me today.

Sponsored by Zanele NaMasilela Khangayi.

65

BHEKIKHAYA

"I'm not wearing a suit Peaches."

"You are."

"Come one Peach. Its just a welcome party. For my sister. A pair of jeans and golf tshirt will do."

"Can you be be classy for tonight only?"

"No. I wear suits to work. I cant wear suits on weekends as well."

She sighs and irons my jeans and golf tshirt. I kiss her cheek and she clicks her tongue. I laugh at her and walk out singing.

"Phela majita ngisenhlanhleni mina. Thola muntu ongaki balela amacala. Uhlale khona!"

"Bhekikhaya! Sine is sleeping!"

I keep quiet and she shakes her head and goes back to the laundry room. I shrug and go wake up my son. I find him up already up laughing alone. His room is

really cool and chilled than any room in the house. I pick him up and throw him in the air causing him to giggle. His mother is going to think I woke him up. I go to the study with him balanced on my chest with my arm. He is making baby sounds. Amanda is already at the party. She is the one cooking with Ndabenhulu. I take a seat with this one on my lap. I try writing the poem I am suppose to recite and my creative juices are dry.

"Aaaah sishdbfnfmfj!!",Sine screams disturbing me.

"Can you write a poem boy?"

"Shdgtg Ba- Ba- Baba!"

I look at him smiling and lift him up.

"Come again boy."

"Baba!",he screams clapping his hands.

I run downstairs with him to the laundry room.

"Peaches!"

"Yeah."

"He said 'Baba'!"

She turns around and looks at us.

"You woke him up? Khaya!"

"I didnt! He said Baba"

"What?"

"Say it again boy. Say it again."

He sticks his fist in his mouth and sucks on it laughing.

"Very funny Bhekikhaya. Get dressed we're already late."

"I swear he did babe. Come on kiddo. Come on."

He remains silent laughing and clapping his hands. Argh! This one thou. Kuhle takes him from me wiping the spit on him and hands me my ironed clothes. I get dressed right there.

UNYEZI

The part is in our back yard. We're the ones with many kids so our back yard is bigger.

"Whos fetching Thando?"

"Baba and Karishma.",Langa.

"Has Ozo arrived?"

"Yeah. He is helping Nkosinathi put up the banner.",Langa.

"Langa?"

He looks at me with a smile.

"You have been following me around all day. What did you do?"

"Me? I didnt do anything."

I throw him a look and head inside with him on my tail.

"Lami!"

"Ma?"

"Where is Nkanyezi?"

Lami looks at Langa and swallows.

"Lami."

"He is in the kitchen."

I attempt to walk to the kitchen.

"Wait! Uhm. Mom can you help me look for my phone? Yeah my phone."

"Its in your pocket Lami."

I push Langa away and walk to the kitchen and find the cake on the floor and Nkanyezi in the middle of the mess. I breathe in and take off my flops but Langa holds my hand.

"Another one is on the way."

"Khuzwayo weren't you the one suppose to make sure your son stays away from the kitchen?"

He scratches his head and nods.

"MaGema. Eish. Lami I told you to clean this up while I stall your mother."

"Me? Try getting close that cake with that kid eating."

I get near and Nkanyezi wails loudly. He has cake all over him and he starts throwing it around. I grab him kicking and screaming. He is going to bath again. Im near to killing Langas son! Its mischief after

mischief always!

"Yall two better clean that up."

"But MaGema-"

"Khuzwayo please."

I leave them there carrying a crying and sugar high Nkanyezi. Its going to be a long day.

THANDO

We are at the gate and the nerves start kicking in. My baby bump is visible in this tight body hugging dress Unyezi chose. I am met with a banner "Welcome Home Momma!" and I blink tears away. I get out of the car with Dads help. Im carrying twins so my tummy is big for 7 months. I hate Ozo for doing this to me! I can see him at the far end of the yard on the phone.

"Welcome!",everybody screams.

He turns around and he smiles meeting my eyes which turns into a frown when he sees my tummy. He signals with his finger at himself and I nod. He

remains standing there for awhile before walking towards me slowly. I remember when he came at my house livid and tipsy crying that I broke his heart. He had pinned me against the wall and kissed me hungrily. I couldn't help it but I allowed it to continue. We didn't use protection. I found out at the asylum that I was pregnant. I never told him. Everyone is looking at us. I'm a crying mess.

"How far along are you?"

"7 months."

"But-"

"It's twins."

He smiles nodding.

"That's my genes."

I nod and he puts his hand on it. The kids kick and he lets his tears fall.

"Why did you keep it from me?"

"I-" I clear my throat.

"I was scared and selfish. I thought you-"

"Leave it. No need to explain now."

He kisses me and my hormones act up. A moan escapes my lips.

"Voetsek Sbusiso!", Langa shouts.

We pull out laughing. Everyone starts walking towards me and hugs are exchanged. I have little Sine in my arms when he reaches for his father.

"Baba!"

"See Peaches?! I told you!", Bhekikhaya.

He takes Sine from me smiling and walks to his wife gloating. She's never going to hear the end of it.

AMANDA

I rush inside to turn off the lamb stew and I bump into Nkosinathi. He clenches his jaw and passes by. I stand there looking at him as he walks then halts in his step.

"How did that pregnancy test go?"

"What?"

He turns around and the look he has right now.

"How did the pregnancy test go?"

"How do you?"

"Answer me."

"I dont owe you an explanation."

He chuckles and walks towards me. He cages me between him and the sink.

"Amanda. You will always be my woman. Just because Im letting you fuck that Sandile guy doesnt mean you dont answer me when I ask you something. How did that pregnancy test go?"

I keep quiet and his jaw ticks.

"Negative. It came out negative."

"Not only are you giving him my pussy but you're giving it to him raw also. Ufuna ukukhala Amanda?"(Do you want to cry?)

I shake my head vigurously.

"Good. If I ever see you with that loser again I'll pull up like a hurricane. I will cause havoc. Siyezwana?"

I nod.

"Khuluma."(talk)

"Ngiyakuzwa Nkosinathi. (I hear you.)"

He smiles and pecks my lips. He squeezes my ass and I moan. He still has thag effect on me.

"Imagine if you had fell pregnant for that fucker. You'll only carry my children Amanda."

He kisses me and I have to admit I missed his lips. I sometimes would imagine

Sandile as him. There is something pulling us back to each other all the time.

NOXOLO

I puke again in the toilet and sit down on the tiled floor resting my back against the wall. I have been feeling sick these days and I would say I am pregnant but we have been using condoms since the antibiotics stopped the birth control from working. Ndabenkulu walks in and hands me a glass of water.

"You're okay sdudla?"

"Yeah just dizzy."

He helps me stand up and walks me to a guest room.

"Lay down. I'll bring you food later."

I nod closing my eyes as I feel the world spinning.

Argh I probably caught the flu.

KARISHMA

Im with the kids and Nkanyezi is on a sugar rush. I have been running after him all day.

"Aunty look!"

He jumps on the trampoline and gets off running past guests. He falls and gets up fast and continues running.

"Nkanyezi!"

Sanele and Lami are helping me run after him. He bumps into his mother and he signals for her to take him.

"Take me mama!"

She takes him and puts him on her waist.

"You wanna sleep?"

"He shakes his head and wiggles out of her hold. He runs towards his fathers screaming "Babas!"

He calls them that. His such a snob.

I sigh as Sanele and Lami follow him.

"Please pour me a glass of wine cause your son is another case."

Unyezi laughs and pours me a glass.

I feel the haid on my back stand up and I drop the glass.

"Karishma."

I look at the dark figure passing by.

"Dear Lord. If it is not your will than it shall not happen. I rebuke any curse cast on this family. Amen."

Unyezi looks at me freaked out. Amanda gasps and

hits her chest before collapsing in Nkosinathi's arms. Everyone is all over the place calling ambulances. Nkosinathi drives off with her in high speed. She won't die but I need to align my chakras and pray. I excuse myself and ask Khuzwayo to drive me home.

UNYEZI

Thando agreed to stopping the party. Everyone was now in the hallway pacing waiting for the doctor. Kuhle was sitting in the middle of Bhekis legs on the floor who had his arms around her. She was shivering and crying. Karishma hasn't returned since she left. I could feel a heavy dark present around us. I may have had my gift taken away but not all was lost. My sixth sense is still heightened. Nkosinathi was the first to stand up when the doctor approached us.

"Amanda Silangwe?"

"Yes."

"Family?"

"Yeah. Im her sister and they're are my in laws.",Kuhle.

"She is healthy. Seems like she had a panic attack. We put her on some drugs so she can rest. We will assign a specialist for her to help with the panic

attacks."

We all nodded and he left us all there. Karishma has all the answers we need and she still hasn't arrived.

"Let's all go and clean up. I'll go to the reception and ask them to call us when she is awake."

"I'll stay Unyezi.",Kuhle.

"I wasn't asking anyone. We will come back. Standing her won't make anything better."

I take my bag and they all start moving. We get in our cars and I won't lie I am confused. Karishma better come through. My phone rings and Langa hands it to me.

"Baba."

"Ndodakazi."

"Konke kuright?"

"Kuhle mntanam. Isihlahla sisihlebelile."

I roll my eyes at the mention of the tree.

"Yebo Baba."

"Kunesitha emundenini. Sifuna ukuzinyegezela kodwa ku khona omuvimbili. Uzogudluzwa lowo."(there is an enemy amongst yall. it wants to be one of yall but one is standing in their way. they will be removed.)

"Akukabi nazinkinga emdenini kodwa sizozhapela."(we dont have any problems as yet but we will be cautious.)

"Sale kahle ndodakazi."(be well daughter)

"Ubabingelele ekhaya."(greet them at home.)

We drop the call and I lay back on the carseat sighing. Langa throws a curious look at me.

"Whats going on?"

"Im trying to figure it out."

"Its going to be okay. We just need to be stronger in prayer."

"I agree."

I kiss his cheek and go back to my seat.

KUHLE

Bhekikhaya parks in the driveway. He opens the door for me and helps me out. I've ran out of tears and I am scared and exhausted. I thought I was going to lose her and I doubt I'll handle that. We walk inside and I go check up on the nanny. We dropped him off before going to the hospital. He was peacefully sleeping and I sat down next to his cot. His room was calming and chilled. I closed my eyes and laid my head on my hands.

"God. I come before you as a devastated daughter. Please be with my sister in these hard times. I can't lose her. I need her. She is all I have. I-"

I let out a sob and I suddenly feel a warm embrace. It reminds me of my mom. I wipe my tears. I take off my shoes and climb on the single bed in Sine's bed with warmth surrounding me.

NKOSINATHI

I stop running breathing heavily. I greet Bab'Ngadi at the gate and walk in. I sit by the stairs with my head

in between my hands. My phone rings and its Sandisiwe.

"Hey."

"Hey."

"Ssup?"

"I was wondering if you could accompany me as my date to my sisters wedding?"

"Stop wondering."

"I dont have a date."

"You're in university Im sure they dont expect you to pull up with a date."

"But Ive already told them I am coming with someone."

"Take that someone with."

"I meant you."

"Me? Ngathi uzongizela ngedrama manje. Are you catching feelings?"(looks like you're coming with drama)

"I mean you cant expect me not to-"

"Cima loma feelings keh. Dont ever call me."(get rid of those feelings)

I drop the call and click my tongue standing up.

"Nywe was wondering nywe nywe! Tsek!"

I run up the stairs till my room. I get in the shower so I can go check on Amanda.

THANDO

I am eating achar and nandos chilli sauce with bread. Ozo is looking at me shaking his head.

"Where did you even get atchaar?"

"Please leave me alone!"

"Sorry."

I read the text Unyezi sent as soon as my phone is on.

"Amanda is fine. She had a panic attack."

"As long as she is okay."

I nod wiping a tear.

"Why are you crying?"

"Its sad. Did you see how scared she looked? She thought she was dying."

"Shes going to be okay thou."

He sits next to me and I have missed his scent. I clench my thighs together and accidently moan. He looks at me and bites his lip.

"Wenzani?"(what are you doing?)

I ignore him as I grab ahold of his semi hard dick. Ive missed this! Him too but mostly this! I carrass it until its hard and he holds my hand.

"We can have sex without hurting the baby right?"

"As long as you're gentle."

He nods and lays me down on the couch and unties my gown. I grab his dick and lead it to my entrance. He gets the message and slowly pushes himself in. Its been a while.

"Sbusiso! Aaah!"

He waits for me to adjust and he starts moving. I dig my nails in his back moaning.

BHEKIKHAYA

I throw a fleece over her and kiss her forehead. She didnt sleep all night crying in the hospital corridor. I take the now awake Sine and go make him some food. His mother deserves a break. I give him his food and he eats laughing.

"Baba!"

He cant really feed himself but he tries. I eat in front of him as he laughs. These boy has cheeks. The house is silent without Amanda. She'd be cooking with her sister right now making breakfast.

KARISHMA

I stand up and go get a glass of water. Ive been praying for answers but I get the same answer everytime. Khuzwayo opens the door and peeps inside.

"You're done?"

"Yeah."

"Any light?"

"No. Nothing."

"Give it time."

I nod and follow behind him. He has been very supportive of my gift and I appreciate it.

67

MONTHS LATER

NKOSINATHI

These past few months have been hard on me. Amanda has been in and out of hospitals fighting for her life. She kept on having these panic attacks when I was around. Sandisiwe has also been a bug in my life. I pick up my phone and dial Amanda. She picks up on the third ring.

"Babe."

"Hey babe. Y'all back?"

"Yeah. The water was so cold yet it bubbled. I thought it was a natural jacuzzi."

"How did it go?"

"Well. I swear I felt something touch my leg! But I wasn't allowed to open my eyes."

"Really? What?! You're okay?"

"Yeah. I'm only allowed to see you in three days."

"I will wait."

We were silent for awhile.

"Manda."

"Nathi."

"I love you."

"I love you babe."

We said our goodbyes and dropped. I got changed and went downstairs to the gym. I bumped into Sandisiwe. I pretended not to see her.

"Hey Nathi."

I stopped on my steps. Im very close to killing her. I turn around and as soon as our eyes meet she clutches her chest and breathes heavily.

"Shes having a panic attack!!"

I try nearing and she faints. This is what happened to Amanda every time she was with me. I walk away and exit the gym. I call my mother walking into my apartment.

"Mom!"

"Baby. Whats wrong? You sound emotional. "Mom.

Im the problem. Im bewitched!"

"Nathi? What?!"

I drop the call and wipe my eyes. I decide to do pushups and situps.

UNYEZI

I look at my phone confused. Is Nkosinathi drunk?
Langa walks whistling. He stops and looks at me.

"Whats wrong? You got your 'what the hell face' on."

"Its Nathi. He says his bewitched. Whats going on in this family?"

"Lets go."

He takes his car keys and I follow behind him. Is Nathi back to smoking again? Cause I swear I will castrate him!!

KUHLEKONKE

I look at her as she sleeps and sigh. Im so glad my

parents fought for her. She fell victim to witchcraft and she was supposed to die but Im glad mama and papa fought. Why would anyone bewitch another for a man? Sine walks in laughing followed by his father and I shush them. Sine puts a finger on his mouth giggling. I lift him up.

"Getting heavier fellow."

"Im a big boy!"

I laugh and kiss his cheeks. He crawls out of my arms and lays next to his aunt.

"Mama."

"Yes boy."

"Granny and Papa love you."

I look at Bhekikhaya and he shrugs. Weird. He snuggles into Amanda and signals with his small hand for us to leave. He is so bossy. We leave them to sleep. Bhekikhaya lifts me up causing me to squeal.

"With the kids asleep I can have my wife to myself!"

I giggle and he walks with me in his arms to our

room.

UNYEZI

We find him sweaty and panting. He lets us in and offers us drinks. His father cant even wait and gets straight to the point.

"What is it? Ngizwa kuthiwa uthi uthakathiwe. Imbangela kwalokho yini?"(i heard you saying you're bewitched. Whats the reason behind that?)

"Baba. Remember how Amanda always had panic attacks around me and if I inched close she'd faint?"

We both nod.

"It happened again today..."

But I thought Amanda was getting cleansed today.

"Not with Amanda. With Sandisiwe."

"Ubani lowo?"(whos that?),Langa asks.

"Its this other girl I had something with."

Probably the one behind Amandas attacks.

"Same thing happened to her today. I think I need to go see Gogo."

"Bowubona kukulungele lokho ndodana enza njalo."(if you see that fit son do so.)

"Mom?"

"Yeah boy."

He nods and rubs his face. Im not going to tell him anything but he better find out for himself. I kiss his head and hug him. My baby boy is growing up pretty fast. Im happy Im the first person he calls when life gets tough.

"You're fetching your brothers from school right? Me and your daddy have a meeting downtown."

"Yeah mom. They can sleepover right? Im free this weekend."

"Yeah baby. Im glad you didn't take that American deal."

"Im glad too."

I let him go and his father hugs him.

"I love you son."

"I love you too dad.

They pull away and as we walk out.

"Dad."

Langa turns back.

"Have I ever made you cry?"

Langa smiles.

"Couple of times but there was this one time. I had put a book, money and pencil in front of you to see which path you'd choose in life but you pushed all them aside and ran into me hugging me. What made me cry was I wasn't even an option but you still chose me."

I smile blinking tears away. Why have I never heard of this? They hug each other one more time and we leave. As soon as we get in the car I pinch Langa.

"Ouch!"

"Why was I only hearing about that today?"

"Mkami. You never asked."

I pinch him again.

"Ah! I hardly share that with people actually I've never shared it with anyone."

I look at him as he secretly wipes a tear. Sweet. I kiss his cheek.

"You're a great dad. I love you. "

"I love you so much."

He drives with one hand as the other holds mine.

KHULEKANI

"Babe!"

She comes out of the bathroom naked wiping her hair with a towel.

"I should've come back earlier but I can work with this."

I put my laptop bag down and take off my shoes. I stop what I am doing when I notice her sit down and she went from having four rolls to three.

"Babe."

"Mmmhm."

"You're still taking those slimming pills aren't you?"

She shakes her head.

"Dont lie to me Stufuza."

"Im not."

"Stand up."

She stands up I notice how small her tummy is.

What the fuck? I walk towards her and pick her up.

"The hell?! You're light as fuck! Where are those pills?"

"What pills?"

I head toward her bag and she snatches it before I do. I snatch it from her and open it. I take out those pills and hold them up.

"What did I say to you about these pills? Have you thought about the side effects? If you want to lose weight go to the gym! Eat healthy! Not take bloody pills!"

"I-"

"You what? Selfish?!"

I shake my head and leave her standing there. I throw the pills in the trashcan and take a beer out the fridge. Tshego is going to drive me nuts!

68

KHULEKANI

I walk into Tshego looking at herself in the mirror. I felt a sting in my heart. She is really getting rid of that beautiful body? I walk towards her and stand behind her.

"Stufuza."

She looks up at me.

"You're letting people dictate your life and in the midst of it all I have to suffer."

"I'm a big girl."

"And you've always been one. There is nothing wrong with a little fat."

"But I dont like the way I look."

"Than change it. Not using those pills. Come on. Get dressed. We're going to the gym."

"The gym?"

"Yeah. You wanna lose weight? Lets go!"

She nods and heads for the closet. She comes back dressed in her tracksuit and they're not as tight as before. I sigh and walk away. So where will I hold onto when my love handles are gone? What about me? All that tummy gone. I don't want a slender woman! But if I got to sacrifice my love for her body than cool.

BHEKIKHAYA

She snored lightly and I closed her mouth and nose laughing. She gasped and opened her eyes. She punched me while panting.

"I knew you wanna kill me. Suck it up. You're stuck with me."

We both laughed. She got out of bed and went to freshen up. I made the bed and took out an outfit for her. I ran downstairs and the driver alerted me they were ready.

"We will be leaving soon. Silinde uMadam.(we're waiting on madam.)"

They nod and I excuse them. She comes down dressed.

"Wow."

She turns around for me. Okay. Why did I choose those tight jeans? That ass! I clear my throat as I get a stiffie. She looks at my boner and giggles.

"Khaya!"

"Kuhle. Lets go."

"Where are you taking me so early in the morning?"

"Peaches. Asambe."(let's go.)

"The kids."

"They're at Nathis."

"You-"

"Peach. Please."

"Okay fine."

Finally! I tak her warm soft hand in mine and kiss it lightly. I open the door for her. She must be grateful I bought her sneakers along cause it gonna be a long

day filled with fun and games.

NATHI

My apartment is a mess. I pick up the toys on the floor and start cleaning up. Amanda is tired so I try to keep it down. Who left the fucken milk on the counter?!

"Nkanyezi!"

I spill the spoilt milk in the sink and wash the milk jar. I refill and put it in the fridge.

"Who ate my diet chicken?!"

"Lami and Sanele."

"Im gonna kill those-"

"Leave the kids alone."

Amanda pushes me aside with her curve and takes juice from the fridge.

"When did you wake up? Thought you'd be tired from last night."

"After you sneaked out. I thought so too."

She hands me a glass of juice.

"Thank you. Dont you have classes today?"

"Nope. Thank God! Mondays bore me worse on campus!"

"I wish I was you. I have practice at 13h00 and I am tired. We're playing against Chiefs this Sunday and we gotta be ready."

"You'd be playing against Argentina and them if you were in America."

"Yeah but my home is here. Its not about the money I got shitloads of those. I want to do what I love and still be near you."

She smiles and walks into my arms and lays her head on my chest.

"Baby."

"Huh."

"Who's Sandisiwe?"

I cough and she looks up at me. I drink my juice and

she folds her arms.

"Why?"

"Nkosinathi."

"Uhm...she was one of...mhhm."

"Mhhm?"

"Yeah."

"I dont speak hum."

"I know."

"She was one of my... floozies?"

She shakes her head and walks past me.

"That was before we got back together babe I swear!"

"Do you know what she put me thro-. You know what? Whatever!"

I watch her as she bangs the bedroom door behind her. What just-? I get back to the kitchen to cook breakfast. Couldn't she at least finish her sentence?

TSHEGO

As soon as we walk into the gym I am met with women with six packs and muscular thighs.

Everyone looks at us when we step in. Khulekani has my gand in his and I am gripping it. One whispers to her friend when we pass.

"Finally she considers losing a few. Was starting to feel sorry for that hottie."

Khulekani stops walking and I try pulling him.

"You think you're Jan Van Rebiecks daughter heh?"

The slim Caucasian woman looks at him.

"Now listen here Beatrice shut the fuck up. Ngeshwapa la.(flat ass)"

"Im not Beatrice."

"Well you look like one."

He walks away and the poor woman is embarrassed and furious. Khulekani cant shut up sometimes.

Worse he doesn't like white people. His very racist.

He says their accents annoy the shit out of him but I think its because of his high school years. The kids

used to call them 'k@*\$#&s' cause they were the only black kids in that school.

"Okay babe. Lets start with warm ups."

We do jumping jacks for a few minutes until we get disturbed by that lady and a very tall buff man.

"Eh bro."

Okay I dont like that accent either. Khulekani looks up at him.

"Yini?"(What?)

Unyezis teachings. Never accommodate a white person.

"My wife says you're giving her issues. Are we gonna have an issue lad?"

"Tsek wena. Nywife yamasimba."(fuck you. Shit of a wife.)

"What bro?"

"Suka ndoda. Uzolimala."(move man. you'll get hurt.)

"What he say lady?"

He looks at me and I keep a straight face.

"He said move or he will kick your ass. Respect the man and put your bitch on the leash Freddie", this other guy walk up to us.

He has a spotie that is positioned sideways on his head. His walk explains that his ghetto as fuck. Never seen such ghetto in the surbs.

"This lad is disrespectful and racist bro."

"Well suck it up cause he owns this gym."

I try not to act surprised by this. He owns this gym.

"Not only this one. Every one of them around town. Ah Khule njayam."

They shoulder bump and have this secret handshake. The guy shoos the two away.

"Mandla. Mamas lo Seho. Babe. Mandla."

"Hi."

"Seho? Gama liphi lelo?" (What name is that?)

"Tshego is the name. Seho is what he pronounces it as."

"Oh. Msotho? Wadla Khuzwayo!"

They laugh and the guy leaves. We get back to exercising. Im really tired but wont say anything as yet.

UNYEZI

I dig my nails deeper into his back and I urge him on as he thrusts deeper and faster. He has my legs on his shoulders pumping in me and I feel my legs shake and I moan loudly vibrating with the urge to cum. I shed a tear when I cum and he groans shaking as he shoots in me. He collapses sweaty and heaving on me letting me legs go.

"Fuck babe!"

I laugh and kiss his shoulder. He rolls of me and pulls me closer to him. I run my fingertips on his skin.

"Mawabo."

"Khuzwayo."

"I was wondering if we can go on a vacation? Just you and me. Our boys are grown now."

I nod smiling and he smiles back kissing me. He gets on top of me again.

"Now come let me give you another boy."

I giggle as I feel him get hard again. We have been trying for another baby. I want lots of kids and he shares the same wishes. I know I just got my body back into shape but I can bounce back again.

THANDO

"So I'll take him for the weekend. My mom misses him. Its cool?"

"Yeah. He doesn't breastfeed no more and his over 3 months. But I think your mother can come here. She can stay as long as she wants. I cant have my baby travelling all the way to KwaNongoma."

"Eish. That sounds fair enough. You sure about letting mom stay with you?"

"Its fine. I get lonely at times so shes good company."

"I know Im hardly around and all but-"

"Its fine Ozo."

No. Its not fine but Im not in the mood to get into an argument with him right now. I look at him as his phone chimes and he takes it out of his pocket.

"Look. I got to go."

I roll my eyes

"As always."

He walks out texting back whoever rexted him back. No goodbye kiss. I walk upstaris and exercise so long Nengi is sleeping. My body has taken drastic changes but its getting back. I still have the stretchmarks on my tummy and boobs. My boobs are saggy but I scheduled a boob job so no worries. I know Ozo finds me unattractive. He is cheating I can feel it. I dont even wanna know. A call from Noxolo comes through.

"Hey mama."

"Noks."

"What are you up to?"

"Exercising."

"Yes girl! Look the wedding photos came in today and I will hand y'all them at lunch. You're coming right?"

"Yeah. I need some wine! I just stopled breastfeeding and I want some beverage."

"Okay than girl."

I text Nengis nanny to come in today and get back to tummy twisters. A few more and Im done.

69

SEASON FINALE

6 MONTHS LATER

THANDO

I peeked in on Nengi and Laycon and I smile a bit. I remember when Laycon was still in hospital after I gave birth to them and his lungs hadn't fully formed by then. I spent hours praying for him to make it. He spent three months in an incubator and I think it really affected Ozo as well. He was so distant that I actually thought he was cheating to only find out that he had planned a party for me and our children. I arrived home with Laycon in my arms and was welcomed by him with Nengi in his arms. My family are what we call hypocrites, they watched me whine about my suspicions and didn't tell me it was because he was planning a surprise party thou I did find it cute to have a party but also unnecessary.

"Babe!!"

I look up at him and he shakes his head smiling. This man is flawlessly beautiful!

"You're thinking about me aren't you?"

I laughed and stood on my toes kissing him. He spanked my butt and squeezed it.

"Your kids are sleeping?"

"My kids?"

"Uh huh! They naughty! I don't have naughty kids."

"Oho! Okay Ozo! Its Fine-o!"

"Ah! Chineke!"

I laugh as I pull him towards the kitchen. I turn off the stove and look at him as he drinks water. He is just wearing his shorts and is topless!

"Don't look at me like that. I'll get you pregnant again."

"Again? Not after Dad had my head for having children out of wedlock!"

He smiles and kneels down in front of me.

"What are you doing?"

"Proposing."

"What?"

"Will you marry me?"

"You- wait... why?"

"Thando! I'm getting nervous here and my knee is starting to hurt!"

"Okay sorry but say some romantic speech and ask me nicely."

He stands up and dusts his knee and walks away.
What? His angry now? I thought he was joking.

UNYEZI

I pick up Lakhes clothes and clean around his room.
Fuck! This child is going to make me grow old before my time comes! Argh! No wonder this room smelled so bad! I throw his socks in his dustbin and walk out.

"Lakhe!"

"Mah!"

"Go fetch Nkanyezi we're going out!"

He comes up and stands at the last stairs.

"Where are we going?"

"Spur."

"Eish ma. Leave me behind. I have to go to skate city with the gents."

I look at him and shake my head and walk away rubbing my back. This baby is heavy. I head for the elevator and go down. We built a new house since I'm pregnant and I made sure the architect is a good one. I start on baking while cooking dumplings and beef curry. MaMkhize walks in and looks at me with her fists on her waist. She smiles and walks out dialing on her phone. I rub my back again and decide to go do my garden. My back is on fire! I stand up passing a now busy with my pots MaMkhize singing. I arch my back on the cold elevator wall and sigh but the relief doesn't last! I take a shower and a sharp pain shoots from my abdomen and I grunt.

"Baby!! Baby!!"

What's Langa doing here so early? I walk out walking like a penguin.

"Oh shit! Your water!"

I look down and my water just broke!

"Im in labour!!"

I start panicking and he panics as well!

"The bag?"

"MaMkhize has it downstairs. Let's go."

I balance myself with him and we walk together.

Another contraction hits and I bit his arm!

"Ouch!!"

I carry on walking just in my gown. I need to sit down!

This fucken baby is a week early!

"Aaaaaaah!"

"I got you! Let's hurry. Yes. There we go. Breathe in."

"Shut up!!"

He shuts up and leads me to the car with the bag on his arm.

NKOSINATHI

I looked at the pregnancy test and sighed in relief! I was scared for a second. I don't want her pregnant as yet. I looked at her as she ate some cake.

"You need to get back on contraceptive. Maybe find one that will treat you better than the other one."

"Yeah. I have an appointment with the doctor on Wednesday."

"Come here."

She walked over to me and sat on top of me.

"I love you."

"I know. I love you too."

She lays her head on my shoulder and I wrap my hands around her.

"I'm thinking of starting my own soccer team."

She raises her head and looks at me.

"Why?"

"I love soccer but the last injury had me thinking. What if I get hurt real bad? I don't want to be walking around with a limp all my life. At least having my

own soccer team gives me a chance to still be invested in something that I love plus I don't want you to be always nursing me. You're not my wife yet and as much as I love it when you take care of me but I don't want you giving me wifely duties while you still my girlfriend. I want you to relax and let me take care of you like I did when I was still trying to win you over from that ass."

She smiles and kisses me. I lift her up and lay her down on the couch. I look at the clock on the wall. It's 16h57 and her curfew is 18h00. I could make it work. My uncle gave her a curfew just to spite me to remind that she's not my wife. Evil. Yes!

"Aaah!", she moans as I slide into her.

She scratches me as I go deeper. I hold her hands above her head with one hand. She's going to pay for raising her voice at me earlier.

"Nkosinathi!"

I thrust deeper and she bites my shoulder blade. That hurts but I'm high on sexual adrenalin.

NDABENKHULU

I look at her as she sleeps. I sit there and watch her sleep. She'll be up soon. She sniffs and open her smiling.

"Hey."

She waves and stands up going to the bathroom. I hear the shower running. I think she just remembered that she's angry at me. I sigh. I strip and walk to the bathroom. She is under the showerhead with water gushing down her beautiful body. I get a boner when I trace my eyes down her stretchmarks. I walk in and stand behind her. She takes a deep breathe.

"Khuzwayo. Please get out."

I near her and she exhales. I kiss her neck and she sighs. I open her legs and make her bend over. I groan as I feel the warmth of her pussy. A moan is sighed out from her lips. I thrust slow but deep.

"You want a child?"

She moans and doesn't answer me. I thrust deep

and she screams.

"Do you want a child?"

"Ah! Yes- Fuck!"

"I'll give you a child."

"Yes! Ah!"

I had my vasectomy reversed a week ago and I know that she really wants another child but I wasn't ready than. Her legs start shaking so I thrust deeper and stroke sideways causing her to tremble as she clenches her walls around me. I tighten my grip around her waist as I feel my body tightening and I cum in her. I pull out and catch her before she falls. She's still shaking with a tight hold around me.

KHULEKANI

My baby is writing exams and will be done soon so I'm planning a vacation for us. I even bought her a bikini. I see her walking towards my car and I open the door for her.

"Baby."

She nods and gets inside. I look at her as she closes her eyes. She opens them and tears flow. I hate it when she cries cause I also cry.

"Baby?"

"My grandmother called..."

I keep quiet and she glances at me to make sure I'm listening.

"My mom..."

Her voice wavers.

"She...she committted suicide."

I keep quiet and rest my head on the steering wheel.

"She left me a letter."

She chuckles.

"A letter? She should've just called me!"

We sit in silence with her hand in mine. Finally a sob breaks out from her and I pull her to my side. She cries on my lap. One tear escapes my eye and I sigh. I just let her cry it all out.

70

UNYEZI

I look at the little boy in my arms. I wipe my tears and smile. I kiss his cheeks and breastfeed him. Langa walks in and smiles widely.

"Mama wabantwana bami!"(mother of my children.)

I smile and hand him his son. He kisses him all over the face and starts dancing with him in his arms while reciting his clan names.

"Mthunzi. His name is Mthunzi."

I smile and nod. I like it. I video call Dad and Granpa. They show their faces. I remember when I bought them smartphones. They didn't understand how they worked. Thanks to one of my cousins they showed them how it works.

"MaGema!",dad greets.

"Mzukhulu.",grandpa.

I smile and wave at them. Im really tired. I give Langa the phone and Dad says his going to come down and see his new grandchild. He also names him

Sphamandla.

"Babe. Get some rest while I go bath the young man."

I just nod and close my eyes. This is my last baby. I've built a family for myself. Now I should wait on being a grandmother soon. A very hot grandmother.

KUHLEKONKE

Amanda walks in at 17h33 and greets us. She high fives Sine and rushes upstairs.

"Did you ever think they'd last this long?"

Bhekikhaya and gossiping.

"Not really. I thought after high school they'd move on."

"Your uncle called."

"What does he want?"

"He says that he needs y'all to come down. He went to consult a week back and was told your father demands that y'all get welcomed back to the family

again."

"Who is going to pay for all that?"

"Your other uncle I think."

"My other uncle? All my uncle's are deadbeat mos."

"I don't know anything."

"I'll call him back."

He picks his son up and kisses his cheek and Sine wipes it off. I laugh and Bhekikhaya puts him down. He looks at him as Sine walks away.

"His growing up isn't he?"

I look at him and nod.

"He won't need me soon."

"He will always need you Babakhe."

"He'll be able to open the snacks cabinet without my help. He'll be able to climb his bed without me helping him up. He won't need me to tie his shoes or dress him up anymore."

"But he'll need you to teach him on how to be a

man."

He nods and lays his head on my thighs. Amanda walks down singing with Sine on her waist.

"Mama! Auntie is cooking lasagne!", sine screams.

His words aren't audible but I am always with him so I understand him and he loves lasagne. They disappear to the kitchen and I cuddle with my man.

THANDO

I sit down with Nengi and her brother plays. Ozo comes in and massages my feet.

"Oh I love you. Your kids have been crawling everywhere. Laycon broke my ndebele vase."

"Did he get hurt?"

"No. It fell on the other side."

They crawl towards us and look at us. Laycon takes his sisters feet and starts pressing it. We laugh at this.

"I'm thinking of sending a letter to your father."

"Really?"

"Yeah. You deserve to be a Buthelezi."

I smile and he kisses my cheek. The twins kiss each others cheeks.

"I love you."

"I love you. Thank you for making me a father and thanks for giving me a chance to love you effortlessly."

I blush and he chuckles and pulls me towards him. I sit on his lap and the twins join us on the couch after some help from their father.

KHULEKANI

I look at her as she does her yoga. She's lost the weight. Not extremely. She's just thick now. I'm still trying to get used to how light she is. I eating skopo with her but she's on diets now.

"Want to join me?"

"No. I'm waiting on you to finish those stretches so I

can stretch you up right on that mat."

She looks at me and sighs. I walk closer to her and she sits down. I push her down while pulling out her tights. I throw them across the room and slap her thigh. I dive in between her thighs with my tongue ready to taste her juices. Keep her mind off her mothers death for a while.

NOXOLO

We lay there catching our breathe. I look at him and he looks at me smiling.

"Where did you get all that energy?"

"I still have some left. Give me 5 and I'll be back."

He stands up and goes to the bathroom. I get inside the covers and as I'm about to sleep Sanele screams for me. I wear Ndabes t-shirt and walk downstairs. He is standing there with his skateboard under his armpit.

"Mom. I'm out. I'll be back before dinner. I love you."

"I love you too."

But his already outside. I sigh and get back to back. I find my handsome man with a boner. I walk back out as he walks towards me.

"Noxolo!"

"No!! Yho!"

I run downstairs and sleep in the guestroom there.

SEASON FINALE

UNYEZI

I looked at the big green tree in front of me and I looked at Mkhulu. He nodded at me but I took a step back shaking my head.

"Ndodakazi. It's time."

I shook my head with tears trailing down my face. I wasn't ready. I had turned my back on my ancestors and I don't think I want to face them as yet. I turned around and walked back into the house where I just fell into my Dad's arms and cried. He didn't say anything but just held me as I cried. They are meant to protect and provide not take away. I've lost a lot of things because of them! They needed someone in their dumb throne and they didn't care who got hurt for that throne to get occupied. I sit down and Dad joins me. I lay my head on his shoulder and sigh.

"They've broken you. You're angry."

"Yes Baba. Why do they do this?"

"You will never things of the spiritual world and how they work. I get that you're angry but turning your back on your ancestors is a risk. A fatal risk. That's where your blessings should come from. Yes. How they do things is confusing but they have their reasons. Hear them out. You're lucky you can communicate with them in the manner you can. Your grandmother is losing her patience. She's growing tired. If she turns her back on you than its over for you. You will not be welcomed in the spiritual realm. You'll be a lost soul. You won't be able to protect your kids beyond the grave. Think about the children. Forgive. So they can be able to give you your blessings."

I don't answer him but go and look for my kids. I find them with their 'Gogo'. She's teaching them how to smear cow dung on the floor. They're covered in cow dung. Oh good lord. I leave them there and go check on Mthunzi. He is up and sucking his fist.

"He boy."

He smiles showing off his gums. I pick him up and kiss him all over his face causing him to giggle. My

phone rings and its Langa.

"Khuzwayo."

"MaGema. Ninjani?"(how are y'all?)

"We're okay babe. You good? Have you eaten? I also packed some beef curry. There's chicken as well."

"Babe. It's fine. I ate. I warmed up the food you left for me. When are y'all coming back?"

"On Saturday."

"Ah!!"

"Don't be a baby."

"But-"

The little one cries and I sit down putting his father on loud speaker. I take out my boob and wipe it before putting it in his mouth. He has grown. I spent three months here at home. Mkhulu and Dad insisted that I needed help. We didn't argue since Thando has her own children now couldn't help me.

"Has your Dad told Thando about the ritual?"

"No. He sent Khulekani to do it."

"Khulekani? Oh good lord!"

"He is good at throwing bombs. Plus this might bring back some bad memories and Khulekani knows her better plus his dumb."

"Poor Thando."

We carry on gossiping and laughing.

AMANDA

I blow my nose again and I grunt when I feel a headache coming. I try standing up but the dizzy spell almost knocks me off my feet. Fucked! I sit back down. I woke up with a fever and I'm alone in this house. I walk slowly to the kitchen looking like hell. I warm up some milk while I take out something to eat. I take a bite of a biscuit and it tastes like sand. I wrench. I haven't eaten anything since morning so nothing comes out. I sit down on the kitchen floor and cry. I hate feeling sick. I call Nkosinathi and it rings unanswered. He is playing today. I decide to watch it online. I told him I couldn't make it. I see him. KHUZWAYO '10' and he is playing pretty well.

The game is nearly over. He gets tackled and he tumbles on the ground writhing in pain.

"KHUZWAYO is down!!"

I feel emotional and start crying. I understand why he said he wanted to quit playing soccer. He better quit. I'll not have him crippled.

THANDO

I open the door for Khulekani who walks past me screaming, "Favourite uncle is here!!".

I shake my head as the twins stumble and fall running towards him. He lifts both of them up and kisses their cheeks earning giggles. I'm just gonna stand here and wait for him to tell me what is he doing in my house. He puts them down and heads to the kitchen. TF? I follow him and he is already in the fridge. He sits down after raiding my fridge. I shake my head and lean against the stove. He shoves a piece of chicken in his mouth and looks at me. Finally I'm noticed!

"Oh hey."

Wow!

"Bhuti."

"Where's your baby daddy?"

"At work."

"Mmmh. Why aren't you at work?"

"I'm the boss."

"Isn't he the boss as well?"

"No."

"Huh?"

"It's his father's company. He has shares."

"Oh. Shame."

What is that supposed to mean?

"What are you doing here?"

"Can't I visit my sister and her kids?"

"You? Where is Tshego?"

"At school."

"So you decided to bother me?"

"Yeah. That's my job."

Sighs.

"Anyway. You have to go down to eChamthu. Gogo wants to see you."

"Why?"

"You're dumb. I forgot. Ever wondered how you had kids with Ozza?"

"Ozo. I've wondered."

"Whatever. Now is time for answers."

"Oh."

I never really wanted answers. I was just glad I could conceive for him. He carries on eating as if he hadn't just killed my joy for the day.

NKOSINATHI

I wipe the water off my body and my phone rings. It's Amanda. I answer quickly. She told me she wasn't

okay in the morning.

"You're okay?"

"Not really. I can't eat anything. I'm nauseas. I've been wrenching."

"I'm coming to pick you up so I can take you to the doctor."

"I'd appreciate that."

"I love you baby."

"I love yo-"

I hear wrenching and I quickly get dressed and run to the car. I hate it when she's sick.

BHEKIKHAYA

She looks at the 'Uncle' and frowns. Why did she drag me to this meeting again?

"I'm your fathers twin."

"I've noticed."

I give her a look.

"Where have you been?"

"In London."

"London?"

"Yeah. In the olden days twins were not meant to be. One had to die. That was me but your grandmother didn't allow it and gave me to her boss. A lady she worked for in the day. She raised me and we later moved to London. I have a wife and kids back home. I'm also a grandfather now."

The man smiles proudly.

"Good for you. Now what do you want here?"

I give her another look. She ignores me.

"I heard about my brother's death and heard he left kids behind. Thought y'all could come back home with me."

"Why?"

"I can take care of you. You don't have to depend on a man. I'll send you to school. You and your sister. Y'all can make something out of yourselves. Not a housewife."

Ah guess his been keeping track with the media. I cringe when my wife scoffs.

"Depend on a man? Housewife? School? Something out of ourselves? Don't patronize me. I'm very educated. My net-worth is 400 million. MY NET-WORTH. Let me not mention my husband's. I'm not depending on him. I own businesses. I just prefer being kept behind the scenes. Thank you for the offer but we're fine."

She stands up and picks up Sthe. I widen my eyes when she tells me she'll be in the car. I look at the man in front of me.

"Uh sir. Sorry about her attitude."

"I understand. Do apologize for me if I came out wrong."

I nod and take her handbag.

NDABENKHULU

I look at her as she looks at the pregnancy test and bites her lip. She'll never get rid of that habit. She

hands it to me.

"I'm too nervous. You'll tell me."

I nod and sit down while looking at it.

"What does it say?"

"It's showing 'pregnant'."

"Pregnant?"

I nod looking at the test confused. She jumps up and grabs the test. How does this thing tell if one is pregnant? I knew she was pregnant already but she needed clarification. She jumps on me and I catch her. She kisses me crying and I smile in the kiss.

"I love you."

"I love you too."

I lay her down and kiss her with my hand in between her thighs. She lets out a breath digging her nails on my shoulders.

TSHEGO

I stomp on the joint and spray the scent away. I put on sunglasses as I see his car approach. My mom's death took a toll on me. Worse since we died while we weren't on speaking terms. She left me a letter and I still fail to read it. I get into the car and greet him while chewing gum.

"You're okay?"

I nod and lay back on the seat. He doesn't say anymore but drives.

"Can you drive me to res."

He doesn't answer me but carries on driving. The Key by Tems comes on and I nod my head along to the beat.

"The heat is getting colder. The eyes are slowly closing!"

I sing along moving my head. I notice he is driving to his place. I'm too high for this. I notice a paper bag in the back seat. Steers! I grab it and start eating. I won't converse with him. He'll notice I'm high. He

keeps stealing glances at me. It's going to be a long way home.

72

SEASON FINALE

NKOSINATHI

I look at the screen as the doctor moves something on her stomach. I look at her as she's looking at the dot on the screen in fascination. The heartbeat is loud and I see the doctor saying something but I can't really hear him. The heartbeat. My child's heartbeat. A miracle baby for sure. Fought through birth control. I hold her hand and she looks up at me and I notice she's been crying. Heck I've been crying too. I look down at her as the doctor wipes her.

"I love you and thank you."

She smiles. I kneel down in front of her as she sits up straight pulling her shirt down.

"You've been there for me through shit and I appreciate it. You've never stopped loving me even though I was shitty to you. You know I'm not good with words but I promise to sing you your favourite song later tonight. So Amanda Silangwe can you go out on a date with me? But as my fiance?"

She looks at me and blinks.

"Will you marry me?"

She nods her head and I smile and stand up. I kiss her passionately. Well I still need to buy the ring but for now let me cherish this moment. If I knew these were going to be the results I would've taken her to the doctor that day she called me saying she was sick instead of listening to her when she said she was better.

THANDO

I looked at Ozo as they poured goat bile on him. I looked at the twins as they play with iziphandla. We having a welcoming ceremony for Ozo. He wasn't my chosen one but my second chance mate. It happens when your chosen one dies. Like Baba and Naledy. I wipe my tears as I see him walk towards me. He shakes his head at me and brings me closer to him. I hold on tight to him as I shake with emotions. God knows that after Sphamandla I thought it was the end for me. That I wasn't going to

find happiness or ever have kids. I feel little hands on my leg and look down at the twins joining in on the hug. I giggle and pick Nengi up and Ozo picks Laycon. They smile and dimples appear on their cheeks. They look like me because well Khuzwayo genes are warriors. Tough as Shaka Zulu.

"Baby."

He looks at me smiling. I put his hand on my tummy and he looks at me confused and I nod my head. He laughs and kisses me. I'm 5 weeks pregnant. I just hope it's not twins again otherwise I'll jump off a cliff.

BHEKIKHAYA

I park in her paternal home and kids run towards the car as I open the boot. I get out and she is walking towards me dressed respectfully. I near her and she throws herself in my arms. She's still beautiful as the first day I saw her on that stripper pole. We've come a long way. I'm happy to see her this content. She finally accepted her uncle after a lot of convincing from me. Amanda is still a bit hesitant and is

suppose to arrive later today for their Imbeleko tomorrow.

"MaSilangwe."

"Myeni wam. I've dished up for you. Go sit with the other men in the kraal. I'll bring your food to you in a min."

I nod and peck her forehead. She smiles and walks away. I close the boot after the kids left it empty. I walk to the kraal where the Silangwe men are seated. I sit down on a bench after greeting.

"Thank you Khuzwayo for loving and taking care of our daughters. You're a real man.", Bab'Silangwe, the one from London says.

He has blended well within his family. Being the eldest in the family he is the one that will slaughter the goat tomorrow. I can't be here unfortunately as I have to fly out to Dubai for a meeting.

KHULEKANI

I look at her as she smokes her weed. She has her

dreads tied messily on her head. She is sitting in meditation position. Reggae is playing softly in the background. She's just in her bra and thong. She's lost weight and looks very sexy. She's still thick just bigger booty with a flat stomach. She's been taking supplements and the weed helped. I walk in and close the door behind me. She finally notices me and quickly puts out her joint. It's been months of me knowing her new smoking habit and she also came clean. She just doesn't feel comfortable smoking in my presence. Apparently she feels as if she's disrespecting me. This one worries too much about my feelings than she should hers. She'll quit when she wants to. I also don't criticize her smoking. She's old enough. I sit on top of her bed. She got a new apartment and is an intern at a public hospital.

"Babe."

"Spura Maluda!"

She giggles and laughs herself at me. I catch her easily. I've grown accustomed to her new weight. We've agreed to not rush into marriage until she gets her first pay check.

NDABENKHULU

"I said dunked wings Ndabe! What am I supposed to do with pizza?"

She sits down and starts crying. I look at Sanele and he is just as confused. He takes out his phone and presses on it for a while. He near his mother and brushes her back.

"It's okay mom. Your dunked wings and burger are on their way."

Burger?

"Thank you baby. Cheese burger right?"

"Yes."

He takes out his phone again and presses it. He passes by me and whispers.

"You owe me. Good thing you own a restaurant. Those chefs numbers come in handy."

He winks and leaves me with a now ice cream eating Noxolo.

"Sdu- mama."

I have to refrain from calling her sdudla cause its an issue and apparently I'm body shaming her. I sit next to her and put her feet on my thighs. A massage will do with these swollen feet. I still have 7 months to go with this pregnancy.

"I love you Khuzwayo."

I look at her and smile.

"I love you too mama."

She relaxes on the couch as I massage her feet. Shame. My poor wife. Her feet are swollen. I'm excited about this baby. I can't wait for it to be born. I want a baby girl.

UNYEZI

I leave the incense and candles burning and head out. I find Langa with the kids. Nkanyezi is colouring an elephant green. I sit next to them and Langa kisses my head. I am still in my healer attire. After letting go of the hatred and communicating with my

grandmother she granted me my gift back. Thou the kingdom has fallen but the gift will carry on being transferred from generation to generation. I've opened platforms online where I consult and do photo readings. I also talk about ancestral gifts. I shed light on spirituality. I've always had a huge platform and I have accumulated 2 million followers on Insta and I make good money from it. I also have a great YouTube platform. I also have online live podcasts with other spiritual gifted beings. I'm known as Gogo Gema. My family has been with me through everything. Langa has been the blessing I've prayed for in my orpganage days. We're renewing our vows in a few months. I look at him and I'm met by the moon and ocean. Even after all these years they still fascinate me.

THE END

Thank you for your patience zithandwa.