

# More Than Just A Servant

## Introduction

My name is Ndoniyamanzi. I don't have a last name because I was left at an orphanage without anything else, just my first name. I'm a seventeen year old girl. I live with nine other orphaned girls and I'm the eldest. I have a best friend named Zinzi who also lives at the orphanage, she is about to turn thirteen and is second oldest. The only mother we all now is the lady in charge of the orphanage, we all refer to her as Mama. I also have a spiritual guardian named Shiba. I don't know how she looks like but she has been the one protecting me since I was just a little child. I love listening to her and she also taught me how to read and write. An orphan that can read and write is unusual because we don't get sent to school like the children of the rich and royal. No one knows of

Shiba, not even Zinzi.

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I live in the kingdom of Mhlaba Ochumileyo (Fertile Soil) which is under the rule of King Xhanti and Queen Nande. They are the rulers of one of Africa's greatest dynasties. They have two sons Prince Ntsika and Prince Lizwi. The kingdom is known for its rich fertile soil that produces great farming and agriculture. It trades in vegetables, nuts, spices and many more to other kingdoms.

[03/01, 13:14] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 1

I woke up early in the morning at 4am as I usually do. I went to make a fire outside and put a big pot of water on the live flames. When it was warm enough I poured some in my small

zinc washing basin and carried inside to wash my body. I got dressed in my rags and I woke the girls up to also wash themselves. Zinzi helped bath the younger ones while I was outside making porridge. Mama also woke up, I got her bathing water and carried it to her chamber. We all finished and I served everyone a warm bowl of porridge.

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Mama: Ndoni, I need to speak to you. (I looked up to give her my attention)

Me: I'm listening, Mama.

Mama: You are now too old to be living here. You are at the right age to go seek work or get married to a man who will look after you.

Me: But Mama, I'm not ready for marriage.

Mama: I knew you'd say that. That's why I came up with a plan to get you work.

Me: You need me here more. Who is going to

help you look after the children, Mama?

Mama: I have been looking after children for years, long before your existence.

Me: You're no longer a young woman. You need me to help you cook, clean and gather fire wood.

Mama: Zinzi has been helping you do all your chores for years now. She is almost a young woman, she'll help me with things around here.

Me: But Mama, I'm not ready to go out into the big bad world and work on the farms. I've heard horrible stories about what's out there.

Mama: I would never send you to one of the farms, Ndoni. I got you work at the palace as a servant girl. You will do well there because your hands do not fear hard work and I've groomed you well.

Me: The royal palace, Mama? (I widened my eyes in shock)

Mama: They have servant chambers there,

unlike on the farms where workers sleep in tents. You will be much safer at the palace.

Me: Most of the orphans in this kingdom are love children of royal men. Their mothers were also servants in palaces and died during child birth. I don't want to be a bedroom maid to the princes and end up with the same fate, Mama.

Mama: The men on the farms are worse, my child. To be a bedroom servant to a prince is much better than being treated as an object by farm savages. You don't need to worry, the princes choose the pretty maidens and you aren't one of them.

Me: When are the people at the palace expecting me?

Mama: In two days time. You will leave here tomorrow at dawn because you need to be assigned your duties and be shown how to do them. Doing household chores and being a royal servant are two different things.

Me: You're my elder, Mama and you've spoken. I shall do as you wish. I'll leave for the palace tomorrow.

Mama: We will miss you but when a girl turns into a woman she must leave, especially at an orphanage.

Me: I need to go fetch wood. May I be excused please?

Mama: Yes but take Zinzi with you.

Me: No, Zinzi must stay and wash the morning dishes.

Mama: Be careful in those woods, there lurks a lot of danger.

Me: I'll be careful, Mama. I'll see you when I return.

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I stood up took my head cloth, rope and axe. I bid temporary farewell to the children and promised to bring fruit if I bump into a fruit tree.

I made my way to the deep forest. The soles of my shoes so thin I felt every stone I stepped on. I'm hoping to speak to my guardian today. I remember how terrified I was when I first heard her voice thinking it's witchcraft but she's a spirit of light not darkness. I walked to the big tree where I usually sit and talk to Shiba. I sat underneath the tree, felt it's branches shake gently, letting out a warm wind of peace and I knew she's here.

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Shiba: Ndoniyamanzi (she said gently).

Me: Hello Shiba, my heart is feeling heavy today.

Shiba: I know, I can feel the fence energy around you. I also know it's about going to the palace.

Me: I'm afraid, Shiba. I'm still pure and I'm afraid that I won't be so for much longer.

Shiba: I'll always be with you, Ndoni. My duty is

to keep you safe and I've been doing that since the day you were born.

Me: Then why won't you tell me who my parents are?

Shiba: That would mess up the life journey you are already destined for.

Me: Then if you are here to protect me then do something so I won't have to go to the royal palace.

Shiba: I can't do that, child. Going there is a part of your destiny. You're more than just an orphan, Ndoni. You are destined for greatness but you also need to follow the steps of your journey first.

Me: The palace is far from here, Shiba. I won't be able to visit you. (she laughed softly)

Shiba: Ndoni, I'm a spirit of light, love and purity, child. I'm not the tree that you're sitting under. I'll go with you wherever you go until you don't



need me anymore.

Me: I'm not strong enough for this new destiny, Shiba.

Shiba: You are the strength, child. The fire of goodness burn inside of you. Believe in yourself.

Me: Shiba am I ugly?

Shiba: You're the most beautiful maiden in this kingdom. Inside and outside, don't listen to what others say about your outer looks.

Me: Thank you but I need to collect wood and go back.

Shiba: Remember Ndoniyamanzi, the royal palace is where you need to be right now, it will lead you to your true identity. Not all who lurk those royal passages are bad. You will soon find out, child. Now go and get wood before you get into trouble.

Me: You promise you'll be with me, Shiba?

Shiba: I promise, child.

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I stood up and collected good, dry fire wood. I'm never in fear when I'm in the forest alone because I've got a guardian. I tied the wood and placed it on my head. I walked to the orphanage and the little girls came to me laughing. I am going to miss them. We only have two meal for a day. Soft porridge in the morning and bread with tea at night. I kneaded dough and did chores while I waited to it to rise enough for me to bake it. I fed the chicken and swept the grounds. I'm on my feet most of the day. I put the beautifully risen dough in a pot and out it on the warm coals to bake bread for this evening. Later in the evening I served the bread I baked with tea. We all ate the meal we have every single day. The children went to bed and Mama also. Zinzi and I were cleaning the cups and dishes.

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Zinzi: Ndoni, Mama told me that you are going to live with the royal family (she smiled)

Me: I'm not going to live with the royal family, Zinzi. I'm going to be their servant.

Zinzi: Yes, but you will still see the princes. I hear that all of the maidens in the kingdom want to marry them. I also hear that they are handsome. (we both laughed)

Me: Royals marry royals, Zinzi. Girls like us marry hardworking men and you are too young to know what a handsome man is.

Zinzi: I want to marry a prince when I reach the age of maturity, not a nobody who works in a farm. So don't spoil my fantasies.

Me: My apologies, sister. I meant no offence. I'm sure that prince you'll marry someday will be a lucky man to have a sweet girl like you as yourself.

Zinzi: A sweet woman, I'll be a woman by then,

not a girl (I laughed and shook my head)

Me: Like you say then.

Zinzi: I'll miss you, Ndoni. The other kids are too young to confide in.

Me: I'll miss you too and you'll now take over the role of big sister that I had. I've got faith in you and I'll visit whenever I'm allowed.

Zinzi: I can't read stories like you.

Me: Reading is my special gift, just as singing is yours. Sing for them and they will love it.

Zinzi: What if I fail at the role?

Me: You've got no competition. Don't compare yourself to me. You're a unique beautiful girl. Please promise me that you'll keep yourself pure, Zinzi. Don't fool around with boys.

Zinzi: I promise, you've been a good example and I'll follow your lead.

Me: But promise to always be yourself and no

one else. Now give me a hug. (we hugged)

Zinzi: Let's finish before Mama complains and say we finish the candles. (we laughed)

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We finished washing the dishes. We wore our sleeping rags and Zinzi went to bed. I kissed all the little kids first because I don't know when I'll see them again. I'll miss them so much and I wanted to teach them how to read, just as I've been taught by my guardian. I don't need to pack because I only have a few stuff that I'll wrap up in an old sheet since I don't have any bags. I blew the candle out and went to sleep next to Zinzi because we slept in pairs. An orphanage might not be the best place to most but to me it has been home. I'll be going to the royal palace tomorrow and I'm feeling so scared. My plan is to do my duties as best as possible while still trying to remain unseen somehow. My eyes grew heavy and I finally closed them

and fell asleep

#Nosi

[03/01, 13:15] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 2

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#Ndoni

I was woken up by the loud early morning crowing sound of our rooster. It was early because the sun has not come up yet. I got up and decides that I'd wash with cold water today. After getting ready, I started a fire and put up bathing water on two big pots for when the others wake up. Mama said that I can eat the piece of leftover bread from last night for breakfast. I made sugar water and sat down and ate. Zinzi walked into the eating area yawning.

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Zinzi: Hawu Ndoni, were you going to leave without saying goodbye?

Me: Why would you think I'd do that?

Zinzi: You're in your dress already. So clearly you're ready to go to live with the royals.

Me: Zinzi, how many times must I sa...

Zinzi: I know you're only going to be a servant to them, not live with them (she cut me short)

Me: I already put water on the fire. You'll have to monitor it and then later cook porridge. Make sure it's enough to fill the tummies of all who will eat it.

Zinzi: You've shown me how to do it many times before. Don't worry I will not starve our Mama and little sisters.

Mama: Good morning (she walked in)

Me: Good morning, Mama.

Zinzi: Mama when will I be old enough to join Ndoni in the royal palace?

Mama: Where are your manners this morning, Zinzi?

Zinzi: My apologies, Mama. Good morning, how did you sleep?

Mama: Good, my child. You will join Ndoni when you reach the age of maturity.

Zinzi: But I'm mature for my age. Why not send me now?

Mama: Ndoni was twice as mature at your age but I still did not send her out. Wait your turn, Zinzi. The world outside of this orphanage is not as pretty as your imagination allowed you to think. (I suddenly got more afraid)

Me: Listen to Mama, Zinzi. She and the little ones need you way more than the royal family. When you mature enough then Mama will give you her blessings to go.



Mama: Get ready to go Ndoni, my child. The donkey carriage that will take you to the royal palace is waiting outside already. You know how stubborn donkeys are they might not want to walk at some moments.

Zinzi: If only we could afford horses.

Mama: Those are luxuries only royalty and the wealthy can afford, my Zinzi.

Me: I'm ready to go now, Mama. It saddens me that I have to say goodbye to you. My gratitude goes out to you for raising me. I shall not forget the generosity that you've shown me.

Mama: Go well, Ndoniyamanzi and remember to not let me down. Show them that you are well groomed.

Me: I won't let you down, Mama (I hugged her)

Zinzi: Promise to never forget about us, sister.

Me: I will never forget about my family.

Zinzi: Do send my regards to the princes. (we

laughed)

Me: Who shall I say send these regards?

Zinzi: The future princess Zinzi (we laughed)

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I embraced Zinzi and Mama once again. I went to kiss the sleeping little ones. I wish Zinzi could see just how lucky she is that she can still live here and be shielded. I took my rags that were wrapped in an old sheet and made my way to the unstable donkey led wooden carriage. I greeted the old man who will be leading the way. I got on the carriage and waved as it slowly took off. It has no shield so if it rains I'll be soaked. The sun started to rise and it became so hot that I had to take the sheet my clothes were in to cover my head from the heat. The donkey stopped and would not go further and the man had to beg it. It finally moved again and we finally went into the mainland where the royals and the rich live. The houses looked

beautiful and big. We saw the palace up the hill and I could not believe it's size. The guards at the gate would not allow the smelly donkey in so I thanked the gentlemen, took my stuff and walked around to the staff entrance of the palace. I looked at the beautiful African rondavels surrounding the royal home. I got to the door and an old lady greeted me.

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Her: I'm Jongile, I'm the head servant of the palace.

Me: I'm Ndoniyamanzi.

Jongile: This is Zipho , she has been with us for a few years and still show you how things work here. Come with us (we stepped inside)

Zipho: This will be your uniform, Ndoni. You shall under no circumstances be seen walking around the royal home without wearing it or there will be trouble.

Me: I understand.

Zipho: If you do as you are told then you'll get into no trouble. You do not engage with the royal family or their guests unless they tell you too and never look them in the eyes. Your head must be bowed when you are around them and when you greet them you bow with both knees.

Me: So if I see them do I just ignore them and not greet? (she smiled)

Zipho: No, you will bow and address them respectfully. Like say for instance Queen Nande walked in right now. You will bow and say my Queen and wait until she tells you to stand and then you leave unless she asks you to do something for her.

Me: I understand.

Zipho: Come I'll show you to our sleeping chambers. You and I will be sharing since I'm your mentor.

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She led the way to the outside of the royal house and we got greeted by rondaval houses, they aren't as beautiful as the ones I saw when I walked in but they are far better than the orphanage. We walked into one of them and it had two small single beds.

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Zipho: The one in the right is yours. I have already prepared the bedding for you.

Me: Will I sleep alone on a bed? (she laughed softly)

Zipho: Yes, you will. Get dressed into your uniform so I'll go train you.

Me: Zipho I think Mama Jongile does not like me.

Zipho: Don't worry, she does not like any of us (we laughed)

Me: I thought it's me. Okay I'm dressed and

ready to go.

Zipho: Where are your clothes, Ndoni? (I looked down in embarrassment)

Me: I only have three dresses and they are wrapped in that old sheet.

Zipho: Don't worry, we are the same size I think. I'll give you some of my clothes. Here wear these on your feet. (she gave me decent shoes)

Me: Thank you, Zipho.(I smiled)

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I put on the shoes, they aren't new but they are more thicker at the soles. We walked out of our sleeping chamber and back into the royal home. Zipho showed me everything that I needed to know about being a royal servant. Jongile then later came and tested all the new servants and I remembered most of my lessons. There are five of us but only three will be chosen to be royal servants. I made sure I excelled in the practical

test because I did not want to disappoint Mama.  
After we finished Jongile assembled us.

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Jongile: I've been watching as the five of you did your duties. The names of those who will stay are Kholiwe, Velile and Ndoniyamanzi. The two names that weren't called please head back to your homes and leave the royal grounds at once (she left us)

Zipho: I knew you'd pass (she hugged me)

Me: I had a good teacher (we laughed)

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A young man walked in and the other staff bowed and I figured that he must be royalty. I also bowed like the rest.

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Him: I see Jongile has new recruits.

Zipho: Yes, Prince Lizwi.

Him: I hope that they will be able to do their duties. (he deliberately broke a cup)

Zipho: I'll get it, your highness.

Lizwi: I want her to get it (he pointed at one of the others and she cleaned up and he broke another)

Zipho: I'll help.

Lizwi: She is more than capable surely (the girl started to cry)

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He broke a few more and laughed as he did it. I might not know a lot of people but I do know mean people. He left the kitchen area. We went to help the girl clean up the broken glasses.

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Zipho: Ndoni never shed tears like that if that was to happen to you. It's of no use, these people are royalty and we are nothing. They don't even see us as human beings. That's



Prince Lizwi, he has a mean streak and enjoys humiliating others.

Me: That's not nice.

Zipho: They don't care.

Me: How is the other prince.

Ziphof Ntsika does not show himself much. He is on his way back from war as we speak. He is the type of prince who wants to go to war alongside the kingdoms warriors. I can't tell you much about him.

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We continued to work and the work here was easy since they have the best equipment. Jongile came into the room I was busy in.

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Jongile: Ndoni, since you've excelled most in the test I have put you in duty of Prince Ntsika's chamber later on when he returns from war. You are to clean any wound or bruise he might

have.

Me: Senior, I don't think I'll ready to help the royal family yet.

Jongile: That is an order or you can pack and leave the grounds.

Me: No, it's fine. I'll do as you say.

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I followed her to another division of the royal home and got told it's Prince Ntsika's private chamber. It was huge and not to mention beautiful. I cleaned and got everything ready for his arrival. I do hope he does not have big wounds. Why would a Prince choose to go to war when he has men to do that? I continued with my work.

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#Ntsika

I'm Prince Ntsika, eldest son of the King and Queen and next in line of the throne. I'm twenty years old. I sat in the horse carriage and wished it could go faster. I've been out on war for three months and my body is exhausted. I know I'll have a new servant maid when I return because my brother impregnates them all. I swear that boy does not know how to keep his manhood in his pants. We drew nearer to the royal home and I felt relieved. I don't have a lot of bruises because it was an easy war but I do need to have them cleaned so they don't get infected. The gates opened and I saw the Queen standing by the entrance. I stepped out with a bit of a limp in my right leg. She came to embrace me.

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Mother: Oh my son. Look how exhausted you look. When will you stop going on wars, Ntsika?

Me: I'm a warrior, Mother and I'm a great one. I'll

go to war with my men until I take on the  
thrown as king.

Mother: You're a prince, Ntsika and the future  
successor of the King. What happens if you die  
in battle?

Me: Now you insult me, mother. Have you got  
that little faith in me?

Mother: I expect you to be by your father's side  
during counsel meetings so you can learn the  
ways of the kingdom.

Me: I need not learn the ways of the kingdom,  
they already run through my veins. Now please  
excuse me, my Queen. I need to go to my  
private chambers and rest.

Lizwi: Good to have you back, brother. Jongile  
assigned a young maiden to you. Enjoy.

Me: You know I do not take advantage of  
servant girls. That's more your style brother. (I  
left them)

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The leather shield I'm wearing feels heavier by the minute. I told Bantu, my personal guard to also go and rest. We have had a long past few months and I'm a warrior so I need not to be protected by another. I walked into my chambers and closed the door. I put my sharp iron weapons down and took the war clothes off. When suddenly a servant came and bowed in front of me. How beautiful she look!

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Her: Your highness (she spoke so beautifully)

Me: You may rise (she stood up slowly)

Her: I'm Ndoniyamanzi and I've been assigned to your chambers tonight.

Me: Good to meet you, Ndoniyamanzi. I'm Ntsika.

Ndoni: I know who you are, my prince. I've prepared everything for you. I know you come

from war. Are there any wounds that you'd like me to look at?

Me: No serious ones but I've got one that itches at the back of my neck.

Ndoni: Then sit down and I'll clean it for you before it gets infected.

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She went to take a little basin and put a cloth in it. I sat and felt her warm hands touch my neck. She was so gentle. She did what she did and finished. She told me she finished and I stood up.

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Me: Thank you, Ndoni. Even the itch is better.

Ndoni: My pleasure, Your bath is ready when you are. (she looked nervous)

Me: Relax, Ndoni I'm not going to take advantage of you. I'll bath myself but you need to keep yourself busy here so they will think you

are doing your duty.

Ndoni: I don't mind doing the work, Prince Ntsika.

Me: Other royals might enjoy being bathed by servants but I don't. You may sit down and that's an order.

Ndoni: As you wish.

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I watched as the most beautiful lady I've ever seen walked to the chair and sit down. A part of me hated that she has to do all of this. I know Lizwi will want to take advantage soon but I know that I won't allow it, not with her. I stepped into the bath and washed myself. The warm soap water stung some of the bruises on my body but it was not too much. After finishing I stepped out of the bath and knocked something over. Ndoni came rushing in and saw my naked body. She immediately bowed her head and apologised. I wrapped a cloth around my waist.

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Me: I'm the one who needs to apologise. I got a bit clumsy.

Ndoni: I'll get it, Prince Ntsika.

Me: Ndoni, please look at me.

Ndoni: I've been advised against looking royalty directly in the eyes.

Me: Well I'm royalty and I would like for you to look at me.

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She looked up slowly and I managed to look at her face for the first time. Beautiful lady she is and judging by how she reacted by seeing my naked body she's still pure. Now I really have to keep her away from Lizwi somehow. She looked into my eyes but immediately bowed her head afterwards.

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Me: May I know your age?

Ndoni: I'm seventeen about to turn eighteen, my prince.

Me: I see you're reading one of the books on my shelf because it's open.

Ndoni: I do not know how to read, my prince. (I walked closer to her)

Me: You are not lying to a prince are you? (I smiled)

Ndoni: Yes, I was reading it. My apologise for lying.

Me: How did you learn to read?

Ndoni: I'm self taught, prince Ntsika. I took a book as a child and taught myself.

Me: How do you know if your reading is correct?

Ndoni: I do not but I'm hoping that it is.

Me: Read a paragraph for me and I'll tell you.

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She went to take the book and read so beautifully. Leaving my mouth wide open due to shock. I can't believe that she is self taught but it must be true because servant girls don't go to school. I suddenly wanted to spend more time with this girl but not for impure deeds but to know what's going on in her mind. She is clearly intelligent but is holding back because I'm a prince and she a servant. She read a whole chapter and I've read the book many times before but hearing her read it made it sound so new to my ears. I stopped her and asked her what she thinks about what she read and she told me exactly what she thought. She gave me an honest review and mine differs from hers but she stood by her review. I loved the fact that she can think for herself and does not agree to all I say like the other maidens. She helped me put lotion on my back and she smelled good. A combination of lavender and honey. I told her that she may go and told her which way to take

to avoid meeting Lizwi. I could not stop thinking about, Ndoni but I have to because I'm a prince and she's a servant. The only way we can be together is if I make her my bedroom servant and I do not want to do that to her. She might be a servant but I feel she deserves more than that. I look forward to meeting her once again. I have many books she can read because she loves it. I got into my silk royal covers and exhaustion finally got me, with eyes heavy I finally fell asleep.

#Nosi

[03/01, 15:10] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 3

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#Lizwi

I'm Prince Lizwi, second born child to the King

Xhanti and Queen Nande. I'm eighteen years old.

I sat at the big oak table as Mother and I waited for the King and his favourite son to join us for morning festivities to celebrate his return from war.

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Mother: Lizwi, why are you here and not with your father and brother?

Me: Mother, we both know that neither of the men you mentioned want me near them.

Mother: That's not true, you are a prince and a man now.

Me: We both know that Ntsika is father's favourite. I'll always come second to Ntsika. Not only in birth order but also in the favour of King.

Mother: Your father cares for both his sons equally, you might be the second born but the love and favour the King has for his sons is

equal.

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My father and brother walked in laughing. Clearly the conversation is amusing and it caused me to clench my jaw in frustration. Mother and I rose to our feet and greeted them.

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Father: My Queen, you have to be proud of your first born. He has been a great warrior and we have not lost a war since he leads our men.

Mother: I am proud, my King but let us not encourage this too much. Ntsika must be by your side here at the kingdom and on all of your travels. He needs to learn what a king does.

Father: There is plenty of time for that, I'm not going to die any time soon so he still has time before being king.

Mother: Ntsika, I've found you a suitable match for marriage. She is a young princess from a

small but decent kingdom.

Ntsika: Mother, do you remember what happened the last time you tried to find me a wife?

Me: That is old news. Are you still mad at me for that?

Ntsika: You had intercourse with the maiden that was chosen to be my wife (he raised his voice)

Father: Calm now, my young prince.

Me: I helped you out, you should be thanking me. She was not even pure and you would only have found out on your wedding night that she has had bedroom dealings before. Who knows how many princes she has been with? You should be grateful and not insult me.

Ntsika: I feel a lot of things, brother but grateful is not one of them.

Mother: Ntsika calm down. Your brother is right,

the family of that girl assured us that she is pure but it was all just a lie. If it was not for your brother we would not have known.

Father: Lizwi did not know the girl was not pure until after he did what he did. He wronged and betrayed his brother, Nande and stop trying to make Ntsika be thankful for his brother's betrayal.

Me: I knew you'd take your golden seed's side.

Father: You will not speak to me like that boy! I might be your father but I'm also your king and I will not tolerate being disrespected around my table (he pointed the royal stick at me)

Me: My apologies, my king. I meant not to disrespect you.

Mother: Let us call in the servants so that they can bring in the food. All this tension just soon after sunrise is not good.

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Mother signaled for the servants to be called in and serve us food. One of the young recruits came in and they all bowed before reaching the table. I looked at my brother whose jaw was clenched tight as he looked at the young maiden bowing in front of us. The king gave them permission to rise and they served the food. Ntsika's eyes never leaving the young maiden. He tried to hide it but he can't fool me. The servants left and we sat and listened to my brother tell us about the war.

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Mother: Once your potential wife arrives you need to remain at the kingdom.

Father: The young princess can arrive on the wedding day. The last thing we need is another disaster like the last one. (he looked at me)

Me: I will not betray my brother again, father.

Mother: You know she can't come on the day of celebrations, my king. It goes against our



customs. She has to come so I can show her the ways of our kingdom because she'll be the future Queen.

Ntsika: How old is this princess?

Mother: Sixteen! Perfect age for marriage and she will give you an heir soon. Don't tell us you're not ready for marriage, Ntsika. You should have been married when you turned seventeen already.

Ntsika: I know what's expected of me as a prince, mother. I'll do what is best for the kingdom.

Mother: And that is marrying a princess so that the royal blood may not be tainted or weakened.

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I could see that my brother is not ready for marriage or at least not with a stranger. Could he be in love? Could it be with the servant girl and is that why his face tightened in frustration

as he saw her bow before royalty? The king and queen excused themselves to go to their royal duties. Ntsika also did the same and I thought this is the perfect opportunity for me to tell Jongile that I want the young maiden assigned to my chamber later on. I called for her.

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Jongile: You called, your highness (she bowed)

Me: That young maiden you got yesterday.  
What is her name?

Jongile: Which one, my prince? I got three new ones.

Me: The most beautiful of all, the one with the caramel skin.

Jongile: That would be Ndoniyamanzi.

Me: Ndoniyamanzi?

Jongile: Yes, my prince.

Me: Get her on duty in my private chamber

tonight.

Jongile: As you wish your highness.

Me: You may go, Jongile.

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She stood up and she left. Her name is Ndoniyamanzi! I went about my royal duties and I looked forward to having her cater for my needs at sunset.

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#Ndoni

We get up early, long before the royal family even realise that it's already morning but I'm not complaining because it's a normal thing to me. I miss my Mama and sisters so much. I have not heard from Shiba but it's good because I don't want to be accused on witchcraft. I like prince Ntsika more than the other one. He indeed is a handsome man. Tall, dark chocolate skin that's

so smooth and has the body of a true warrior. I slept well on my first night. Zipho and myself were cleaning up after the royals finished their meal. I can't believe that I was just in the presence of the entire royal family.

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Zipho: It looks like they did not even eat much.

Me: They must have had important business to attend to. I'm sure that they are a busy family.

Zipho: Did you hear the loud shouting when we stood outside waiting to be called in?

Me: I did but I don't think it's wise to speak about royal affairs. The walls might have ears.

Zipho: You're right, Ndoni. I should learn to keep my big mouth shut but I've got you and you'll help me (we laughed and Jongile walked in)

Jongile: Ndoni, the youngest prince has requested that you be put in charge of the duties in his chamber later on.

Me: I shall do as you wish, Senior.

Jongile: Be sure to do whatever he asks of you to avoid punishment.

Me: I understand (she left us)

Zipho: He saw you as a potential bedroom servant. He will expect you to go beyond just cleaning duties, Ndoni.

Me: How do you know?

Zipho: I was once just like you at another kingdom and my purity was taken by a prince their. Lizwi has made most of the servant girls pregnant in this palace that's why there is always a demand of new servants. I'm also one of his bedroom servants when he requests me but I have medicine given to me by my grandmother that helps me to not fall pregnant. I'm give you some before you go to his chamber.

Me: I'm scared, Zipho. What can I do to avoid going to his chamber?

Zipho: You heard Jongile, Ndoni. Do as told and you'll avoid punishment. I'm sorry but at the end of the night you'll no longer be pure.

Me: But I've never even kissed a boy.

Zipho: Your type of innocence is what makes Lizwi even more excited. I'm sorry, Ndoni but don't worry I'll help you so you won't fall pregnant. I'm now attached to you as a sister and I don't want you to be with child with a royal bastard.

Me: I'm thankful for your help, Zipho. I'll take the medicine to prevent such from happening.

Zipho: Come let's go and eat now before we start the real chores. Remember servants never eat before royalty. We wait until they are finished then we eat.

Me: I'll remember

.

We took the untouched leftovers to the servant

eating quarter and we all ate. I could not eat much because I was terrified of what might happen tonight. We finished and we discussed the duties amongst us. I went with Velile and she told me she made sure that her lover deflowered her before she came here. I would do that but I've never had a lover. I would not even give the young men who wait for young maidens by the river a chance. We worked and the day seemed to go by fast. I went to Prince Lizwi's chamber and cleaned. He was not home from his royal duties yet so I went to Zipho to drink the medicine that will make me not to fall pregnant. It was bitter but I drank a few drops. I wish Shibs could do something. I feel like she has broken her promise and has left me alone. I rinsed my mouth of the bitterness and made my way back into the royal home. I ran into prince Ntsika and I remember Zipho said I must greet respectfully so I bowed before he even reached me.

.

Me: Your highness (we walked to me)

Ntsika: You may rise, Ndoni. How are you?

Me: I'm well, my prince. I hope you are too. (I stood up)

Ntsika: I am but your voice sound different then before. Is something the matter?

Me: No, my prince (a tear fell and I wiped it off quickly)

Ntsika: Has someone been ill treating you?

Me: No, my prince.

Ntsika: Come with me, Ndoni.

Me: My apologies, your highness but I can't go with you. I've been assigned to Prince Lizwi's chamber and I don't want him to come home to a chamber that's not ready.

Ntsika: That explains your tears. I'm sure the other servants have told you about my brother's



ways of doing things. Come with me, I'll make sure you don't get into trouble.

.

He walked so tall and strong in front of me. Ntsika's presence is impossible to ignore. He walked into a room and everyone immediately feels it. He greeted all the servants we met on our way. It seems he's leading me to his chamber. So he saved me from his brother just so he could have me for himself? He opened the door and gestured for me to walk in first. Another servant was busy but he told her to resign from her in his chamber and go to prince Lizwi's. She left and he closed the door.

.

Me: Prince Ntsika, Jongile said I'll get into heaps of trouble if I don't do as told.

Ntsika: Well you'll get into more trouble if you don't do as the eldest prince tells you (he said while smiling)

Me: My apologies

Ntsika: I was not being serious, Ndoni. I'll deal with Jongile should she come.

Me: I'll get things ready for you.

Ntsika: Wait, I got you more books.

Me: I can't take books to the servant chambers, your highness. No one else but you knows of my ability to read.

Ntsika: I'll keep your secret safe, you can come to my chamber and read the books even when I'm away.

Me: That is against the rules, my prince. I will read them when you allow me to.

Ntsika: Now is fine if you want but it is new books so you'll have to read out loud so I can also know what is happening.

Me: As you wish.

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I chose a book I thought we would both enjoy. I started to read out loud but not too loud while he bathed. I stood with my back to him so that I don't see his nakedness once again. He finished and dressed. I sat on the chair opposite him. My throat got irritated and he offered to continue. He reads perfectly, even more perfect than me. I sat and listened to the story and watched him. He was looking at the book so I was able to look at him. A handsome African man! We heard a loud bang on the door and I knew that I'm in trouble.

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Me: It's Jongile.

Ntsika: She knows better than to knock like that on the door of her prince.

Lizwi: Ntsika! (he shouted from the other side)

Ntsika: Don't fear, I'll sort it out. Keep behind me. (we walked to the door and he opened)

Lizwi: I hear that you told the servants to exchange duties. I specifically asked for the service of that servant in your chambers.

Ntsika: You will address me with respect, Lizwi! Do not forget your place. If I wanted all of the servants in my chamber tonight, I'd do just that! I requested that Ndoni be in my chamber and as the eldest I've got more right.

Queen: What is with all the shouting? I could hear you all the way from the main royal chamber.

Lizwi: Ntsika thinks that just because he is older he can overrule my decisions. I ordered for the services of the servant in his chamber but he won't allow it!

Ntsika: I don't think I can overrule your decisions, brother. I know that I can. If you have a problem with that go take it up with the King and the royal council.

Queen: All of this fighting is over who gets to

spend the night with a servant whore? You both will stop that at once. Lizwi go to your chamber and choose yourself another girl if you want or even more than one. There are surely more beautiful maidens you can choose from.

Lizwi: As you say, my Queen. (they left)

Jongile: May I please speak to Ndoni, my prince?

Ntsika: You may speak to her at sunrise.

Ndoniyamamzi has not done anything wrong. I'm the one who ordered her here. Would you rather she had disobeyed an order from me, Jongile?

Jongile: No, your highness. If you gave her an order then I shall not punish her. I'll speak to her at sunrise.

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Ntsika closed the door of his chamber clearly angry. I kept quiet because I did not want to make it worse. I sat on the chair and read

quietly.

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Ntsika: I thought we were reading together. I'm a man of many talents but mind reading is not one of them (he spoke softly)

Me: I did not want to upset you any further, my prince.

Ntsika: I'm angry but that anger is not directed towards you. You'll have to spend the night here tonight because I know Lizwi will go look for you in the servant chambers. (my eyes widened at first)

Me: As you wish, prince.

Ntsika: Calm now, Ndoni. I will not do anything with you. I just don't want to have my brother take advantage. The other servants will however think I've made you my bedroom maid. Forgive me for that.

Me: No need to apologise. You are kind, prince

Ntsika.

Ntsika: I'll sleep on the big seat right there and you can have my space of slumber.

Me: I'll be more comfortable on the seat, my prince. I know a servant is not deemed worthy of a royal bed.

Ntsika: There exists no such thing. You'll sleep there and it's an order. I'm a warrior of war so I've slept on more uncomfortable spaces. What kind of man would I be if I allowed a lady to sleep on a hard chair?

Me: You've already shown me so much kindness.

Ntsika: Go on and get on the bed, I'll take the extra cover. Please continue to read, I want to know what mysteries the next chapter bring.

Me: I'll read for you, my prince. I'm sure the next chapter contains what I predicted (he laughed softly)

Ntsika: I beg to differ, your prediction is not linked to reality.

Me: Let's see what the book says, my prince.  
(he laughed)

.

He took the extra cover and pillow and went to the long chair. He looked away as I took my uniform off until I got into the covers. What a gentleman! I got in the covers and everything was soft. The sheet, mattress, cover just everything. I waited until he got comfortable and started to read. The mystery really contains what I predicted and he laughed so much at it. His teeth and smile look beautiful. I did not stare at him but I'd steal opportunities when he's not looking my direction. He fell asleep and by understanding because he has been out all day. I folded the page we ended at and closed the book. I heard Shiba's voice saying "I told you that not all who are in the palace are cruel. I'm



still here, Ndoni never second guess that, child".  
I felt relieved and finally fell asleep. I hope this  
unusual comfort does not cause me to  
oversleep, Jongile is already upset with me.

#Nosi

[03/01, 15:10] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 4

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#Queen Nande

I'm Queen Nande, wife to King Xhanti of Mhlaba  
Ochumileyo and mother to two handsome  
princes.

I stood as Jongile who is the palace's head  
servant dressed me. She has been with me  
since I entered the doors of this kingdom. She  
is more loyal to me than she is to her own King.

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Jongile: My Queen, may I have permission to speak of the eldest prince?

Me: Speak Jongile, you are my eyes and ears in this palace so I want to hear what you see.

Jongile: I think that Prince Ntsika is getting attached to a young servant maiden.

Me: Why would you think so low of your, Prince?

Jongile: When we went to his chamber last night he defended her and he addresses her by her name. The princes never bother to remember the names of young servants.

Me: Who is this servant?

Jongile: Ndoniyamanzi, she is an orphan girl from one of the villages outside of the mainland.

Me: Is she still pure?

Jongile: I do not have knowledge of that. If she was then I believe that Prince Ntsika must have

deflowered her already. Is that not what they do when they ask a servant to spend the night?

Me: Yes but Ntsika is different from Lizwi. He has never bothered to have servant whores. All he cares about is his warrior training. I find it strange that he ordered this particular servant to spend the night in his private chamber.

Jongile: Would you like me to continue to keep an eye on them?

Me: Oh Jongile I trust you and only you in this palace. Do keep an eye on them. I can't have a young servant cast a love spell on my son. He is the future king and can not be in love with a servant whore.

Jongile: I shall do as you wish, my Queen.

Me: Jongile do have this servant be part of the breakfast servants. I want to look at her properly and see Ntsika's reaction when she serve us.

Jongile: That is if the prince has released her.

Me: He has by this hour, he knows that whores should leave royal chambers before sunrise

Jongile: I have finished getting you dress, your highness. May I go and get the breakfast servants ready?

Me: You may, Jongile.

.

She left and I got concerned. I do not mind my sons sleeping with whores because they are men with needs but I can't have Ntsika fall for a servant girl. She will distract him and he's about to marry royalty soon. I can't let my King know about this because he might bend the rules.

Lizwi is right, Ntsika does have more favour from the King because Ntsika reminds him of his young self. Jongile came back to tell me that the food is ready. She also said that the king is at the table already. I walked the long passage and got to the dinning area. My King

and Princes stood as I approached. My handsome royal men.

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King: I was starting to think you are ill, my Queen.

Me: It takes a lot to make a true Queen ill, my King.

Ntsika: How did you sleep, my Queen?

Me: Well, my prince. Nothing quite as good as silk sheets to ensure a sound slumber. May I call the servants in?

Lizwi: Yes you may, mother.

Me: Jongile you may call in your girls.

Jongile: I shall do so, My Queen.

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Jongile called them in and they bowed. The king gave them permission to rise and serve. Jongile signaled which servant this Ndoni is. I looked at

Ntsika and I saw that his eyes travelled wherever she is. Jongile might be right but I'm sure this servant fed him love medicine. A prince can not willingly fall in love with a servant. They left us as we ate. After finishing the men excused themselves. I called for the Ndoni servant to speak to her alone. She entered and bowed.

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Her: You asked for me, your highness.

Me: What are your dealings with my eldest son?

Her: I do not have dealings with your son. The only dealings I have are those he orders me to do, my queen.

Me: I heard that he might be in love with you.

Her: He is a prince soon to be king. I'm just a servant, my queen and love between us can not exist.

Me: And you keep it that way. If I find out that

the prince is in love with you, I'll accuse you of witchcraft. I'll have you burnt to steak like a witch deserves. Do the sexual favours he asks because you are nothing but a whore to a royal man but do not go any further than that. He is soon going to marry a young pure princess. One of royal blood who will give him full blooded royal heirs. You may rise and go.

Her: As you wish.

Me: As you wish what? Am I a dog?

Her: As you wish, my queen.

Me: Now leave my sight at once.

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She quickly stood up and I noticed that she's crying. I can't feel sorry for a nobody. I'll have her killed if she stands in the way of royalty. I will not be the laughing stock of other kingdoms by having a son who is in love with a servant whore. She does not even look pure. I'm

sure she's been too all the kingdoms around offering her bedroom services. I ordered the dinning area to be cleaned and went to get ready for the high tea I'll have with the wives of the royal council men.

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#Ntsika

Seeing that Ndoni was not in the bed as I rose this morning dampened my mood a bit but I understand why she had to leave before sunrise. I've never felt like this about any maiden before and I know I'm forbidden from loving her but my heart just won't listen. I hate seeing her bow before me and wish she did not have to but it's the way of the kingdom. I walked the royal grounds with Bantu, my personal guard.

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Me: Brother, have you ever been in love?



Bantu: Is a prince even allowed to speak of love when he has not met his potential wife yet?

Me: Answer the question, Bantu.

Bantu: I'm in love with a young maiden who lives in the palace but I know that I won't get her to notice me. (I feared that it might be my Ndoni)

Me: Does this maiden have a name?

Bantu: Her name is Zipho. Beautiful young maiden and I'd like to make her my wife. (I breathed a soft sigh of relief)

Me: Now let's say your family got you another wife who you know you'll never love. What would you do?

Bantu: I would run away with my love but I do not advice you to do that, my prince. You are the future of this kingdom. Your brother would rule it to the ground.

Me: I speak not of myself, Bantu.

Bantu: I know you, my prince. Who are you in

love with?

Me: I forget you know me so well at times. I can't reveal her name, Bantu. She's a young maiden servant at the palace but I assure you that it's not your love.

Bantu: Then marry the royal princess and make her your mistress.

Me: You dare insult the lady my heart has chosen, Bantu?

Bantu: My apologies, my prince but you have to accept your destiny. When it comes to love you unfortunately do not get to choose. You're next in line of the throne and you'll need a real Queen by your side someday. Not one who is Queen just by name but one whose blood is blue.

Me: I sometimes wish I could be ordinary..

Bantu: Just as ordinary people wish to be royalty. You're destined to lead one of the greatest kingdoms in this life time and you can not run from fate.

Me: I hear you, brother.

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Bantu is like a brother to me now because of the battles we have fought alongside in. I trust him more than I do my own blood brother. I hope he gets to marry his maiden. That way at least one of us will marry for love. I joined the king in the palace library and my thoughts immediately went to Ndoni as I saw the thousands of books. I greeted the King once again.

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Father: I thought you said you're going to parole around the kingdom.

Me: My leg is giving me problems, my king.

Father: Go have the royal caretakers look at it. You can't be limping on your wedding.

Me: I'll be fine. Father did you marry mother out of love?

Father: Princes and Princesses don't marry for love, my young prince. Royalty marries to straighten alliances between two kingdoms. I met your mother two days before I married her. We had no time to fall in love but we knew what was expected of us from a young age.

Me: So you lay next to a woman you don't love?

Father: I lay next to a woman I've learned to love. A woman I respect as my chosen Queen and mother to my heirs. I hope you are not having second thoughts, young prince. The family of the princess is already on their way to negotiate dowry for their daughter. Let the heart not fool you into thinking of calling everything off.

Me: I know my duties, my King. I shall marry this chosen princess but do not expect an heir soon. I shall not sleep with a sixteen year old child. I'll wait until she is seventeen and a half.

Father: It shall all be discussed at the dowry negotiations.

Me: Excuse me, my king. I've got plenty to do.

Father: You're excused, young Prince.

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I stood and I walked to the area I hoped Ndoni would be and she is. She was dusting the palace, turn, saw me and immediately fell on her knees. I cringe whenever she does that. I walked to her.

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Me: You may rise, Ndoni (she stood).

Ndoni: I have to work now, my prince. Please excuse me. I made this for your leg. It's a remedy for the pain. I mixed mint and and camphor blocks. I promise it's not dark medicine. It's a natural remedy.

Me: I know you're not a witch, Ndoni. I shall apply this on my leg this evening. Will you be coming to my chambers to finish our book?

Ndoni: I ask for your permission to not come to

your private chamber, your highness.

Me: You do not need my permission. If you wish not to come I respect it. I'll leave the book unread so we can finish it together.

.

She suddenly looked behind me and I saw the fear in her eyes. She left in a hurry. I looked back and saw the Queen walk away. I really hope that Lizwi will leave my Ndoni alone. If he touches her by force he will feel the sharpness of my spear. I went to do my duties and helped father prepare for his meeting. I sat in with Lizwi as we watched our father who is a skilled negotiator seal yet another trading deal. If I'm half the king that he is I'll be honoured. Hours went by and we ate. Afterwards I went to my private chamber. I led the servant go because I do not want Ndoni thinking I've got a bedroom maid. I owe her no explanation but I want her to have good thoughts of me. I applied the remedy

she gave me and I could feel the pain finally ease up. I should have her make more of this for my fellow warriors too because it helps. I asked for my sheets not to be changed and I could immediately pick up her scent as I got under my covers. A combination of lavender and honey, that's how sweet my Ndoni smells. She does not even know that my heart has chosen her but I can't tell her because a potential wife is chosen already and I can't make Ndoni a mistress. I'd never degrade her like that. I finally slept

#Nosi

[03/01, 15:10] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 5

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#Prince Lizwi

If my brother thinks that he can stop me from having the new servant satisfy my desires he is dead wrong. He has now made me more determined to have her because I know he is in love with her. How humiliating that the future king is in love with a servant! Does he not know that he only needs to sleep with her and nothing more? What a fool Ntsika is! All of the thoughts ran through my mind as I made my way to the veranda to meet with the Queen. She summoned me saying it is important so I had to go meet her at once. She stood as she saw me and we embraced.

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Me: I had to leave my duties to come to you, Mother. What could be so important?

Mother: Lizwi I think that we have a virus in the royal home and we need to kill it before it destroys the kingdom's future.

Me: Do not beat around the bush, my Queen.



Tell me what you are talking about.

Mother: It seems your brother is in love with a whore. (I looked at her)

Me: Is that what you called me here for?

Mother: Why are you not shocked, Lizwi? Your reaction is like that of a person who has heard the news before.

Me: I know that the King's favourite is in love with a servant.

Mother: And you did not come to your Queen with the news. This could put the future of Mhlaba Ochumileyo in jeopardy, Lizwi! Or is that what you want?

Me: Do not insult me, Mother. I am a prince in this kingdom so I want to see it prosper from generation to generation. I did not know how accurate my findings are. I see how he looks at her and that is the look of love and not lust.

Mother: I can not let that happen. You must

help me put an end to it.

Me: I think Ntsika is drawn to her because of her innocence. She is a pure servant maiden.

Mother: How would you know of that?

Me: I've seen a lot of virgins, Mother and I can assure you she is one of the purest.

Mother: If her purity is what drawa Ntsika's attention, we need to take that power away from her.

Me: How do we suggest we do that?

Mother: Go arrange for someone to taint her. Ntsika will want nothing to do with her after he finds that she has been deflowered. Do it soon, Lizwi. I want her to be impure by sunrise and make sure that it reaches the ears of your brother but keep our names out of it. I can't have the future king angry at me. It might weaken the control that I have over him and Ntsika is already his own man. He does not

dance to my controls but I still have power over him as his mother. Go at once, my son.

Me: As you wish, my Queen. All that you just asked of me shall be done. Ntsika will not even know that it's us who planned it. May I be excused?

Mother: You may, dear prince.

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I stood and left my mother. Ntsika is such a fool, he is so in love with this servant that he even forgets to hide it. I went to where my personal guard, Maqhekeza is.

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Me: Have you done your rounds around the outside of my personal chamber, Maqhekeza?

Him: I have done as you asked, my prince. There lurks no danger. Only the yard sweepers.

Me: Very well, now go into the royal servant quarters and find Jongile.

Him: Shall I summon her to you, my prince?

Me: Yes, tell her that she will find me inside the royal home. Tell her it's of importance so she must leave all duties she's busy with.

Him: I shall make personally sure she comes. Even if it mean putting her into a sack and dragging her to you. (I laughed)

Me: I knew that I made a good choice when I chose you as my guard.

.

I went into the royal home and I got a glass of brandy. A drink for a man! I waited for Maqhekeza to walk into the royal house with Jongile. I looked outside and saw the beauty of the kingdom. How dare the Queen even think I'd want to destroy this beauty? This is my legacy and if I have my way Ntsika will die in one of the wars to come and I'll be the next in line for the thrown. King Lizwi of Mhlaba Ochumileyo sounds better! Jongile made her way in and

bowed.

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Jongile: Your servant is at your service, my prince.

Me: Jongile the Queen has asked us to do something for her.

Jongile: Name it, my prince and I'll ensure that it is done.

Me: She wants us to have Ndoni deflowered by sunrise.

Jongile: I'll get one of the outside male servants to do it, my prince.

Me: I will do it myself, Jongile. I will take her innocence myself but I need you to ensure that Ntsika does not get to her first.

Jongile: I will make sure she's in your chamber, my prince (I suddenly heard a noise at the door)

Me: Did you hear that? (we both looked at the

door)

Jongile: It must be, Maqhekeza. I left him standing outside of the entrance.

Me: Make sure that Ndoniyamanzi is in my chamber tonight. This is an order from the Queen herself and if you fail again there will be trouble.

Jongile: I will not fail, my prince. Will that be all?

Me: Also do not mention the Queen's involvement in this. Are we clear?

Jongile: As cristal, your highness.

Me: You may go.

.

She stood and she left. I sat and already had fantasies about Ndoni. I will do things with her she never thought possible and she'll keep on willingly coming back like all the other maidens I've had as bedroom maids.

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#Ndoni

I'm doing my duties with a heavy heart this sunrise. I cried myself to sleep last night, my poor pillow had to soak up all the effects of my broken heart. Why would the Queen think that a prince is in love with a servant! How could she insult a future king like that? Prince Ntsika has shown me kindness because he is a kind man not because I make his heart sing. I will have to stay away from him. I do not want to be burnt to death. I might have Shiba and also be good at mixing natural remedies but I'm no witch. I was scrubbing the floor when Velile came to tell me something.

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Veli: Ndoni, you are ordered to the eldest Prince's chamber.

Me: That can not be possible, Veli. You are in charge of the duties there.

Veli: The prince himself gave the order and I did not question it.

Me: I'm not even half way finish with the scrubbing. You know how Jongile gets when we don't finish in time.

Veli: I'll take over the duties here. You go do mine in the Prince's chamber. He requested clean bedding and washing clothes. Go get those and leave for his chamber before you put us both in trouble.

Me: I'll go now, Veli. I'd be heartbroken if you got a punishment because of me.

.

I left in a hurry to get clean bedding for the prince and washing cloths. I hurried to his chamber to avoid getting into trouble. He must love the way I clean. I entered and started with



the bed. I took the dirty bedding off and out it in a grass bucket. I heard the door shut, I looked back and it was Prince Ntsika. I was about to bow when he stopped me.

.

Ntsika: Do not bow, Ndoni. Your knees are going to turn black from all this bowing (he laughed softly)

Me: It's the way of the kingdom, your highness. (I looked down)

Ntsika: Well this part of the kingdom is my private place of rest and here you shall not bow.

Me: If that's what you want, my prince.

Ntsika: It is, my thanks for the pain remedy. The pain has gone since I've applied it. I hope you do not mind, I gave some to Bantu for a head pain.

Me: I do not mind, my prince. I do hope it will help warrior Bantu with his head pain

Ntsika: It already has. You need to make more of them for when we go to war next time.

Me: I can not afford so much mint, camphor blocks and essential oils, your highness.

Ntsika: Write all that you need down. I'll make sure that it reaches your chamber.

Me: My prince, I'd rather go do the work in the field. I do not want to be seen mixing remedies and be accused of making dark medicine.

Ntsika: The field is no place for a maiden. You can mix it here and I won't tell anyone because I know that you're not a witch.

Me: I've collected wood in the field for many years, my prince. No harm has ever come to me.

Ntsika: The fields here are not the same as those of the villages. I will not send you out and risk having you get killed. You can mix here.

Me: I hear you. I have to get on with my duties, my prince.

Ntsika: I'll continue to read our current book while you are busy. I had to gather all my powers to resist the temptations of reading without you.

Me: I'm sure it was difficult (I laughed softly)

Ntsika: At last!! A laugh from the most beautiful maiden in all of Mhlaba Ochumileyo. (did he just call me beautiful?)

Me: I always laugh, my prince. I just miss my family at the orphanage so I have no reason to laugh often now.

Ntsika: Well I'll make sure I try to make you laugh more. I love the sound of your laugh, it soothes me.

Me: May I go on with my work, my prince?

Ntsika: Yes, I'll be here until you finish. I'll read out loud so you don't say I'm reading lies (I laughed and he smiled)

Me: I shall never accuse a Prince of lying. Do

keep yourself occupied with the book because I do not like being looked at.

Ntsika: That's a real shame because you look beautiful (I blushed)

Me: My thanks, my Prince. Now please read so I can work.

Ntsika: As you wish, my lady.

.

I put on his fresh bedding and the scent was lovely. He read and would look up at me and smile. I could not help but smile back. He has the most beautiful dark skin. I went on to clean his chamber until I finished and wanted to excuse myself.

.

Ntsika: I will let you leave, my lady but just not now.

Me: Jongile is...

Ntsika: Jongile is a worker in this house. I will take care of her. Now tell me more about yourself.

Me: There is nothing to tell, my prince.

Ntsika: Okay, then tell me why you love reading so much.

Me: It allows me to escape my reality, my prince. When I read about rich people I feel like I'm one of them and not just a servant.

Ntsika: So you want to be rich?

Me: I was already rich at the orphanage, my prince. I slept with a full stomach and I was loved. People think that being in a palace would be an improvement for an orphan like me but it's not.

Ntsika: How come? (he looked at me intensely and I looked down)

Me: Yes, I eat three times a day here, I have decent clothing and sleep on a bed but I'm not

surrounded by love. It makes me feel even more disadvantaged than I was back at the orphanage.

Ntsika: Your words pierce my heart, Ndoni. I'm sorry that you feel that way. I can get you to go visit home.

Me: I'm a new servant, my prince. I'm not yet entitled to such benefits.

Ntsika: Okay then tell me what I can do to make you feel less alone in this place.

Me: I'm a woman now, my Prince. I can take care of myself.

Ntsika: What did you love doing when you were at the village?

Me: Going into the field and enjoy the quietness and hearing the birds sing.

Ntsika: When is your day off the duties? I know each servant gets a day off a week. When is yours?

Me: In two days, my Prince. Why do you want to know if I may ask?

Ntsika: Because I want to take you into the royal garden. Don't fear, it's far from the royal house and the other royals make no use of it. I go there to read and write. Will you go with me if I promise that no harm will come to you?

Me: I would love to go with you but no one can know, my Prince.

Ntsika: No one will know, that is a promise I make to you. We can start on a new book too.

Me: Prince Ntsika, why are you showing me such kindness. Is it because you want me as a bedroom maid?

Ntsika: If I wanted you as such I would not go through all the trouble, Ndoni. All I'd have to do is to order you to take your clothes off, lie on the bed and have my way with you. I just love talking with you and reading with you. I have not met anyone who has as much interest in

reading like I do, you're the first.

Me: I do not get how people can hate reading  
(he laughed softly)

Ntsika: I do not understand that either, my lady.  
I will make a plan to get us out of here to the  
garden without anyone seeing.

Me: I look forward to it, my Prince. I now really  
must go.

Ntsika: You may go, my lady.

.

I took the basket with the dirty bedding and  
clothes and took it to the laundry servants. I  
made my way back to my other duties for the  
day. Hours passed until it was sunset. We  
cleared and got the things ready for when we  
wake up at sunset. Zipho and I went to our  
chamber. We took our uniform off and got into  
our sleep rags and got into the covers.

.



Zipho: Ndoni, did the Prince deflower you?

Me: I do not want to speak of it, Zipho.

Zipho: I understand, sister. It is not easy to talk about it after it has happened. Do not worry, you will not get pregnant.

Me: Have you ever been in love, Zipho?

Zipho: I'm in love as we speak, Ndoni. With one of the chief warriors, Bantu (she blushed)

Me: Then why don't you tell him?

Zipho: Are you crazy, sister? A maiden does not go to the gentleman. He must approach first (I laughed)

Me: So you do not have fantasies of marrying a prince?

Zipho: No, I prefer warriors. I want the real strong men. You see the maiden who will have Prince Ntsika will have both, a strong warrior and a prince but I know better than to fall in love with him. He does not give attention to servants.

Not even as bedroom maids. You must be something special for him to ask you to spend the night.

Me: How will you marry this warrior Bantu when he does not even know what's in your heart?

Zipho: I do not know, Ndoni. I'll stare at him until he marries me (we both laughed)

Me: That sounds silly.

Zipho: I know but I can not think of anything else. Have you ever been in love?

Me: No, I do not have time for love. Goodnight, Zipho. I'll see you at sunrise.

Zipho: Sleep well, Ndoni.

.

I could not tell Zipho that the Prince did not touch me. She has a big mouth and it might reach the ears of the Queen. If she hears that her son has not touched me then she will be even more convinced of this non-existent love

she thinks Prince Ntsika has for me. I could hear Zipho snore softly already. I decided to quiet my mind and stop thinking. I could feel my body give into the sweet slumber when someone's strong hand covered my mouth. The strength and size of the hand indicates it's a man.

.

Him: If you scream or do anything, I'll break your neck. Do you hear me?

Me: Yes (I tried to scream but he put his hand on my mouth again)

.

The man carried me easily off my bed and I tried to make a sound but Zipho was fast sleep. I decided to stop fighting because this was a strong man and the chances of getting out of his grip are zero. Tears fell down my cheeks and onto the hand over my mouth. I'm crying out of fear but also out of hope that this man

whoever he is is going to pity me and let me go. A sack was put over my head so I don't see but I could breath properly. My tears clearly mean nothing to my capturer as he carried me in his arms. How I wish I was now at the orphanage, safe from the world but the reality is I'm not. I'm now at the mercy of this man. Shiba also not hearing my silent cry. I'm left all alone!

#NOSI

[03/01, 17:40] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 6

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#Ndoni

The area around us was quiet and all I could hear was the footsteps of the man who was carrying me. I'm sure that tonight is my last night alive. I heard a door open and close once

again. The man carrying me spoke.

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Him: Here she is, my Prince.

.

I'm sure that he was addressing Lizwi. He clearly still wants to punish me for going with Ntsika the other night. The man put me on what felt like a soft mattress and I start to move around trying to fight but he held me down tightly.

.

Voice: Calm, my lady. It's only me (he took off the sack)

Me: Prince Ntsika! Why would you do this? (I started to cry)

Ntsika: You may leave now, Bantu. Thank you for everything, brother.

Bantu: I'll see you at sunrise, my Prince. (he left

and Ntsika locked the door)

Ntsika: My apologies for doing this to you, Ndoni. It was not my intention to frighten you.

Me: What shall I do for you, my Prince? (I said softly)

Ntsika: Nothing, my lady. Only spend the night as you have before.

Me: You had me captured from my chambers only to make me come and spend the night in yours? (I said tears still flowing)

Ntsika: Please do not cry, Ndoni. Bantu heard Lizwi and Jongile speak about you and it was not a kind conversation.

Me: What was it about, if you don't mind me asking?

Ntsika: It sounds as if Lizwi wants to deflower you. I sent for Bantu to get you first before Maqhekeza gets to you.

Me: My Prince, I don't mean to sound ungrateful

but why do you care if I'm pure or impure?

Ntsika: I'm just tired of seeing my brother treat servants like nothing.

Me: He is a prince. He has a right to. Does he not?

Ntsika: Unfortunately he does.

.

I sat on his bed crying like someone who is about to be taken to a slaughter house. I am still in shock, the way he had me taken terrified me but he also saved me from forceful bedroom dealings with his brother. This purity is clearly not good.

.

Me: My prince, May I please ask you something.

Ntsika: Ask, my lady.

Me: Could you please deflower me? (he looked shocked)

Ntsika: Pardon?

Me: Make me a woman. This purity thing is clearly a curse and I do not want any of it anymore. Please have me.

Ntsika: Being pure is a beautiful thing, Ndoni. It is not a curse, the curse is the men who think they have right to take a maiden's purity. (he stood in front of me)

Me: Please have me as yours, my prince. I'd rather be deflowered by a man who has shown me kindness than a man who sees me as nothing.

Ntsika: Ndoniyamanzi (he said softly)

Me: You need not romance me, my prince. You need not kiss me as you would a lover but please rid me of this curse.

Ntsika: You do not understand, my lady. I do want to kiss you, romance you and make love to you. I love you, my lady. If I'm going to have the



honour of deflowering you, I'd like for it to not be forced.

Me: You said you love me? How can a prince be in love with a servant?

Ntsika: I do love you, Ndoni. A prince is able to love a servant because his heart has chosen her. It is something I do not have control over.

Me: Then deflower me tonight, please.

Ntsika: I risk having you hate me by surprise if I do that, Ndoni. The reason why you want this is wrong.

Me: Would you rather prince Lizwi does it, your highness? (his jaw clenched)

Ntsika: That would be the day I think my brother would know my real rage.

Me: Then I beg you, my prince. Make me yours tonight.

.

I walked to him and looked at him straight in the eyes, something I've never done before. He bowed his head to reach my level and he kissed me. My first kiss! How soft his lips are and how good he smells. The kiss caused a bit of discomfort because I do not know how to but Ntsika took the lead and showed me. I kissed him and my body felt something that I can't even describe.

.

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#Ntsika:

I stood in a moment of what I can only describe as magical. The pure maiden that my heart has chosen wants me to deflower her. Her lips so tender that "mkhonto" (my manhood) reacted immediately. I lifted her off her feet all while looking at her. She has never looked at me this long before. I could see the mix of fear and desire in her eyes. I put her on my bed and lifted

her dress. Revealing her beautiful breasts. I kissed them and she moaned, my hand travelled to her temple but I felt her body go tense and I knew she was not ready. I desire her but I do not want her first time to be rushed. I'll just have to make sure I continue to keep her away from Lizwi. I stopped and looked at her, tears threatening her eyes.

.

Me: Let the tears fall so you can see me clearly, Ndoni. (she did her tears fell and I wiped them off)

Ndoni: Why did you stop, my prince?

Me: I have stopped because my lady is not ready.

Ndoni: I am, your highness.

Me: You are trying to convince yourself but you can't lie to me nor to yourself.

Ndoni: Am I not desirable, my prince? As I've

said you need not to romance me.

Me: I desire you so much that your touch has made my entire body feel like it's on fire but in a good way. As I've said, I do want to romance you but just not tonight. I'll make sure Lizwi does not come near you.

Ndoni: No, no don't do that (she started to cry)

Me: Why not?

Ndoni: I can't tell you, prince.

Me: Please talk to me, Ndoni. My heart becomes pained when I see you shed tears.

Ndoni: I do not want to be killed, My Prince. The Queen has told me that I must stay away from you. (I felt my blood begin to boil in anger)

Me: The Queen might be my mother but she does not control who I do and don't see. No one is going to kill you, Ndoni. Have faith in your Prince's abilities to protect you.

Ndoni: I have to head back to my chamber.

Me: And have Maqhekeza capture you the second you enter? Sleep here, we will have the same sleeping arrangement as before.

Ndoni: You can have the bed, my prince. Please I insist.

Me: If you insist that much then we shall share the bed. It is big enough for the both of us.

Ndoni: I don't mind the chair, my prince.

Me: Ndoni, you've seen my nakedness and I have also just seen yours. Sharing a bed innocently will not be too much for us.

Ndoni: I love you too (she said in a low whisper)

Me: What was that?

Ndoni: I love you too, my prince. (I smiled)

Ntsika: Would it be too much if I asked you to just call me Ntsika, my lady?

Ndoni: It is too much to ask, your highness (I laughed)

Me: May I kiss you again? (she blushed)

Ndoni: You may, my prince.

.

I leaned forward to kiss her innocently. I planted soft kisses on her neck and I took in her lavender scent. Her breathing became more urgent.

.

Me: You look so beautiful, my Ndoniyamanzi.

Ndoni: No person has told me that, my prince. Thank you.

Me: Let us get under the covers because I know you rise early.

Ndoni: My Prince, what is this between us?

Me: We will figure it all out when I take you to the garden. Both of us will be more relaxed and we can have a good conversation about it.

Ndoni: I know that you are to wed a princess

soon. I know that we can't be together, my prince.

Me: All of which we will talk about when we are outside of these walls. Would you like for us to continue with the book?

Ndoni: Yes but you have to read. (I laughed)

Me: I read earlier on, it's your turn.

Ndoni: You offered to read to me, my prince. I did not ask you to.

Me: Unfair, my lady. (we both laughed)

Ndoni: I'll read all day on our outing. I promise.

Me: Then I shall read then. Let me go get the book.

.

I stood and went to look for the book. We got under the covers and I started to read. Her eyes never leaving my face. I'd occasionally look up to smile at her and she would blush. If only she

knew how much I desire her but I'll wait for her to give herself to me for the right reasons. Her nakedness is looked so beautiful and felt so warm earlier on. She fell asleep and I stopped reading. I looked at her while in a peaceful slumber. She looks so beautiful.

.

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#Lizwi:

Anger does not begin to describe what I'm feeling right now. I called for Jongile and Maqhekeza. They need to explain why my pure maiden was not in my chambers. They entered and bowed.

.

Me: You two better explain yourselves or I'll have you both eat broken glass (I shouted)

Jongile: I do not know where Ndoni is, my prince.



Me: Are you hiding the whore from me, Jongile?  
(I lifted her up by her arm forcefully)

Jongile: I would never do anything that will anger you, my prince. Ndoni exchanged duties with another servant but no one knew where she was doing her duties.

Me: Should I tell the Queen that you are failing at your duty?

Jongile: No, your highness.

Me: Then how do you not know where your servants are?

Jongile: My apologise, your highness (I slapped her)

Me: The Queen will hear of your carelessness. Leave my chamber, servant.

Jongile: Yes, my prince (she held her cheek and left)

Me: What kind of guard are you, Maqhekeza? Did I not say you have to be on the look out for

Ntsika?

Him: She is not with the Prince. I would have seen her enter, my prince.

Me: You're a failure! You can't do a stupid task. Go now before I cut your face.

Him: My apologies, my prince.

.

He stood, I threw the glass at him and it broke on his back. I'm surrounded by fools! I clearly have to do this myself next time. If Maqhekeza did not see her go to Ntsika then where could she be? I was in my thoughts when the Queen walked in.

.

Mother: Tell me it is done.

Me: It is done, my Queen. (she laughed)

Mother: I'm proud of you, my son. I knew this would not be a difficult task for you.

Me: I do what I have to, to please, my Queen.

Mother: I see the broken glass at the entrance.  
The whore must have put up a fight.

Me: Yes but she failed.

Mother: I'll have her summoned. I want to see  
the brokenness in her eyes. (I panicked)

Me: You won't find her in her chamber, mother.  
Jongile said she ran out into the open field after  
leaving here.

Mother: Good I hope the witch gets eaten up by  
wild animals so nothing is left of her.

Me: She might be back, Mother.

Mother: Then make sure that the news of her  
disgrace reaches Ntsika somehow. I want him  
to look at her with pure disgust at sunrise. He  
will finally see what a piece of rotten walking  
meat she is.

Me: I'll make sure it reaches my brother. Now  
don't worry about this. I'll deal with it from now.

Go and be the elegant, graceful Queen that you always are and don't worry about matters I have under control.

Mother: You warm my heart, my prince. You are indeed a fruit from my womb. I love you.

Me: And I you, Mother. Now go to the main chamber and rest.

Mother: I'll rest soundly now that I know that whore has no power over the future king. You know just how to make a Queen smile. Sweet slumber, I'll call Jongile to sweep the broken glass.

Me: My thanks, my Queen.

.

I watched as the Queen walked out in happiness. I could not tell her the truth or she would call me a failure. I failed at bringing a weak maiden to my chambers. Jongile arrived and swept the floor. I told her to not tell the

Queen about the true situation, in fact I threatened her to keep her mouth shut or I'll have her tongue cut out. Where could this servant have gone to? Only witches are out at this our! Perhaps she has found herself a man amongst the male servants and it spending the night. I'm fuming with anger and even punched the wall until my fist got swollen. I hate not getting my way and this maiden is going to pay dearly for making me angry. I will have her even if she's impure whether she likes it or not. I drank the entire bottle of brandy and it make me fall asleep.

#Nosi

[03/01, 17:40] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 7

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#Ndoni

The day that I'll go with Prince Ntsika to garden has arrived. I have the day to do as I want. If the orphanage was near I'd go visit but it's not.

Jongile now looks at me with eyes of pure hate. I'm grateful to the Prince for saving me but how long will that last. I am in love with a future king. I must be the most stupid servant in all the African kingdoms. I was with Zipho.

.

Zipho: Where are you going to spend your day off duty?

Me: I will go to the market and just admire the crafts.

Zipho: Go with the other servant girls who are off duty. They will show you what to really do with your day off.

Me: I'd rather go alone. I see my fellow servants everyday.

Zipho: I hear you. Ndoni the other maidens want to know what you do so good?

Me: I do not understand.

Zipho: Prince Ntsika called for you again. Teach us what you do different in the covers. (I laughs)

Me: I am just myself, Zipho.

Zipho: You are lucky. The other servants wait everyday at sunset thinking that they will be called by the future king.

Me: Maybe he shall call for them once he grows tired of my presence.

Zipho: Wear that dress with the flowers I gave you. It suits you beautifully. You might even find a warrior who will carry you in his strong arms at the market (we both laughed)

Me: You and warriors! I'm sure you have fantasies about being carried by warriors.

Zipho: Only by one warrior.

Jongil: Ndoni, prince Lizwi wants to see you at once.

Zipho: But senior, have you not told the prince that Ndoni is off duty today. I will go and listen to what he needs.

Jongile: You shall do no such thing, big mouth. Have you ever seen a servant deny a prince what he wants? I have no choice but to agree.

Me: I'll go, senior.

Jongile: You will find them on the east wing of the palace close to the cow kraal.

Zipho: No, senior that is far and the place is muddy. Ndoni is dressed in her most decent clothes to go to the market to enjoy her day off duty. (she slapped Zipho)

Me: Zipho keep quiet, sister. I'll go.

Zipho: All the new maids have had their day off duty and were not disturbed, Ndoni. Why shall you not enjoy that? (she got slapped again)



Jongile: You watch your big mouth. Ndoni do not keep the prince waiting.

Me: I'll leave now, senior. (she left)

Zipho: Bloody evil witch. How can they not allow you to go out when you are in full right?

Me: Calm now, Zipho. I'll go and listen.

.

I embraced her and I left. I made my way to the area Jongile mentioned. She was right, it is truly muddy and I've got on a light coloured dress. I saw prince Lizwi and I had to bow in the mud.

.

Me: You called, my prince.

Lizwi: Rise, servant. (I stood)

Me: Thank you, my prince.

Lizwi: You look decent today. If I did not know any better I'd say you are the daughter of a rich man.

Me: These are old rags, my prince.

Lizwi: Where were you the other night, servant?

Me: I do not know which night you speak of, my Prince.

Lizwi: Maqhekeza, tell her what will happen if she chooses to play the dumb fool.

Maqhekeza: I hit the people who lie to the prince. It is in your best interest that you tell the Prince the truth.

Lizwi: Now servant, I'm ask you again. Where were you?!

Me: I was in my chamber sleeping, my Prince.

.

I felt Maqhekeza hit me hard on my back. So heard that the blow sounded like the beat of a loud African drum.

.

Lizwi: Do you like what my friend is doing,

servant?

Me: No, my prince. I do not like it.

Lizwi: Then speak the truth, whore. Which male servant did you go offer yourself to?

Me: I do not know what you are talking about, your highness.

Lizwi: Maqhekeza!

.

Maqhekeza continued to hit my body until my tears could no longer come out. They only hit my front and back most but avoided my face and legs. I knelt down taking on the punishment. I did not cry and I stopped begging. My heart felt heavy with pain. All I wanted was to enjoy my day off duty today. He finally ordered his guard to stop.

.

Lizwi: Next time I call you into my chamber you will come running. Is that understood, servant?

(I kept quiet)

Maqhekeza: Dare you not answer your prince? (I kept quiet)

Lizwi: A feisty whore is even better. You have just made me want you more. (I looked at him)

Maqhekeza: Royalty is not be looked at by a servant (he slapped me)

Lizwi: You may leave, whore. I'll come for you when I want.

.

I stood up from the cow dung filled mud. I was in pain and not to mention filthy. I walked slowly and I was angry at the world.

.

Me: You promised to protect me, Shiba. (tears rolled from my cheek)

.

She did not reply and I felt more pained. The

other kingdom servants stared at me as I walked pass. Some even laughing at my dirtiness. Zipho saw me approach and ran to me.

.

Zipho: Ndoni what happened?

Me: Please take me to our chamber, Zipho.

Zipho: What did that cruel prince do to you?  
Come I'll take you (she held me)

Me: Ouch! Do not touch me please. Just walk with me.

Zipho: They beat you? (she started to cry)

.

We reached our chamber and Zipho went to get warm water and a cloth. I took off the dress and Zipho walked in and cried.

.

Zipho: Oh Zipho! What have those bastards do

to you?

Me: It looks bad but it is not.

Zipho: You have red stripes all over your upper body. Do not tell me it is nothing. You look like a Zebra. (I laughed softly)

Me: Give me the water so you could go back to your work.

Zipho: Nonsense! Come I'll sooth your bruises. Luckily non of them are bleeding. You will have to delay your visit to the market until you are off duty once again.

Me: I will go to the market, Zipho. I have important matters to deal with.

Zipho: But Ndo...

Me: No buts Zipho (I cut her short)

.

She helped me clean up and applied my pain remedy on the "zebra" bruises. I wore another

dress, it is not as beautiful as the first but it will do. I thanked her and told her to go to work. Bantu knocked and I stood slowly.

.

Bantu: Ndoni the prince is at the garden already. I have come for you dear maiden.

Me: I am ready, warrior.

Bantu: What have they done to you?

Me: Pardon, warrior?

Bantu: Zipho told me that the younger prince wanted to see you and now you walk like an injured woman.

Me: I'd rather not speak about it, warrior. I'd appreciate it if this never reaches the ears of Prince Ntsika. Shall we go now, warrior?

Bantu: Ntsika nows injured people when he sees them. If you want to hide the fact that his brother hurt you then you better walk properly. Let us go, young maiden.

.

I walked to the area where the horse car was. Bantu helped me in and he ordered the horses to ride. I sat still in much pain. I'll have to act normal when I meet the prince. We arrived at the garden and Bantu helped me in. It looked so beautiful. Flowers everywhere, of different kind. I saw the Prince looking handsome in royal attire. He stood and picked a flower. I walked to him as normal as I can. Each step came with a sharp sting. I faked a smile while walking to him. Hoping that he will not notice that my body is weak due to the wounds they suffer from.

.

.

#Ntsika

My Ndoni walked to me and she looked different. All the work she does in the palace must now be too much for her body. I'll need to get her more days off. I met her half way and



kissed her soft cheek.

.

Me: My lady.

Ndoni: Greetings, my prince. My apologies for not bowing.

Me: I actually liked that you did not bow. Come I have prepared food for you.

Ndoni: I am not hungry, my prince.

Me: Then just come and sit with me.

Ndoni: The garden is so beautiful, my prince. So many flowers.

Me: Not a single of these flowers are as beautiful as you.

Ndoni: My thanks, my prince.

Me: Come sit and at least have ginger.

Ndoni: Is this not food only meant for royalty my prince?

Me: Well you will be eating with me so it is okay.

Ndoni: Can I please have some for warrior Bantu? It will be rude to have all this food when he is not. (I smiled)

Me: Do as you wish, my lady.

.

I watched as she slowly got food for Bantu. No maiden I've met has ever cared about his existence and I'm not jealous because I know it is her kind heart that makes her do this, not feelings for Bantu. She tried to rise but fell back and the food in her hand fell to ground. I caught her just in time.

.

Me: My lady, what is the matter?

Bantu: Let's head back to the mainland, my prince.

Ndoni: I'm fine, my prince. I'm sorry for spilling your food.

Me: I do not care for food, Ndoni. Are you not well? (she looked at Bantu)

Ndoni: I'm well, your highness. I'll get more food.

Bantu: Do not rise, my lady. Just call me to come get it

.

She sat back on the blanket. I watched as she put food on a cloth for Bantu once again. He came to get it and left us.

.

Me: Ndoni what is the matter?

Ndoni: Nothing, my prince. It is so hot in here.

Me: I do not feel that heat (she was sweating)

Ndoni: It must be me then. (I put my hand on her forehead)

Me: Ndoni, you are hot.

Ndoni: I just need to rise and walk around.

.

She rose and walked about. Then without warning my lady fell to the ground. I was too far from her to catch her. I ran to her side, she felt hot but her body was shivering.

.

Me: Bantu! (I shouted out)

Bantu: What is the matter?

Me: Help me get her back to the mainland.

Bantu: I'll take her my prince. You can't be seen carrying a servant in public.

Me: What happened, Bantu? If you dare lie to me there will be hell to pay!!

Bantu: She was summoned by the younger prince. She came back weak, my prince.

Me: Look away! (I was fuming)

.

He turned his back at us and I lifted her dress

up. She had red and blue stripes all over her body. What did that monster do to her? I made her proper again.

.

Me: Take her to the mainland at once. I'll deal with my brother.

Bantu: I'll make sure she gets help, my prince.

.

He picked up her petite body still shaking. I had to wait before following. After some time I rode on my horse to the mainland. My brother will know just how much I hate him right now' I've got so much anger and pain in me that I'm capable of anything, even killing! I got to the palace and did not even tie my horse. I ran inside and went straight to Lizwi's chamber. It was empty and I shouted in anger. I searched the entire palace and had the grounds searched but he is not here. I sat down and cried when I thought about how her body looks. How could

he? I sat and waited but he did not arrive. I went to Ndoni's chamber and found her lying on her side with just a cover over her body.

.

Zipho: I've managed to lower her fever, my prince.

Me: My thanks. Ndoni, can you hear me? (she kept quiet and looked at me)

Zipho: She has bruises on all sides, my prince. She can't find the perfect position to lie on because all are sore. Do not be offended if she does not respond to you. She's in a lot of pain.

Me: I love you, Ndoniyamanzi (I whispered in her ear and her tears came but she still did not speak)

Bantu: We will return at sunrise, Zipho.

Zipho: I'll look after her warrior.

Me: I'll see you before sunrise. I'll make him pay for this, my lady.

.

I stood and Bantu and I left her chamber. My heart is bleeding. She could not even respond to me. I've failed her right after I promised to protect her. I looked for Lizwi once again, not even his guard had been seen. I went to my chambers and I can't even sleep. How will I sleep when my love is in pain?

#Nosi

[03/01, 17:40] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 8

#Ntsika

I tossed and turned all night long. It took great strength to resist the urge of going to Ndoni's chamber. I got ready and I dressed in my royal attire because I have royal business to attend to. I've calmed since last night but I will still make

my brother and his guard feel the same pain they let my lady feel. There was a knock on the door.

.

Me: Enter! (I shouted and Bantu walked in)

Bantu: How did you sleep, my prince? (he was about to bow)

Me: Do not bother bowing, my brother. I did not sleep well, warrior.

Bantu: Then I come with good news, fellow warrior. I've spent all night trying to find the location of your brother and his guard. I managed to find Maqhekeza, brother.

Me: And what about Lizwi?

Bantu: I have failed in the task of finding the prince, your highness. My apologies.

Me: Maqhekeza will lead us to Lizwi, brother. You have done well and I give my thanks to you (we shook hands)



Bantu: Shall I teach him a lesson, my prince?

Me: Get him to where they hurt my lady. I will take care of him.

Bantu: You are wearing one of your royal attires, my prince. I do suggest you rid yourself of them.

Me: Go and get Maqhekeza to where I requested. I have many royal attires. The dirt of one is not the end of the world.

Bantu: I'll go at once.

.

He got out and I knew I would not have time to change. I wanted to get the location of where the coward is hiding. Bantu sent for a servant to tell me that they have Maqhekeza where I want him. I left at once and in a hurry. I found him on his knees in the mud. The place where they hurt my Ndoni. I walked to stand next to Bantu.

.

Maqhekeza: Your highness.

Me: Rise, Maqhekeza.

Him: My thanks, my prince. You called for me.  
What may I do for you?

Me: Fight me.

Him: Pardon.

Me: Fight me! I want to see if you are capable of hitting a warrior.

Him: I'd rather not, my prince. These are royal grounds. The king will have me killed if it reaches his ears.

Me: Use your imagination, it's only the three of us here and I know warrior Bantu is not a man who gossips. Now imagine you are in the field with a commoner.

Him: My prince, I don't...

Me: It's an order! (I shouted)

Bantu: You'll do as the prince orders if you know what it best for you. Now stand and fight the

warrior. Show us that you are not just a palace guard who hits on helpless maidens. Show us that you are a man. Stand and fight as your prince ordered.

Me: Hold this for me, brother. You see Maqhekeza I'm not like my brother. I do not have Bantu do my dirty work. I do it all myself and you are about to find out just what these hands are capable of.

.

I gave Bantu the heavy royal clothes I wore on top and stood with a bare chest. Maqhekeza threw the first punch but into mid air. I punched him and he immediately fell down and bled from the nose. I gave him a chance to stand and I hit him again. The anger I had yesterday came back. I could suddenly see how his heavy hands hit the fragile body of the woman that I love. I beat him up and I did not want to stop. Even the mud was now red with his blood. He

cried out for me to stop but I could not because he did not listen to Ndoni's cries as she begged him to stop. I continued and I knew that I'm able to kill him with my bare hands.

.

Him: My Prince, please stop (he cried)

Me: Did you stop when the young maiden begged of you to stop hitting her? (I put my hand around his neck)

Him: No but I was only taking orders from the prince, your highness.

Me: Where is Lizwi? (I shouted and my grip around his neck tightened)

Him: I do not have knowledge of his whereabouts, my prince (I put his face in the mud)

Bantu: Tell the prince the truth if you want to be alive when the sun sets, guard. Right now he is an angry warrior not your prince and you do not

want to anger him further (he warned Maqhekeza and I lifted his face so he could speak)

Me: Where is Lizwi?

Him: He is hiding in the guest quarters, my prince. Not the new ones but the old ones.

Me: If you dare lie to me I will find you and I will kill you.

Him: I speak only the truth, my prince. I've learnt my lesson, please let me live (he cried like a little boy)

Bantu: If you dare lay a hand on a maiden again, I'll cut you. I'm a warrior who enjoys using his irons. (he punched Maqhekeza)

Me: Let's leave this savage, brother. You may go to your duties, Bantu. I will deal with the young prince. Leave this savage here. He shall see how he gets help.

Bantu: As you wish, my prince. I'll go put your

attire in the royal house.

Me: My thanks.

.

Bantu and I parted ways leaving Maqhekeza weeping like a new widow. He even wet his pant. How pathetic! I made my way to the guest quarters. I found a locked one and new it is the one he's in because we do not make use of the old ones. I pushed the door with my body until it broke open. He was indeed here and in bed with two maidens. How typical!

.

Me: Get dressed and leave us, my ladies.

Them: As you wish, my prince (they said simultaneously)

Lizwi: How dare you disturb a private moment!  
(he stood and got dressed)

Me: I can do what ever the hell I want. Get dressed I want you in the royal house.

Lizwi: You are not my King, Ntsika (I punched him and the maidens ran out)

Me: I do not need to be your King to do what I'm about to. Now get dressed you coward! (I shouted)

Lizwi: How rich of you to call me a coward! You are willing to kill your own brother for a whore! .

.

My anger toward him rose even higher than that I had with his guard. He was half dressed and I took him by the back of the neck. I led him to the royal house until we got into the library.

.

Lizwi: You just humiliated a prince in front of servants!!

Me: What will you do about it? Run to the Queen as you usually do. No wonder you are weak. You hide behind the skirt of a woman!

Lizwi: Your whore did not find me weak when I

had her beaten. Maybe I should have had her dressed ripped and had a savage have her way with her!!

.

Those last words angered me and before I knew it I was on top of him and throwing punches at him. He was bleeding from the mouth and I did let him rise on his feet. He managed to place a firm punch on my face but I attacked him in the pit of his stomach. He bowed holding his stomach. I wanted to do more but the Queen walked in and made herself a cover for him. She knew I'd never lay a finger on her. No amount of anger will allow me to raise my hand on someone of the fairer sex.

.

Mother: Are you out of your mind, Ntsika? You know that you hold the strength of a trained warrior. How dare you lay a hand on your brother?



Lizwi: I had his whore beaten yesterday. He is angry because the whore he is in love with is injured.

Me: You shall not refer to her like that!

Mother: What shall he call her? Should he call her princess? She's a whore and the sooner you realise it the better.

Father: What is going on in here? (he walked in)

Lizwi: Ask your eldest.

Father: Young prince, what seems to be the matter? I could hear you shout from far. Is this the way a royal family is suppose to behave?

Me: My apologies for disrespecting the kingdom, my King.

Father: What is the matter?

Mother: He is defending a whore! (I cringed when they call my Ndoni that)

Me: My King, Lizwi hit a maiden servant and she

was not found guilty of any crime. Is it now the way of the kingdom to hit helpless maidens who have done nothing wrong?

Father: You dared to have a maiden punished for nothing? (he looked at Lizwi)

Lizwi: She was not respecting my orders, my king. Is it not wrong of a servant to go against the orders of her prince?

Me: She went against them because I gave her new ones, my King. She knew as eldest and next in line to the throne I hold power to overrule his decisions. Should she then have went against the orders of her future king?

Father: Did Lizwi know that you had given her other orders?

Me: He knew very well father.

Father: Then how dare you hit a young servant maiden for doing as the rules of the kingdom allows, Lizwi? Have you ever seen me hit my

Queen?

Lizwi: No, my King.

Father: Then where did you learn such cruel ways, my prince?

Lizwi: I knew you'd take his side, Father. When will you give me the favour you give Ntsika?

Father: I stopped giving you the same favour when I found that you are a selfish human. Grow up and be a man I'll treat you as such. Ntsika have a royal caretaker tend to the maiden we have wronged.

Mother: Since when do royal caretakers tend to servants, my king?

Father: Since your son wronged her. He knows he had no right to treat her so badly without reason. I will not have young maidens beaten for nothing in my kingdom. If he wants to change the rules he is more than welcome to go and build his own kingdom. Now leave I want to

Speak to Ntsika alone.

Lizwi: You have a weak future king. If you do not open your eyes to that fact you will have no kingdom to boast about in future (he left)

Mother: The princess is coming at sunset. Get ready, Ntsika.

Me: I will but if something happens to Ndoni I'll know it's you mother.

Mother: She even turned you against your own mother.

Father: I gave an order, my Queen.

Mother: I'm leaving, my King. Someone has to care for the wounds your son gave Lizwi.

.

She looked at me once and left. I love my mother but I'm not blind to her unkindness. I wish I was born to a kind Queen.

.

Father: Are you in love with the maiden, young prince?

Me: No, father.

Father: Do not lie to me. I'm standing before you as your father and not the king. Only a man in love defends the honour of a maiden as you have.

Me: I am in love with her, father. I know it's forbidden but I have no control over it.

Father: It gets worse when you try to control it. Being in love is normal but you need to remember that you have a duty to the kingdom.

Me: I know, Father. You sound like a man who has experience. Were you once in the same situation as me?

Father: I can not deny nor agree, young prince. I have to go. Go now and get a royal caretaker for the maiden.

Me: My thanks, my King.

.

I left him and I went to choose the best for my Ndoni. I got a caretaker and I walked with her to the servant quarters.

.

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#Ndoni

I do not know what I would do if Zipho was not here. I'm still in much pain but she soothes my wounds well. She would do her royal duties and come back to see me. I was angry. Angry at those who did this, at Shiba, at Mama for sending me here and at the world at large. Zipho walked in with a basin to wash my body. I sat up so she could go on

.

Me: I feel like royalty right now. (we both laughed)

Zipho: How are you feeling?

Me: Better than yesterday. All thanks to you.  
Thank you, Zipho.

Zipho: You're my sister, Ndoni and I know you'd do the same for me. I think the prince is in love with you.

Me: Don't be silly.

Zipho: I know I've got a big mouth, Ndoni but trust me I will keep this to myself. How I wish I could turn you into a princess. That way you can be with the man you love and don't deny it. I see the love you two share in both your eyes. Word has it Maqhekeza was found beaten. I know it is the work of the eldest Prince.

Me: I do not want the prince to be violent but I also do not feel for that man. He has hurt me, Zipho.

Zipho: I wish they killed him.

Me: No, that's not a good wish sister. (the was a knock and Jongile entered)

Jongile: Ndoni, you've rested enough. Get up and go do your duties.

Zipho: Are you blind, senior? How will she do duties when she can barely walk?

Jongile: Shut up! Ndoni, get up, I will not have you put me in trouble again.

Zipho: No, sit Ndoni. You will not go and work only to collapse to death

Jongile: Have the royals made you the new senior?

Zipho: No, senior but if you carry of like this they might.

.

The two of them went on and on and Jongile wanted to slap Zipho but Zipho held her hand and pushed her. I wish I had that much courage. Another knock was at the door. I covered my naked body and told them to enter. It's the prince with a royal caretaker. Zipho and Jongile



bowed and I slowly got of the bed to try and do the same but he stopped me.

.

Ntsika: Do not injure yourself more, Ndoni. Not getting a bow will not be the end of me. You my rise, my ladies. (they stood)

Zipho: My Prince, my heart is heavy. May I have permission to speak?

Ntsika: Speak, young maiden.

Zipho: It saddens me that Ndoni is expected to get up and do duties at such a state.

Jongile: We have lots of work but few servants, my prince.

Ntsika: Is being ill a crime in this kingdom, Jongile?

Jongile: No it is not, your highness.

Ntsika: Then you shall never bother Ndoni with duties until she feels fit enough to do so. Please

excuse yourself.

Jongile: As you wish, my prince (she left)

Zipho: May I also go, my prince.

Ntsika: Yes, young maiden. You may.

Zipho: I'll come again, Ndoni.

Me: Thank you, Zipho. (she left)

Ntsika: My lady, I came with a caretaker to look at your wounds.

Me: It's a royal caretaker, my prince. I can not accept her care, I'm sorry.

Ntsika: My lady, please tell the young maiden who ordered you here.

Her: The king himself. (she smiled)

Ntsika: This is his way of giving his apologies. Your were wronged Ndoni so please accept the King's apologies by allowing her to look at your wounds and give you medicine.

Me: Do send my thanks to the king, your

highness. I do not feel worthy.

Ntsika: You are worthy, my lady. I'll leave now so you can get help.

Me: My thanks (he nodded and closed the door behind him)

.

The caretaker took out her medicine. She looked at my wounds and was impressed at how well Zipho took care of them. She applied medicine and it did not smell bad. She also gave me medicine to drink and gave me more for later. She left and I fell asleep. I can't remember when last I slept while the sun is still high in the sky. Sunset came and Ndoni came to give me food. She helped me clean my mouth before bed and left again. It became dark out and Zipho was not back yet and I worried. There was a knock on the door and I gave permission to enter. It was the prince once again. He came in and locked.

.

Me: My prince, could you please ask warrior Bantu to look for Zipho. She has not returned.  
(he smiled)

Ntsika: She's safe. I asked her to spend the night in another chamber.

Me: Why would you do that?.

Ntsika: Because I'm hoping that you'll allow me to sleep over. (I laughed)

Me: My bed is not big. There will be no space for you.

Ntsika: I'll carry that one, put it closer to yours do it can be like one. (I laughed)

Me: A prince does not lie in servant chambers.

Ntsika: Like I've said before, I've slept in worse places. So do I have permission to spend the night?

Me: Yes, you do. I can't promise you a good

night slumber though. (he smiles)

Ntsika: You will be by my side, my lady. I'll have the sweetest slumber.

.

He stood and took his clothing off. Revealing is beautiful warrior body. He carried Zipho's bed and put it against mine and got on it.

.

Ntsika: I came with the book. I'll read for us.

Me: Jongile will be upset with us if we finish the oil in the lamp quickly, my prince. Maybe we need to sleep.

Ntsika: I'll take care of it, Ndoni. Do not worry. Can we just for tonight forget what we are in the world and just be two humans?

Me: If you want, my prince.

Ntsika: Ndoni please say my name.

Me: Prince Ntsika (he smiled)

Ntsika: Now say it without the title.

Me: I can not, my prince.

Ntsika: Just this once, please. It will make me feel closer to you.

Me: Ntsi... my prince it is difficult. (he kissed my lips)

Ntsika: I beg you to try, Ndoniyamanzi.

Me: Uhm Ntsika (he smiled and I looked down.

Ntsika: Please repeat it again while looking and me. (I looked into his eyes)

Me: Ntsika (I said softly not breaking the eye contact)

Ntsika: Wow, few have called me by name but non of them made it sound so sweet yet strong at the same time.

.

He kissed me and gently so. He brushed my right hip and I could feel his manhood grow. It

frightened me so I broke the kiss. I do not know why my body feels like it does when he kisses me. He opened our book and read it. After a while I remembered that Zipho was suppose to help me apply the remedy on my wounds. I'll have to ask him and hope he does not take offense.

.

Me: My prince, may I bother you with something?

Ntsika: Bother away, Ndoni. What is it?

Me: Zipho was suppose to apply this on my body. The caretaker gave it to me but now Zipho is not here.

Ntsika: Give it here, I'll do it.

Me: My thanks.

.

I slowly took the cover off and exposed my naked upper body. He started with the back and gently applied it. Then he knelt in front of me.

He applied on the front area. He looked at me and kissed me. My kissing has improved now so I kissed back. He kissed my breasts and feeling the warmness of his lips on them made me react.

.

Me: Ntsika (I said his name while moaning)

Ntsika: Yes, my lady (he looked at me)

Me: What are you doing to my body, my prince.

Ntsika: Showing you how much I love it. You're beautiful, Ndoni.

Me: My thanks, my prince.

Ntsika: I should kiss your tender breasts more. You said my name without my title without hesitation (I blushed and he laughed softly)

Me: My apologies.

Ntsika: Let me finish my duty of applying the remedy on your body.



.

He continued gently and he kissed me again. He went to my neck and kissed there. I broke the kiss and he held me in his arms but not painfully. I felt so safe in my warrior's arm, so strong but yet so gentle. His naked chest against mine and I wished that sunrise would not come quickly.

#Nosi

[03/01, 17:40] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 9

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#Ndoni

I'm back to my duties already. The "zebra" stripes as Zipho refers to them are no longer painful and they are now also starting to fade. The young princess promised to Prince Ntsika

has arrived at the kingdom. The Queen is at her most happiest. I have not seen my prince since her arrival and it pains me but I understand that it is the way it should be. Prince Ntsika summoned me to his chamber and I went. I walked in and bowed.

.

Me: You called for me, your highness?

Ntsika: Ndoni, I beg of you to stop bowing when you meet me in my private chamber.

Me: As you wish, my prince (I stood up)

Ntsika: Have a seat, my lady.

Me: My thanks. (we both sat down)

Ntsika: My lady, I've called you here because I miss you.

Me: I know that your princess is in the palace. I suggest that you tell your heart to stop longing for me, my prince.

Ntsika: Are you able to tell your heart to stop longing for me, my lady?

Me: I am failing to, my prince. (tears fell and I wiped them off immediately)

Ntsika: My apologies for making your heart heavy, Ndoniyamanzi. If I were only an ordinary man, I would have married you long ago. I love you with my heart and soul, my lady and it's a love I could never give for another maiden. (he clenched his jaw)

Me: I understand your duty to the kingdom as future king. When are your celebrations if you do not mind me asking, my prince?

Ntsika: It is in ten days. I will be seeing my bride for the first time today. My heart does not want to do this but my head knows that I must.

Me: Do what your head wants because it is what is expected of you. May I have one request before you wed your princess?

Ntsika: Anything, my lady.

Me: Have me as yours at sunset.

Ntsika: That is a big ask, Ndoniyamanzi. Are you sure you are ready?

Me: You will not have time for me once you are married. Prince Lizwi will see the opportunity and if he has me I do not want it to be my first time. You are the man who my heart has chosen and I want you to deflower me. (he knelt before me)

Ntsika: Are you sure of this, Ndoni? Will that not make our love for each other even more impossible to let go of?

Me: I would rather risk that happening than have your brother have the honour of having me first. I beg you to say yes, my prince please. (he kissed my cheeks)

Ntsika: I do not feel worthy of this honour but I will do it.

Me: At sunset?

Ntsika: My wedding night is only in ten days, Ndoni. Why the rush, my lady? Has Lizwi started to cause you trouble once again?

Me: No he has not. I'm ready, my prince. So why delay it?

Ntsika: I'll meet you here at sunset then but if you have a change of heart do not fear informing me.

Me: I'll be sure to be in your chamber at sunset. I have duties to attend to, my prince and I know another servant has already cleaned your chamber. May I be excused?

Ntsika: You my go, my Ndoni (I blushed and he kissed me)

.

I stood and he embraced me. I looked into his eyes and smiled. I'm a fool for love, I thought. I met with Zipho on my way back to my duties.

She was carrying a lot of things and I did not like it.

.

Me: Let me help you carry the load, Zipho.

Zipho: My thanks, Ndoni. (I took a few items)

Me: Where are you going with so many sheets?

Zipho: It is to change the sheets of the royal guests. The young princess has come with many people.

Me: How does she look?

Zipho: She is not as beautiful as you, sister. The prince will be very disappointed.

Me: Looks are not what she needs to have him as hers. She is royalty, her blood is blue and that is enough.

Zipho: I know but I know that your heart must be heavy.

Me: I will be fine.

.

We walked in the passage and we heard voices in the King's chamber. Zipho thought it is best to eavesdrop and I tries to stop her but failed. I joined her outside the entrance shaking in fear of being caught. The voices are not loud but they are enough to hear when close.

.

King: How is my princess?

Voice: Do not call my daughter that, Xhanti.

Zipho: It's Jongile's voice (she whispered)

Me: That is not possible (our eyes widened)

Zipho: Shhh (we continued to listen)

King: Jongi, she is the only maiden child that I have.

Jongile: She is tainted by my blood, Xhanti. If she was seen as a princess then she'd be in this house enjoying the benefits of being a royak

child. I do not want to hear you speak of my child again. She knows her father to be a warrior who died in war.

King: That lays heavy on my heart. You are my first love, Jongi. I first saw you when you accompanied Nande when she was a young princess promised to me but my heart never favoured her. It favoured you.

Jongile: Mine favoured you, Xhanti but if the Queen finds that I have given you a child, she will be angry at me and have me killed.

King: I understand, Jongi. You still are most beautiful when you are angry. You have changed, you no longer hold the kindnesses you did.

Jongile: I had to watch the man I love wed to the woman who trusts most. I had to bare the shame of giving birth to a child who has no father. My heart is cold and bitter because of you, Xhanti. I could have married a nice



hardworking man but you held my heart and I could not. I am no longer kind because the love my heart held for you turned it into stone.

Xhanti: My apologies for that, Jongi. Is your mother's house still full of food? I do not want my daughter to starve.

Jongile: The village knows my mother is poor. Stop sending so much food. Do you want my Mother to be accused of being a witch?

King: I would never wish for such. Maybe you should bring the young maiden to the royal house.

Jongile: Are you crazy, Xhanti? Lizwi will want to have her the second she sets foot in royal ground. You know your son can not keep it in his drawers.

King: You're right. I cant...

.

We heard footsteps from the other direction

and we left the chamber entrance at once and could not listen to the rest. I looked at Zipho who looks as shocked as I feel.

.

Zipho: Jongile has a daughter with the king? (she clapped once and out her hand over her open mouth)

Me: Zipho, I know what we heard was shocking but let us not forget that it is royal business. We could get into trouble for this.

Zipho: No wonder senior is such an unhappy woman. Did you hear how she addresses the king?

Me: He did not seem to mind. Now let us get back to our duties No one must hear of this from us, Zipho.

Zipho: I do not want to be banned from royal grounds, Ndoni. I will keep it to myself. I can not believe Jongile who is the Queen's most trusted

confidant has a love child with the King. These royals are rotten with secrets.

Zipho: Yes but it is their secrets. Now come let us go before Jongile takes out her bad mood on us.

Zipho: If only she knew that we have knowledge of her secret she'd treat us more kinder.

Me: We shall not blackmail the senior, Zipho. It is wrong.

Zipho: I know, Ndoni but knowing this news can help us someday, sister. You will see. Go to the young princess's guest chamber. You will get to meet her and see for yourself that she hold not your beauty.

Me: I do not want to meet her.

Zipho: You are carrying the bedding meant for her chamber. You have no choice.

Me: Let's exchange.

Zipho: No, my apologies Ndoni but go there.

(she walked away)

Me: Zipho! (I called out softly but she kept walking)

.

I can not believe that Zipho has left me with such a heavy duty. I like Jongile must now cater for the maiden who is about to wed the man of my heart. I will keep quiet about Jongile's news because it concerns me not. The walk to guest chamber was a difficult one but I made it and knocked.

.

Voice: Enter (I went in and bowed)

Me: Your fresh sheets are ready, your highness)

Her: You may rise, servant. (I stood up)

Me: My thanks, dear princess.

Her: I'm princess Qaqamba. What shall I call you?

Me: I'm Ndoniyamanzi.

Qaqa: You may resume with your duty, Ndoni.

Me: As you wish, your highness. (I went to get busy)

Qaqa: Ndoni, tell me more about my future husband?

Me: What can a servant tell you about a prince, your highness?

Qaqa: Is he handsome? (I smiled as I thought of just how handsome he is)

Me: Prince Ntsika is a handsome man. He stands tall and has dark skin.

Qaqa: Is he nice?

Me: I do not hold personal knowledge of that but I hear that he is quite nice. (there was a knock on the door)

Qaqa: Enter (the door opened and it's the Queen)

Queen: My Princess, are you ready to meet with

the prince over a small feast?

Qaqa: Yes I am, my Queen.

Queen: Good now go with Jongile, she will show you where he is seated.

Qaqa: As you wish, Queen Nande.

.

Jongile and Qaqa left and I was left alone with the Queen. I feared so much that I felt my throat feel like it is closing but I managed to breath properly. She approached and I bowed.

.

Queen: Rise, whore (I stood)

Me: My thanks, my Queen. (she slapped me)

Queen: Are you here to put your dark medicine on Princess Qaqamba's sheets so she may die?

Me: I am not capable of such evil, your highness.

Queen: Your days in this place are numbered.

Ntsika will learn to love his soon to be bride

soon and forget that he ever seen you. You are nothing but a whore and a witch! Noe go out and wait until I show you how we rid the royal house of whores (she slapped me again)

.

I walked out fast, each cheek burning like never before. I got another servant to go finish my duty. The princess is pretty and clearly very young. She is very lucky to have the honour of marrying a kind man like Ntsika. My heart felt heavy knowing that he is with her but after sunset I'll have to accept it. I went on with my duties.

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#Ntsika

I sat as I waited for the maiden chosen for me. My heart fully with Ndoni. Jongile and a young maiden approached. I stood and they both

bowed. I knew it's her but her bowing before me did not bother me at all. She also does not hold the beauty of my Ndoni.

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Jongile: My prince, I present to you Princess Qaqamba.

Me: You may rise (they stood)

Qaqa: An honour to finally be in your presence, my king.

Me: The honour is mine but I'm not yet king, dear princess.

Qaqa: My apologies for addressing you in the incorrect manner, my prince

Me: It does not matter. Jongile you may leave us.

Jongile: As you wish, my prince (she left)

Me: Come sit, Qaqamba (I held a chair for her)

Qaqa: My thanks (she sat down and so did I)



Me: I hope your stay here is pleasant.

Qaqa: It is most pleasant. Your kingdom is much bigger than mine and not to mention beautiful.

Me: My thanks, my lady.

.

We sat and the silence was not pleasant at all. How can the conversation not flow? Is this how my future looks? I knew I'd have to speak because she is a guest in my home until such a time she is no longer a guest.

.

Me: Tell me about yourself.

Qaqa: I'm Princess Qaqam...

Me: No, my lady. I have knowledge of your name and the kingdom you are from. I want to know about you.

Qaqa: What can I say, my prince?

Me: What do you like doing when you are not on royal duties?

Qaqa: Nothing, my prince. I'm a princess all is done for me by my servants.

Me: Do you like art and reading?.

Qaqa: The only art I like is new royal attire. I do not read, my prince. Do you?

Me: I love to read..

Qaqa: Then I'll learn to love it too.

Me: Do not change yourself for me. You are not required to love reading. You just need to know how to..

Qaqa: I can read but I do not like doing so.

.

We talked but we have nothing in common. There is nothing we can do together and that worries me. This maiden is my future Queen and future mother to my heirs yet I have nothing

to talk to her about. We sat and I had to go to my royal duties. I do hope that the next meeting with her will be more pleasant. Hours passed and the thought of seeing Ndoni was all that kept me going. We had supper with the Princess and her people. I could not focus on any of it and I was happy when it finally came to an end. We all retired to our chambers and I sat anxiously waiting for Ndoni to come. I asked for candles to be lit all over my chamber because I want to see her clearly. I heard a soft knock on my door and I knew it was my Ndoni. I stood and personally went to open for her.

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Me: You may enter, my lady. (she entered)

Ndoni: My thanks, my prince. How was your day?  
(I love how she cares)

Me: Long and tiring. How was yours?

Ndoni: It was good, my Prince. I met with the Princess.

Me: Ndoni, I do not wish to speak of her. I just want to enjoy being with you.

Ndoni: As you wish.

Me: You look beautiful, Ndoniyamanzi.

Ndoni: Kiss me.

.

I kissed her soft lips and the way she kisses is much better. So much better that "mkhonto" reacted immediately.

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Me: Are you sure you want this, Ndoni?

Ndoni: Have me as yours, Ntsika.

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Hearing her say my name drove me crazy with passion. I lifted her off her feet and put her on the bed. I kissed her and then took her dress off. I took a moment to just look at her nakedness.

.

Ndoni: Is something wrong, my prince?

Me: I love you, young maiden.

Ndoni: I love you, my prince.

.

I went to her lips once again and I went to kiss her neck. She smelled lovely, that lavender scent of hers made me want her more. I got up to take my clothing off when I saw a damp spot on my trousers. Her eyes widened.

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Ndoni: My apologies, my prince. I did not mean to do that. (she started to cry)

Me: Ndoni, do not apologise for something this beautiful. My lady your temple is reacting to my touch. You've done nothing wrong. Shall I stop this?

Ndoni: No (she said softly and I wiped her tears off)

.

I kissed her and took my clothes off, both of us now in our nakedness. I kissed her entire body and the room got filled with her moans. I touched her moist temple and she said my name in pleasure. I asked once again if she is sure and she agreed. I let mkhonto gently enter her temple and she cried. I looked at her, eyes filled with tears and I immediately stopped.

.

Me: Should I stop, Ndoniyamanzi?

Ndoni: No. (I wiped her tears off and kissed her)

Me: My apologies for the pain I'm causing you, my lady.

Me: Let's go on.

.

I penetrated her and the tightness and warmness of her temple drove me over the edge. I moved slowly as to not hurt my lady

more. After a while I felt her move with me. I caressed her soft body while kissing her. I looked into her eyes and I saw that it was filled with pleasure. I made love to the woman my heart love most until the pleasure overtook us and the room got filled with our sounds of love. I laid on top of her but not with all my weight trying to breathe properly again. I stood and got a warm wet cloth and cleaned us both and went to be next to her. She kept quiet.

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Me: Ndoniyamanzi, please say something to your prince, my lady.

Ndoni: I need to get back to my chamber, my prince (I saw tears flow down her cheeks)

Me: Do you regret it, Ndoni?

Ndoni: No (she said in a whisper)

Me: Then why do you treat me like a stranger after we have had such a beautiful moment?

Have I hurt you?

Ndoni: My heart is heavy, my Prince (she covered her teary eyes with the sheet)

Me: Talk to me.

Ndoni: You will soon give the Princess the same moment you have just given me. It weighs heavy on my heart to know that she will have you. My apologies for this.

Me: Now I feel like I've disgraced you, Ndoni. I asked you if you are sure about this. Ndoni if I had the choice I'd make you my future Queen, my lady. I'd make you the mother of all my heirs and it breaks my heart that I can not give you that.

Ndoni: I better get dressed and leave your chamber, my Prince.

Me: I beg of you to spend the night, Ndoniyamanzi. (she stood and got dressed)

Ndoni: I understand that you have a duty and a



destiny to follow. My thanks for doing what I asked of you. You shall never hear of me again, my Prince.

Me: You don't understand, Ndoni. Your temple is the one that has ever been invaded by mkhonto. (she looked at me confused)

Ndoni: I do not understand.

Me: I've kissed and romanced maidens before but I've never been one with one, my lady. You are the first maiden I have made love to.

Ndoni: But you're a prince.

Me: A prince who does not go around sleeping with every maiden there is. You were my first just as I was yours. I do not regret it because I wanted it to be you from the day I saw you.

Ndoni: I do not hold regrets either but it's better I accept that I'll never be able to be with you.

Me: Just spend the night then, I would like to love and hold you all night. You need not even

look at me at sunrise if you don't want to.

.

She took her clothing off once again and we got under the covers. She laid on top of me and I held her like a man obsessed. I thought about when we made love and I knew she was pure but seeing the proof on our sheets makes it more special. I wish that this could have been on our wedding night but the reality is that I am not allowed to marry her. How cruel is life? To make two people fall deeply in love only for them to be forbidden from being together!

#NOSI

[03/01, 17:40] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 10

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#Queen Nande

The Princess is most certainly not the most beautiful maiden but she is all I could arrange at such short notice. I need to have Ntsika married to her so he can forget about the whore he thinks he love. I'm not going to allow the legacy of my children to be tainted by a servant. I sat and had a feast with the King.

.

Me: My King, I've found the perfect suitor for our eldest. Don't you think?

King: She will have to do, my king. I thought we would find a princess from a great kingdom but you were so rushed in finding Ntsika a wife you chose the first available option.

Me: She is better then that whore, Xhanti. Would you rather he marry a servant?

King: Do not ask me that, my Queen. You might hate the answer I give you.

Me: So you would like for him to marry a

servant whore! What type of grandkids do you think she will give us?.

King: Human grandchildren, my Queen. It pains my heart to see my young prince like this. He is forced to do this out of obligation.

Me: He will learn to love her, as you have done with me.

King: You know how hard it was for us at first. We only had bedroom dealings to produce heirs. Do you not wonder what it would have been like if we were in love from the day we married?

Me: Of course but I knew since I was a young maiden that my destiny allows me not. I have learnt to love you, Xhanti. My heart beats for you. my King.

King: And mine for you. (I wish he could say it as if he meant it)

Me: I know you wanted an alliance with a greater kingdom, my King and my apologies for

not giving you what you wished for. We can build a greater alliance when Lizwi weds.

King: What king in his right mind would give his precious maidens to a prince such as Lizwi?

Me: The kingdoms do not care about the character of a prince but the power and wealth of the Kingdom he hales from. Mhlaba Ochumileyo is a great kingdom.

King: Delay Ntsika's wedding then so we can give our eldest a chance to marry a Princess from a more powerful kingdom. I have never even heard about this kingdom the Princess comes from until you told me about it. That is how small and insignificant is it! (I knew he was right)

Me: It will grow to be powerful once the other kingdoms hear that it is in alliance with Mhlaba Ochumileyo, my King.

King: In the meanwhile it will be like a parasite to my kingdom.

Me: Xhanti, are you trying to get Ntsika out of this wedding arrangement because you want him to be with the servant?

King: Do not insult me, Nande! Are you implying that I do not know the rules of my kingdom? I know Ntsika is to wed royalty! (he shouted)

Me: My apologies, my King. I meant no disrespect. I suspect that servant is a witch.

King: You know the damage such an accusation can cause, Nande! The villagers could burn the maiden if this falls on the wrong hands. If I hear a single rumour of witchcraft in this house, I'll know it's you. You might be my Queen but if you put an innocent maiden's life in danger I will deal with you accordingly. (he said in anger)

Me: I understand, my King. I'll keep my mouth shut.

King: Good, now excuse me. I've got more important dealings to attend.

Me: Go well, my love.

.

He stood and left. I have a feeling that the king will help Ntsika get out of this wedding arrangement and I can not have that happen. I have to make a plan and get rid of that whore for good. I'll get a better maiden for Ntsika only if I have had her killed. I called in my guard, Manqhoba. If there is anyone who can help me kill the virus it's him.

.

Him: You've called, My Queen.

Me: Rise, Manqhoba. (he stood up)

Him: My thanks. What shall I do for you?

Me: I need you to get rid of a problem.

Him: You know I'd do anything for you, My Queen.

Me: There is a maiden servant in the royal

house. She go by the name Ndoniyamanzi. Do you have knowledge of her? (he looked down)

Him: I have, my Queen. What do you want me to do.

Me: Kill her!

Him: Pardon, my Queen?

Me: Do I stutter now when I speak? I said I want you to kill her. You'll be rewarded greatly for it.

Him: When do you want me to do this, my Queen?

Me: I want her out and dead by sunset. I've has to deal with that whore for far to long.

Him: How do you want me to do it?

Me: I do not care, just make sure her heart beats no longer by tonight and do it far from the kingdom.

Him: May I ask why, my Queen?

Me: I want Ntsika to think the whore left him.



He will realise it is what whores do. Go from one man to another. He will be heart broken but he will have to live with it. Qaqamba will be there to soothe his broken heart. I do not care how you do it.

Him: I'll make sure it's done, my Queen.

Me: I knew I could count on you. If you burn her, I want to see her ashes as proof. If you feed her to a wild animal, I want her blood filled torn dress as proof. Do you get what I'm trying to say?

Him: That you do not care how I rid you of the problem as long as I bring you the proof. (I smiled in satisfaction)

Me: Now go and plan what you will do. Do not utter a word of this to anyone! If you do then you will die with the whore.

Him: I'll keep my mouth shut, my Queen.

Me: Go and plan for what you will do to her.

Just thinking about finally seeing the proof of her death excites me. (I laughed)

Him: I will not disappoint, my Queen. You have my promise.

.

I watched as he left and I sat and smiled. My son will finally focus on his marriage to the Princess by sunrise. He will think the whore left him to go explore another prince not knowing that I had her killed. His heart break is going to fade. I'm doing this for the future of this kingdom since my King seems to kind to do it. The whore is finally going to die at sunset. I'm sure even the royal house will feel better without her around. Can't it be sunset already?

.

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#Ntsika

I've been spending some time with this maiden

I'm expected to spend the rest of my life with  
and things have not changed. I find myself  
thinking about my love whenever I'm with her.  
The woman who loves art and reading as  
much as me, if not more. The woman who  
makes my heart beat fast that I'm afraid it will  
beat out of my chest. The woman who gave  
herself to me as I've given myself to her. I called  
for her because I have not seen her in such a  
long while. My heart longs for her. I had Bantu  
get her to the royal garden. We never got to  
enjoy it. They arrived and Bantu left us. She  
smiled and I embraced her. My strong arms  
wrapped firmly around her small waist.

.

Me: I wish I did not have to let you go (I  
whispered to her)

Ndoni: Me too (I kissed her)

Me: Come, let's sit down on the blanket. (I held  
her hand)

Ndoni: I never got to see the beauty of this place on our last visit. It all looks so beautiful, my prince. (she sat between my legs, her head resting on my chest)

Me: It's a pity winter is going to ruin it but for now let us enjoy it.

Ndoni: How have you been?

Me: I've been longing for you, Ndoni.

Ndoni: You are to wed in eight days. (she looked down)

Me: I know, my lady.

Ndoni: Ntsika, am I now your mistress?

Me: You are the woman that I love, Ndoniyamanzi. I want to stand on the highest mountain and shout it out but I ca...

Ndoni: I understand, my Prince (she cut me short)

Me: May I have a kiss? (she smiled)

Ndoni: I thought my prince would never offer but what about warrior Bantu?

Me: There is a fence around this area of the garden and he is standing on the other side of it.

Ndoni: Then kiss your lady. (I smiled)

.

I had her sit on top of me and I kissed her. The kiss grew passionate because we have not done it in a while. I put my hands under her dress and brushed her thighs gently. She said my name in a soft moan, it drives me crazy when she does it. She broke the kiss and looked at me.

.

Ndoni: What if the warrior walks in and sees my nakedness?

Me: I believe that he is a wise man and knows I need privacy when you are around.

Ndoni: My Prince, should this not be done on a bed at night? (I laughed softly m)

Me: I do not know but I do not want to wait until sunset to have you but if you are uncomfortable I shall stop.

Ndoni: No, do not stop. (I smiled)

.

The warmth of her inner thighs was great and it made my body react. We both got naked and I looked at her nakedness in daylight and found my lady to be even more beautiful. We caressed each others bodies and made love. This time it was pure pleasure for both of us. I asked her to look at me as we moved in love because I wanted her to see the love and desire she has for me in my eyes as I see it in hers. Pleasure overtook her and she let out a soft scream of pleasure and intense pleasure overtook my body just as much. We kissed while breathing heavily, not wanting this moment to end. We lay

in each other's arms and I covered our nakedness.

.

Me: Ndoniyamamzi.

Ndoni: Ntsika (I smiled in delight)

Me: I love you, young maiden. (she looked at me)

Ndoni: I love you too, strong warrior. (I looked at her without saying anything)

Me: Let's leave, my lady.

Ndoni: Oh, I thought you would stay longer but I understand you have duties. (she looked down)

Me: No, my lady! I mean let's leave the grounds of Mhlaba Ochumileyo. (she sat up in shock)

Ndoni: I do not expect you to do that, my prince.

Me: I can not lay next to a woman I feel nothing for, Ndoni.

Ndoni: You are not used to a life as an ordinary

man, Ntsika. I'm sure even at warrior you get royal benefits.

Ntsika: Ndoni, my hands fear no work. I will find something to do and I'll look after us. (she started to cry)

Ndoni: I'm honoured that you would want to do this for me but I can not allow it.

Me: It's the only way I can be with you. Father is still fit to be king for a few years.

Ndoni: It's a foolish plan, Ntsika.

Me: Do you not wish to be with me, Ndoniyamanzi?

Ndoni: You know I do but not like this. You are the future of this kingdom, Ntsika. No, please I'm not worthy of you losing your legacy. Marry the Princess, I'll make peace with it.

Me: I do not want you to make peace of it, Ndoni! I do not want you as a mistress. You are worthy of so much more. I'd rather be a poor



man with you by my side. I love you, Ndoni. (I raised my voice)

Ndoni: I love you too and I want to be with you but being poor is not pleasant. You will hate me for taking the only life you've known away from you. (she broke down)

Me: My heart could never carry hate for you, my lady. Please stop crying, I did not mean to make your heart heavy. (I embraced her)

Ndoni: I wish our hearts could stop feeling what they feel, Ntsika.

Me: Do not wish for that, Ndoni.

Ndoni: I'm seen as nothing by your family and my only sin is being a commoner.

Me: Then go with me, I'll look after you for all our lives. We can have little girl children who are as beautiful as you. (she looked at me and smiled)

Ndoni: And little boy children who will be

warriors. (we both laughed)

Me: Yes but we can not have it while we are here. Promise to think about my offer. I need your answer before my wedding day, Ndoni.

Ndoni: I will think about it, my prince.

Me: My thanks beautiful maiden (I kissed her soft lips)

Ndoni: May we just enjoy this moment?

Me: As you wish. Let us have fruit.

.

We sat and fed each other the fruit and I'm determined to take her away from all this pain. I have to make arrangements for our departure. I know this will break the King's heart but I do not have a choice. Ndoni does not just have my heart, she is my heart. I made love to her once again and a part of me hopes that her body has accepted my seed. I would love to be the father of this beautiful maiden's children.

.

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#Ndoni

The prince and I got ourselves decent so we could go back to the mainland. I can not go with him so I've decided to go on my own without him. I'm not worthy of the downfall of a kingdom. I got to my transportation and Ntsika helped me on it. I can't believe I let him have me in daylight and I've accepted that I'm his mistress but I am not as strong as Jongile. I can not watch him love someone else but I also can not have him leave the kingdom. Warrior Bantu got me to the mainland and I went to my chamber. I took all my clothing from the place it was. Zipho walked in.

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Zipho: Ndoni, where are you off to?

Me: I have to get away.

Zipho: Did the Prince allow you days to visit your home?

Me: No, Zipho.

Zipho: You can not go without permission, Ndoni. You will be in big trouble when you return.

Me: I'm not to return, Zipho. (her jaw dropped in shock)

Zipho: No, Ndoni. I have found a sister in you and what about your love.

Me: He is not mine to love, Zipho. He wants us to run away and be together.

Zipho: So you are going with him? (she smiled).

Me: Are you crazy, Zipho? I'm going by myself and you will not tell anyone about this until I've gone.

Zipho: You're breaking my heart, Zipho. Where will you go? You know you can not go to the orphanage. You will die out there alone.

Me: Would you rather I go with him and have Lizwi be your future king, Zipho? This is the only way I can safeguard the future of this kingdom. Ntsika is it's future! I do not know where I'll go or what shall become of me but I will not let the kingdom be ruled by a cruel king.

Zipho: You are so kind and selfless, Ndoni. I do not know if I could do as you do.

Me: It's not easy, Zipho. I love him with all of my heart (I started to cry)

Zipho: This saddens me. (she embraced me)

Me: I'm willing to break the man I love's heart then have that cruel coward rule. Ntsika will make a great king, he will come with a lot of good change because his heart is kind and I can not rob the people of Mhlaba Ochumileyo of that privilege. Maybe in the next life we can be together but in this lifetime we are not destined to love each other. I'll leave as soon as the sun goes down.

Zipho: No, Zipho snakes and wind animals lurk around at that time and not to mention the witches. Go at sunset.

Me: My mind is made up, Zipho. If you go to warn the Prince about this. I'll never forgive you.

Zipho: I shall not, you have my promise. I love you, Ndoni. May our paths cross again (we both cried)

Me: And I love you. If they are destined to cross again then they will, sister. You are my truest friend. I will miss you.

Zipho: Be careful when you leave. I must get back to my duties.

Me: I shall not be here when you return, Zipho.

.

We embraced for a long time and shed a lot of tears. She left me and I have money for shelter for a few days so I will be fine. The sun went

under and I took my belongings. I stood at the entrance and looked inside the chamber. I will miss the late night talk and gossip with Zipho. I was about to pick my clothing up but people grabbed me. My hands and feet were tied and my mouth shut. I knew that it was not Ntsika once again. I tried to scream and fight but failed. I was put in an open carriage and it started to move. Tears fell to my ears because I laid on my back. The stars were beautiful lit up in the sky but I could not enjoy them. I thought of my Princess and maybe it's better I get killed because he must forget about me. I heard Shiba's voice saying "I'm here, child" but I did not believe her. She has forsaken me before. I closed my eyes and felt the cool wind on my face. I thought of the handsome face of my Prince. It gave me piece because we parted in a great manner. I'm happy I gave myself to him. The carriage rode fast and non stop and I knew that this is my last moment.

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Me: I love you, my prince.

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My heart hoped that he would hear my voice whisper those words to him. That he will know that my heart beats for him even when my end is near. I closed my eyes and filled my mind of happy moments from the orphanage and the short happy moments in the royal house. If my destiny was to meet and fall in love with the prince then surely my end will be with a content heart.

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 11

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#Ntsika

I set at the Royal table having a feast with my family and the Princess. I looked at the maiden for some time but I still felt nothing for her. How are we even going to be on our wedding night when we fail to have a conversation? Mother was the most happiest amongst us.

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Mother: How many children do you wish to have, Qaqamba?

Qaqa: As many as the Prince wishes to have, my Queen. (I was so annoyed)

Me: She did not ask how many I wish to have, dear Princess. She asked how many you'd wish to have.

Qaqa: I will follow your lead, my Prince. If you wish for many I'll give you many. (my jaw clenched in frustration)

Lizwi: Let us hope they won't all be maidens.

We know a King with only maidens does not have heirs to pass the throne on to. (he said with an evil smirk)

Me: And I'm sure you await the day that you see that happen.

Father: I welcome the possibility of young maidens.

Mother: My apologies for not giving you maidens, my King but Ntsika might give you a granddaughter.

Father: A young Princess to spoil. (they laughed)

Mother: We need to arrange for Lizwi to also wed after Ntsika. He is at the right age.

Lizwi: Do choose a more beautiful maiden (he mumbled)

Father: You know a man does not mumble, Lizwi. What is it you just said?

Lizwi: My apologies, my King. What I said should not be minded it is unimportant.

Mother: I can not wait for the celebration. I have invited the royal families of many kingdoms to come witness the royal affairs. I told the kitchen servants to prepare a feast.

Father: My Queen, have you begun to show the young maiden the ways of this kingdom?

Mother: I am showing her, my King but I need not do much. She's royalty so she knows what is expected of a royal wife. Ntsika where were you earlier? You were suppose to spend the day with your future wife.

Qaqa: I am not offended, my Queen. I know that the Prince is a busy man.

Me: I was riding about in the farms with Bantu. I need not explain my whereabouts.

Father: No one expects that of you, young prince.

.

They went on about children. I do not even wish

to see the Princess's nakedness. I fear that even mkhonto might not rise to full strength on our wedding night. How can he when he has already found home in my lady's sweet temple? The feast finally came to an end. We rose and retired to our chambers. I immediately had Ndoni called to me because I want to hold her until sunrise. My slumber is sweeter when she is by my side. I sat and waiting for my beautiful Ndoniyamanzi. A soft knock was on the door and I stood to open. To my disappointment it is not her but Zipho. She bowed before me and I told her to rise and enter.

.

Me: Is my lady still busy with something?

Zipho: I come with bad news, my prince (I started to panic)

Me: Has harm come to Ndoni once again?

Zipho: I have no knowledge of that but I fear that harm might come to her, my Prince.

Me: Do not beat around the bush, young maiden. If her life is in harms way tell me at once (my voice sounds urgent)

Zipho: Ndoni has left the royal grounds, my Prince. She waited for sunset and went into the night.

Me: Why have you not come to me sooner? (I raised my voice)

Zipho: My apologies, my Prince but I made a promise of silence to Ndoni. She said you wanted her to go with you but she could not.

Me: Did she say why? (my heart sank)

Zipho: She would rather break your heart and that of her own then rob the kingdom of your rule when the time is right.

Me: My thanks, my lady. You may leave.

Zipho: As you wish, my Prince.

.

She left and I felt my heart break in pieces. I know of Ndoni's good and kind heart but she has gone to far. I looked out into the dark night and I feared for my lady. Being at war has made me seen many things I know she won't be able to handle. I had to go find her.

.

Me: Bantu!! (I shouted and he entered)

Bantu: What is the matter, warrior?

Me: Get my horse out immediately.

Bantu: Why would you ride at night, my Prince.

Me: Just do as I ask, warrior!

.

Bantu left in a hurry and I took off the heavy royal attire. I war my warrior attire and took my sharp iron weapons and shield. I rushed outside and found Bantu already on his horse.

.

Me: Where are you going, Bantu?

Bantu: With you, my Prince. Get on your horse and lead to where we are going.

Me: I do not need your protection, warrior.

Bantu: This is not to protect you, brother. It is to ride with you and fight any danger alongside you as brothers do. Now lead the way.

Me: My thanks, brother.

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I got on my horse and rode into the dark night. The moon and stars shining brightly and I wondered if Ndoni sees the beauty in the sky. I told Bantu what happened and he suggested we ride to her previous home. He is right and we rode as fast as our horses could go. We got to the orphanage after a distance of riding. I got off my horse and rushed to the entrance and knocked. I saw the flash of a candle go on. A lady spoke clearly with fear in her voice.

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Her: Who is there and what do you seek here at night?

Me: Please open, my lady. No harm will come to you!

Her: I asked who you are in the dark night?

Me: Prince Ntsika of this soil, my lady.

Her: You want me to believe that the Prince himself will honour me with his presence? Go away witch!

Bantu: Madam, I am the guard of the Prince. Open the door, we seek not to harm you. We seek a young maiden by the name of Ndoniyamanzi.

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There was then silence on the other side and it took great resistance to not break the door open. I respect the place because is raised my Ndoni. The lock finally turned and the door



opened. We held our fire lights up to our faces to show ourselves to the lady and she immediately bowed when she saw my face.

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Me: Please rise, my lady. (I helped her stand)

Her: To what do I owe this honour, my prince?

Me: We seek a young maiden, Ndoniyamanzi. Has she come to you?

Her: No, my prince. I last saw Ndoni when she left for the palace. What shame has she done, my prince?

Me: She has done no shame, my lady. She has gone out into the night alone and I fear for her safety. My apologies for bothering you. We shall be on our way now.

Her: Do find my Ndoni, my prince. She is a pure maiden and savages will have her way with her when they see she is alone.

Me: I shall seek her until I've found her.

Her: My thanks, your highness.

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We left the entrance and rode on our horses once again. If only the lady knew that Ndoni is no longer deemed pure because of me. I feared that what she said might be true about the savages having their way with her. I can not allow that to happen to my lady. Bantu and I searched the night but with no luck. I know Zipho said she left on her own free will but my heart did not believe it. I rode back to the mainland and I headed straight for Lizwi's chamber.

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Me: Where is she?! (I grabbed him by the neck)

Lizwi: You make a habit of this brother! Who is this she you speak of?!

Me: You know who I speak of! (I strangled him and let go so he could speak)

Lizwi: If you speak of your whore then I have no knowledge of her whereabouts.

Me: You're lying!!

Lizwi: I swear on the graves of all our royal ancestors!

Me: If you have her I will kill you, Lizwi. I will strangle you until I feel that you no longer have a pulse.

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I left him and I had the royal grounds searched but she was no where to be found. I went to my chamber and let out a cry of pain and frustration. How could she do this to our hearts?

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#Ndoni

After the carriage rode for a long time it

stopped and by this time I have made peace with dying. I knew that this is the work of the Queen and Lizwi. Tonight they will finally succeed in stopping the beat of my heart. The heart whose only sin was to fall in love with a Prince. The man who captured me held his lamp to his face and I know him. He is one of the royal guards. My tears have all dried up. He took off the cloth on my mouth.

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Him: Young maiden, I seek not to harm you.

Me: Just do what you were assigned to so it can be over. Take me to my end!

Him: Ndoni, the Queen has sent me to kill you.

Me: I am in no shock about the news. I beg of you to make it quick. Stab me straight in the heart.

Him: You have been nothing but kind to me at the palace, young maiden. You greet me when

you pass and ask how I am. You have given me fruit when I looked too tired to go on with my duty. You smile at me and no other servant maiden has done it. They see the big scar on my face and they fear me or look at me with disgust but not you. When you look at me I feel like a normal human. You do not look at me with eyes of judgement.

Me: How can I look at you with eyes of judgement when we are all flawed. Your scar does not make you less human. I ask that you return my kindness with a quick death.

Him: I will untie you, young maiden. My heart allows me not to kill your your kind one. When I untie you I want you to run as fast ad possible.

Me: But where will I run to at night?

Him: Any direction expect the one we came from. I need you to never go to the royal house again because we shall both surely die. Now take this water and run and do not stop.

Me: My thank, kind sir. I shall not forget the mercy you have shown me. I shall never set foot at the palace. You have my promise.

Him: Now start to run, young maiden. Run until you no longer see the flash of my lamp and even after that do not stop. Here is water.

Me: My thanks but will she not want proof of my death?

Him: I'll burn an animal and take it's ashes to her and hope she sees no difference. Now run, maiden!! (he shouted)

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I took the water from him and I started to run. Not knowing where I'm going or what will happen to me but I ran. I looked behind and could still see the little flicker of his lamp and I ran faster until it was completely dark behind me. I ran into the forest and I heard the cries of many owls. The fear in my heart let tears flow down my cheek. I thought of the snakes Zipho

spoke if and I kept on running. I ran until my chest felt like it's on fire so I sat down.

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Voice: Run on, child (it's Shiba)

Me: My body allows me not to go on, Shiba.

Shiba: Ndoni, I need you to gather strength to go on.

Me: I shall sleep here and continue at sunrise.

I took a sip of the little water and it went down so nicely. I closed my eyes and I imagined that I'm in the garden with my Prince. Laughing and playing as he put flowers in my stubborn hair. I felt strong hands grab me and I screamed but my mouth got covered. One man ripped my skirt open while the other held me down.

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Me: Please, I beg you do not do this!! (I kicked around m)

Man: You think I'll let pass the chance to have a young maiden who has no protection around her.

Man 2: Finish I want my turn to have her. Look at how beautiful those thighs look in the moonlight (he touched my breasts)

Man 1: I'm sure she is still pure! (he laughed)

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The man at the bottom took his trousers off exposing his disgusting manhood. I kicked around and he held me down. Just as he positioned himself an animal attacked him. The other man ran away screaming. The half naked man was pleading for his life as the animal attacked him. I took a closer look at saw it's a cheetah. I held my torn dress together to hide my exposed thighs and ran, leaving my water. I looked behind and saw the animal after me. I cried and ran for dear life until I heard it speak.

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Voice: It's me, Ndoniyamanzi (said this cheetah)

Me: Shiba? (I cried softly)

Shiba: Yes, child. I told you that I was not the tree in the forest but a spirit guardian. Do not fear, no harm shall come to you but I need you do run on Ndoni. There are dark energies at this hour.

Me: I'm tired, Shiba. My body is failing me.

Shiba: I'll run with you.

Me: Could you not go into a horse rather than a cheetah, Shiba? Even a donkey would have been fine. (she laughed softly)

Shiba: How would those protect you from physical harm. Now stop complaining, let us run. There is a river to drink not so far.

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I ran alongside the cheetah and I've never been close to one before. My heart was pained because each step I took is a step far from the

one who has my heart. We got to a river and drank but had to stand and run once again. I ran and ran and ran! Not knowing where I'm running to but I knew that I had to listen to Shiba because if it had not been for her the men would have had their way with me. How I wish Shiba could be a horse, I thought as I continued to run behind the beautiful African cheetah.

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#Queen Nande

By now the whore should be dead. I heard that Ntsika had the royal grounds searched for her. This love medicine she fed him will wear off now that the whore's heart no longer beats. Lizwi came into my chamber.

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Lizwi: Did you have her taken away?

Me: Even better, my prince. I had her killed. (we

both smiled)

Lizwi: Are you sure that the job is done, my Queen?

Me: I sent someone I trust with the assignment.

Lizwi: I'm saddened that I never had to have the maiden but I'll live because you are delighted.

Me: You can have many other maidens but I had to rid our lives of this one, especially Ntsika's. He will now focus on Qaqamba.

Lizwi: He does not like her.

Me: The wedding is near and the dowry has been paid to her family so he has to accept it.

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We sat and rejoiced in our victory. There was a knock on the door and I gave permission to enter. Manqhoba entered and bowed.

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Me: Rise, Manqoba (he stood)

Him: My Queen, what you asked has been done. The maiden's heart beats no longer.

Me: I told you that I want proof. Give me the proof that she is no longer of this life.

Him: I burnt her alive, my Queen. It was a long and painful death. I present her ashes. (I smiled)

Lizwi: It is real ashes, Mother. You have gotten rid of the virus you cried about (we both laughed)

Me: Go and throw that away. She was rubbish when she lived so it makes sense to throw her ashes where the rotten garbage is.

Him: As you wish, my Queen.

Me: Wait, Manqhoba! Did the whore scream in agony?

Him: You would have loved the sounds of agony if you were there, your highness. (I laughed loudly m)

Me: Good, I'm glad that the whore was in prolonged pain as the flames melted her skin.

Lizwi: You'll be rewarded for your work, guard. You may leave us.

Me: Don't forget to rid of her ashes in the rubbish.

Him: As your wish, your highness m. .

He left us and we had a small celebration of victory. Suddenly the air in the palace was lighter. I have to practise for my act when I see Ntsika at sunrise. He can not know that I am the one who did this. He can now marry in peace thinking that the whore has left him. Lizwi went to his chamber and I got under my covers. I know that I'll have a sweet slumber tonight. How I wish I heard the whore scream in pain! I smiled as I imagined how she was begging until her end. I rid the kingdom of the virus as I've said I will!

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 12

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#Queen Nande

The sun rose to the sky and I got dressed in my best clothing. Suddenly the birds sang louder and more cheerful tunes. The sky clear with not a single cloud in the sky. I know most people sob due to guilt when guilty of killing but not me. I'm glad that I rid this life of a whore. I sat and was having ginger when Ntsika walked in. Clearly not pleased with life at the moment.

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Ntsika: What have you done to her?

Me: Done to whom, my dear prince? (I stood a sip)

Ntsika: Do not play me for a fool, mother. What did you say to Ndoniyamanzi that made her leave?

Me: You shall watch your tone when you address me, Ntsika. I'm not one of your battle mates! (I stood in anger)

Ntsika: I shall not apologise for this. What have you done to her?

Me: I did not even know the servant has left. Jongile has said nothing to me.

Ntsika: You never wanted her in the royal house.

Me: I shall not deny that fact because it is true. She gave you love potion and now that you say she is gone your eyes will open.

Ntsika: You might be capable of such evils but do not associate Ndoni with it. I asked her to leave with me and get away from this kingdom.

Me: Are you mad?!

Ntsika: The news must have reached your ears and you did something to her before she could give me an answer.

Me: I take offense, Ntsika! How dare you imply that I am capable of such evil? Do you not know your own mother?

Ntsika: If I ever find out that are behind her departure, you shall pay. If anything happens to her out there, you shall pay dearly.(he pointed his finger at me)

Me: I am not guilty of the crime you are accusing me of, Ntsika. If you dare speak like this to me your father shall hear about it.

Ntsika: Do you think that I care about what you and father think of me right now? You've both cursed me with royal blood and it has made cost me the woman of my dreams. Being royalty is a curse!

Me: Well you need to accept your curse because your blood is blue and that shall never



change. A prince is what you were born as and a prince is what you will die as too! No amount of spells and magic can rid you of this so called curse!.

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He looked at me in anger and disgust. I watched as he turned his back to me and left. This love he thinks he has for this whore is more serious than I thought. I needed to make a plan at once so I had the Princess summoned to my join me. She walked in and bowed. I gave her permission to rise.

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Her: You have called for me, my Queen.

Me: Qaqamba how much do you wish to be married to the Prince?

Her: I wish to be married to him very much, my Queen.

Me: Then you shall offer yourself to him at

sunset.

Her: Pardon, my Queen? (she looked at me shocked)

Me: I said you need to offer yourself to him at sunset.

Her: The Prince asked to have me as his only once I am older, my Queen.

Me: You will be his wife! Do you want him to be satisfied by whores while he waits for you to mature?

Her: No, I want him to only have me but I can not force him.

Me: Do you want to wait to have him?

Her: I want him to have me on the night of our wedding as per tradition of royalty.

Me: If you want to get married to him then you need to forget about tradition. You need to let him have you at sunset or you will have no wedding night to speak of.

Her: How do I do that, my Queen?

Me: You seduce him. All men are weak when they touch the tender breasts of a woman.

Her: I've never been with anyone before. I do not know how to seduce a man. (she looked down)

Me: You take your clothes off before him and he shall do the rest. I will keep your secret, I give you my promise. No one shall know that you are not pure on your wedding night.

Her: What about the wedding night sheet, my Queen. I need to show proof of my innocence to my aunties.

Me: I will take care of everything, you need not worry. Only seduce the Prince and make sure he takes you as his.

Her: I shall do as you ask, my Queen. I shall show the Prince my nakedness and allow him to have me. It will give me great honour.

Me: You already speak as a true Queen does.

You will make a great Queen and by any luck you shall carry his heir after the bedroom dealings of tonight (she smiled)

Her: What an honour that shall be. To have a young Prince growing in my womb.

Me: Now go and prepare for sunset. Make sure you smell really good and make sure he touches your breasts.

Her: I shall do as you wish, my Queen.

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She stood and left gracefully. I did not think she would accept my offer but I'm delighted that she did. How I wish she can conceive his heir tonight. I shall have Ntsika forget about that Ndoni servant. After he has had Qaqamba he will realise that all maidens have the same body. He will be addicted to her touch and confuse it for love. I need to have my best servant attend to the needs of Qaqamba before sunset. I sat and enjoyed my drink and thought about how

luck has been on my side all this time. All is going according to the way that I want it to. The future of this kingdom is under my control. I'll be able to control Qaqamba soon. How naive this young Princess is but her mind is not what I need!

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#Ntsika

My heart is heavy and I feel like a part of me left with Ndoni. I long for her so much. Does she care more about this kingdom than she does about me, her own love? It seems that what Zipho has told me is true. She has left me and I shall never see her beautiful face again. I shall never smell her sweet lavender scent anymore. I came from a royal meeting with the King and we rode back to the royal home.

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Father: Young Prince, what seemed to be lying so heavy on your heart?

Me: What do you mean, my King?

Father: You walk around like an injured animal. Are you fearing the closeness of your day to wed?

Me: Ndoni has left the royal grounds, Father.

Father: The young maiden who has your heart?

Me: Yes, my King. I wished for her to come with me to leave the kingdom but she chose to go alone because she fears my absence will be bad for the kingdom.

Father: This maiden of yours has a kind heart. She put the people of the kingdom before herself.

Me: I am upset with her, father.

Father: Ntsika, your maiden knows that the kingdom needs you. She clearly is a wise young woman. Do not hold anger for her in your heart.

What she did was good.

Me: Good for everyone but not for us.

Father: It gets better, my Prince.

Me: You've clearly never loved, Father. I look at Qaqamba and I feel nothing for her, nothing. My mind knows that she is my future bride but my heart refuses to accept her. The maiden does not think for herself. She likes all that I say I like only to please me but it annoys me.

Father: That is how she was raised.

Me: When mother asked about how many children she wishes to have, I hoped she would have an answer but again she wants as many as I wish just to please me.

Father: What do you wish she has spoken?

Me: When I asked my Ndoni that question she told me she wants four children. Two boy and two girls. She did not wait for me to tell her my answer. She is a woman who is able to think for

herself.

Father: You can not compare the two maidens, young Prince. Your maiden sounds like a pleasant person but she does not have the blood of royalty flowing through her veins. If her blood was blue like that of ours, I would allow you to wed her but you know I can not approve it.

Me: I know, Father. I shall try to find peace and hope that she will too. I wish for her to be happy for all her days.

Father: The words of a true man (he touched my shoulders)

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The thought of Ndoni being with another man angers me. I want no other man to have my lady. I had her first and wish to have her for all our lives. I wonder where is she and if she is safe. The night has a lot of dangers and I hope no harm has come her way. We reached the



mainland and I walked around the grounds. Time flew by quickly and sunset came. We had the usual unpleasant family feast and got relieved whenever it ended. I retired to my chamber when I heard a soft knock. I hoped it was Ndoni. I rose and went to greet whoever it is. It's the Princess.

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Her: My Prince (she bowed)

Me: Do rise, dear maiden (she stood)

Her: May I enter?

Me: You are not allowed in my chamber.

Her: I beg of you to allow me in, my prince. (I let her in)

Me: What can I do for you?

Her: I would like to get to know you better.

Me: Let us go and sit.

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We both sat and the unpleasant silence was still between us. I waited to hear what she wanted to know but she kept silent. She looked a bit uneasy, like a person who is not comfortable. She suddenly stood and took off all that she was wearing. Exposing her young nakedness.

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Me: What are you doing, Qaqamba? (I stood)

Her: Have me, your highness.

Me: Have I not made it clear that I shall only do that when I feel you are mature enough?

Her: You have, my Prince but I can not resist the urge to have you.

Me: Get dressed, dear maiden.

Her: Why do you not undress, my Prince? Do you not desire me?

Me: This is not what it is about.

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She kissed me and I walked back. I can not betray Ndoni. She came closer and kissed me again and touched mkhonto. My body reacted as any young man's would. I touched her breasts and I found that they are still young so I stopped her.

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Me: Please leave my chamber.

Her: Ny Prince, it...

Me: It was an order (I cut her short in a stern voice)

Her: What kind of a man are you? How can you resist a woman's nakedness?

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I kept quiet because I knew I'd say things that will break her little heart. She wore her clothing and left my chamber. I can resist her nakedness because I still crave that of my love. Ndoni's

breasts are tender and warm. Nipples so big and brown that they look like they got dipped in chocolate. I took off my attire and I was disappointed at mkhonto for reacting. I wondered if this maiden is really pure because she offered herself to freely and I'm not even her lover. I looked out at the stars and moon and still my heart longs for Ndoni. She loves it when the stars light the night sky. I wish she could return so I could embrace her in my arms. How does this beautiful maiden expect me to go on?

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#Ndoni

I have been walking all day and all night long. Hungry and exhausted but Shiba won't allow me to rest. She would only lead me to water. My feet swollen and full of blister. The pain was so unbearable that I cried out loud.

.

Me: I can not go on, Shiba (I said slowly and sat)

Shiba: We have to, child. You are almost there.

Me: Where?

Shiba: You will have knowledge of where when we reach there?

Me: Shiba, what was my destiny at the palace? Was it to meet Ntsika?

Shiba: It will all be clear, child. You had to take the journey to the palace before going on to your next.

Me: I wish to die now, Shiba. Allow the tiger to put its sharp teeth in my neck until I am no more. I beg of you (I cried)

Shiba: I do not kill, Ndoni. I most certainly will not kill the one I'm meant to protect. We all have purpose, Ndoni. Mine is to have no harm come to you and you are yet to have yours revealed to you. But you need to get up.

Me: My body is failing and my heart longs for the Prince.

Shiba: I know that your heart is heavy but it is night, Ndoni. You saw last night how dangerous the night is. Rise child.

Me: I can not walk, Shiba. My feet are wounded.

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I suddenly felt like I could not breath. My body went stiff and the air around us changed. It felt heavy and full of evil. My teeth were clenched together as I lay stiff of the grass unable to move.

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Shiba: Evil energies have sensed your good presence, Ndoniyamanzi. This is their time of the day and they are trying to kill you. Try to fight it Ndoni. It is too strong for me to fight it alone. If you remain like that you will die. I need you to fight and run so that I can deal with it,

child or it will consume you.

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I was trying my best to move and fight but my body failed my spirit. I lay there thinking maybe it's best that I give up but something in me would not allow me. I fought to snap out of the statue state I found myself in and I knew Shiba is also trying her best to help. I finally had control over my body again and I stood up and ran. My feet burning with pain but I did not give up. I have never felt the presence of impure energies and I wish to never feel it again. I fell while running and I saw that my feet are bleeding. I felt my body grow weak and it could not take me any future.

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Shiba: Rise Ndoni, child. I fail to carry you in the physical.

Me: I want to die, Shiba. Allow this to be my end.  
(I cried a bitter cry)

Shiba: I can't, child.

Me: I can't go any future. My feet are bleeding. I have been using them since last night and not it is the night of a new day.

Shiba: We are almost there, your destiny awaits, Ndoniyamanzi. Rise, child! Let the strength that dwells in you carry you.

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I stood slowly but my feet hurt so I fell down again. I sobbed like a new born baby after it is born. How cruel can the Queen be? I would have gone from her kingdom on my own will but now I have to suffer like this. I stood once again and held on to my furry companion. I saw my blood filled hand print on this beautiful animal's fur and I knew it's from my feet. I let out a cry of agony with each step that I took. I tried to channel this strength Shiba speaks of and I started to walk fast until I started to run. I thought about my Prince so that my focus



could not be on the pain I'm in. Thinking about the sound of his laugh made the pain numb. I ran and ran and ran once again. Until my body could no longer. Not even Shiba's words of encouragement could get me to go on. I collapsed on the dry grass and I felt it sting my face as I dropped down. I saw the cheetah run away and I was left alone. After a while I saw movements towards me and I realised it is two cheetah's. The other one was so big and it looked strong. I turned to lay on my back and looked at the stars. How beautiful they shine in the clear night sky! I lay hoping that my warrior is looking at the same stars as I am and remember me. The two wild animals were near and my eyes shut slowly. I knew that my end is here, I waited to feel the sharp claws of one of African's strongest beasts pierce my skin and not only one of them but two. I fell asleep not knowing what will become of me next but I had no care for what might be next. I wanted it all to

end.

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 13

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#Ntsika

Three sunsets have gone and I can not stop thinking about the night the Princess offered herself to me. It made me realise that I wish not to marry to the maiden. She is far too young for me. I asked for the King and Queen to join me in the council chamber at once. They walked in and I rose to meet them.

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Father: The matter we are here for has better be of importance, Ntsika. (he sat in his royal chair)

Mother: I agree with the King. We have royal meetings to attend to.

Me: I shall not keep you, my King and Queen. I have called for you to tell you that I no longer wish to wed the maiden chosen. (Mother stood in shock)

Mother: I shall not allow it. My King speak to your son at once! (she shouted)

Father: You may sit, my Queen. It seems the Prince still holds words in his heart.

Mother: But Xha...

Father: It was an order (he spoke in a gentle yet stern tone)

Mother: As you wish. (she sat back down)

Father: Go on, young Prince.

Me: My thanks, Father. I wish not to wed this maiden because she is young.

Mother: I got married to the King at that age.

Your reasons are not valid, Ntsika!

Me: I am not the King and I do not wish to be.  
No offense to you, my King.

Father: I take no offense.

Me: I want to be wed to a maiden who has reached maturity. I do not wish to wait until I produce an heir but I do not wish to have a maiden who is too young either.

Mother: She is deemed a woman by older woman. Her body is ready to produce and carry an heir, my King.

Me: I will not touch that young maiden!

Father: Is it a mature maiden you seek?

Me: Yes, Father and I ask that you honour your eldest with a maiden who hales from a better kingdom. If we want Mhlaba Ochumileyo to gain strength, does it not make sense to build an alliance with a kingdom of the same ranking?

Mother: We have already honoured Qaqamba's family with dowry, my King. Which Prince will want to wed her if they think she is a disgraced maiden?

Father: Have you had bedroom dealings with this maiden?

Me: I have not, Father. If this maiden is truly pure she will not have a problem with getting a suitor best for her.

Mother: What a shame you will bring to the kingdom! I have spoken of the celebrations with other royalties.

Father: We shall have the maiden be returned to her home soil. I agree with the Prince. He is worthy to wed a Princess maiden who comes from richer soil. It will be of the benefit of this kingdom.

Mother: Where shall I find this new maiden?  
Most kingdoms do not have maidens!

Father: You succeeded in finding a maiden of a kingdom who has no significance. Surely you can find a Princess of a strong kingdom easily. We owe our eldest that honour.

Mother: This weighs heavily on my heart but the King has spoken. I shall seek a maiden of a better king but you shall wed this one Ntsika.

Me: I shall not complain, My Queen. If she hales from a kingdom of good ranking and has reach maturity, I shall wed her.

Father: Shall that be all, young Prince? The Queen and I have duties to see to.

Me: That shall be all. My thanks for your time.

Mother: Go well. my Prince.

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I stood and left them. The maiden shall be heart broken but if she is pure as she has said then her kingdom shall seek and find another Prince to wed her. Bantu and I rode on our horses to

the farms. The soil of this kingdom produces such beauties. The farm workers would bow and rise as my horse would pass them. I would raise my arm in greeting.

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Bantu: You are the prince of the people. (we both laughed)

Me: I shall accept the compliment.

Bantu: My Prince shall you stop going on battle once you have wed?

Me: I know the King and Queen wish for it to be like that but I am a warrior as much as I am a Prince. I asked to be wed to another bride.

Bantu: Does your request have to do with the maiden, Ndoni?

Me: I shall learn to make peace with not having Ndoni as mine. My heart holds anger for her. She left with no farewell to me, the man who loves her most.

Bantu: Would you have given permission for her to bid you farewell, my Prince?

Me: I love her, Bantu.

Bantu: You shall learn to pass on that love to your new bride.

Me: I shall only hope, warrior. Princess Qaqamba has not reaches maturity. I need a maiden who can speak for herself and have conversations with me. All she does is say words to please me and we have unpleasant silences.

Bantu: I wish for your new bride to have what you seek.

Me: Have you gone to Zipho and told her that she has your heart? (I laughed)

Bantu: I fear she shall reject me, My Prince.

Me: A warriors fear nothing, brother.

Bantu: This is a different kind of battle. (we laughed)



Me: I know what you speak of, warrior. The battles of the heart are not easy.

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If only Bantu had knowledge of the fact that my heart only seeks one maiden but I can not have her. She has left me with an emptiness I never thought a strong man such as myself could feel. Everything on the farms seemed well and I hope it shall remain that way. Agriculture is the core of this kingdom. I rode back to the royal house and had the young maiden summoned. She walked to me and bowed.

.

Me: Rise, dear Princess (she stood)

Qaqa: You have called for me, my Prince.

Me: Has the Queen spoken to you?

Qaqa: She has told me that you no longer wish to wed me. Is it because of my conduct the other night?

Me: No, it is not, young maiden. I never wished to be wed to you. You are far too young for me.

Qaqa: But this is the perfect age for a Princess to wed. I shall be able to give you healthy heirs.

Me: Maybe another Prince might not have a problem with your young nature but I do.

Qaqa: Do you know the shame this shall bring to my people?

Me: You are pure. Are you not, young maiden?

Qaqa: Yes, my Prince.

Me: Then any Prince shall be honoured to have you as their bride but I am not that Prince.

Qaqa: If that is what you wish, I'll accept.

Me: Do not go around spreading lies to your kingdom saying I have had you as mine.

Qaqa: I shall never disgrace your name like that. May I be excused?

Me: Go well, young maiden.

.

She rose to her feet and walked out slowly. It lays heavy on me that I had to disappoint her but I had no choice. I am glad she offered to give herself to me. Caressing her breasts have made me realise that she is too young to wed. Her inability to hold a grown conversation is annoying. Hopefully the King and Queen can find me a better bride. A bride who has a kind heart and a strong mind. Perhaps a bride who is at least half the woman my Ndoniyamanzi is. That way teaching my heart to love her will be easier. The heart that refuses to stop longing for the maiden it has chosen.

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#Queen Nande

Ntsika's complaint about the maturity of the Princess is causing me troubles. He has no idea how difficult finding a royal maiden is. Her

family has to agree to an alliance with Mhlaba Ochumileyo and it takes endless negotiations to reach such. Qaqamba was easy because her kingdom was desperate. I have agreed to the request because that whore who distracted him is no more. I saw the Princess come from Ntsika's chamber. I grabbed her by the arm and gave her a fright.

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Qaqa: Queen Nande.

Me: You have failed to do what is easy for all maidens.

Qaqa: I have accepted that the Prince does not desire me.

Me: Only because you could not use the gift of your womanhood. Now you shall go back to that place you call a kingdom.

Qaqa: I take offense, my Queen. My kingdom might not be as big and prosperous as yourself

but it is deemed worthy to be a kingdom.

Me: It would have been a great kingdom if it had a relationship with my kingdom but because of your failure you shall never know that. You have robbed your kingdom of so much power. Do you realise how important power is to a kingdom?!

Qaqa: Permission to leave please, ny Queen. Nothing keeps me here no longer.

Me: Go and take your filthy rags. I shall have you and your people taken back where you hale from.

Qaqa: You words are unkind, my Queen. (she started to cry)

Me: I do not care if you fill the rivers and ocean with your tears. You are a failure and you deem yourself a woman. No wonder Ntsika does not deem you as mature.

Qaqa: I feel pity for the maiden who shall marry your son and have you as her mother.

Me: I feel pity for the man who shall wake up next to your ugly face at each sunrise for all his days!

.

I raised my voice as tears rolled down her cheeks. She ran to the direction of her chamber. I want her out by sunset. What type of maiden fails to seduce a man? Surely only weak ones! Lizwi approached looking upset.

.

Liziwi: What is it I hear of Ntsika getting a new maiden?

Me: It is true. The king has approved it.

Lizwi: Shall my brother get away with everything in this house?

Me: You know we can not go against the orders of your father. The whore is dead so should you care about when he weds?.

Lizwi: What shall happen if another servant

maiden gets his heart.

Me: I shall kill her too.

Lizwi: Was the plan not to wed me to a maiden from a more powerful kingdom than that of Lizwi's?

Me: Stop going on like a spoiled boy. I shall seek good maidens for both my sons.

.

He left in such a hurry. I went to have the royal adviser gather with me and help me choose another maiden. This shall not be easy but I have no choice. Surely there shall be a worthy kingdom with a Princess that has reached maturity. An heir must be born soon because Ntsika is no longer a young Prince. He should have been wed by now. I need to find a Princess that can be under my control. I can not have a maiden who will make life for me here difficult.

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#Ndoni

My thoughts have gone to the night I lay in the open field bleeding. I could hear voices but I thought that I must be where people who have met their end are. I woke from my sleep and was greeted with a roof that has cheetah drawing on it. It all looked so beautiful, like true expensive art. The voices got louder and I saw two woman approach.

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Woman 1: She has woken up, my Queen. (they ran and knelt by my side)

Woman 2: Ncedisile, are you sure that it is her?

Woman 1: She has the markings, your highness, look. (she lifted my arm)

Woman 2: Young maiden, what is your name?

Me: I have not stolen anything, my lady. I give you my promise. Let me go please, I seek no



trouble (I started to cry)

Woman 2: I only asked for your name. I am not accusing you of any sin.

Me: Ndoniyamanzi, my lady. I go by the name of Ndoniyamanzi (I said softly)

Woman 1: It is truly her, my Queen.

.

The other lady stood and covered her face with her hands. She let out a cry and I feared that I might have hurt her. She wiped her tears and looked at me. She took my face into her hands and looked at me. She smiled and a tear of hers fell on my forehead. She wiped it off and kissed the top of my head. Confusion was all I am feeling and a bit of fear.

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Her: I am Queen Nobubele. The Queen of Zwelihle.

Me: My apologies for not bowing, my Queen (I

wanted to bow but she stopped me)

Her: You need not bow. It is not the way of Zwelihle. Ncedi call in the King.

Ncedi: I shall with pleasure, my Queen (she looked at me, smiled and left)

.

My heart was now beating so fast that I feared it would stop. They are going to call the King! I must have done something wrong but have no memory of it. The Queen of Zwelihle helped me sit up. A man joined us, clearly his attire is that of royalty. By his side is a cheetah, a big one and it was followed by a smaller one. The smaller one came to me and I jumped.

.

Queen: Calm, child. She shall not harm you.

.

The beast came to me and put it's head on my leg and I heard it growl. I was shivering like a

leaf on a windy day but it did nothing to me. The King walked in and I stood fast and bowed.

.

King: Stand on your feet, child. Bowing is not the way of this soil. (I stood)

Me: My apologies, my King. I've never been to this soil.

Ncedi: You have been here, young maiden.

Queen: My king, it is her.

King: I had knowledge of that when the cheetah came with her. You look afraid, child.

Me: I am just a servant, my King. I do not know why I have the honor of being in your presence. So yes, my heart is full of fear.

Ncedi: She has the markings and I helped the Queen bring her to this life. I know her markings, my King and it is as those of the Princes.

Queen: Ndoniyamanzi, you are more than just a

servant. You are the Princess of the soil of Zwelihle. A Princess of the most powerful dynasty on African soil.

.

My mind felt like it was about to close off from all that lives. It can not be true! I must surely be at the place where the dead are. It is the only explanation. The young cheetah still had my blood hand print on it's back. It stood and it let out the cry of a cheetah and the other that walked in with the King also gave out a more powerful cry and they both bowed before me. I wanted to hear Shiba tell me to wake up and run that I am in a deep slumber and dreaming. I could not think straight. Am I truly more then just a servant?

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 14

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#Ndoni

Did this royal family just claim me as their daughter? It can not be possible! I looked at the Queen and saw the most beautiful woman ever. She came to embrace me and she felt warm.

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Me: My apologies, your highness but I am not who you seek (I finally managed to say)

King: My daughter, I know that you are confused but you are who we say you are.

Me: How shall you have knowledge of that, my King?

Queen: Your name was given to you by me.

King: You also have the birth marking of royalty. All the true royal offspring of Zwelihle have such a mark as this one. (she showed me his

birth mark)

Me: I have an identical one under my arm. It is also in the shape of a star.

Queen: You two brothers have the same birth markings too (she smiled)

Ncedi: Your highness, you also have markings on your left leg. Three stripes, two short ones and a long one. I gave those markings to you.

Me: I do not understand.

Queen: Ncedi was the maiden who helped me give birth to you. The maiden who helps a royal person give birth gives the baby unique marks after it is born. It is so that she can identify you too.

Ncedi: I know it is you, your highness because I know the markings I gave you.

Me: No, it must all be a mistake. I can not be who you seek.

.

I looked at them and ran out. I did not know this royal house but all I need now is a place that will lead me out of it. I found an escape and I ran out into royal grounds. I ran until I reaches the open field. My heart is heavy with pain and confusion.

.

Shiba: Where are you running to, child?

Me: Take me away from here, Shiba! (I said while running)

Shiba: This is your home, your highness.

Me: Do not call me that! I am a orphan and a servant.

Shiba: Those are just roles you had to fill until you find your true identity. You are royalty, Ndoni. Your blood is blue, child.

Me: I do not understand all of this, Shiba.

Shiba: Go back to the King and Queen. They shall make things a bit clearer. Why do you

think the Prince fell in love with you, child? It is because your blood is as blue as his. Stop running and go back, I beg if you.

.

I stopped running and fell to the grass. Tears flew freely from my eyes to my cheeks. The cheetah followed me and it buried it's face in my neck.

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Me: Shiba, are you the cheetah?

Shiba: I can never be trapped in flesh, child. I chose that cheetah for you. Go back to the royal grounds and all shall be clearer.

.

I looked into the eyes of my new companion. The eyes were brown and shinny and I saw kindness in it's eyes. I brushed the fur under it's neck and is let out a soft growl and closed it's eyes. I stood on my feet and walked slowly



back. The king and his beast waiting for me half way. What a big man the King is! Both him and his Queen look beautiful. How can they think I'm their product? I finally approached him and he smiled.

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King: My apologies for making your heart heavy, dear daughter.

Me: My king, permission to ask a question please.

King: Ask, dear Princess.

Me: Why was the Princess of this soil natured in an orphanage?

King: Let us go where the Queen is. We shall make things clearer.

.

Our beasts led the way and we followed. The Queen rose and jumped to embrace me and she cried. Her tears made mine flow too. I've never

felt the embrace of a mother before this.

.

Queen: My blossom, the King and I had no choice but to let you go.

Me: Why, my Queen?

King: When you were born there was an evil crime against maiden infants. Daughters of other households would be stolen and killed. Someone tried to enter the royal house to take you too but Mlilo managed to stop him.

Me: Who is Mlilo?

King: It is my cheetah. We knew that your life was in harms way as long as you remain in Zwelihle.

Queen: We had to let you go, Ndoni. It weighed heavy on our hearts because you are the only daughter we have but it was better to have you raised by strangers than be killed by savages.

King: We gave you to one of the palace guards

and assigned him to take you away from this soil. He was told to tell the ones he would leave you with your name but never your title. We feared if he told them you are the Princess of Zwelihle it would put your life at harms way once again.

Me: Did this guard not give you knowledge of where he left me?

Queen: No, he disappeared after he left with you. We think he got killed on his way back to the royal grounds.

Me: What was the reason for the infant killing?

King: Their innocent blood was used for evil and yours is blue so they were determined to get you.

Me: Such evil (I cried)

Queen: Not all who walk this soil are of good hearts, my Blossom. Our apologies for not nurturing you, my daughter. We love you,

Ndoniyamanzi.

King: We knew your heart still beats because we could feel it but we had no knowledge of your whereabouts.

Me: I was at an orphanage in the Kingdom of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. It is the soil that I thought was home.

King: You are of the soil of Zwelihle. You are the second born child of King Xololandile and Queen Nobubele.

Queen: You have a brother born before you. His name is Bukhosi and you have one born after you. He is Ntandoyabantu.

Me: Do they have knowledge of me? (they smiled)

King: Yes they do. They like us held hope in their hearts that you would come to us again.

Queen: I shall have the helpers prepare a feast for us. They Princes has to meet their sister

once they return to royal grounds.

Me: I have never been a part of a royal feast. (I said softly)

King: From now you shall have a feast whenever you wish, dear daughter.

Me: My thanks, my King. My Queen may I ask for another embrace.

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She smiled and she held me tightly and this time I held her too. Tears flowing down both our cheeks. The embrace of a mother feels so special and full of love. She kissed my cheeks many times and smiled.

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King: The King also asks permission to embrace his only daughter.

Me: Of course, my King.

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I smiled and I felt his strong embrace around my shoulders. I held tightly at his broad waist and in his embrace I felt safety and love.

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Queen: Ncedi, show the Princess to her private chamber.

Me: My King, the cheetah follows me everywhere. (they laughed softly)

King: She is your protector, my daughter. She was chosen for you by Shiba.

Me: You know of Shiba? (my eyes widened)

King: She is the guardian of this Kingdom. Shiba chooses our destiny for us.

Me: She knew about my whereabouts. Why has she not let you know?.

Queen: It means that we were not suppose to know about you until she decided that it is time. Shiba know your future and what will happen before we even know that it shall happen.

King: You have to give your cheetah a name. She goes where you go but if you order her to stay she shall do as you say. She shall never harm you but will harm those who wish to cause you harm.

Me: I understand, my King

Queen: Do not fear, my blossom. We shall tell you the ways of this kingdom. For now go and rest before the feast.

King: Rest well, dear daughter.

Me: My thanks, my King.

Ncedi: Come with me, your highness. .

I walked behind Ncedi and my companion walked beside me. We got to the other side of the royal house and she opened the door. The size of this chamber is bigger than the orphanage. The roof also had the cheetah art.

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Me: Ncedi, why do they choose the cheetah?

(she smiled)

Ncedi: It is the spirit animal of your family. Have you thought of what you shall call her?

Me: No, I have not. I am hoping she shall tell me herself. (she laughed)

Ncedi: I shall leave you alone to rest now.

Me: My thanks, Ncedi.

.

She left me alone and I looked at my chamber. Not even Ntsika's is this big. How I miss him! I ate some of the fruit left for me and I could not believe that I Ndoniyamanzi is a royal maiden of a Kingdom much stronger than that I was a servant maiden at. I got a wet cloth and I wiped of the blood from the cheetah. She sat still and allowed me to clean her.

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Me: What shall I call you? You are a fast runner. How about Mbaleki?



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It let out a cheetah cry and I took it as a sign of acceptance. I shall call her Mbaleki. I got on the soft sheets and I closed my eyes. Time flew and I woke up. I looked up and could see it's sunset. There was a knock and I allowed permission to enter. It is Ncedi.

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Ncedi: Your highness (she bowed her head)

Me: Is that the way of greeting here at Zwelihle?

Ncedi: Yes, it is. We bow our heads once. What was it like where you come from?

Me: I used to bow on my knees before royalty there. It was very tiring but I had no choice. (she laughed)

Ncedi: You no longer have to bow, your highness. Even royals of other kingdoms bow to the Royal Family of Zwelihle. That is how strong the Kingdom of your father is. Shall I help you

get ready for the family feast?

Me: I shall manage, Ncedi. Are those the clothes I shall wear?

Ncedi: Yes, and do not forget about the gold jewelry.

Me: I saw the Queen wearing it, it looks so beautiful. I've never had jewelry on my body before.

Ncedi: You shall get used to the way of doing things, your highness.

Me: My thanks for the clothing.

.

She left me and so did Mbaleki. I took off the cloth that is wrapped around my body and I bathed. I put on the body butter after finishing. I have to make my own lavender body butter soon. I wore the clothes and it felt heavier because it was expensive material. I wore the necklace and bracelets. I could not believe that

I'm in royal attire. Why did Shiba not lead me here first before she made me meet Ntsika?  
The King knocked and I let him in.

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Me: Have I kept you waiting too long, my King?  
(he smiled)

King: No, my daughter. I have come to take you to the feast.

Me: I am not worthy of the honor.

King: You are my daughter, Ndoni. The first and last one. You are worthy of all that is in this Kingdom. Shall we go, beautiful maiden?

Me: Yes, Father. (he smiled in delight )

King: Have you given your cheetah a name?

Me: I called her Mbaleki. She runs fast, my King. I saw the name to be fitting for her (he laughed)

King: If she gave you the cry of the cheetah then it shows her heart accepts it.

Me: She did but I still need to get used to her presence. Do other royalties know of them?

King: We are identified by other Kingdoms by our cheetahs. They go where we go.

Me: I can not believe I am your daughter. (he smiled)

King: Once you learn all the ways of our Kingdom and get to know the royal family your heart shall believe it because your soul knew long ago that you are a Princess. I love you, my daughter.

Me: And I you, my King (I smiled)

.

He held out his arm and I put mine around it. Ntsika is the only man who has shown me this kindness but now it feels good to have it from the man I come from. He speaks a lot and loves to laugh. We walked into another chamber and the table was filled with royal food. The Queen

stood with two boys. The younger one came running and embraced me.

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Him: Mother, she looks like you.

Queen: She she more beautiful than me.

King: This right here is Ntandoyabantu. The brother who comes after you.

Me: It is an honour to meet you, Ntando.

Ntando: The honour is mine, sister. King: This is your older brother and future king of Zwelihle, Bukhosi.

Bukhosi: We have been waiting for this moment since we heard of you, sister. What an honour to be standing before you (he embraced me)

Me: The honour is mine, brother. (a lady holding a baby walked in)

Bukhosi: This is my wife, Princess Zinzile and our daughter the young Princess Zoleka.

Me: It is an honour to meet both of you.

Zinzi: You are such a beautiful maiden, Princess Ndoni.

Me: My thanks.

Ntando: She is the Queen's younger twin (we all laughed)

Me: Father, Mbaleki has gone.

King: She is out in the forest to hunt. They shall return.

Me: Shall they not hunt for humans?

Bukhosi: No, they only feed on animals. Do not fear for the lives of the people.

Queen: She is already thinking about the well-being of the people. A true Princess.

King: It runs through her veins, my Queen. Let us sit and enjoy the food before us.

Ntando: Ndoni, I'll show you the Kingdom at sunrise. Would you like that?

Me: I would love that, Ntando.

Bukhosi: You two shall not leave me behind.

Ntando: Wait for an invitation, brother. (we laughed)

King: Just do not make my daughter walk too far or there shall be trouble.

Me: I do not mind, Father. I want to see the soil that I was born in.

.

The King took his seat at the head of the table and we sat down too. I have never seen so much food. It was all good and I am sure my stomach will be shocked to be greeted by such a feast. My brothers have welcomed me well and we were all happy. I was too but I miss my Prince. We had great talks and laughed a lot. I felt like I belong for the first time since I left the orphanage. The feast came to an end but we sat and talked for a long time. We talked until

we heard the rooster crow and we knew it was almost sunrise. We were about to retire to our chambers but Zoleka woke up and cried uncontrollably.

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Bukhosi: Maybe she is hungry, Zinzi.

Zinzi: But I just fed her, my Prince.

King: I hope the child is not ill. That would lay heavy on my heart.

Queen: She does not have a fever. What could be the matter little Zoleka?

Me: May I hold her please.

Zinzi: I doubt she shall calm but you can try, my sister.

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I took Zoleka and brushed her back gently. I walked around with her and she calmed down. She stopped crying and I held her until she fell



asleep. I gave her back to her mother.

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Zinzi: My thanks, Ndoni. I did all that you just did but she would not calm.

Queen: She clearly wanted to be held by her auntie.

Bukhosi: My thanks, sister. We thought she shall never stop.

King: Let us go retire to our chambers before we wake her. I shall see you all at sunrise.

Queen: Sleep well my children. I love you.

..

The Queen hugged us all and they retired to their chamber and we also bid farewell to each other until sunset. I walked to my chamber and found Mbaleki at the door. I left her sitting outside and went inside. I took off the clothing and jewelry and wore my bed wrap. I got into the soft covers and my mind went to Ntsika. I

can not tell the King and Queen that I'm a disgraced Princess. If I knew of this part of my life I would have stayed pure. How can Shiba allow this? Why did she not bring me here before I met Ntsika. He is to wed soon so he can not be wed to me. What Prince shall want me when they know I am no longer pure? I have already brought shame to my family and I have just met them. They are such a pleasant family. I have to keep the news about my impurity secret until I know what the rules of the Kingdom say about a Princess who is disgraced. I feel my life has become more difficult than before. I finally fell asleep and not as a servant but as a royal Princess. Princess Ndoniyamanzi of Zwelihle! My heart still has to accept the new title.

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 15

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#Ntsika

Sunsets have come and gone and The Queen sent out royal messengers to other Kingdoms hoping that they shall have mature royal maidens. My heart grows heavier as each sunrise passes and I thought I would feel better but not. Ndoni has departed without bidding me farewell and I fear that shall always bother me. I sat in the eating chamber with the Royal Family having a morning feast.

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Mother: Seeking a maiden who suits what Ntsika wishes is a difficult task, my King.

Me: I shall not marry a maiden who has not yet matured and that if final.

Lizwi: You sound like a spoiled brat.

King: He sounds like a man who knows what he seeks. A quality that is needed in a King. We shall go on with our search.

Mother: If we do not find a suitor then he shall have no choice but to marry a younger maiden. He should have been wed by now and had an heir.

Lizwi: Well find him a suitor soon because the law allows me not to wed until he is wed.

Father: Since when have you been interested in getting a bride?

Lizwi: I want to continue my bloodline, Father. I can not have offsprings without a bride.

Me: Have you sent out messengers to all the Kingdoms mother?

Mother: Of course I have. I never thought it would be such a difficult task.

Me: My apologies for giving you a difficult task, my Queen.

Father: You are our eldest and you deserve a maiden of a proper family.

Me: My thanks.

.

We sat and we ate and I could see that Lizwi was not happy. I do not care about him. He can wed before me. I shall not mind. I would wonder if Ndoni is still alive and well. I wish I could just see that she is well and my heart shall find peace.

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#Ndoni

The King and Queen have decided to honour me with a celebration for my return. I fear it because I shall be the center of attention. I have told no one about what is bothering me. I decided to ask Ncedi about it. She was helping me put on my headscarf.

.

Me: Ncedi, may I ask you something?

Ncedi: You need not ask for permission, your highness. Ask what you want to know.

Me: Shall what I ask remain between us?

Ncedi: It shall, I give you my promise (she smiled)

Me: What happens when a Princess is disgraced?

Ncedi: It is a difficult question but it depends on the situation, your highness.

Me: I do not understand.

Ncedi: If a Princess is disgraced by a commoner then that man shall pay dearly and face the punishment given to him by the royal council. Usually the Princess never weds and remain in the royal house all of her days. It is difficult if possible to find a Prince who shall wed a Princess who is no longer pure.

Me: What shall happen if she got disgraced by a Prince?

Ncedi: The King shall force that Prince to do right by his daughter by marrying her. The marriage is to cover up the shame the two brought to the families. If the Prince refuses to take responsibility then the Princess shall remain a maiden for all her days. If the King sees the Prince as not fit for his daughter she shall never wed in her life.

Me: So many rules.

Ncedi: Have you been disgraced, your highness?

Me: I speak not of myself, Ncedi.

Ncedi: If you spoke of yourself I would suggest that you tell the Queen. If you were disgraced by a Prince she shall let the King know. He shall inform the Royal Family of that Kingdom and make a proposal of a union for the two families.

Me: I need not do that Ncedi. I have not been disgraced.

.

She finished everything and I put on the royal jewelry. I stood and Mbaleki stood with me. She stretched her front legs and lifted her behind in the air. I have grown close to her because she is the only one I can tell my secrets to and not fear it coming out. We walked to the eating chamber to have a morning feast. Everyone stood as I approached.

.

Me: Greetings and My apologies for keeping you waiting (I bowed my head)

King: Greetings, Ndoni. We have not been waiting long. Come sit down.

Ntando: Come sit next to me (he stood and pulled out a chair)

Me: My thanks, Ntando.



Bukhosi: We have all retired to bed late, I am not surprised that we had a slumber until after sunrise. (we laughed)

Queen: Have you slept well, Ndoni? (she smiled)

Me: I have never in all my days had such a good slumber.

Zinzi: It is the soft sheets of the royal house.

Ntando: Let us eat quickly, I want to show you the royal grounds.

King: You shall not go far with the Princess. We have not yet announced her return to all.

Invitations to her celebration are still on the way to other Kingdoms.

Bukhosi: We shall only walk the royal grounds, My King. We shall show her the rest of Zwelihle once all know of her return.

King: I can not wait to let them know. I have my Princess back after years of longing for her (he smiled)

Zinzi: My King once other Kingdoms know that we hold a Princess maiden they shall ask for her hand in marriage. (my heart beat faster)

Queen: I shall send them away. I am not ready to have my blossom wed and leave the Royal House.

Ntando: I agree with the Queen. I like having a sister.

Me: How old are my brothers?

Ntando: I am thirteen and our brother is Twenty.

Bukhosi: I am not much older then you, sister. Zinzi is your age.

Queen: I shall not reveal my age. (we all laughed)

Me: I am to turn eighteen soon.

Queen: My King, let us have her return celebration on her day of birth. King: I agree with you, Nobu. It shall be her return and birthday celebrations.

Ntando: We shall hire the best singers to celebrate it.

Bukhosi: I can not wait until that day. We have not had a royal celebration in a long time.

Zinzi: I shall make sure we get dancers and singers to entertain our guests. Shall we invite other Royalties?

King: Invite all that lives on African soil if you must. I want the best for my daughter as she deserves.

Ntando: I agree with Father.

Me: I am such a shy person, My King. You need not invite a lot of people.

Bukhosi: You are royalty, Ndoni. Soon you shall start with royal duties and you must tell your shyness to leave your body.

Queen: Do not make my daughter fear. I shall be by your side at all times until you feel comfortable.

Zinzi: So shall I.

Me: My thanks. Shall I hold her please.

Ntando: You love little Zoleka too. I love her big soft feet (we laughed)

Bukhosi: She takes after you with the big feet.

Ntando: I shall not deny. These are the feet of a Prince.

King: Let us eat and stop speaking too much.

Bukhosi: We are happy, Father. Our only sister sits with us and it warms our hearts.

Me: Being with you warms my heart too. My thanks for the warm welcome. I feel at home.

Ntando: You feel at home because you are home.

King: Yes, that is the truth.

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We sat and enjoyed our feast. I would take a lot because I fear they shall say I must stop eating.

I love having Zoleka in my arms. She feels so soft and smell nice. I played with her and saw her show her toothless smile. I wish to have such beautiful babies too. I wish for four of them. After the feast the King and Queen excused themselves to go on royal business. They embraced all of us and left. I have never been embraced this much. Each embrace leaves my heart jumping for joy. Zinzi went to feed her baby and me and my brothers walked the grounds of our home. People would bow their heads as we approached. I'm sure they see me as a royal guest and not the Princess. They shall only know of me once the King announces my identity on my celebration.

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Ntando: I wish Shiba could give me my own cheetah.

Bukhosi: She shall when she sees you have matured. For now just enjoy being young.

Me: When I first saw Mbaleki, I thought she would kill me (we all laughed)

Bukhosi: Our apologies for your fright, sister. We grew up knowing that we shall get one.

Ntando: What was it like to be an orphan, Ndoni?

Me: It was not bad, Ntando. I had many sisters and I knew no other life so it was normal to me.

Bukhosi: It lays heavy on my heart that you had to live the life of a commoner. While we have grown in royal comforts.

Me: The King and Queen have done what they did to save my life.

Ntando: May I be excused? I want to go run in the field with other kids.

Bukhosi: Take Mqobi with you. (it is the name of his protector)

Ntando: I shall do that. Ndoni I will see you when I return (he embraced me)

Me: Stay out of harms way, Ntando.

Ntando: I shall, you have my promise.

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He ran to the other kids and the cheetah followed. The other boys embraced Mqhobi so I guess they fear him not. Ntando and his friends disappeared from our sight.

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Me: Are you sure no harm shall come to him?

Bukhosi: Have no fear, he shall return safely.

Me: I shall take your word for it. Bukhosi, why do the people of Zwelihle look the Royal Family in the eyes when speaking?

Bukhosi: Here it is seen as a sign of disrespect when you look away from the eyes of the one you speak to. The eyes hold truth so I shall see in your eyes when you are not being truthful.

Me: In the Kingdom I'm from, I was not allowed

to look at Royalty in the eyes.

Bukhosi: Yes, it is different with each Kingdom but it is important respect each other's customs to prevent conflict. When we visit the Kingdom of another King we shall do as the rules of his Royal House says and so do other Royals when they visit the soil of Zwelihle.

Me: Ncedi said other Kingdoms bow to the Royals of Zwelihle. What is that?

Bukhosi: She meant that this Kingdom is one of the most feared and respected. We have the best trading deals and our battle warriors are trained with skills that most Kingdoms lack.

Me: What does Zwelihle trade in? Umhlaba Ochumileyo is mostly in the business of farming.

Bukhosi: We trade in everything except for slaves. Mostly we trade in gold.

Me: Was Zinzi found by the King and Queen for



you?

Bukhosi: Yes, it was not difficult because most Kingdoms want an alliance with Zwelihle. Some are already asking the King to have their maidens wed Ntando once he reaches maturity.

Me: But he is so young (we laughed)

Bukhosi: Well many Kingdoms will be knocking at our door asking for your hand in marriage once they hear that Zwelihle has a Princess.

Me: Oh but that sounds too much to handle.

Bukhosi: Well luckily you are not the one who has to handle it. The King and Queen shall find a Prince who is worthy of their only daughter.

Me: Did you learn to love Zinzi?

Bukhosi: Zinzi is a kind woman and yes I had to learn to love her. I was not as lucky as our parents.

Me: What do you mean?

Bukhosi: Mother shall tell you the whole story but they also married in an arranged marriage but they both say they fell in love the moment their eyes met.

Me: They are truly lucky. What they have experienced is rare in an arranged marriage. No wonder the royal house is filled with the air of love.

Bukhosi: Don't fear, the same luck might strike you too. (I laughed)

Me: Let us hope.

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He held my hand and showed me the royal grounds. Everything was beautiful and the cheetah is an important part of our family. There are drawings of it everywhere. Bukhosi left and I went to join Zinzi.

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Me: Is Zoleka sleeping?

Zinzi: Yes and my heart is happy. Shall I pour you a drink?

Me: Yes please. Zinzi do you not fear to be a Queen? (she laughed softly)

Zinzi: I do hold fear but the Queen is a great teacher. She is passing all that I need to know on to me. You are of a kind mother no wonder you are kind.

Me: She is truly kind and beautiful.

Zinzi: Something she has passed on to you. You are flawless, Ndoni.

Me: My thanks, sister. You are beautiful too.

Zinzi: Soon you shall have your own family and be a future Queen of some Kingdom.

Me: That brings fear to my heart.

Zinzi: Why?

Me: I was not always a Princess, Zinzi. What if I fail in my duties.

Zinzi: Ndoni, you have always been a Princess. You just had no knowledge of it. I shall help you with all you need to learn. I watched you walk and carry on and I see that you are truly of Royalty. All shall be well.

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How can I tell her that all shall not be well? All will be well only if I can be pure again and that is not possible. I do not have heart to tell the Queen that her daughter has been disgraced. I shall tell her only after my celebrations. I shall not ruin their good spirits with my bad news. I sat with Zinzi and got more lessons on our ways of doing. I love learning all of it. I feel like I have missed out on all of this history. I thought of Ntsika all day and my heart feels heavy but he is to wed Qaqamba. Maybe he has wed her already and I still can not have him as mine even if the law allows it now. Our destinies are not meant to come together as one and I shall make peace with it. My heart still beats for him

but I have to teach it to stop longing for him.

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#King Xolo

My Queen and I rode in the carriage and she still looks as beautiful as the first day my heart chose her. My heart is at peace now that the Princess has returned to home soil. I can see that she has gone through many challenges but she no longer has to fear because she is home now.

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Me: Nobu, do you think that Ndoni is happy with us?

Nobu: My King she has found her home and family. Why shall she not be?

Me: What if she still holds anger for us? We let her be raised by strangers.

Nobu: We had no other choice, Xolo. She understands that all have been done for her best interest. If we let her stay on this soil she would have been dead now.

Me: You are right, my Queen. I love her so much.  
(I smiled)

Nobu: We all do, my King. Even the boys love having a sister around.

Me: Once her celebration is over, I shall take her to royal duties with me. Nobu: I am sure her heart will be delighted. Seeing all our children at one place has made me happy.

Me: It has made me happy too.

Nobu: Have you heard that the Kingdom of Umhlaba Ochumileyo is seeking a royal maiden to wed the eldest Prince?

Me: I do not want to speak of that and they had better not send a messenger to ask for my Ndoni after her celebrations.

Nobu: Do you not think it is time to make peace, My King?

Me: I shall not make peace with a traitor, Nobu!  
(I raised my voice in anger)

Nobu: As you wish but allow me to send an invitation to their Kingdom. I will be sending to all other Kingdoms. It won't look good if I do not invite the Royal Family of that Kingdom.

Me: They shall never honour the invitation anyway. Xhanti is not a man of honour.

Nobu: That shall be up to them. Let us show that we are not a bad Kingdom. If they do not honour the invitation to Ndoni's celebrations, it shall be on their conscious not ours.

Me: You may send the invitation but I shall not be forced to make peace with that traitor. He has never apologised to me since he betrayed me.

Nobu: It shall all be about Ndoni. No one shall

expect of you to befriend him. I just do not want to invite all other kingdoms and leave them out. Like you have said, they might not even honour the invite.

Me: If they ask for my daughter's hand in marriage I shall not agree. No child of mine is going to wed the son of a man who is not true to his word. They had better keep their royal messengers away from our Kingdom. I shall find a suitor for my Ndoni when the time is right. Send your invitation but they shall get nothing more from my Kingdom, especially not my dear daughter.

Nobu: As you wish, my King. My apologies for upsetting you.

Me: It is not you I'm upset with, my Queen. Hearing the name of Xhanti and all that is associated with him brings anger to my heart but I shall be civil at the celebration to honour my Ndoni's return.



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We rode on in pleasant silence. I hate the thought of Xhanti stepping foot in my Kingdom but I do not want to disappoint my Queen. I will have to tolerate the traitor being in my house until the celebrations are over. A true King admits his faults and Xhanti never did. I shall not want any of his sons near my daughter. They might be traitors like their father. We rode to the royal grounds and my heart felt better when I knew I'm about to see my Princes and Princess. Oh not forgetting little Zoleka too. Now I only wish for this celebration to come and go so the traitor can leave my soil.

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 16

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#Ntsika

The King has summoned me to the royal council chamber at once. Surely they must have found me a bride. Days have passed and the Queen has been frustrated with me for making her task that of difficulty. I walked into the chamber where they sat and greeted them. Lizwi joined us soon after and I at times feel like we are strangers to each other rather than brothers. We all sat down and waited for the King to speak.

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Father: My thanks to all of you for coming to meet me at once.

Mother: Is something the matter, my King?

King: All is well, do not fear. We have been

honoured with an invitation.

Me: Have you found a Kingdom with a suitable maiden?

Father: No, it is an invitation from the Kingdom of Zwelihle.

Mother: Did you say Zwelihle? (her eyes widened in shock)

King: Yes, the King and Queen will have a celebration to honour their Princess.

Lizwi: I had no knowledge of them having a maiden.

Mother: I had no knowledge either. Have you, my king?

King: I know of the little Princess who was born not so long ago.

Me: Shall we honour the invitation?

King: I shall not honour it. (he said in a stern voice)

Mother: I think we need to honour it. This is Zwelihle we speak of, my king. Have you any idea how powerful their reign in?

King: I have full knowledge of that, Nande but I shall not be able to honour the invitation.

Lizwi: I shall not be able to honour a celebration for a little Princess party either.

Me: I have duties to attend to.

Mother: Ntsika do not be stupid. If they have invited our kingdom then surely they have invited other Kingdoms. We might find you a bride while we are there.

Me: Is that not the duty that you and father need to take care of?

King: I have other duties I have to attend to. We shall not all go to a celebration when there are more serious duties to handle.

Mother: I shall honour this invitation. I might find brides for both of my sons. I know that only

the best Kingdoms shall be at this celebration. All want to impress the King and Queen of Zwelihle.

Lizwi: Father, I beg of you to have favour for me right now. Let me go with you to deal with the duties of our Kingdom. I shall not go to a baby celebration.

Me: I shall not go to it either. If the Princess was a mature maiden I would honour the invitation but we all know Zwelihle does not have mature maidens. I shall not go either.

Father: One of you shall go with the Queen or I shall order both of you to go! (he shouted)

Me: Why can you not go, Father? Surely the honour went out to you and mother.

Father: Ntsika I said I shall not go! (he shouted in anger)

Mother: Calm down, my King. You heard your father. My King I ask that you take Lizwi with

you to your other duties because you have taken Ntsika to most. Ntsika shall go with me to Zwelihle.

Me: I shall not go. I should go to more duties with father because I am his successor!

Lizwi: But you are not his only heir! I also need to learn the ways of the Kingdom as much as you do. Father please tell him that I will stay here with you.

King: Ntsika you shall go with the Queen. She can not go alone to foreign soil. Lizwi, you shall remain here with me. That is an order.

Lizwi: My thanks, father.

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I was feeling so much anger but I had to accept the order the king has given. The King and Queen left the chamber and I wish to punch that smile off Lizwi's face.

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Lizwi: Do you know that such celebrations are honoured by women? (he laughed)

Me: Do not think that this shall magically make you next in line of the thrown.

Lizwi: Enjoy the celebration of the little Princess. Who knows maybe they have pretty servants who you can fall in love with. That is your type is it not?

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I rushed out of the door to avoid hurting him. I can not believe the King wants me to go with the Queen to some Princess celebrations. Lizwi is right, such affairs are attended by woman. I got on my horse and I rode at speed. I miss my conversations with Ndoni. She would be able to keep me calm.

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#Queen Nande

I can not believe that we got an invitation from Zwelihle. It must be a celebration to welcome the new baby of their son. The invitation did not say much only that it is a celebration of their Princess. I had Jongile join me to discuss the dress details

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Me: Jongi, I shall be going to the celebration in Zwelihle.

Jongi: You need to be sure that you look beautiful then them all, my Queen.

Me: Have the dress maker be at the royal house soon. I must look good. By any luck I shall find Ntsika and Lizwi brides from the kingdoms that shall be there.

Jongi: What a pity that Zwelihle does not have mature maidens.

Me: Such a pity! Imagine an alliance with that Kingdom. Zwelihle is the biggest dynasty that I



have knowledge of. What a pity indeed!

Jongi: Surely there shall be other great Kingdoms present. They shall not honour small Kingdoms with invitations. Shall the King go with you?

Me: No, he does not want to honour the invitation but I shall not let this opportunity pass.

Jongi: Shall you go alone?

Me: Ntsika is going with me. He is furious but the King gave an order.

Jongi: I shall go and get the dress maker at once.

Me: Get one that will be able to make attire for Ntsika as well. We need to look good. The royals of Zwelihle are always dressed in their best. I shall not have our Kingdom humiliated by wearing old rags.

Jongi: I shall go at once, my Queen.

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Jongi left my chamber and I could not stop smiling. I have never been a guests at Zwelihle but all know about their Kingdom. I wonder why the King has chosen not to honour this invitation. This is the perfect opportunity to go into business with King Xolo. I shall try to befriend Queen Nobubele and attempt to build ties that way. I can not wait to set foot on this powerful Kingdom!

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#Ndoni

I have now gotten used to the way of doing things here. I am able to tie my own headscarf and dress properly. The dress maker has come to measure my body for the attires I shall be wearing. I walked and joined the Queen in the shade outside.

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Queen: My beautiful daughter (she embraced me)

Me: Why are you sitting here on your own, Mother? You should have had me called.

Queen: You are not a servant that I can just summon to cater for my every need, Ndoni.

Me: I know, my Queen but I love sitting with you. It warms my soul. I love getting your warm motherly embraces too. (she smiled)

Queen: I enjoy having you here too. I love giving you the love you missed out on as a child.

Me: Where is Father and my brothers?

Queen: Out on royal duties. Ndoni, is something the matter?

Me: I do know know what you mean (I said softly)

Queen: I might not have raised you but you come from me and I can feel that your heart is sometimes heavy. Are you not happy with us?

Me: I am at my most happiest. I have never felt so much love and acceptance.

Queen: Talk to me, my Blossom. I am before you as your mother and not the Queen. (she held my hand)

Me: What shall it take for you to no longer love me, my Queen?

Queen: My heart shall never stop feeling love for you. Even when you were gone I loved you. (I started to cry)

Me: My life has not been easy as a servant, Mother (she embraced me)

Queen: Tell me everything.

Me: I fear that you and the King shall despise me.

Queen: It is not possible, Ndoni. Our hearts could never carry hate for any of our children. Your heart is heavy and it pains me to see it.

Me: I've been disgraced, I'm no longer pure.

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I hid my face in my hands and I cried uncontrollably. I expected her to tell me to go before I bring shame to their Kingdom but I felt her embrace me tightly. I wrapped my arms around her too. It felt good to speak of what has been bothering me.

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Queen: Did the Princes of that royal house force you to be a bedroom servant?

Me: The one was planning to but he did not succeed.

Queen: Tell me what happened.

Me: The eldest Prince showed me kindness by keeping me safe from his cruel brother. We fell in love and I let him have me. My apologies for the shame, my Queen.

Queen: It shall all be right, my blossom. You have not always known you are of royalty. We

shall find a way to solve this.

Me: Ncedi said that if I'm disgraced by a Prince I can marry him if he accepts responsibility. I know Ntsika would not deny his actions but he is to wed soon.

Queen: He has not wed, he still seeks a maiden.

Me: Are you sure?

Queen: I am sure of the fact, my blossom.

Me: Then you can tell Father that he has disgraced me and he can make an honest woman of me.

Queen: It won't be that easy. Your father holds a lot of anger to King Xhanti. He shall never agree to a union between you two.

Me: What has the King of Umhlaba done to anger him.

Queen: It is of no matter right now. I shall try to speak to your father. Maybe I shall make him

have peace in his heart.

Me: Shall you tell him that I have been disgraced?

Queen: Not yet, I first need to convince him to make peace with King Xhanti. Your father might decide to go to war with Xhanti if he finds that his son has disgraced his only daughter.

Me: Perhaps a union between me and Ntsika shall bring peace to their hearts.

Queen: We speak of two very stubborn men who both are in power of Kingdoms. It shall not be easy but I shall try to bring peace to your father's heart.

Me: Ntsika did not make me his bedroom maid, Mother. I love him with all my heart and I miss him. He is a kind man. Please let Father not punish him for the sins of King Xhanti, I beg of you.

Queen: If there can be peace between the two

Kings then it shall be easy to wed you to your love, Ndoni. I will try my best to solve this, my blossom. You have my promise.

Me: My apologies for disappointing you. (she kissed my cheek)

Queen: I hold no shame or disappointment for you. I love you, dear daughter. I am your mother before I am your Queen. Let me try to deal with your father.

Me: Do not tell him of Lizwi's attempt to forcefully have me as his.

Queen: That brings anger to my heart. They dared to try and hurt the Princess of Zwelihle but I shall respect your decision. Have they done any more bad to you there?

Me: No, Mother.

Queen: Good because I would have declared war myself. We sent out an invitation to their Kingdom to your celebrations but they might



not honour it because I doubt King Xhanti wants to set foot here. If they do shall that sit well with you if they come?

Me: It shall be well with me.

Queen: My thanks for trusting me with the news, my blossom.

Me: I love you, Mother (I jumped to embrace her)

Queen: And I you, my blossom.

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We spoke some more and I am happy I have told her. I hope she shall be able to soften Father's heart. I did not tell her about all the other evils I have suffered in Umhlaba Ochumileyo. How Lizwi had me beaten until I could not move or how the Queen tried to have me burnt alive! It shall only anger the heart of the Queen too and she shall tell Father and his anger might lead to war. I wish not for Queen Nande and Lizwi to come to my celebration but

my heart hopes for Ntsika to honour it. Why has he not wed Qaqamba? I wish that our fathers could talk and make peace. The laws allow us to be together now but if our fathers refuse it shall never happen but sure my father shall agree. He would not want to bring shame to the Kingdom. What has king Xhanti done that allowed my father's heart to turn into stone?

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 17

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Queen Nobubele

It pains my heart that Ndoni had to bare such painful challenges. I shall have to thank this Prince Ntsika for saving my daughter from forceful bedroom dealings with his brother. He

sounds like a truly kind man and I can see my daughter loves him. I have to observe him if he honours the celebration to see if he truly is worthy of my only daughter. I sat with my King and hope to convince him to change what he feels for the King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

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King: My Queen, what seems to be on your mind?

Me: I forget that you know me better than all (we both laughed)

King: It is my duty as the man who holds your heart. What is the matter, my Nobu?

Me: Promise you that you shall not be angered.

King: It shall depend on what you speak, my darling.

Me: My husband, do you not think it is time to let old wounds heal?

King: What wounds do you speak of?

Me: The wounds between you and Xhanti. (he stood and walked about)

King: I shall never forgive a man who has not apologised for his faults, Nobu.

Me: Be the better King and show your heart holds no hate, Xolo. Is it not what we teach our children?

King: Nobu, Xhanti almost had me killed.

Me: I have knowledge of that but it was long ago when you were both young Kings who were still learning how to be in power.

King: I once took Xhanti not just as a fellow leader but a true friend but he betrayed me, Nobu.

Me: I have knowle...

King: We agreed to go on a big trading deal together and prove to the people of our Kingdoms that they can have trust in us. Xhanti got greedy and negotiated a sole agreement to

enrich his Kingdom. He made a fool of me before my people! (he cut me short)

Me: You have managed to build a Kingdom more powerful, Xolo. Maybe not getting that deal was good for Zwelihle because other trading deals came in numbers.

King: It is not about the deals or the riches that came with it, my Queen. It is about Xhanti never giving me his apologies for the betrayal. You know I am a man who keeps to his word and I value people who do the same. When I give my word, I shall do what we agreed on. I shall not sit around the same table with a man who is not true to his word. He broke our friendship, Nobu. Do you realise how great our Kingdoms could have been side by side?

Me: Your Kingdom is already great, My King. Other Kingdoms beg to have some sort of alliance with Zwelihle because you have turned it into a powerful dynasty.

King: You shall not understand, my Queen. This has more to do with a brotherhood and less with power. Xhanti has chosen power and wealth over our brotherhood.

Me: Shall your heart find peace if Xhanti sends his apologies?

King: I shall not have knowledge of that now but I shall not dine with a backstabber. You know how important honour is in Kingdoms. If he has not sent his apologies all these years then he sees not his faults. I have no respect for a man who can not admit his faults and apologise.

Me: Shall you carry this in your heart for all your days.

King: I have nothing to feel bad about. My heart is content because my Kingdom is prosperous and my family is with me but I shall never go into any other deal with that man.

Me: If he had not betrayed you. Would you have allowed one of his sons to wed your daughter?

King: I would have but not anymore. I shall not send my daughter to a house of dishonesty, only to have her be mistreated. An alliance between Zwelihle and Umhlaba Ochumileyo would not be a good one.

Me: I hear what you say, My King but I beg of you to find peace.

King: If that backstabber can grow a spine and look me in the eyes to give me a sincere and true apology. I might just find peace. Why are we speaking of this Nobu?

Me: I just do not want our children to see you carry hate. We teach them not to hate.

King: They shall not, my Queen. My wish is for Ndoni to have a good welcome. My daughter deserves best.

Me: Have you thought of which Kingdom we shall find her a suitor at?

King: Any powerful Kingdom with decent

Princes. I shall make sure she weds well, do not fear.

Me: I heard that the eldest Prince of Xhanti is kind. Xolo, Ndoni grew up on Xhanti's soil. Does it not make sense to speak with him and find a way forward?

King: He did not raise Ndoni, Nobu. She was nurtured by people of his soil, not by him. I shall give my thanks to the orphanage that has raised her but nothing more. She was a servant in his house, not a guest. I shall not give him thanks for that. Do not expect of me to, my Queen.

Me: My apologies, my love. I meant not to upset you. Please excuse me. I have promised Ndoni to meet up with her. I love you.

King: And I you, my Queen. I shall see our daughter at sunset.

Me: Go well (I embraced him)



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We went our separate ways and I see that this is going to be difficult. I do not want my Ndoni to be shamed for deeds she did as a servant. I walked to her chamber and knocked. She gave permission to enter and I found Mbaleki resting her head on Ndoni's lap.

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Me: Mbaleki is such a big baby (we both laughed)

Ndoni: She likes it when I rub the soft fur under her neck.

Me: She is beautiful. I have spoken to your father (she sat up)

Ndoni: Has he agreed, Mother? Is he going to make peace with King Xhanti.

Me: Ndoni, it is King Xhanti who needs to make peace with your father. He is the one who has wronged my husband.

Ndoni: What has he done to Father?

Me: He went against his word when they were still young. He was a close friend of your father and that made the betrayal even worse.

Ndoni: So father shall not find peace until King Xhanti gives his apologies?

Me: I do not know if an apology shall make him approve of alliance between the two Kingdoms.

Ndoni: Maybe King Xhanti shall honour the invitation to my celebrations and shall swallow his pride and apologise to the King of Zwelihle.

Me: I hope so too. I wish for Ntsika to honour the invitation too. I want to see if he indeed the kind man you speak of (she blushed and looked down)

Ndoni: He is very kind, Mother and we like the same things.

Me: It sounds like the King and I. I remember when I was told I'm ready to wed and a groom

was found for me. I felt so terrified and did not think I would be happy. When I first saw my King my heart chose him and by luck his chose me too. I want you to be with the one you love, my blossom. I am happy that you fell in love with a Prince. This is clearly a destiny Shiba chose for you and I shall not anger her by going against her. We shall find a way to move forward so that Prince Ntsika can make an honest maiden out of you. You said he shall not deny you right?

Ndoni: He loves me, Mother and I him. I believe he shall accept responsibility and make me his bride if our fathers bless our union.

Me: It shall all work out as it should but I want you to know that your father and I shall never turn our backs on you. We have lost you once, Ndoni and we shall not allow it to happen again.

Ndoni: I am blessed to come from a kind mother.

Me: Now come and enjoy picking fruit with your mother. (she smiled)

Ndoni: Who shall climb the tree? (we laughed)

Me: Mbaleki shall do it for us or we can call Ntando and his many friends.

Ndoni: Ntando truly has many friends. I see knew faces everyday.

Me: Why do you think we named him Ntandoyabantu. We saw the minute he was born that he would be the Prince of the people. (we laughed)

Ndoni: My thanks for making me laugh.

Me: Come dear Princess, let us worry not about the problems of tomorrow.

Ndoni: Come Mbaleki (they both stood)

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The three of us went out to fruit trees at the royal ground. Mbaleki got on the tree and fell

asleep and Ntando was not to be seen. Ndoni got on and got us big fat apples and we washed them and ate. My daughter seems happier now that she knows I shall do all in my power to make her not feel shame. She has been robbed of so many and I shall not let her be robbed of the man her heart chose. Oh but I am glad that she has been with a Prince and not a commoner. I do not know how I will bring peace to the two families but I shall try my best to soften Xolo's heart. He is a kind man but he hates being betrayed. I wish Xhanti had not gone against his word because we would have also been celebrating a wedding if he had stayed true.

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#Ndoni

I love spending my days with the Queen. She is so different to Queen Nande. I've never seen

Nande embrace her children and husband but my mother is warm. I will still not tell her that I suffered more in that Kingdom. How my heart wishes for King Xhanti to apologise so we can wed. It seems that fate is making it difficult for me and Ntsika to love each other. The Queen went out and I sat with Ncedi.

.

Me: Ncedi, allow me to help you fold the sheets (she laughed softly)

Ncedi: Your highness, when have you seen a Princess help a helper fold sheets?

Me: I have never seen it but I was a servant before. I know how it is done.

Ncedi: Well you no longer are a servant. Force your mind to remember it, dear Princess.

Me: Am I allowed to give you an order? (she smiled)

Ncedi: Yes you are, my lady.

Me: Then I shall help you fold and that is an order (we both laughed)

Ncedi: I have never gotten such a kind order but I shall not go against it, dear Princess.

Me: Good or I shall punish you by making you rub Mbaleki's neck. (she laughs)

Ncedi: Your kind nature is clearly something that runs through your veins. All the royals are of a kind nature.

Me: Hearing that warms my heart dearly.

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I took the sheets and helped her fold it. They smelled fresh. Ncedi is that aunty that I never had. She looks like she is the same age as the Queen and she loves me. I think it is because she is the first person who saw my face when I was born and she gave me my markings. I helped her carry the sheets to the clean linen chamber and the other servants stared like we

are committing a crime. Time flew by fast and it was time for the night feast. We all sat and waited for the King and Queen.

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Bukhosi: Zoleka has not been sleeping well and I do not know what to do.

Me: Maybe her little gums are sore, she might show teeth soon.

Ncedi: I agree with the Princess. I shall have a remedy made for her to rub on her gums to relieve the pain. I'll also make a teething necklace for her.

Zinzi: Oh my thanks, Ncedi. Ndoni how do to know about babies when you are not yet a mother?

Me: Some of the girls at the orphanage came when they were still infants. I helped Mama raise them.

Ntando: Then you shall be a good mother,



Ndoni.

Bukhosi: She shall indeed. Zinzi have you found dancers for Ndoni's celebration?

Zinzi: I have, my Prince but I shall seek more. It seems this celebration might go on for days.

Bukhosi: What about the accommodation?

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The King and Queen walked in and they were holding hands and laughing. So beautiful is their love. We were about to stand but the King stopped us.

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King: Our apologies for keeping you waiting, my children.

Me: No need for apologies, we have not been waiting long.

Queen: Where is Zoleka?

Zinzi: Finally asleep, Mother.

Ntando: My Queen we are worried about where all the guests shall sleep for the celebration.

King: We have plenty of room and it is not the first time we have entertained many guests.

Queen: Many shall honour this invitation, my King because we did not make it clear who the Princess we speak of is.

Bukhosi: Curiosity shall bring even the people from most far.

Zinzi: I am sure many think the Princess we speak of is Zoleka (we laughed)

Me: Fathet, shall I be expected to speak before those many people? (my eyes widened)

Bukhosi: Yes, you shall stand before us on a chair and address your guests because they have come for you. (I heartbeat raced)

King: You shall not speak if you do not wish to, my daughter.

Ntando: It is not difficult, Ndoni. I love

addressing people. (we laughed)

Queen: Your sister is not you, my son.

Bukhosi: One big mouth in the family is enough  
(we laughed)

King: Let us eat, children.

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The food got served and we all helped ourselves. I wish there was a way to talk to Ntsika and have him ask his father to ask for forgiveness. They planned my celebration and it sounds as if the entire world is coming. I am feeling nervous already. I do not like to be the center of anything but I must accept it now because I'm not longer a nobody. I am now a Royal being and I must be available to the people soon. I have so many plans and I can not wait to go on royal duties with Father soon. I shall have to go and visit the orphanage after my celebration. It is only right I honour Mama rightfully.

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## #Ntsika

I sat outside and watched the stars in the skies. Ndoni used to love doing it and she has made me love it too. The sky lit orange from afar and I wondered if my maiden sees the beauty. Bantu joined me.

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Me: You need not babysit me, my brother.

Bantu: I shall not disrespect you like that, warrior. I have come to enjoy the warm night but I pray mosquitoes do not bite (we laughed)

Me: My blood is bitter so they dare not feed on me. Have you told the maiden?

Bantu: I have (he smiled)

Me: Has she agreed to keep your heart safe?

Bantu: She has and I gave her my promise to do

the same.

Me: That is great news, warrior (we shook hands)

Bantu: My Prince, may I ask permission to take her to the royal garden you have taken your maiden to?

Me: I give you permission, brother. Just tell me the days and I shall ensure you do not get disturbed. I shall even stand guard as to have with me.

Bantu: My thanks, brother. I shall make sure it is before you go with the Queen.

Me: My heart is still heavy. I do not want to go to the celebration.

Bantu: Beg the King to allow you to stay.

Me: I have tried, brother but he has made up his mind. He seems upset when we speak of it so it is best I leave him. The Queen is feeling excited.

Bantu: Do you blame her? This is Zwelihle we

Speak of! Maybe the Queen can secure ties with the Kingdom for Umhlaba.

Me: They shall not take her seriously because she is a woman.

Bantu: That is where you come in. Show your father that you are able to secure some sort of business ties with this Kingdom.

Me: You're right, brother. It shall have to be a business deal because we can not build an alliance, they have no mature maidens who are ready to wed.

Bantu: Pity the Princess is a baby. Imagine the power the two Kingdoms shall have if they were bound by a marriage.

Me: Zwelihle is powerful, Bantu. Even if they had maidens they would marry them off to Kingdoms stronger than Umhlaba.

Bantu: Then go and try to build business ties with it and the other kingdoms that shall be

there.

Me: All the Queen cares about is finding two maidens for her sons. Oh and looking good. She had the dressmaker make so many attires for her (we laughed)

Bantu: She is the Queen so it is to be expected and she shall meet other Queens who will also be at their best.

Me: I only wish for this celebration to come and go so I can go on with life. .

We sat and enjoyed the night in pleasant silence. My brother who is not born from my mother. I am happy that his maiden has agreed to have him as hers. She shall be in good, kind hands. He shall honour her and I shall make him my advisor once I sit on the thrown someday. Lizwi might advice me to an early grave, I do not trust him even if we come from the same womb. All I wish now is for this celebration that makes the Queen fuss so much to be over. To find a

bride and get the King and Queen off my back for good.

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 18

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#Ndoni

Days have gone by and the day of my celebration has finally come. We shall have the celebration of my return today and the one of my birth tomorrow. I stood and allowed the royal helpers to dress me in my new attire. The Queen walked in and she looked beautiful. We all bowed our heads in greeting.

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Me: Mother, you look like a true goddess. (she



smiled)

Mother: My thanks, my blossom. Young maidens, you may leave me alone with the Princess. I shall help her get dressed.

Them: As you wish, your highness (they spoke at the same time and left)

Mother: How are you feeling?

Me: I am not well. The nerves refuse to leave my body and it makes me feel sick.

Mother: You need to eat, Ndoni. You only ate fruit at the morning feast.

Me: I shall eat later, my Queen. Have many guests arrived?

Mother: Yes, your fathers and brothers are welcoming the Royal Families who have honoured the invitation.

Me: Has the Kingdom of Umhlaba come?

Mother: I do not think they shall honour the

invitation. Many guests set foot on our soil yesterday at sunset.

Me: Perhaps King Xhanti wishes not to meet with the King of Zwelihle.

Mother: I do not want you do bother yourself with this, Ndoni. All of these celebrations are in your honour and it will pain me if you do not feel joy.

Me: I feel a lot of joy but I am just disappointed that Ntsika shall not come.

Mother: My apologies, my blossom. I know your heart longs for him.

Me: I will make peace with it. Fate wishes not to have us together.

Mother: More guests are to arrive. There is more time until your celebrations.

Me: You're right, my Queen. You and Father have done this to honour me and I shall enjoy it.

.

She helped me get dressed and I am happy that it is her who is and not the helpers. The special occasion attire is complicated to put on. She tied my headscarf so beautifully and put a beaded veil over it.

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Me: Why should my face be covered, my queen?

Mother: We shall go out and greet the guests with the King and Princes. No guest is to see your face until the King gives permission.

Me: I understand and I can see so I fear not running into walls (we both laughed)

Mother: You look so beautiful, young maiden. A true Princess of Zwelihle.

Me: My thanks, mother. How can I not be beautiful when I come of parents who are flawless? (she laughed softly)

Mother: I love you, my blossom. Tomorrow you

shall officially be declared a mature maiden. I shall never forget the day you were born. It rained immediately after you came and rain signifies blessings here in the soil of Zwelihle. You are my only maiden child and you are my blessing.

Me: It warms my heart to hear such kind words. I love you, my Queen.

.

We embraced in a tight hug and every embrace feels as special as the first one she gave me. She put on my jewelry and my attire was complete. My heart hoped to see Ntsika but I guess his father felt too much shame to honour the invitation. We went to meet the Royal men.

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Father: My Queen and Princess, you two are looking so beautiful.

Mother: We give our thanks, my King.

Ntando: But Father we can not even see Ndoni's face. (we laughed)

Me: I can see yours Ntando so do not worry.

Bukhosi: The royal ladies of Zwelihle are of true beauty.

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Zimba who is the King's right hand man approached. He bowed his head in greeting as he stood before us.

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Zimba: My King, the Kingdom of Umhlaba Ochumileyo has set foot on the soil of Zwelihle. Shall you go out and welcome them? (father's jaw clenched)

Mother: I think we must go and meet them, my king. (she looked at me)

Father: We shall meet them, Zimba. Inform them that we are on our way. Has King Xhanti honoured the invitation?

Zimba: It is only his Queen and Prince, my King.

Father: I knew he shall not come. Let us go.

.

The King and Queen walked before us and we walked behind them. My heart was beating fast because I do not know which Prince Zimba speak of. It could be that cruel Lizwi but my heart wishes that it is my Prince. We walked slowly and I felt like running ahead. We went to the chamber where they stood. My heart jumped for joy when I saw my warrior. Looking so handsome and strong. I wished to run into his arms and embrace him but the King shall not like that one bit. They bowed their heads in greeting as per the way of Zwelihle.

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Ntsika: Greeting King and Queen of Zwelihle. We come from the soil of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I am Prince Ntsika eldest son to King Xhanti. This is my mother, Queen Nande. We would like

to give thanks for the honour of inviting us to your soil. My father sends his apologies for not honouring your invitation.

Nande: We hold gifts for the Princess to show gratitude...

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She did not manage to finish because Mbaleki clawed what she was holding in her hands and she jumped backwards in fear. Ntsika stood before his mother and I expected nothing less from him. I had to calm my beast down since my authority is all that she listens to. It seems Mbaleki does not like Nande

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Mother: Our apologies Queen Nande, she has never done this with any other guest. She only attacks if she feels her keeper is in danger.

Father: Have you come with any agenda to cause harm, dear Queen?

Nande: I shall not insult you on your own soil,  
King Xolo.

Ntsika: My King, I can assure you that we have  
not come to cause any harm to you or anyone if  
your Kingdom.

Father: Then allow me to send apologies for  
Mbaleki's behaviour. We as the Royal Family  
welcome you to our soil. We only wish for you  
to enjoy the celebrations with us. We give our  
thanks to the Kingdom of Umhlaba Ochumileyo  
for honouring our invite.

Ntsika: The honour is ours.

Bukhosi: Zimba shall show you to your resting  
chamber. We shall meet you all again when it is  
time for the celebrations.

Ntsika: We give our thanks. Until we meet later.

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They first shook the hands of the leaders of  
Zwelihle. After that they did the same with us



and I saw Ntsika take a deep breath as his strong hands shook mine softly. Holding him again made my body feel so warm and my heart felt like it would beat out of my chest. They left us and we welcomed other honoured guests. Mbaleki did not misbehave with anyone, only with Nande.

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Ntando: Mbaleki almost scratched that Queen.

King: She feels that they are all from the house of a dishonest man.

Mother: My King, shall we please not speak of that now.

Bukhosi: But father is right, my Queen. You know our cheetahs harm only those who wish us harm. They can feel bad energy.

Mother: I shall not allow you to talk about unhappy news when we are about to celebrate Ndoni. We shall speak of this later.

Me: I agree with the Queen. Let us all just enjoy.

.

Father did not look delighted. I could not tell them that Nande wished me dead. Maybe Mbaleki felt that her heart holds hate for me. If the King and Queen finds out then she shall be in a lot of trouble. She deserves it but I do not want her to make us carry hate today. Time flew by and we were told that the guests have all gathered in the entertainment chamber. Ncedi helped me change attires once again and my beaded veil was changed from a beaded one to a gold one. Zimba told all the guests to quiet down and stand on their feet to welcome the royal family. When all was quiet the King and Queen walked in and sat on their royal chairs. We followed and we sat on either side of them. All bowed their hands as per the way of Zwelihle. I looked around to see where Ntsika is and I saw him. He did not look much interested in all that is happening. Everyone sat and the

dancers and singers started to enter. Drinks were served to all and it seemed all were having a good time. The King rose to his feet to address the people.

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Father: I would like to give my thanks to all that is here. All the Royal Families, royal councils and all who have honoured the invitation to this celebration. I have asked of you to join the King and Queen of Zwelihle as they welcome their Princess. Many of you have no knowledge of the fact that we have a daughter but we do. All royals shall have knowledge of the danger being of royalty come. Our lives are always in harms way from evils. The Queen and I had to send our only daughter away to a place of safe keeping because her life was in danger. It was a difficult thing to do but she has found our way back to us. After much longing we can now sit with her and honour her. I shall give my Queen the honour to reveal our daughter to you.

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Everyone cheered and most had looks of total shock written on their faces. The Queen stood and took my hand. I felt like I was going to collapse to the floor. All eyes were looking at me. I stood in the middle of my parents.

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Mother: I shall not add any more words to that of the King. It gives me the greatest honour to welcome my only daughter, Princess Ndoniyamanzi. The Princess of Zwelihle.

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She took off my veil and all stood to clap in cheering. I managed to give a very shaky nervous smile. Ntsika stood like a statue but he knew he could not come to me. We looked at each other for the longest of time. Nande stood slowly with her mouth wide open and suddenly she collapsed to the floor. The royal helps attended to her at once. I'm sure she thought

she is seeing a ghost because she knows me to be dead. They finally managed to get her to come back to the people. She sat down on her chair and the King was not pleased with her interrupting the celebration and he had her sent away to her resting chamber I do not care what happens to Nande and I shall speak with her tomorrow. Ntsika went with her but he returned. He could not stop looking at me. The celebrations went on and on.

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Mother: Go out to the garden, I shall have him meet you (she whispered)

Me: I do not want to anger the King, mother.

Mother: I shall make sure take care of it. Now go and once before anyone notices.

Me: My thanks.

Mother: He is feeling confused and you both clearly have to speak. Now go.

.

I walked out and I saw her whisper to the King and he nodded. Making my way to the garden with happiness in my heart. Mother is truly such a blessing. I hate that she has to be dishonest to her King because of me. I looked at the stars above and felt the cool wind blow my way. I waited for Ntsika to meet me and hope he still holds love for me in his heart.

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#Ntsika

Just as I thought that nothing shall come from this celebration! Now I hear that the maiden that my heart has chosen in a Princess. I feel like luck has finally favoured our union. A messenger came to take me to some place. I hope that nothing has come to mother again. I walked behind him to a flower filled area and I realised it's their royal garden. I went in and was

greeted by the beautiful Ndoniyamanzi. She saw me and she jumped on me with an embrace. I could not believe that it is her. I knew that the lavender scent I smelled earlier was familiar but I did not think it is her. I looked at her and she was crying.

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Me: Have you any idea how much I've missed you, Ndoni? (I kissed her)

Ndoni: I have missed you too.

Me: Why did you leave?

Ndoni: I can not tell you, Ntsika.

Me: Talk to me, young maiden.

Ndoni: Your mother hired one of her guards to kill me. I was planning on going on my own but I never got the change. She wanted him to burn me. (she broke down)

Me: I knew she had a hand in your departure somehow but I never thought it was through

such an evil deed. My apologies, my lady. What happened afterwards?

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She told me all about what she had to go through. I felt a hate in my heart that I've never thought possible and it was all directed to my mother. If Manqhoba had not shown mercy to her she would have been dead. She wept uncontrollably and I held her tight hoping that all the pain shall go from her body to mine so she won't have to feel it.

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Me: I can not believe that you are the Princess of Zwelihle.

Ndoni: I did not believe it myself (she laughed softly)

Me: I have not wed Qaqamba, Ndoni. I shall go to your father and ask for your hand in marriage.

Ndoni: He shall not give you his blessings.



Me: The law allows us to wed now, young maiden. Why shall he not agree? Have they found a groom for you?

Ndoni: No, they have not found one. I can't marry Ntsika. I am a disgraced Princess but the King holds no knowledge of this.

Me: I shall take responsibility, Ndoni. I am the one who has shamed you so allow me to bring honour to you.

Ndoni: Our fathers do not see eyes to eye, my Prince. Your father betrayed mine and he shall never let me wed the son of a traitor. (I clenched my jaw)

Me: What type of parents do I come from? (I shouted in anger)

Ndoni: Calm down, my mother promised to help us.

Me: What happens if they find you a suitor?

Ndoni: I do not know. I have to go back to the

celebrations before the King wonders where I am.

Me: We shall fix this. Even if it means I need to force Xhanti to bow to your father in apology.

Ndoni: I hope he shall do that.

Me: When shall I see you again?

Ndoni: I shall try to come to your chamber later but I do not give you my promise.

Me: Shall I have a kiss? (she smiled)

Ndoni: I thought my prince would never ask (I laughed softly)

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I kissed her and it felt like we are alone in this world. I wish it was that way because no one would stop us from loving each other. That is all we wish for to love each other.

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Me: I love you, Ndoniyamanzi Princess of

Zwelihle. (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: And I you, Ntsika Prince of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. (I smiled and kissed her)

Me: Go before your Father sends for you.

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She kissed my cheek and she walked away. My heart hold anger for both of my parents. I do not know how I shall deal with this issue of the Queen almost killing her. I fear that if I go to where she is I might strangle her to death. I wished that cheetah had clawed her. The animal reacted because Ndoni is it's keeper and it felt Nande's evil ways towards Ndoni. I shall have to get the King to beg for forgiveness. I do not care about the alliance between two Kingdoms. All I care of is to wed the love of my life and I shall not let it go because we are now in full right. I went back to the celebrations and all I could do what stare and Ndoni and smile. Everything came to an end. Everyone retired to

their chambers and I did not even go and check on Nande. I call her by name because she is not worthy of the title of Queen. I heard a soft knock on the door and I knew it is Ndoni. I opened the door and we both smiled and she entered.

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Me: Shall I bow, your highness? (she laughed)

Ndoni: You shall not because bowing is not the way of Zwelihle.

Me: Shall you spend the night?

Ndoni: I can not stay long. It is almost sunrise and the King and Queen shall be angered if they see I'm not in the royal house by sunrise.

Me: I shall make sure we wake before that. Shall your beast not bite me?

Ndoni: No, she bites only if I give order to or when harm stands before me.

Me: She should have bitten Nande to death.

Ndoni: Do not wish for bad for your mother. I do not like her but I do not wish her death. I shall not allow her to turn my heart into stone. Shall we just enjoy being united again please? I have been longing to feel your strong arms around me. (I smiled in delight)

Me: As you wish, dear Princess. My heart still beats for you, Ndoniyamanzi. I shall wed you one way or another.

.

I kissed her and lifted her off her feet and put her on the bed. I craved to have her so much. I took in her lavender scent and smiled in delight. I caressed her body and it felt different. It has truly been too long and I have missed her. I kissed all of her and entered her temple. My lady moved with me as the chamber got filled with our pleasure sounds. We knew we have to keep it silent but the pleasure we felt controlled us. I made love to her like it is the first and last

time until pleasure overtook us. I held her in my arms after the beautiful moment. She fell asleep because she was exhausted. I finally had my heart back in my arms and I shall be damned if I let her go again.

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 19

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#Ndoni

I opened my still tired eyes slowly and I heard the rooster crow loudly. Suddenly I heard a scratching sound on the door and a voice that called out my name. I woke completely and realised I'm laying next to Ntsika. We have not managed to wake up before sunset. The scratching on the door became more urgent

and my heart raced so fast.

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Me: Ntsika, wake up (I shook him)

Ntsika: What seems to be the matter? (he opened his eyes)

Me: We have failed to wake before sunset, my Prince. (he sat up)

Voice: Ndoni! (said the voice on the other side of the door)

Ntsika: Get dressed, Ndoni. We must both get dressed. Your father shall have a sharp spear pierced into my flesh for having you here.

Me: He already knows, Ntsika (tears ran down my cheek)

Ntsika: Let us get dressed and face the consequences of our actions.

.

We stood and put on our clothes quickly. I can

not have Father kill Ntsika. If he kills the man I love I shall not be able to live. I embraced him one last time because we might never get the chance. The voice and scratching at the door sounded more desperate. I opened the door.

.

Ntando: Ndoni, have you lost your mind?

Me: How did you know you shall find me here?

Ntando: I saw you come to the guest chambers after the celebration. I did not know which chamber you went to but I saw Mbaleki standing before this one.

Me: Has anyone else seen him?

Ntando: I shall have no knowledge of that. Ndoni, Mbaleki is your protector, she goes where you go. The King and Queen could have seen this.

Ntsika: It is my fault, my apologies.

Ntando: You have disgraced the Princess of



Zwelihle. Father shall have Mlilo claw you to death.

Me: Shall you tell the King, Ntando? Do not brother, I beg of you (he looked at me for long)

Ntando: I shall not shame my own sister like that. You Prince have to do right by the Princess or I shall let our Father have knowledge of this.

Ntsika: I shall, you have my full promise.

Ntando: Come, Ndoni let us go to the Royal House before they wake. Look Mbaleki tried to wake yo, she has damaged the door.

Me: My thanks to you both.

Ntsika: Go well. (I looked at him and smiled)

.

We hurried and made our way back to the royal house. How blessed am I to have a young mature brother. We walked in and we heard the King speak behind us. I felt like collapsing to the floor.

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Father: Ntandoyabantu, where do you both come from? (we bowed our heads in greeting)

Ntando: Father, I got afraid last night after my slumber got interrupted by a bad dream. I asked Ndoni to please sleep with me in my chamber.

Father: But you do not come from the direction of your chamber. (he looked at us intensely)

Me: Father, I have to let you know of...

Ntando: We come from the food chamber, Father. We got hungry and we come from there. We hoped to return to our chamber before all see. Our apologies, my King (he cut me short)

Father: You need to apologise for giving your bellies what it wants. All in this house is yours too (he laughed softly)

Me: Our thanks, Father. We shall now go to our chamber to prepare for the morning feast.

Father: Shall you eat again? (he laughed)

Ntando: I shall, a Prince has to eat to be strong  
(we laughed)

Father: You may go, my children. I shall not be  
at the morning feast.

Me: Go well, Father.

Father: Not before I wish my daughter on her  
special day. You are now a mature maiden,  
Ndoniyamanzi. My heart feels joy that you  
stand before me. Shall your Father please get  
an embrace?

Me: Yes, Father (I smiled and embraced him)

Father: Ntando take your sister before her  
chamber to ensure she enters safely.

Ntando: I shall, my King. (they shook hands)

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We parted ways with the King as he made his  
way out of the Royal Home. Ntando wished me  
on my special day. I felt truly special. He walked  
me to my chamber.

.

Me: Ntando, my thanks for all you have done.

Ntando: It shall pain me to see you in trouble, Ndoni. That Prince must do right by you or even I shall hold anger for him.

Me: He shall, brother. Now go and get ready for the morning feast. I love you.

Ntando: And I you, Princess of Zwelihle.

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He left my chamber and I do not believe how luck has favoured me. I still felt sick like before the feast. I wonder when the nerves shall leave my body. I got ready to meet the family and got dressed. I felt dizzy and collapsed. I could feel Mbaleki licking my forehead as I laid there but I fell asleep. I heard a voice call my name and it is Ncedi's.

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Ncedi: Princess Ndoni, wake up! (she slapped

my cheek lightly)

Me: I do not feel well, Ncedi. (I managed to say)

Ncedi: Come I shall help you on your bed. (she helped me up)

Queen: Ncedi, what is taking you so long to call Ndoni (she walked in)

Ncedi: I found her on her chamber floor, My Queen. She is not well.

Queen: My blossom, what is the matter? (she felt my face with her hand)

Me: I am better now, my Queen. I just need to eat. I felt sick and dizzy (she and Ncedi looked at each other)

Queen: Shall I have your food be bought to your chamber?

Me: I shall eat with the family, my Queen. Do not fear, I shall not collapse again.

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The Queen and Ncedi helped me get fully dressed. I felt much better now, it must be the nerves. Mother looked like she is not herself and it worried me. We joined the family for the morning feast and they and some of the helpers sang songs of celebration for me. Our guests who have remained shall also be getting a feast. Ntando now also had to be dishonest to the King because of me. I shall tell the Queen to tell father the truth. We sat and we enjoyed our meal. I shall not go to Ntsika at sunset, it is too dangerous. If father had been the one who caught us, Ntsika would be no longer of this life and I can not risk being the cause of him meeting his end.

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#Queen Nobu

The Princess has collapsed and she feels sick. I shall have to ask her if she has gone to her

womanly monthly cycle. She is no longer pure so she might be naturing an Umhlaba heir. Has Shiba allowed Ndoni to meet this destiny to bring peace between Xolo and Xhanti? I have to act quickly to bring peace to this feud. I had Ndoni walk with me.

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Me: Ndoni I have to ask you something, my blossom?

Ndoni: You may ask, mother.

Me: Have you gone to your womanly cycle? (she did not look alarmed)

Ndoni: No, mother but do not fear. I have never had a normal cycle. I do not get it all the months.

Me: Have you felt other sickness beside you feeling dizzy?

Ndoni: No I have not, my Queen. What seems to be the matter? Is me not getting my womanly cycle normally not good?

Me: Do not fear, my blossom. You take after me because I was like that as a young maiden too (she smiled in relief)

Ndoni: It seems more is on your thoughts. What is it, my Queen?

Me: What Mbaleki did to Nande at the welcoming has been in my thoughts for long now. She shall not attack if she did not feel you are in harm. Ndoni, what has happened? (she looked away)

Ndoni: Nothing, mother.

Me: Then look the Queen in the eyes, dear Princess. I shall see if you speak the truth. (she looked at me)

Ndoni: I have not been honest with you, my Queen. My apologies. (she started to cry)

Me: I hold no anger for you but I want you to tell me what happened at once. What has Nande done to you while you were in her house?



Ndoni: She had me taken by her guards. She did not like that Ntsika and I feel love for each other. They took me to the field. (I felt my anger rise)

Me: Have those savages hurt you?

Ndoni: No, the man gave me mercy and let me run away. Savages almost had me as theirs in the woods, Mother. That was when Shiba let Mbaleki in my life (she cried)

Me: My apologies that you had to feel so much pain, my blossom. (I embraced her)

Ndoni: Shiba has been with me all the time. I am fine now.

Me: Why have you not spoken to me about this?

Ndoni: I feared that you would carry hate in your heart, my Queen.

Me: I feel anger in my heart. What instructions did Nande give the guards?

Ndoni: To burn me alive or feed me to wild animals. The guard said he would burn an

animal and present it's ashes before her as mine.

Me: No wonder she collapsed, she knows you to be dead. She did not even feel guilt after the fake ashes was given to her. No wonder Mbaleki was aggressive towards her. Your companion felt her evil towards you.

Ndoni: Mother I ask of you to not hate Ntsika for the evils of his mother. He is truly kind and nothing like his parents.

Me: I shall not hold hate for him for the sins of his parents, do not fear.

Ndoni: I know that Nande deserves all that come to her but I do not want you to have her filthy blood on your hands. Fate shall deal with her, mother.

Me: She does not deserve your mercy but I shall do as you ask.

Ndoni: You promise? (I kissed her cheek)

Me: I give you my promise.

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I held her hand and we walked on. I wonder what else happened to my Ndoni in that evil place. I shall truly not punish the Prince for the evils of his parents. Ndoni and I walked to greet our other guests but some have left with the King. I do not know if Ndoni is naturing a baby in her womb or not but I shall make sure that my blossom finds happiness. Even if have to force fate to favour in her happiness.

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#Queen Nande

I still can not believe that the whore is actually a Princess. I can not tell her father that she is a disgraces Princess because it might be my son who has shamed her. They shall make sure his blood spills on this soil. I have to make sure

that they do not meet or he shall hear of what I did. There was a desperate knock on my door and I gave permission to enter. It is Ntsika.

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Me: Ntsika, I think we must head back to our Kingdom.

Ntsika: What are you running from, Mother? Are you not the one who wanted to come here so desperately?

Me: I have fallen ill. You have seen how my body met with the floor.

Ntsika: You looked like you have saw a ghost. What seems to be the matter?

Me: Do not be silly, my Prince. I was just not fell, it must be the heat.

Ntsika: I know what you have done! (he raised his voice)

Me: I hold no knowledge of what you speak of.

Ntsika: You had Manqhoba kill Ndoni but your plan to do so failed. You dared to have the woman my heart chosen be killed.

Me: She was not good for you Ntsika. I had no knowledge of who she truly is.

Ntsika: I hate you mother. I feel so much hate for you and I wish I had not come from your cursed womb! I do not have real power to punish you yet but you mark my words. Once I am King I shall make your life hell. I shall strip you of all the royal benefits and you shall suffer as you have made my Ndoni suffer. (he is furious)

Me: I beg for your forgiveness, Ntsika. I was doing it for you and of our Kingdom. I shall do anything.

Ntsika: How I wish that cheetah tore you apart. It would have been a delight to watch. I shall make Ndoni my future Queen and you shall wish you had been kind. You are an evil woman.

You accuse others of being witches but you are the true witch. I curse you mother (I started to cry)

Me: Ntsika, please find kindness in your heart.

Ntsika: My heart is filled with kindness but you shall never get any of it again. You are dead in my eyes.

.

He left in a hurry and I cried. I was only doing this for him. Manqhoba shall die for not doing his job. Now I have a son who carries hate in his heart for me. I wanted ties to Zwelihle but I shall have to try and stop them because they girl shall not make things easy. I left for the celebrations but after it is done I shall leave this soil. I sat beside Ntsika but he moved away from me. I could see how he and this maiden looked at each other and I felt nauseous. I waited until she stood alone and I approached to ask for fake forgiveness. This beast look at

me and scratched my dress.

.

Ndoni: Calm Mbaleki, what do you want from me?

Me: Do have the beast leave us, I beg of you.

Ndoni: She shall not even if I beg her. She feels your evil soul.

Me: I have come to ask for forgiveness, dear Princess.

Ndoni: I shall not accept forgiveness that is full of deceit. I know that you are before me because Ntsika knows of your evils and you wish for me to soften his heart. I shall not accept your forgiveness.

Nobu: Ndoni, is all fine blossom (she walked behind Ndoni).

Me: I have come to beg for forgiveness from the Princess. I have been unkind to her when she was a servant in my house.

Ndoni: I shall not have the King kill you because I do not want the soil of my people to be cursed by your blood. I do not accept your apology. May fate do to you as you deserve.

Me: I beg of you.

.

They left me standing and I walked forward to touch her and beg more and the beast had its claws in the flesh of my arm before I knew it. The pain made me scream and it looked like it wanted to kill me. Nobubele had royal caretakers take care of me. I looked at Ntsika and he spoke to other guests delightfully as if his mother had not just been injured. I was taken to my resting chamber and felt a lot of pain. They shall regret this and I shall have that beast killed and make a mat from its skin. Hours went and I heard as songs were sang and I wish I had not honoured this invitation. I was resting in my chamber when I felt strong



hands around my mouth. I tried to call out for Ntsika but I failed. I was tied and put in a carriage. After a while it stood. I walked with my captures in fear. When we stopped I saw Queen Nobu with two bigger beasts.

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Nobu: My thanks for bringing her to me, guards.

Me: My Queen, I beg of you not to have me killed. I know I have caused...

Nobu: Keep quiet (she cut me short gracefully)

Guard: Would you like for us to take care of her, my Queen?

Nobu: Not now, I shall let you know when.

Queen Nande! Are you even worthy of that title?

Me: Please do not kill me (I cried)

Nobu: I am a woman of kindness, Nande but you have done something that has angered me. You dared to have harm come to the Princess of Zwelihle. (she walked to me)

Me: I had no knowle...

Guard: Do not speak when the Queen is speaking!

Nobu: You see you are now on the soil of Zwelihle. I shall do to you as you have done to my daughter. You ordered your guard to feed her to wild animals. I have come with Mlilo and Mqhobi and they are not like Mbaleki. They shall do more then just scratch you. They shall bite your neck until you no longer have pulse. (I started to shake)

Me: I beg of you, my Queen.

Nobu: Surely my Ndoni has begged for her life also. I shall however not have the our companions dirty their claws with your rotten flesh. Guard bring me the oil. (he came with a bucket)

Me: Oh I beg for mercy, my Queen.

.

She did not listen and had the guards throw two buckets of oil on my body. I cried so much that I wet myself out of fear. She lit a fire lamps and held it close to me. I begged for my life.

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Nobu: You have turned me into an angered woman, Nande. I do not know about you but when my children are harmed I am become more deadly then these two beasts combined. (she held the torch above my head and I screamed)

Me: I beg of you, I shall do anything you say.

Nobu: Right now all I wish is to let you meet the same fate that you have wished for my daughter. I shall have your ashes sent to your devil son.

Me: Have mercy, Queen Nobulele. I beg of you.

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She still had the fire torch held firmly over my

head. I could feel it's heat so much because my body is covered in oil. I immediately felt regret for what I had done to the young maiden. I have wished such evil for her but now I am the one feeling it. I begged the Queen of Zwelihle to show mercy but her eyes were dark, clearly full of anger and hate. My entire body shivered in fear. Fate has turned the tables and my heart is full of regret for the evils I have done. Ntsika does not care what becomes of me. I closed my eyes as I got ready to meet my painful end!

#NOSI

[03/01, 20:32] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 20

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#Queen Nobu

The anger that this woman awakens in me has

made me turn into a person I do not know. I watched her scream and beg for her life and I imagined how Ndoni suffered because of her.

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Nande: I beg for kindness, my Queen. I'm filled with regret for what I put your daughter through.

Me: Why should I spare the life of a wicket woman?

Nande: Because I shall allow our children to wed as their hearts have been longing to.

Me: They do not need your useless permission. Ndoni is no longer a servant in your filthy house.

Nande: Then tell me what to do, to have you show me kindness. I shall do anything, you have my promise. Just do not burn me. (she cried)

Me: I have something that you can do for me. If you dare betray me Nande I shall kill you.

Nande: I shall not. I shall do as you wish for me

to do.

Me: I want you to go to your coward of a husband and have him come here and bow before the King of Zwelihle. I want him to beg for forgiveness.

Nande: What sin has my King caused against your husband?

Me: Do not play the fool! Just go to your King and pursued him to come here.

Nande: How do I know that you shall not have us both killed when we set foot on your soil?

Me: I shall not but if you do not do as I order, I shall come for you. I afford resources that allow me to get to you even when you are hiding behind the door of your house.

Nande: I shall do as you say. I shall persuade the King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo to come to Zwelihle and apologise for his wrong doings. I know the power your Kingdom holds so I shall

not dare betray you.

Me: My Ndoni shall wed your son and shall live in your house. If you make my daughter cry even if it's just once, I shall come for you and your begging shall fall on deaf ears.

Nande: I shall be kind to the Princess of Zwelihle.

Me: Untie her, You are to leave to your Kingdom at once. If you fail in your duty I shall fail to show you mercy next time.

Nande: He listens to my advice. The King shall come, you have my promise. Ntsika and I shall leave at once and he shall also go and beg his father. Surely the Princess has told him that his father wronged hers.

Me: I shall be expecting you. I am only showing you mercy because my Ndoni loves your son. Do not betray me Nande. You do not wish to know the wrath Zwelihle brings to it's enemies.

Nande: I shall be a fool to betray the Queen of Zwelihle.

.

They untied her and I could see that she is really scared. I know that I shall never be capable of killing her but I can not let her know that. I have made a promise to Ndoni to not have her killed. My blossom is right, fate shall surely deal with her. But if she betrays me I shall not be the kind woman I'm known to be. Xhanti just has to apologise to the King of Zwelihle. I know Xolo, he shall welcome the apology if it is true. His heart is soft but it is hidden by his tough exterior. I let my guards take Nande back to the royal grounds. I got into the carriage with the two beautiful beasts and rode on. I heard songs of celebrations and drums still going as I approached. I got off and I went to where my Ndoni is. She is sitting with other royal maidens and laughing so much. My beautiful daughter! How I wish to hear her laugh all her days. I



approached and they all bowed their heads in greeting.

.

Me: My blossom, may I speak to you?

Ndoni: You need not ask, my Queen. My ladies, please may I be excused (they smiled, nodded and we left them)

Me: I see you have made friends. That is truly lovely. (she smiled)

Ndoni: They are all so kind, Mother. Three of them are to meet their grooms soon. They are terrified (I laughed softly)

Me: They need not to fear if their Kings has found them good Kingdoms to wed to.

Ndoni: Much like Zinzi, she is lucky to be a bride of Zwelihle.

Me: She truly is a good maiden and shall make a good Queen someday. As will you. (she blushed)

Ndoni: I wish it could be that way. I have been looking for you all over.

Me: I have come with some promising news (I smiled)

Ndoni: Has my father's heart softened?

Me: Your father's heart is always soft, it is just hard when it comes to Xhanti.

Ndoni: Then what promising news do you speak of, my Queen?

Me: I might have found a way for Xhanti to apologise.

Ndoni: Have you sent for him to be brought to Zwelihle by force? (I laughed)

Me: That shall only make things worse. I have ordered Nande to go pursued her husband to beg for forgiveness.

Ndoni: How have you managed to do that?

Me: It is of no matter right now but I believe she

shall do as I say.

Ndoni: She is a snake, my Queen. How can you trust a snake?

Me: Even a snake knows when to surrender at times. She knows what will come to her if she fails.

Ndoni: My Queen, I do not want you to turn into an unkind woman because of that woman. She is of no worth.

Me: Do not fear, Ndoni. I shall never have my heart turned to stone because of her. I am a Queen and I want to remain a true one. I shall send for someone to call your Prince.

Ndoni: Why if I may ask?

Me: I would like to officially meet him and leave you to say goodbye until he returns again.

Ndoni: I understand, mother.

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I embraced her and I hoped that I do not reek of smoke. I love my little blossom. She was the blessing I got on this day eighteen years ago. I was filled with joy when I found that she is a maiden. It's a pity that we got robbed of the joys of building a bond but I feel like opening my heart and being understanding makes her trust me and it has created a bond that I shall never allow to be broken again. I went to a messenger and had her love summoned to me at once before he leaves this soil.

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#Ndoni

The Queen has put her trust in Nande and it brings fear to my heart. Nande has always tried to keep me away from her son. Why shall she change her heart now? I hope the Queen has not done something that goes against the values she believes in for me. On the other side

I felt happy that she shall meet Ntsika. The two of us stood and waited for a guard to bring Ntsika. They walked in and I could see he did not expect to meet me and my mother.

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Ntsika: Your highness (he bowed his head)

Mother: Greetings, Prince Ntsika. I do hope you do not mind me meeting you here too.

Ntsika: How can I mind such a beautiful honour?  
(mother smiled)

Mother: I have heard much about you, dear Prince. I wanted to see if you are indeed the man my daughter sees you to be.

Ntsika: My thanks for meeting with me, my Queen. Allow me to firstly apologise for all that your daughter has been through under my father's roof. I held no knowledge of my mother's plan to have her killed. If I had I would have stopped it.

Mother: I shall never put the burdens of your parents sins on your shoulder. I have heard from Ndoni how you have treated her with kindness the minute fate brought you two together. I would like to give you my thanks, young Prince.

Ntsika: It was all an honour, my Queen. Ndoni is a beautiful, kind maiden. My heart chose her the second my eyes met with hers.

Mother: You are also responsible for her disgrace. Ndoni explained to me why she urgently wished to do it but it still does not take away the fact that it is you who had her as yours and you need to do right by her.

Ntsika: I have full intentions to wed her, my Queen. I do not want shame to come to her. Allow me to make her my bride, I beg of you.

Mother: I believe she has told you about your father's betrayal? (he looked down in shame)

Ntsika: I stand shamed to be called their son at

this moment. I shall go back to my father and ask if him to send his apologies. He is not a bad man but he has done a bad deed and I believe he shall agree to correct it. I love your daughter, Queen Nobubele. (I smiled and looked down)

Mother: And she loves you but fate has put before you challenges. We shall all have to unite to make your love stop becoming shameful. I do not like that my daughter is a secret. She is the Princess of a powerful Kingdom and she deserves honour.

Ntsika: And I shall give her that honour. I give you my promise.

Mother: I shall be leaving you to bid farewell. An honour it was to meet you, Ntsika. (she smiled)

Ntsika: The honour has been mine, my Queen.

Mother: You shall go well. I shall have the helpers pack food for you and your mother.

Ntsika: Our thanks, my Queen. The celebrations

were indeed beautiful. (she smiled and nodded)

Mother: He truly is kind, eyes do not lie. Do not stay long, my blossom (she whispered in my ear)

Me: I shall not, mother.

.

She embraced me and left us. We both looked as she gracefully walked out. I am so happy that she likes him. We looked at each other and smiled.

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Ntsika: Your mother is kind (he whispered)

Me: Why are you speaking softly? (we both laughed)

Ntsika: I do not know. I got you something from the market.

Me: What is it?

Ntsika: This beaded necklace, I thought of you when I saw it. Do you like it?



Me: I do, my Prince. It is a true beauty, my thanks.

Ntsika: Shall I put it around your neck? (I smiled)

Me: Yes, please (he put it on and kissed my neck)

Ntsika: I love your scent so much, young maiden. (I laughed softly and blushed)

Me: It is just lavender butter (he smiled)

Ntsika: How have you been?

Me: I was ill at sunrise before the morning feast.

Ntsika: How did you feel?

Me: Just ill and dizzy. I also collapsed to the floor (he looked worried)

Ntsika: Why have you not come to me?

Me: I can not just come to you Ntsika. I am fine now.

Ntsika: It pains me to leave you once again. I've been longing for you for so long. (he kissed my

forehead)

Me: Maybe soon we shall no longer be forced to be apart. I want to be your wife, Ntsika and give you many babies.

Ntsika: Beautiful babies and I shall be honoured to have to as my wife. Hopefully fate shall favour us even if it's just so we can wed.

Me: I fear going back to your Kingdom. My last stay was that of pain and sorrow.

Ntsika: You shall be my wife, Ndoni. The future Queen and a Princess of Zwelihle. Non of my family shall dare risk a war with Zwelihle. I give you my promise. I shall be there every time and my mother shall not bother you.

Me: I feel safe in your arm, Warrior (he smiled in delight)

Ntsika: As you should, young maiden. (we embraced)

Me: Is Zipho still well?

Ntsika: She is well and in love. She and Bantu have promised to wed each other. (we both smiled)

Me: He finally opened his heart for her to enter. She has been yearning for it so much.

Ntsika: I envy them a bit. No one stands against their union because they are just ordinary. They shall wed for love and not to strengthen an alliance between Kingdoms.

Me: We shall wed for love and to strengthen an alliance between our Kingdoms.

Ntsika: I wish I did not have to go.

Me: I need to go back, my Prince. If Bukhosi should see us there shall be trouble.

Ntsika: I shall see you soon.

Me: Go well.

Ntsika: Only your kiss shall make me go well (I laughed)

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He kissed me and the feeling of his big warm hands on my waist felt good. This man knows just how to have my body react. I did not want him to stop but I knew I had to for both our sakes. We embraced for a long time and I left him. I looked back and found him staring with a smile on his face. I waved and smiled. Happy that I have seen him but also sad to leave him. How I wish fate could smile on us. How I wish Shiba sees him in my destiny for all my days to come. I went back to enjoy the celebrations.

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MEANWHILE IN UMHLABA OCHUMILEYO!

#Lizwi

What a fool the King is! He does not realise that he has given me the perfect chance to destroy him. I shall not rest until I sit on the seat of

power. He shall regret undermining me. Once I've dealt with him I shall deal with his golden seed, Ntsika. One of my most loyal guards walked in and bowed.

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Me: Have you got what I told you to get?

Him: I have succeeded, my Prince. It was not easy but I have got it.

Me: You would have paid dearly if you had not. Give it to me! (he gave me a package)

Him: You shall put it in the victim's drink, My Prince. It is without scent and colour.

Me: If you tell anyone about this. I shall have you fed to wild animals while your family watches.

Him: I shall not betray you.

Me: Is it a slow poison? I do not want him to die on the spot because they shall suspect me.

Him: It shall first make him sick before killing him (I smiled)

Me: Good, now go. Have Jongile serve me and the King.

Him: I shall go at once.

.

He stood and rushed out. I looked at the package and smiled. All shall think that Jongile has done it. I know about her and Father and I shall let no servant make a fool of my mother. I went to the eating chamber and waited for the King. He took long so I ordered the food in. Jongile came in holding the drinking cups. She left and I put in the poison. It was little so the King shall not notice. He finally joined me.

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Me: I was starting to think that you shall not join me, father.

Father: I am too hungry. Why is the food not on

the table?

Me: They have first come with dishes and cups. I'm sure the food shall come.

Father: I hope your brother and mother are still well.

Me: They have gone to a celebration, my King and not a battle field. I know you long for the company of your Prince.

Father: I do, he is good at negotiating but you have come a long way too.

Me: But I am not as good as him. (I clenched my jaw)

Father: I shall not say words that are not on my mind.

.

Jongile came in holding the ginger and poured it for the King and I. All the other servants have seen that she is the one who has served us. The food also came and we started to feast. I

watched as he took sips of his drink and I knew the poison has started to move in his body. We ate and finally finished. We were about to retire to our chamber when he started to cough.

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Me: Is all well, father?

Father: Yes, my prince. I'm sure it is just a silly cough.

Me: Go rest, Father. We can not have the King fall ill.

Father: Until sunrise.

.

He left me still coughing. I knew it was the toxic liquid I gave him. Soon I shall deal with Ntsika. Father shall wish he had favoured me once he gets to the world of our ancestors. His golden seed shall soon meet the same fate. I shall wait until the poison feeds on his body. I shall put the empty package in Jongi's chamber and she



shall take the fall for the poisoning of the King. I shall avenge my mother for what they have done against her back. I shall also be a step closer to sitting on the throne. King Lizwi of Umhlaba Ochumileyo! I love how powerful it sounds! I sat in my chamber and laughed in delight.

#NOSI

[03/02, 11:47] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 21

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#Queen Nande

I can not believe that Nobulele dared to do that to the Queen of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. If she thinks that I shall let go and forget then she is a fool! Burning me would have been in her best interest. I changed clothes and took a wet cloth

with warm water to wipe the disgusting oil off my body. There was a loud knock on the door and I feared that it might be Nobu's guards once again. I stood in silence but it kept on.

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Ntsika: Nande, open it is me Ntsika.

Me: I shall open in a minute. I am not yet proper (I wrapped a cloth around my body)

Ntsika: I shall speak while I am standing here, it is of no need for me to enter (he shouted and I opened)

Me: Ntsika, I shall not tolerate being called by my name.

Ntsika: Shall I call you Witch? I believe it is more fitting for you then the title of Queen or Mother. (I looked at him in shock)

Me: The King shall hear of this! You have ill treated me all this time and even watched as that dirty beast scratch my flesh.

Ntsika: Have I not told you that you are dead to me?

Me: You come from my womb, Ntsika. Such unkindness towards your own mother and all because of a maiden?

Ntsika: I shall not speak about the evils you have caused Ndoni because I shall not be in control of the anger it might bring.

Me: How many times must I beg for your forgiveness?

Ntsika: Do not waste your breath, Nande. My ears are deaf to your plea.

Me: Have you any idea what I have gone through? Your dear maiden's mother had me captured and poured oil over my body. If I had not begged for my life she would have lit me up. (I started to cry)

Ntsika: How I wish she had honoured me with an invitation to that. (his voice and eyes were

cold)

Me: Ntsika, I beg for your forgiveness.

Ntsika: You and Lizwi are of one kind. He has always hid behind your skirts. No wonder he holds a cold heart in his chest. You have passed on your evil curse to him and it is such a shame. You do not deserve to be called mother.

Me: I beg...

Ntsika: I have met with the Queen of Zwelihle and she is of kindness. If she had a cold heart she would have watched as you burnt to ashes. She is warm and she deserves to be called Queen and Mother. When I wed my Ndoni I shall feel the warmth of a Mother from my bride's mother! My Ndoni takes the kindness of her mother and the future of Umhlaba Ochumileyo looked bright because she is its future Queen whether you like it or not! Blessed shall my ancestors soil be to have her lead it by my side. Not the excuse of a Queen you are! (he cut me

short)

Me: You do not mean such unkind words. It is the anger you still hold in your heart for me that is speaking. I shall give you time to calm.

Ntsika: Like I have told you, you are dead to me. I have not come here to hear you beg. We are to leave this soil at once.

Me: I agree with you. I miss my Kingdom.

Ntsika: I shall go get everything ready for our departure.

.

I watched as he walked out and left me. Not having a care if that cheetah hurt me or that Nobu almost killed me. I realised that I shall hold no power over him once he sits on the throne someday. Should he wed this maiden she shall lead weigh him and she shall poison him more against me. I should have groomed his mind to listen to my control as I have done

with Lizwi but it is too late. I shall fail in grooming an matured man. I sat and wrote something. I had a royal messenger come and take it to who it is meant for. I stood with the man who shall deliver it.

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Me: This is a note of gratitude to the King of Zwelihle. Do ensure that he receives it

Him: As you wish, your highness.

Me: Now go at once.

.

He left and I had my clothing be out in the carriage. Ntsika left me saying he shall get the food Nobu has prepared for us. I got onto the carriage. The controller was already at his place.

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Me: We can go.

Him: Shall the Prince not ride with us?

Me: He is to follow in the carriage of the guards. He still has important matters to attend to. Now go at once.

Him: As you wish, my Queen.

.

The wheels of the carriage started to move as the horses moved forward gracefully. I ordered more speed and my wish was granted. Queen Nobu made a mistake by telling me about the hate between our husbands. I held no knowledge of it. Ntsika has made a mistake by declaring me dead in his eyes. It pains me to hurt the child that comes of my womb but he has chosen to go with the enemy. If he sees me as dead before his eyes then surely it is fitting that he is dead before mine. His death shall make his father go to war with Zwelihle and I fear the outcomes but I shall not be made a fool.

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#King Xolo

I sat with the men of other Kingdoms discussing possible business ties with between our Kingdoms. My heart is happy that my daughters celebrations were a true success. I have spoken to some matured Princes from good, strong Kingdoms to see if I shall find a suitor for Princess. Xhanti's son had most listening to him yesterday and he seems like a true negotiator but I shall not allow him near my Kingdom. A messenger approached and bowed his head.

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Him: My King, allow me to give my apology for interrupting but this has been left for you. (he gave me a note)

Me: Who does it come from?

Him: One of the Queens who have honoured the invite. She said that it is to give thanks to you for the wonderful celebrations.



Me: My thanks, you may go.

Him: As you wish, your highness.

.

I looked at the letter for a long while before opening it. It contains no poison because the messengers know to check it first. Which Kingdom's Queen could have sent it? All letters of thanks are to go to the Queen and Zinzi. I opened the letter and started reading it. Each word I read left me angered. I stood up in anger and excused myself from the men. I went to another empty chamber and had Nobu summoned at once. She joined me after a while.

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Nobu: My King, I thought you...

Me: Is there anything you wish to tell me, Nobubele? (I cut her short in anger)

Nobu: Such as what, My King?

Me: Has Ndoniyamanzi been disgraced? (her

mouth widened in shock)

Nobu: Xolo, this is not...

Me: Has Ndoniyamanzi been disgraced, My Queen? (I cut her short once again)

Nobu: Yes, she has been but you have to remember that she had no knowledge of her true identity. She has always known herself to be an orphan and a servant.

Me: Why have you kept this from me? Do I look like a fool, Nobu? (I shouted and she jumped out of fright)

Nobu: I shall never think of you as a fool. My apologies for keeping this knowledge from you.

Me: You also kept the fact that the son of Xhanti had my daughter as a bedroom maid while she was a servant in that betrayers house!

Nobu: He has done no such thing, Xolo. He loves her and wishes to honour her.

Ndoniyamanzi loves him too. Grant them

permission to wed, my King

Me: Do not insult me, Nobubele. Do not insult the Kingdom of Zwelihle. I shall show that boy what I do to those who betray me.!

Nobu: Xolo, I beg of you my husband. These children love each...

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Anger took over all inches of my body. I am now controlled by the anger I have held for Xhanti and now his son too. How dare he bring shame to the Princess of Zwelihle! How dare the Queen declare this love when my daughter was forced?! That boy and his entire Kingdom shall feel what Zwelihle can do. I should have done this long ago with Xhanti. No one shall dare get away with betraying me again, no one!

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#Ndoni

It seems these celebrations shall not end now but I am not complaining. I have made friends with these maidens and I shall go with the King and Queen to visit their Kingdom someday. My heart already longs for Ntsika but surely he is far by now. I saw the Queen approach with a desperate look on her face. She looked around in the crowd, maybe she is looking for me. I stood and walked to her quickly.

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Me: Mother, what seems to be the matter?

Mother: Where is Ntsika? (her voice sounded like that of a fearful person)

Me: He is long gone. He has gone to his Kingdom.

Mother: You were right, I should not have trusted that snake, my blossom. I know she is the one guilty of this. I have never seen your father so angered. (my heart started to beat faster)

Me: I do not understand.

Mother: Nande told your father that you have been disgraced by her son. She knows he might get killed here for such a crime. How can a mother do that to a child that she has nurtured in her womb? (she started to cry)

Me: Calm, Mother I shall tell the King that I love Ntsika.

Mother: He thinks Ntsika has made you his bedroom maid and had you give yourself to him forcefully.

Me: But that is of no truth! I shall go to him and beg him to understand.

.

I ran not even knowing where the King of Zwelihle is. Tears are flowing down my cheeks uncontrollably as I ran and mother just behind me. How can Nande do such evil to her son? Does she not know he shall be punished heavily?

Does she know that she might cause a war between the two Kingdoms? A war her Kingdom shall never win unless they hold some miracle. Why does fate not favour our union so much? All I wish it to wed Ntsika and be happy with him for all our days. I saw the guards force holding someone and I saw it is Ntsika. I ran to them as fast as I could.

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Me: What are you doing? Let go of him at once!

Guard: Our apologies, dear Princess. This is a direct order from the King.

Mother: Well I am his wide and I order you to release him (she stood before them)

Guard: We shall not overrule an order that comes from the King.

Me: I beg of you, he has done nothing wrong! (I cried and got on top of one of them)

Ntsika: Ndoni, you shall get harmed! Get off at

once, I beg of you.

Me: I shall not! (I clung on)

Ntsika: I beg of you, young maiden.

Mother: Let them take him to the King, Ndoni.

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I got off the guard weeping like a child. They no longer forced him to walk because he walked straight and with honour. I followed right behind. Surely the King shall not break my heart like this. We finally reached the King who was furious. He looked at me but looked away again quickly.

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Father: Take the Queen and Princess away.

Me: I shall not go, Father. I love him and I beg of you to stop this, my King. I beg of you. We shall leave your Kingdom and never to return. We shall ensure no shame comes to you.

Mother: Do not risk losing her once again, Xolo.

I shall not survive it a second time. He is kind and promised to honour her.

Father: Have you dared disgrace the Princess of Zwelihle?! (he shouted in anger pointing at Ntsika)

Ntsika: I am guilty of making your daughter impure, my King. I shall take full responsibility of the sin.

Father: Everything that comes from Xhanti seems rotten. You shall pay for disgracing the only Princess of Zwelihle!

.

Before we knew it Ntsika was being beaten by the two guards who held him. I know my warrior has the strength to fight back but he chose not to and it pained me. I felt each punch and kick that went to his body as if it was I who laid there. I begged father not to have him killed but my begging fell on deaf ears. I know he is taking the anger he held for King Xhanti out on



Ntsika. He ordered for them to stop and he raised his royal stick to give signal to Mlilo. I knew that the beast would make him meet his end. I saw Mlilo approached and I ran to cover him when I felt the sharp sting of his claws pierce my back. Mother cried out a loud bitter cry and I saw Mbaleki attack Mlilo. I felt the dizziness again and I felt Mother touch me.

.

Mother: Do you see what you have done to your daughter, Xolo? She is carrying his heir!!

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I might have felt dizzy or ill but I heard what she said. She said I'm carrying Ntsika's heir! That my body has chosen to nature the heir of the man that I love. I felt my body getting lifted off Ntsika's and I did not want it to because he shall have no shield. I do not know if Father shall show him mercy but my body is weak so I could not fight it. I could still hear Mother cry

but her cries sounded like they come from far now. I finally closed my eyes and fell asleep. Though I do not know where this slumber shall lead me to because it might lead to my end.

#NOBU

[03/02, 11:47] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 22 OBJ

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#King Xolo

Days have passed and the Prince and my Ndoni have not woken up. My Queen refuses to leave the side of our Princess. My heart is filled with regret because Nobu has told me what really happened to Ndoni when she was a servant. I fear that she shall never forgive me once she wakes. Zimba walked into the chamber I sat and bowed his head in greeting.

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Zimba: My King, my apologies for interrupting you.

Me: It is of no matter, Zimba. You may speak.

Zimba: You have a visitor and he says it is of great urgency.

Me: Has he told you what business sent him here?

Zimba: No, my King. He shall only speak to you. Do not fear, he is of no danger we have looked.

Me: I fear no danger, Zimba. Have him wait for me in the guest chamber. I shall meet him.

Zimba: As you wish, your highness.

.

Zimba stood and left me wondering who the visitor might be when our house has just been filled with visitors not so long ago. I wore my proper attire and I left to meet with the guest. I

entered the guest chamber and found a man sitting. He stood and bowed to his knees.

.

Me: Rise because that is not the way we greet on this soil (he stood)

Him: My apologies, King of Zwelihle. It is my first time on this soil. I hold no knowledge of it's customs.

Me: Who are you?

Him: I am Dondo, a messenger for the King of Kingdom of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

Me: What shall I do for you?

Him: Queen Nande has informed the King that Prince Ntsika wished to remain on your soil to deal with business. I have been sent to get him at once. The King of my soil is very ill and he asks for his eldest.

Me: Did you mention that he is sick?

Him: Yes, my King and it seems it is serious.  
That is why I ask for the Prince to leave this soil  
before it is too late.

Me: I shall have the Prince sent back to his soil  
at once.

Him: My thanks. I hold this letter that is  
addressed to you by my King.

Me: What is it about?

Him: I hold no knowledge of that.

Me: You may leave, I shall have my people bring  
your Prince to your soil.

Him: As you wish.

.

He stood and left. I am concerned because the  
Prince they seek is in an injury slumber because  
of me. I do not fear a war with his Kingdom but  
my daughter is carrying their heir. I shall not  
destroy the soil of her unborn child's ancestors.  
I can not believe that Xhanti is ill! I might have

been holding anger for him but it pains me to know he is of weak health. I sat and opened the letter and softly read to myself.

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Me: To the King of Zwelihle. I stand ashamed for only sending this letter to you when I lay in my chamber about to meet my end. I have been a coward, old friend. The evil deed I committed against you has haunted me all these days. I have lost a true brother out of greed. You carry the name of King so much better than I shall ever have. I am ill, old friend and I suspect it is my end because I see my ancestors when I slumber. I do not wish to go to the land of my ancestors knowing that peace never came between us. I beg of you to forgive me. I send my truest apologies for betraying you for power. I wish for you to find some kindness in your heart to forgive me. I wish I could rise and come to your soil myself to look you in the eyes as I apologise but my body fails me. I shall

appreciate your forgiveness in writing and have it sent to my soil with immediacy. It shall make me go to the sacred land of my ancestors in peace. My thanks for taking care of my Queen and Prince on your soil. I shall wish for you to give Ntsika permission to set foot in his Kingdom to meet me. My apologies for all I have done, old friend.

.

I read the writings once again and I felt my heart feel peace. I have waited for him to apologise ever since he wronged me. I wish the letter came before I wronged his son out of anger. I stood and walked to the royal care chamber where the Prince lays. One of the caretakers approached in a rush and I feared she would say that the Prince has met his end. I shall never forgive myself. She bowed her head in greeting.

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Her: Greetings, your highness.

Me: Greetings, maiden. Has some more harm come to our guest?

Her: No, my King. The Prince of Umhlaba Ochumileyo lays awake and is asking for the Princess.

Me: I shall go and give him the answer. My thanks for taking care of him.

Her: Yes, my King.

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I walked to the chamber of care and I found the young man sitting up straight, like a true warrior. I gave permission for the other caretakers to leave the chamber. I stood shamed for my wrong doing against him.

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Ntsika: Greetings, King Xolo. I shall like to give my thanks for showing me mercy. I have wronged you by disgracing your daughter but



my only wish is for you to give me permission to wed her and bring honour to you.

Me: I should be the one who give you apologies. The anger that I let sit in my heart for your father took over. I am a King who believes that a man should admit his faults. I have faulted you and I beg for your forgiveness. I have let you get punished for the sins of your father. I have gone against customs because I should have listened to your story.

Ntsika: I hold no hate for you, King Xolo. I forgive you. I know my father has betrayed you but he is not a bad man, I give you my promise. Greed entered his heart and I shall make him bow to you in apology.

Me: He has sent a note of apology, Young Prince. I have found peace in my heart and forgive him.

Ntsika: He must make the apology true by setting foot on your Kingdom.

Me: I have something to bring to your knowledge, Ntsika. A messenger from your soil has come and asked for you. Your father is of ill health and has sent for you at once. (he stood in confusion)

Ntsika: What harm had come to him?

Me: The messenger did not say but it sounds serious. I do suggest that you go to your Kingdom.

Ntsika: What about Ndoni? How is she? (I looked down)

Me: She has not woken from her slumber. All seems well but we wait for her to open her eyes.

Ntsika: I heard the Queen speak of an heir, my heir.

Me: Yes, her body is nurturing your heir.

Ntsika: I stand in confusion now. I can not leave Ndoni but I have to go see Father.

Me: Go see your father and you shall return to

check on the Princess.

Ntsika: Permission to see her, my King.

Me: You need not ask for permission. Come I shall walk you to where she is.

.

I wanted to help him walk but he refused. I am impressed at the strength of the young man. He walks tall and proud even though I know his body feels pain. His eyes are those of care and respect when he speaks of Ndoni. He reminds me of myself when I saw the Queen for the first time. His forgiveness means much to me because I do not deserve it. I wish for Ndoniyamanzi to wake so that I can beg for her forgiveness. We walked slowly to Ndoni's chamber and I know he shall make her wake up. Love does miracles that most shall never understand.

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#Ntsika

I truly hold no anger for Ndoni's father. He had done what most fathers of maidens shall do. The news of Ndoni carrying our child has warmed my heart in a way I have never felt before. I am also worried about Father who is not well. What could possibly be the matter? I walked in and found the Queen laying next to her daughter. What a true mother this woman is! Ndoni laid on her stomach and had a cloth wrapped around her upper body. She looked so beautiful even in her slumber.

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Me: My greeting, Queen Nobu. (I bowed my head)

Queen: How are you feeling now, Ntsika? (she looked concerned)

Me: I feel a bit of pain, my Queen but it is not

too bad. How is Ndoni?

Queen: She still breaths but refuses to waken from her slumber. The wounds on her back are healing well but they shall leave scars.

King: And it is all because of me.

Queen: Holding regret for what has gone is of no use, my King.

Me: How is the baby?

Queen: She is still carrying your heir, do not fear. She has not shown signs of loss of pregnancy.

Me: My King, who told you about my union with Ndoniyamanzi. (he looked at his wife)

King: It is of no matter right now. We shall leave you alone with Ndoni.

Me: I beg of you to tell me, your highness.

Queen: We suspect that it was your Mother. I have done something that angered her so she wanted to get revenge but she knew you could

be punished heavily if it came to the ears of the King so I do not know why she has done such to her own son. (I clenched my jaw)

Me: I am not surprised, my Queen. Mother holds not the care of a mother. I am sure she only had us because she was obligated to give the King heirs and not because she wished to be a mother.

Queen: You shall have a second mother soon. I shall care for you as my own. You make my Ndoni happy and I shall be grateful to you for all my days.

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She smiled and embraced me and I did not know if I should embrace her back or not. This is all foreign to me because Nande does not do such. The King shook my hand and nodded in agreement.

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King: We shall leave you to be with Ndoni. Do not be long. You must rush to your Kingdom.

Me: I shall not.

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I watched as they walked out and called Mbaleki to follow but she refused. I fear her not because I come to her keeper with a pure heart. It pained me to see her like this. I laid on my side facing her. I kissed her soft lips and they felt warm against mine. I now know why her hips felt wider when I made love to her on the night of her celebration. It is beautifully changing to nurture my heir.

.

Me: Ndoniyamanzi, it is me Ntsika. I am well, young maiden and I need you to wake up. It seems like our fathers have made peace and shall finally bless our union. You need to be awake to wed your Prince. We have fought so much to reach this point and can not let our

hard work go to waste. Have you heard that you carry our baby? What an honour it is to have you be the mother of my heir! The Prince or Princess shall be nurtured in a kind womb and I know he/she shall be healthy. It pains my heart to leave you like this but I have to return to my soil. My father is ill and I need to go see what the matter is. I shall return once I know he will live but I beg you to be awake when I return. I love you, Ndoniyamanzi. My heart beats for you now more than before.

.

I kissed her warm soft lips once again and wished she could wake up and look at me. I knew time was not my friend so I stood and kissed her bare lower back. I do not care if she shall be scares for life because her beauty shall not fade because of it. I asked Mbaleki to look after her. This beast is caring of Ndoni and it seems our baby already has a big sister. I laughed as I thought of it. I walked out of the



chamber. The King stood outside.

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King: We need to go at once!

Me: I do not understand, King Xolo.

King: I am to leave with you to your soil. I have to tell your father personally that I have forgiven him. I have not seen my old friend since we were young.

Me: I am sure his heart shall be at peace to see you.

King: We shall also go with Ncedile. She is the helper but she is well with mixing remedies. Perhaps she shall be able to mix some for your father. I assure you it is not dark medicine.

Me: I shall never insult you or her by implying it, my King. My thanks for what you offer. I wish it can heal him.

Queen: I had a lot of food packed in for all of you. You all shall go well. My King do return

with Ncedi because Umhlaba might see she is good and keep her (she joked and we laughed)

Me: She shall be an honoured guest, I give you my promise. Shall Ndoni be well?

Queen: I shall look after her. I am even sleeping in her chamber. Do not fear, she shall be well. (she smiled)

King: Let me go and kiss my Princess farewell. (he left)

Me: He loves her.

Queen: He truly does and you shall have to prepare for a high bride price (we laughed)

Me: I shall give all that I have, my Queen.

King: Now we can go. Where is Ncedi? She shall make us be delayed.

Queen: You two are the ones who are delaying her. She is outside waiting by the horses. Ntsika I had your clothes packed. You shall all go well.

Me: Our thanks, my Queen.

.

She embraced her husband and we left. I first went to put on some proper attire. We got on the carriage and left for the soil of my people. I feel pained that my own mother would have me killed. I do not know what I call such evil. I shall let the King know of the evils of his bride. I wish for Ncedi to help heal whatever father has. I still do not understand what might have caused his illness. He has never been seriously ill. I know that Father shall appreciate the visit from the King of Zwelihle. King Xolo is a man of honour and having him as the father of my future bride is an honour. I had some of the food the Queen had her people prepare. Ncedi gave me a remedy for the pain and my eyes felt too heavy to keep them open. I fell asleep.

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#King Xhanti

My body is slowly failing me and I hold no control of it. I must have eaten something that has upset it. All of my joints are weak. The Queen has arrived without Ntsika and I feared Xolo held him to punish me but she says she left him because he had to take care of business. He shall make a great King and I thank my ancestors for making him my eldest. I sat with the Queen.

.

Her: How are you feeling?

Me: I am laying in this chamber with a weak body. How do you think I feel, Nande? (I asked in annoyance)

Her: It was truly a silly question. It pains me to see you lie here like this.

Me: I shall not die now.

Her: I have not implied that you would die, my

King (there was a knock on the door)

Me: Enter (Lizwi stepped in)

Lizwi: Oh Father, I have not slept since you fell ill. Ntsika is not even here to be by your side in your last days.

Me: I have not yet met my end. He hold no knowledge of my illness.

Lizwi: We need to have this investigated, Father. What if you have been poisoned?

Me: Why would you think that?

Lizwi: You were of full health but the next minute your body is weak. It seems like a possibility.

Me: And who shall you suspect of this alleged poisoning?

Lizwi: I hold no knowledge, my King. You are a King and many shall wish to see you dead. You are at war with other Kingdoms and that creates motive.

Me: How shall other Kingdoms enter my house to get the done, Lizwi?

Lizwi: Perhaps someone from your royal visits or one of the servants or guards. I shall hold no knowledge.

Queen: You becoming sick when you have never been is suspicious.

Me: My body is tired. I shall ask to both to leave. I need to rest.

Queen: I shall come and check on you once you have rested.

Lizwi: I shall return at sunset. I have to attend some council meetings on behalf of the King.

.

They both stood and left. Does this boy think that I am stupid? I have been a King long before he was born and I have learnt to keep my mind sharp at all times. I suspect that Lizwi has fed me poison. I have seen power hungry heirs in

my life so I shall know what one looks like. I can not accuse him based on suspicion. I had Jongi be summoned at once. She arrived and I told her not to bow.

.

Jongi: My King, what seems to be the matter? Are you feeling pain?

Me: I need you to go to your chamber and clean it Jongi. (she looked confused)

Jongi: I do not understand.

Me: Go to your chamber and clean it. Have the same be done to the other servant quarters. Find a servant to can trust to help you because I do not wish for Nande and Lizwi to know.

Jongi: I shall do as you wish, Xhanti.

Me: If you find anything that is not ordinary. Bring it to me at once, at once Jongi!

Jongi: I shall do it now. May I go?

Me: Go now.

.

She stood and left in a hurry. If anything out of the ordinary is found in the servant chambers I shall know Lizwi put it there to shift blame. I know this because if it were a servant they shall not have kept proof that might point to their guilt in their chamber. No fool shall keep such! Clearly if something is found then it was planted there. My body might be weak but my mind is not. This boy is clearly still very wet behind the ears. He thinks he can fool a man who has been King for so long! I have seen stuff he never has. I felt a sharp pain in my chest and I wished Jongi could finish what I have asked soon. I wish for my heart to continue to bear until I have spoken to Ntsika. I can not meet my end before then and I also await the note of forgiveness from Xolo. I refuse to meet my end before then. The pain got worse and I let out a silent cry. This is the type of pain that makes



even the strongest of men cry. The thought that my own son being guilty pains me. If it is true then it seems I have been cursed with a bad seed. I lay in pain and I refused to drink this pain remedy in fear that it might injure me more.

#NOSI

[03/02, 11:47] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 23

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#Ntsika

The journey back to my Kingdom has been a long one. I have been thinking about father's ill health so much. He can not die because I am not ready to be King.

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Xolo: Your thoughts seem to be taking you far.  
(I snapped out of it)

Me: My mind is with my father. I fear that the illness might mean his end.

Xolo: Do not hold fear, we must first see with our own eyes what the matter is.

Me: If he had a messenger sent to your soil to come for me then I fear it is serious. He can not die yet, I am not ready to lead his people.

Assisting him is of no difficulty but because he is there to guide me.

Xolo: The fear you feel is normal, Ntsika. I felt it when I had to succeed my father and I am sure your father felt it too. You are born for this, son. You were chosen by your ancestors as eldest Prince for a reason. Leadership runs through your veins. All Xhanti had to do was show you the ways of the Kingdom. Has he not done that?

Me: He has given me all the knowledge he has. I have plenty of knowledge.

Xolo: Then you are ready to sit on the throne and lead the people of your soil. I wish for your father to recover but you must prepare for any results.

.

The thought of father meeting his end pained me. He has always shown the kindness of Father. I even fear telling him about what Nande has done because it might make him worse. The carriage finally approached the gates of the royal house. The guards let us in and we stepped out and made our way to the entrance. Zipho approached and immediately bowed when she saw me.

.

Me: Rise, young maiden. Where shall I find the King? (she stood)

Zipho: He lies in his chamber, my Prince. He is truly of ill health.

Me: This is King Xolo of Zwelihle and his help. Prepare two of the best rooms for them because they shall be our guests.

Zipho: It shall be an honour, my Prince. It is an honour to be in your presence, King Xolo.

Xolo: My thanks. Ntsika shall we go to where your father is? I wish for Ncedi to give him medicine as soon as possible.

Me: As you wish, your highness.

.

I led the way to father's chamber and we walked with great urgency. Some had looks of shock on their faces when they saw my guest.

Perhaps some have saw him or perhaps Mlilo being with us gives a clue of who he is. I

knocked and got permission to enter. He was sleeping so we stood by his side.

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Me: Father (I shook him)

Father: Ntsika (he spoke softly and opened his eyes)

Me: Yes, I have gotten the message you sent and I came at once. I do not come alone, I am with the King of Zwelihle.

Xolo: Greetings, old friend. (he held his hand)

Father: Ntsika, help me sit up straight. I do not want to be lying down when I give greetings to King Xolo (I sat him up)

Xolo: You need not give me such honour, I understand you are weak now.

Father: You have come to see me all the way from your Kingdom. It is only fitting I honour you by greeting you with respect. How have you been, old friend?

Xolo: I have been well and now I have come to help you get well. I have read your note and I wish to tell you that I have forgiven you (father gave a smile of relief)

Father: I do not deserve the honour. I have wronged you and I apologise. I should have sent my apologies right after betraying you but I could no longer look you in the eyes. I was too ashamed to. My thanks for accepting my apology, old friend. I am at my end and I shall now go in peace.

Me: Do not speak like that, Father.

Xolo: I have come with Ncedile. She is good at mixing remedies. Please allow her to help you. Her remedies might bring you to health once again.

Father: I shall be grateful because I have not been taking the remedies given to me.

Me: Why have you not? (I asked in frustration)

Xolo: We shall hear his reasons after he has told Ncedi what the matter is. Ncedi, stand closer please.

Ncedi: As you wish, my King (she walked and

sat besides father)

Me: Shall we give you privacy?

Ncedi: It is all up to King Xhanti.

Father: Stay with me both of you. (we nodded)

Ncedi: King Xhanti, I shall need you to tell me what your body feels please.

Father: My thanks for coming. I first started to cough and got a fever. It stopped and I thought my body is recovering but then my joints started to weaken. I feel pain in my stomach, it feels as if I am being eaten alive on my inside. I also have chest pains which blocks my breathing.

Ncedi: Have you eaten anything you usually don't?

Father: I have not but this was found on the royal grounds (he gave her a packet)

Ncedi: It has a black cross marking. The marking of poison.

Me: Are you telling me someone has poisoned you? Where have you found this, Father? (I shouted in anger)

Father: Calm, young Prince. I shall tell you everything once we are done.

Me: How can I calm when I hear that you have been fed toxins?

Xolo: Dealing with issues while full of anger is of no good. You have seen from my actions. I know you wish to kill whoever has done this but let us respect your father and listen. I am also angered that this has happened. (he spoke gently but I sensed the anger in his voice)

Ncedi: This seems to be the juice of the Ziyu tree. It is without scent and colour but it is dangerous.

Xolo: Can you make a remedy to stop it, Ncedi?

Ncedi: I shall try, my King. Since when have you been feeling ill, King Xhanti?



Father: It has been a few days now and my body fails by day.

Ncedi: This poison feeds on your body the second it enters it. It works slow but it damages plenty.

Me: Please give him something that might help, I beg of you.

Ncedi: Permission to mix my herbs, Your highnesses.

Xolo: Do it at once, Ncedi.

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She stood and went to where she her sack is. She took out roots, oils and other things and started to mix. I walked about trying to calm myself. The Kings were speaking and laughing and I could see a peace in Father's eyes that I have never seen before. I wonder who dared to poison the King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo?! I shall not be surprised if mother is behind it. She

cares not about her family and her evils ways have proven to be life threatening. Ncedi stood and fast walked to Father and I followed.

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Ncedi: It is a very bitter remedy, your highness but do try to finish it.

Father: My thanks, my lady (he took one big sip)

Ncedi: Now have this one, it's taste is sour. My Prince have your helpers bring us a bucket.

Me: As you wish, my lady.

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I ran out to find a servant and instructed her to bring a bucket at once. She did and I rushed back to father's chamber. He was still sipping on the second remedy.

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Father: It makes me feel nausea, my lady.

Ncedi: Then it is working, your highness. Drink it

all up as you have the first. I know the taste is not pleasant but it is important that you finish it.

Xolo: You are a man of strength, Xhanti. Drink up, old friend. It might rid your body of the poison.

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He drank the remedy all at once and Ncedi had him drink a lot of water. She put the bucket before him and he vomited endlessly. I could see that all of this action is making his body weaker and I worried more but I let Ncedi do her work. The door opened and mother and her son stepped in. I felt pure disgust for the woman.

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Lizwi: Who are these people you have come with? (he shouted)

Me: Have you no respect, Lizwi? This is King Xolo of Zwelihle!

Lizwi: I do not have a care of who he is because

in this Kingdom he holds no power. What are these people doing with Father?

Ncedi: My King, he has let out orange liquid. It is a good sign.

Me: Has the poison left his body, my lady? (I looked at her)

Ncedi: Once the Ziyu poison leaves the body the victim let's out orange liquid but I hold not knowledge if it has all come out.

Xolo: Let him drink the remedies again.

Ncedi: It is not a wise idea, my King. He is already weaken by the vomiting but the first attempt has given us hope. He shall suffer for the damage the poison has already done.

Lizwi: You had a witch come from foreign soil to feed our father more poison? I want these people out of my Kingdom! (he shouted in anger)

Me: Have you not heard her say that the poison

might be leaving his body? Why are you so angry at people who are trying to help our father? Have you poisoned him?

Mother: I shall not let you insult your brother like that. He shall never poiso...

Me: You keep your mouth shut, Nande. The real witch in this house is your mother! (I cut her short and pointed at Lizwi)

Lizwi: You dare to insult the Queen in front of strangers! I want all this rubbish out of...

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I could no longer take it so I cut him short with a punch. He feel to the floor and it seems it was a knock out punch because he was not moving. His mother knelt down to him.

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Mother: I shall have you heavily punished for this. You can thank your ancestors that he is still breathing.

Me: Leave my Father's chamber at once, Witch!

Mother: My King, I ask of you to speak to, Ntsika. Clearly he is possessed!

Father: You have heard the Prince. Leave this chamber with Lizwi at once. (he managed to speak softly)

Mother: You shall all regret this!

Me: You shall regret trying to have me killed even more. If I find that your curse of a son has harmed my father I shall make him sleep for all his days. Now leave my Father's chamber and soon you shall leave this soil one way or another.

Mother: I did not mean to have you harmed but your words hurt me. When you said I'm dead to you, my heart turned to stone and I regret it.

Me: Leave us! (I shouted and she widened her eyes clearly frightened)

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She had a guard carry her weak coward of a son out of the chamber. Ncedi took the bucket and I gave it to a servant to get rid of it's contents. Jongi came in holding a bowl of soft porridge and I am truly grateful because father needs to eat.

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Me: My apologies for what you have just seen King Xolo and you too, my Lady.

Xolo: I feel no pity for the woman you call mother. She has left you to be killed but I'm glad you stand here.

Father: What has Nande done that almost had you killed?

Me: It is of no impor...

Father: I shall not ask again, Ntsika (he cut me short in a stern voice)

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I sat besides him and I told him the entire story

about me and Ndoni. He could not believe that she is a Princess of Zwelihle.

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Father: My apologies, old friend. Your daughter has been ill treated under my roof and I held no knowledge of it. If I knew that she was yours, I'd have treated her like a guest.

Xolo: To live in the past is of no use. She has found kindness and love in your son. It seems fate wanted us to reunite one way or another.

Father: I wish to live long enough to meet this young maiden. To give her my thanks for making Ntsika happy and to apologise for the evils that have been done to her.

Xolo: I also need to give her my apologies. I have hurt the man she loves.

Father: Any father of a young maiden would have reacted the same.

Me: What shall we do about Mother and Lizwi?



Father: Lizwi had poisoned the King and he put the proof in Jongi's chamber. I know she shall never do it because she loves me. Much like you I fell in love with a servant and I have a daughter with Jongi.

Me: Why have you never spoke about this to me?

Father: I did not want you to follow in my footsteps. I am happy that you are now able to marry the maiden your heart has chosen. I could not do it but you can so you must honour her.

Xolo: He knows what might happen if he does not (I laughed)

Me: I shall honour her, I give you my promise.

Father: The rules of the Kingdom says that whoever tries to kill the King shall be punished with the same fate he has wished for his King. The rules hold no exception for the King's own kids.

Me: We must first go to the royal council with this issue. How shall we prove it?

Father: I had the package taken to Lizwi's chamber. You are to ask him to conduct a search of evidence.

Xolo: Remember if he goes to the chamber of the lady your father has mentioned first then he is guilty. He shall go there hoping that he shall find that he has hidden.

Me: I shall go do it at once. What about mother?

Father: If Xolo holds the note with him then I shall present it to the council. They shall see it is her writings. She shall not get a heavy punishment like Lizwi I'm sure but it is enough to ban her off this soil. I shall not have people who plot murder against their own under my roof.

Xolo: I hold the note in my luggage because I thought the Prince might need it to prove his story before you.

Father: He needs not to have proof for me because I know his words are true but I am glad you hold it so we can show it to the council.

Me: My thanks for the trust, father. I shall leave now and have the search for this so called evidence start. It pains me that Lizwi is to meet such a punishment because he remains my brother even with his evils.

Father: It lays heavy on my heart also. He shall get a fair trial before the elders and they shall decide their fates.

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I stood and went to Lizwi's chamber and I found him with a nose bleed. Nande stood before him.

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Me: I am not here to harm him.

Lizwi: You have better come to beg my apology.

Me: I shall do no such because I hold no regret. I have come to tell you that we are going to

search the royal grounds and ask our servants if they hold any knowledge of the King's alleged poisoning. You both are welcome to join.

Lizwi: I have been waiting for father to give me permission since I have suspected poisoning. Let us go at once.

Mother: I shall go to my King.

Me: Do as you please and enjoy it while it lasts. I have told the guards and servants to help us search.

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Mother walked out and went to Father's chamber. Lizwi and I left to help in the search. He truly went and searched for Jongile's first and by doing that he confirmed his guilt because he knew he last saw the package here when he had it put here. He messed up everything clearly frustrated. I gave permission for the toxin package to be put in his chamber because he indeed is guilty. How can such an

evil man come from the same womb as me?  
We searched all the servant quarters and as expected found nothing. I had all the chambers in the royal house searched and he did not look alarmed just angry. A guard came from Lizwi's chamber holding the package in his hands.

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Guard: My Prince, I have found this in the younger Prince's chamber. It has the marking of toxins.

Lizwi: I hold no knowledge of that package! Someone must have put it in there! Jongile is the evil one and clearly planted it. (he shouted in anger)

Me: Have him taken away to captivity. Make sure that he is tied and not to go away. He shall plea his case to King and the elders.

Lizwi: You have done this, you bastard. I shall kill you, Ntsika..I give you my promise. (the guards held him)

Mother: What is this? Let the Prince go at once!

Me: Your Prince had the King poisoned and is trying to blame Jongile for his sins.

Mother: They both shall never do such a thing!

Lizwi: She would, mother because she has been having bedroom dealings with the King behind your back. They even have a bastard child together. Go and ask your King if you do not believe me.

Me: Take him away! Bantu I trust you to ensure that he is to remain in the captivity chambers as all the criminals do.

Bantu: As you wish, my Prince.

Lizwi: Mother, do not allow them to take me away. I shall be punished by death if I'm found guilty of poisoning the King. Ntsika, I shall kill you, even if I'm dead. I shall strangle you in your slee... (they took him away before he could finish)

Mother: Have mercy on your brother, Ntsika. I beg of you.

Me: Like he had mercy on my father? Do not dare insult me because my father might still die. Do not be comfortable because you are following your son. Take her away to captivity as well.

Mother: I did not mean to plot for your death, Ntsika! I beg of you and the King to show mercy!

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I left her standing there clearly in fear and shock. The guards took her away also. The hate that they have put in my heart is not healthy. I can not carry such hate because it might consume my heart. They commit such cruel crimes but are cowards at heart. I do not care if they rot in captivity. The council shall come tomorrow at sunrise and they shall hear their punishment. I went to father's chamber and found him in slumber. I stand ashamed that Ndoni's father

had to witness this! I had a feast prepared for us and we ate. King Xolo had Mlilo slumber in father's chamber. I felt grateful to him. We all retired to our chambers and I wish my lady was next to me. I miss her so much.

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#Ndoni

I laid in my chamber and I felt something wet my forehead. It kept on going on and on until I opened my eyes. It was Mbaleki licking my forehead.

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Me: Stop it at once, lady cheetah. Your breath does not smell pleasant. I shall have you rinse it. (she kept on and I laughed)

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I slowly managed to move and turn to my head to my other side. I saw my mother sleeping



peacefully. I smiled at how blessed I am to have her. I looked at my body and saw my breasts were covered with a cloth. It wrapped all around my back and I knew it's for my injury.

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Me: Mother (I shook her softly)

Mother: Hmm (she said still sleeping)

Me: Open your eyes please (she opened them slowly and smiled)

Mother: I knew I would see those beautiful eyes again. How are you feeling?

Me: Where is Ntsika?

Mother: He has goneb (my eyes widened)

Me: No, no, no it can not be. (I started to cry).

Mother: No, not like that. He is well and alive but he had to go to his soil. His father is ill.

Me: What is the matter with King Xhanti?

Mother: I hold no knowledge of that but it

seems serious. Your father has gone with Ntsika. Xhanti asked for forgiveness. It seems you you are finally going to wed Ntsika, my blossom. (we both smiled)

Me: I do wish for King Xhanti to be well. I am happy that fate is finally smiling on me and Ntsika. I can not wait to wed my Prince.

Mother: It seems he holds the same feeling (she laughed softly)

Me: May I turn my body to my side?

Mother: If you feel no pain then okay. How do you really feel, Ndoni?

Me: I am in no pain, do not fear. I just feel very hungry. I could even eat the raw animals Mbaleki feeds on at this moment (she laughed).

Mother: You are eating for two people. I shall have them prepare a big feast just for you.

Me: Mother, how do you know I am carrying a baby?

Mother: All the symptoms are there. Your breasts are getting a bit big and so are your hips, you have not had your womanly cycle and you collapsed.

Me: My breasts have been feeling pain. Is that normal?

Mother: It is, my blossom. Do not fear, your body is changing and it is normal. I shall go get you food before you collapse again (I laughed)

Me: My thanks for all you have done. I wish to be a kind mother to my child as you are to us. I love you, mother.

Mother: And I you, my blossom.

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She kissed my cheek and stood to leave the chamber. I turned on my side to face Mbaleki and saw she has scratches. Clearly markings from Mlilo. I can not wait to see Ntsika once again and I wish for his father to live and see

his son wed. The peace between the two Kings is what we needed. They shall now bless our union. I hold no hate or anger to my father because he showed mercy to Ntsika so it means he regrets his actions. Mother came with enough food to feed battle warriors. I sat and ate almost all of it. She took of the cloth and cleaned my wounds. It stung a lot but I had to bare the pain. She put a clean cloth on and gave me medicine. I once again fell asleep but hopefully this is a normal slumber. How I miss my warrior!

#NOSI

[03/02, 14:58] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 24

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#Ndoni

My eyes opened and my body felt tired as if I have not just woken from a slumber. I looked around the chamber and realised that I am alone. I felt no pain so I stood up and sat straight on the bed. I tried to stand on my feet slowly when I heard someone enter my chamber. It is the Queen and she came running when to me and held me.

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Mother: Ndoniyamanzi, do you wish to see my heart stop beating? Why have you not called out for help?

Me: I shall never, I want your heart to beat forever. I am in not pain, mother.

Mother: I shall get the helpers to prepare you a bath.

Me: My thanks. I am feeling some pain in my lower belly. Should I be fearful?

Mother: Are you feeling too much pain? (she

looked concerned)

Me: No, it is a little and it comes and goes.

Mother: It is normal, my blossom. Your womb is growing to nurture your baby properly. The little swelling in your lower belly is also normal. Soon you shall have a big belly (she laughed softly)

Me: I do not wish to have a big belly on the day that I wed Ntsika. Can we not have the celebrations soon?

Mother: It shall depend on your father. Xhanti's family still have to honour us with dowry.

Me: How long shall the negotiations be?

Mother: Not long if both families wish for this union. All shall be well, my blossom. If you wish to wed before you show then I shall try my best to have it happen.

Me: My thanks. I shall wash now and have morning feast. I am very hungry.

Mother: Yes, you need to eat so that my

grandchild can grow big and strong. (I laughed)

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She had the help bring me water to wash my body. I am treated like a baby because she insisted on helping me. My wounds were closing and healing well. She wrapped a clean cloth around them and dressed me.

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Mother: Shall you eat with the family?

Me: Yes, I shall. I miss them plenty. Where is Mbaleki?

Mother: Out to hunt because she has been by your side all this time. That cheetah carries a lot of love for you. She even attacked Mlilo who is twice her size.

Me: I love her too. Shall she go with me to Umhlaba once I am wed to their Prince?

Mother: She goes where you go but fear not she shall not harm anyone. She is no longer just a

wild animal, she has been chosen but she shall go to protector mode once she feels you are in harms way.

Me: I wish for King Xhanti to be well. Who shall teach me how to be future Queen as you teach Zinzi? Nande shall only mislead me.

Mother: They shall get you someone wise and who knows the way of the Kingdom to help you. Each Queen is different, Ndoni. All that person has to do is teach you the laws of the Kingdom but all else will depend on you.

Me: I wish you could go with me (I said softly)

Mother: I wish for that too but we can not change the laws, my Blossom. I shall visit and once the baby comes I shall stay with you a while to teach you how to mother your child until you can do it on your own. (I embraced her)

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We walked to the eating chamber and Ntando



ran to me to embrace me. Mother was fearful but he did not cause any harm. I went to sit down.

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Bukhosi: It is good to see you out of your chamber, Ndoni. Ntando has been crying for you.

Ntando: I shall not deny that fact. I feared that I shall lose you. I love having a sister.

Me: I love having brothers too.

Zinzi: You must really love this Prince, Ndoni. To be a shield for him.

Bukhosi: Would you tell me that you shall not do it for me? (we laughed)

Ntando: I shall do it for all of you.

Mother: Let us eat because no one shall act as a shield for anyone.

Bukhosi: When shall the King return?

Mother: He is to return soon. Are you having difficulty with the royal duties?

Bukhosi: No, but some elders refuse to stay in negotiations with me without his presence.

Zinzi: You are good at what you do, my prince. They shall see it soon.

Mother: I agree with you.

Ntando: Father said I shall soon join in on the big royal duties. It makes my heart happy.

Bukhosi: It is not as easy as your imagination allows you to think but he is right, you must soon start.

Mother: You have all grown so much. Zinzi, I shall need your help with Ndoni's wedding celebrations.

Me: Mother, we have not gotten blessings to wed yet (we laughed)

Ntando: I will be very sad to see you leave, Ndoni.

Me: I am sad too but we shall visit whenever we can.

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We sat and ate but I had to run outside because I felt sick. Mother brushed my lower back as I knelt on the ground. She said it is normal. I do not think I like this pregnancy thing if it shall make me sick. I rinsed my mouth and went to rest. I wondered what is happening at Umhlaba. The King can not die because it shall hurt Ntsika too much. We do not need a tragedy now. How I wish Ncedi can aid whatever sickness he has. I wish I could be with Ntsika but I know that I can not go to him. I still hold fear about going to that Kingdom but if I wish to wed Ntsika, I shall have to go live there.

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#Ntsika

I stood in my chamber and dressed in my royal attire. The night was long because I have not slept well. All that has happened had left me with frustrations because I should have started preparations to have Ndoni welcomed as my bride already but I can not due to Nande and Lizwi. I had Bantu summon the two guards I've known to be loyal to Lizwi. One of them or both must know of this plot to kill the King. I walked to where I asked to meet them. They bowed as I approached and I gave permission to rise.

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Bantu: Maqhekeza and Phawu, my Prince.

Me: My thanks, Bantu. I shall not beat around the bush. I am sure you both have knowledge about what happened to Lizwi. I know you both are loyal to him. One or both of you helped him get his hands on the poison because I know he is too much of a coward to have done it himself. I shall give you one chance to confess or you

shall be punished. Maqhekeza, are you guilty of plotting the King's death with Lizwi?

Qhekeza: I am not guilty of such a heavy crime, my Prince. I am no fool! Only a fool would be involved in such a crime and I shall never risk causing you anger again. I learnt a great lesson. I hold no knowledge of this, I give you my promise.

Me: Phawu, what do you know of this plot (he looked nervous)

Phawu: I hold not knowledge of this, my Prince. (he looked down)

Me: Look me in the eyes and say that again. (he started to sweat)

Phawu: I...I hold no knowledge of this plot to kill the King.

Me: I do not believe you.

Phawu: I shall neve...

Me: Bantu, go to the village and get his family.

They shall just have to take punishment on his behalf (I cut him short and his lips shivered)

Phawu: I have not been honest with you, my Prince. My apologies for that. I shall tell you the truth but have no harm come to my family, I beg if you (he knelt down and begged)

Me: Maqhekeza, leave us.

Qhekeza: As you wish, my Prince (he rushed out)

Me: Speak I am listening. Dare not to lie to me again because I shall not be kind (I shouted and he nodded quickly)

Phawu: It was me who helped the younger prince get the poison. He ordered me to get a poison that does not kill immediately. I knew of the poison of the Ziyu tree and I went to get its juice for him. I had no clue that he shall use it on the King. He threatened to have my children be eaten by wild animals if I did not help him.

Me: You dared to help a man who tried to kill

my father (I strangled him)

Bantu: My Prince, let anger not control you. You need him to give witness before the council. (he tapped my shoulder)

Me: You shall stand before the council and tell them what you have told me. If you dare change your story you shall regret it.

Phawu: I shall be truthful, I give you my promise.

Me: Brother, have him be kept in captivity. I shall not risk the snake sneaking away.

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Bantu grabbed Phawu and dragged him away. It is true what King Xolo spoke, the eyes hold a lot of truth. Phawu's eyes proved his guilt. I left to the eating chamber to have a morning feast. I shall need all my strength for when we meet with the council. I found King Xolo and Father seated. Father looked much better. I greeted and sat down.

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Me: Father, you seem to be in better strength.

Father: I feel much better, young Prince. The remedies of Ncedi has helped a lot.

Me: Shall you live?

Father: We hold no knowledge of that, son. It seems the poison has damaged my legs. I can no longer walk.

Xolo: Surely you are to walk again, old friend. Your body just needs to regain strength.

Me: I agree with King Xolo. It is still early, your body is still recovering. My Xolo, my thanks for coming with Ncedi. My heart feels so much happiness because he is stronger now, I can see it.

Xolo: It is all a pleasure. I have a lot to still share with him so I am happy that he is recovering. Now stop giving thanks because you are to wed my daughter. We shall soon be family.



Father: Ntsika, after all of this is over we must start preparations to welcome the young maiden. She is carrying your heir already and you must make sure that no shame come to her.

Xolo: I agree with your father. My Ndoni deserves the best honour. I shall go back to my soil today and prepare to welcome your people for the dowry.

Father: It was good seeing you again, Xolo. You have given me the gift of forgiveness and I am grateful. Do not fear, we shall come as soon as this is over to honour your daughter. (they shook hands)

Me: You shall go well, my King. I shall have them pack food for your. I ask that you go with a letter that I have written for Ndoni.

Xolo: I shall make sure she receives it and I am sure she has woken up by now.

Me: She is a woman of strength, so I am sure

too.

Father: Now I am more curious to meet this young lady. She sounds like a true Princess.

Me: You shall love her. Tell me father shall you be at the council meeting?

Father: I shall be there. My legs might not be working but my mouth and mind are. I want those two off my Kingdom one way or another.

Xolo: I wish you both well. I shall know it all has gone well when I receive a letter asking for my Ndoni's hand in marriage.

Me: I can not wait for it all to happen (they both laughed)

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We sat and we ate. The two Kings are already thinking of names for their unborn grandchild. I can not believe that I am going to be a father. I had food packed for the King and Ncedi. Father had gifts given to Ncedi to show thanks. They

hooked their horses to their carriage and we packed all their stuff. I gave the King a letter for Ndoni and we bid farewell. Their horses started to move forward gracefully until they were out of sight. We stepped inside and prepared for the council meeting. I do not wish to see those two but I have no choice. The royal council arrived and they went into the council chamber. I helped the King take his seat and had the prisoners come in. Lizwi looked at me with pure hate and the Queen looked shamed. They stood before us tied up.

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Elder: Greeting to all. I am sure that this is a serious matter because before me stands the Queen and Prince of this soil as captives. My King, shall you please tell us why the council is here?

Father: My thanks for making it elders. This is indeed a serious matter which involves evil

crimes. I shall start with the Prince. As you all know I am ill and my illness caught me without warning. In the mist of it all the Prince mentioned poison when no one even suspected it. I got suspicious of him because I hold knowledge of the way Lizwi is. I had Ntsika conduct a search for proof of poisoning and a package with the marking of toxins was found in his chamber.

Elder: Prince Lizwi, your King has spoken. What do you say to this accusation?

Lizwi: My thanks, elder. Firstly I feel very pained that my own father shall accuse me of trying to kill him. I do not accept this accusation because I stand before you as an innocent man. (I clenched my jaw)

Me: Permission to speak, elder!

Elder: If it is related to this then I give permission. (Lizwi looked at me)

Me: I knew that he would deny the accusation

as he is a spineless coward who has never taken responsibility for anything.

Lizwi: I take offense, elder (the elder held up his hand to signal silence)

Me: I have a witness that wishes to come and tell you all what his involvement in this crime has been and who ordered him to do it.

Permission to have him allowed inside.

Elder: Bring him in (I called for Phawu and he walked in)

Me: This is one of the guards of the royal house. His place is mostly near Lizwi's private chamber and that has caused him to be one of the guards loyal most to Lizwi. I have asked him what he knew about this and he spoke. Now he shall tell the council.

Elder: Speak! (he looked at Phawu)

Phawu: Prince Ntsika stands correct. I am the man who got the poison for the younger prince.

Lizwi: He is lying, elder! I have never ordered this savage to get me poison. He must be the one who wanted the King dead! (he cut him short)

Phawu: I hold no motive to wish the King dead, elder. I got the order from the prince. I can even show you where the tree grows. I did not know that it was intended to kill the King. I hold regret for my actions but who was I to say no to a Prince? He would have had my children killed.

Elder: He may go (they took him away)

Father: I believe that you have enough to know that he is guilty.

Elder: Lizwi, what do you say about this. Think carefully before you speak because untruthful words might lead to heavy punishment. (he kept quiet for a long time)

Lizwi: I admit guilt, elder. My apology for being dishonest.

Elder: Why have you done such a crime against your own father?

Lizwi: Because the King favours Ntsika more and it has angered me. I have been carrying hate for him and it made me do this evil crime.

Elder: King Xhanti, what do you say of this matter?

Father: I have been giving them both favour but I had to focus more on Ntsika because he had to learn the ways of the Kingdom first. Lizwi has been an unruly Prince and it frustrated me much. My apologies if he felt like I had not favoured him but it still does not justify his plotting to murder me. A true man sits and speaks.

Elder: I have heard enough about this case. Shall we go on to that of the Queen. What has been her crime? (mother started to cry)

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I stood and told them all that happened and how mother was involved in it. She stood there and cried until she looked like she will collapse. I held no pity for either of them at this moment.

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Elder: Queen Nande, you have heard the accusations against you. What do you have to say?

Mother: It is true, elder. I did it out of pain after Ntsika told me I am dead to him. No mother wishes to hear those words from her son. He turned my heart to stone. (I closed my eyes in frustration)

Elder: I have never given birth to a child because I am a man but by my knowledge no mother wishes harm to her children. No matter what the cause of the pain the child is. If it was not for the mercy of King Xolo, Umhlaba Ochumileyo would hold no heir because Lizwi is clearly not worthy to be called King someday.



My King, what fate shall you have these two meet?

Father: The rules of this soil state that anyone who kills or tries to kill it's King shall meet the same fate as he has wished for the King. By law Lizwi is to be fed poison that shall stop his heart from beating but he has given reasons that have made my mind be confused. I shall have him stripped off all of his royal benefits and shall no longer be deemed Prince. He shall remain in captivity until we have sat in private and decided on his fate.

Elder: It sounds just for now. Do the other councils agree (he looked around and they nodded)

Father: As for the Nande, I want her off the soil of my Kingdom with immediacy. She is to go back to her Kingdom and face the shame before her people. I no longer deem her my Queen and I shall take all of her benefits from

her. I shall not lead with a woman who holds an evil heart by my side.

Mother: I beg of you, my King. The shame shall kill me. Do not take me back to my little Kingdom. I shall do anything. Show mercy, my King. You have a bastard child with a servant and I am willing to accept it.

Elder: Shall you show mercy?

Father: I want what I said to be done. She is not to claim this Kingdom of hers. Have her sent to the Kingdom you found her and ensure she sets no foot here. If she does then she shall suffer the consequences.

Mother: You want me gone so that you can be with that whore, Xhanti? You shall regret this!

Elder: Take Lizwi back to captivity and let it be known that he has been stripped off his title. We shall sit and decide of the outcomes of his case. Nande is to be taken to the soil of her birth and let it be known she shall no longer

hold the title of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. She shall go and face the shame of being a failure of a Queen.

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They both got taken away and I am glad that they shall no longer be in the royal house. My wish is for Lizwi to rot in captivity because I do not want him to die. He has done evils but his mother cursed him with the evil heart. Nande's ban from this soil will have to do because the elders have spoken. I could see father blames himself for the way Lizwi has turned out. I do not know what fate awaits Lizwi because I am not allowed in the final verdict meetings. I know the King shall ask for mercy for him. It pains me that he can no longer make use of his legs but at least his heart still beats. I sat in my chamber feeling exhausted and longing for my lady. She shall come to a new home that has rid of the evils and I'm glad because she feared coming here. I shall let father rest and then we shall

have to start the preparations of the wedding celebrations. I can no longer bare being away from Ndoniyamanzi. It has not been a pleasant day and seeing her beautiful face would have made it much better. How I hope her health had improved. I am not a man who sleeps while the sun is still up but my eyes felt heavy and I fell asleep.

[03/02, 14:58] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 25 OBJ

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#Ntsika

Days have gone by and I still wait to hear what has been decided about Lizwi. I miss Ndoniyamanzi but at least I have already sent the letter to her family asking for her hand in marriage. The King had me called to the council

chamber. I stood and went at once. I entered and immediately knew that they have reached a decision on Lizwi's fate.

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Me: You have called, Father.

Father: Yes, my thanks for coming at once.

Me: Have you all decided on a verdict?

Elder: We as the council wished for Lizwi to meet the same fate as he wished upon his King. When an apple has a little rot it is best to cut that piece off and throw it away before it spreads. Lizwi is clearly a rotten piece in this Kingdom and we fear that if we do not punish him according to what laws say it we shall be filled with regret later on in life.

Father: But we speak not of an apple here, elder. We speak of my son.

Elder: A son who holds a wish to see you dead. You know that there is no cure for power hungry

heirs, Xhanti. If Lizwi is set free or given a lenient punishment he shall plan another similar plot. He is as the rot in an apple and it is now too late to fix him.

Father: I understand that elder. I have just wished to finally show him this favour he has longed for from me.

Elder: If we show leniency specially for him then it is only fair that we let all who attempt murder free. That is why we have decided to punish him accordingly. Trying to kill the King is no small offense. We as the council have decided that it is best he be executed for his evil deed. You have the final say as King. Are you in agreement with us?

Father: I have been hoping for mercy but you are my elders and advisors. You are wise because you have seen plenty. I shall be a fool to not agree with you.

Elder: Then it is final! Lizwi shall be put to

eternal sleep at sunset by poison as he has tried to do to the King.

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Father looked pained and had the guards lift him up to his chamber. My heart is also heavy because Lizwi might be evil but he is still my brother. I have not wished for him to meet this kind of painful end. I sat in silence with father.

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Father: Lizwi's actions have made me make a decision that I have never wished to make in my life (he finally said)

Me: He wanted to have an innocent person take the guilt for his crime. My heart is also heavy, father but he knew the punishment for this type of crime. I feel so much anger for him for being this stupid.

Father: Have me taken to his place of captivity before sunset. I wish to see him.

Me: I have not been to see him all these days he has been in captivity. I shall also go and bid my farewells. He holds so much anger and hate for us.

Father: All because of me.

Me: No, it is all because of mother. He was closest to her and who knows what poison words of hate she fed him.

Father: There is something else that I wish to tell you. (I looked at him)

Me: What seems to be the matter?

Father: I am to step down as King (my eyes widened in shock)

Me: You still breath, father.

Father: I am useless to the Kingdom when I have no use of my legs. I can no longer do the duties of a King. This is no way for a man to live (he shouted in anger and frustration)

Me: Father, you might still recover in your le...



Father: Ncedile said that she fears the poison has damaged my legs! I shall not walk again and I have to accept it. I can not be a King who needs to be carried around like a baby. Spare me the pain of such a humiliation!

Me: I am not ready to sit on your throne.

Father: I shall be by your side, as I have been Ntsika. Just not as your King but as your advisor! My body feels like that of an old man. You need to step up!

Me: I am not ready!

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I shouted at father for the very first time and left his chamber. Growing up knowing you are to be future King is not a problem but I have not expected it to be so soon! I am terrified at this. What if I fail at it? I took my horse and I rode off to clear my mind. Good riddance Bantu is away to train young warriors because he would have tried to calm me down and all I need is to be left

alone. I went to the royal garden and I sat for a while. All of what has happened has been weighing on me too much and I no longer feel like I can take it. I wish I could just feel Ndoni's lavender scent embrace. I sat until I have calmed and rode back to the mainland. When I arrived there was panic. I ran inside to ask what is happening. I went to father's chamber but he was not there. I started to fear that he might have died. I left him in a bad way and I want to apologise. I asked a servant where he is and she directed me to the council chamber and I ran as fast as my feet could. I found him sitting and still alive and breathed a sigh of relief.

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Me: Father. what seems to be the matter? Why is there so much chaos outside?

Father: Lizwi had escaped!

Me: What? How is that possible? (I held one of the guards by his clothing)

Guard: It seems he has been gone for days, my Prince. We found a stranger sitting in his cell.

Me: You do not know what your own prince looks like? (I shouted at him)

Guard: The chambers of captivity is dark and we do not let prisoners out. He must have gotten a guard to release him and put a stranger in his chamber. The man says he has been in there for days and was threatened to keep his silence.

Father: I had them take me to Lizwi and that was when I saw that it is not him in that cell. He is long gone by now but I have had the Kingdom searched.

Me: I should never have let Bantu go, it would never have happened if he stood guard.

Father: No use going on about that we can not change.

Me: Go to the Kingdom mother comes from. I

am sure he had gone to his mother to plot more evil. We can not rest until he is found. A few days give him plenty to plan.

Father: I have had extra guards on royal grounds.

Me: Of what use is that if some of them are traitors! I shall stand guard. Go and get some warriors to help you in the search. Search all of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

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The guard left and I could not go out because Lizwi might come back to the royal house to finish father off. I should have gone to the captivity chamber everyday since he got held there. I should have expected the snake to escape. I can not believe he has been gone for days. Clearly our guards are useless traitors. I had other guards sent to where mother is. He is such a coward I'm sure he ran to his mother as he has always done. I feel so angry because he

shall try to avenge himself. I can not have him come near my father.

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#Ndoni

The letter that Ntsika has sent with father has warmed my heart so much. I have been reading it everyday since I have received it. I miss him so much. Mother told me that his family has sent the letter asking for my hand already. It seems all is truly well. His father is also better and it warms my heart. I walked the royal grounds with the King.

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Father: You look so at peace, dear daughter.

Me: I am, father. Finally I shall be honoured as I deserve.

Father: The mother has told me that you wish to have the celebrations soon. I have agreed to it. Once Ntsika's and his people come to honour us with dowry, we shall have the celebrations.

Me: My thanks for agreeing, father.

Father: How are your wounds?

Me: Much better, they have all closed and I no longer need a cloth to cover them.

Father: My apologies once again. When I saw what I had done to you my heart almost stop beating.

Me: All is well now, father. Do not fear.

Father: I look forward to becoming a grandfather again. Maybe it is a maiden because Xhanti's house is without any (we laughed softly)

Me: I shall be a part of his family soon.

Father: It pains my heart that you are too leave my house so soon but you are to wed to a kind

man. Xhanti is also a good man. (he smiled)

Me: I am just happy that his health has improved. Ntsika's letter made it sound as if he is going to live.

Father: But the poison has damaged his legs. It is not an easy fate to accept for an active man like Xhanti but he is strong.

Me: At least his heart still beats. A miracle might happen to heal his legs. I am just happy that Ntsika needs not to bid eternal farewell to his father.

Father: I agree...

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We walked while laughing and I truly hold a lot of love for my family. Ntando approached and I knew it was to call us for the night feast because it is already sunset. He approached with a smile but it faded when he looked behind us.

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Ntando: Get down (he shouted)

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We looked back and we saw and a man holding a spear. Before we knew it, it flew to the air and Father shielded me to the ground. We stayed in that position for a while. All three beasts were on our attacker and in that instant I knew that he had no chance of living. I looked to Ntando to see if he was not struck by the weapon but luckily he was not. The King ordered the beasts of the man and walked to him. He looked at the man and then at me. I ran to where he stood and looked down at the trespasser. He was full of blood and open wounds of cheetah markings. The sun might be setting but the sky still lit bright enough for me to see him. It is Lizwi and my heart nearly stopped. How can he be here when Ntsika said he is in captivity in his letter?! I cried at the sight of his badly injured body



because I have never in all my days seen such! If he can come from his soil to mine and enter our royal grounds then I am not safe. Father was breathing fire and asking how he got in. He is wearing the attire of our royal house guard so that is surely how he got pass them. I was in so shock that I started to feel much pain in my lower belly and back. There was much chaos around me. I stood with a mind full of questions. Did Lizwi dispise me so much that he would come all this way to do this or was it his way to try and hurt Ntsika by using me? Father had me carried to the royal house and the pain got worse and worse that it made me cry out!

[03/02, 14:58] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 26

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#Ntsika

The thought of Lizwi still being about has caused me to deprive myself from sleep. It has been days since the day of his escape and I have not left father's side since. I am so happy that my Ndoni is not here yet or I would have to fear for her life too. I put guards that I know to be loyal to me in and around the royal house. I sat with father in his chamber.

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Father: Call the search for Lizwi off, Ntsika. Surely he is no longer on this soil.

Me: He is such a stupid fool, so I doubt he has left Umhlaba.

Father: The business of the Kingdom can not be at a stand still because of this. We must go about our lives and just stay alert for if he strikes again.

Me: Not if, father. Lizwi is a snake and I trust that he shall strike once again. My fear is that his next strike might be deadly for any of us.

Father: We shall deal with it when time comes but for now call back the guards you have sent out. We stay waiting to hear from those you sent to Nande's Kingdom.

Me: As you wish, my King. I shall have the search called off.

Father: We still have not spoken about you stepping up at King soon.

Me: What makes you think that I am ready, father?

Father: You were ready the second you understood what being eldest prince means, Ntsika.

Me: Have the elders agreed to this?

Father: I am still to tell them. They are wise and they know a King in my condition may cripple the Kingdom. I am sure they shall agree to my plea.

Me: My heart is heavy that you now have to

accept this new fate, father. Elder was right in saying Lizwi is a rot in our Kingdom and I fear with him being about is bad for it because we hold no real knowledge to his evil capabilities.

Father: He can not hide for all his days. Many know him and we shall know when he is seen. We need to seal the union between you and the Princess. I wish for you to be married when you are honoured with the crown of King so she too can be crowned as your Queen.

Me: I wish to wed her as soon as possible too. My heir grows everyday and she is surely going to show soon. Start with the preparations.

Father. I want to go to her Kingdom and honour her family with a bride price.

Father: It shall be done as soon as possible. We need to prepare plenty because she hails from power but I have been preparing for both you and Lizwi for many years. Do not fear, we shall have no problems.

Me: I hope so because all we have been dealing with is problems. We also need to arrange for someone to teach Ndoni the ways of this Kingdom. It was suppose to be Nande's duty but I want her no where near Ndoniyamanzi.

Father: I shall arrange for everything as a father should.

Me: My thanks, father. (we shook hands)

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Father wished to go out and feel the heat of the sun on his body. I allowed it because he has been in this chamber for the days we found out Lizwi has escaped. I carried him out myself and I could see that it eats away on his dignity but I hold no care for that because he is my father. I had ginger be brought to us and he talked me through the journey I shall take until I sit on the thrown. One of the guards came from the other side of the royal grounds in a rush and panic swept into my body. He bowed and stood.

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Guard: My King, there is an important guest for you at the royal gate.

Me: Has this guest given his identity?

Guard: It is the King of Zwelihle (my eyes widened)

Father: You dared keep him outside the gates! Let the King in at once!(he shouted)

Guard: As you wish (he ran off again)

Father: What business would make Xolo come back again? Should he not sit and wait for us to come?

Me: I hold no knowledge of the business that brings him here. What if harm has come to Ndoniyamanzi? (I walked about worried sick)

Father: Calm now, Ntsika.

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How can father tell us to calm? If King Xolo has

come all this way then sure it is of urgency! I do hope that no harm has come to Ndoni and our unborn baby. That shall truly be the end of me. King Xolo walked in with his guards and greeted. He does not seem like a pleased man.

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Father: Old friend, is something the matter?

Xolo: My heart is heavy, old friend. My daughter nearly met her end at the hands of your son (father looked at me)

Me: I would never harm her, father.

Xolo: I speak not of your eldest. Your youngest has sneaked into my Kingdom to King the Princess of Zwelihle. If my youngest had not seen him first, my Ndoni would have met her end. It has angered me that you would let him go free.

Father: I would not make that mistake, old friend. Lizwi was to be put to eternal sleep as

punishment but on the day I went to see him and found a stranger in his cell. He had escaped and must have found his way to your Kingdom. My deepest apology for the disrespect he caused on your soil.

Me: How is Ndoniyamanzi, my King?

Xolo: I hold no knowledge of her condition because I left for your Kingdom at once to report this matter myself. The shock made her feel a lot of pain (I felt a sharp sting in my heart)

Me: Where has this pain been?

Xolo: Her lower belly and back. I left not knowing how she is. She is in great care I know that.

Father: Pain is not good for a woman who carries a child. I wish for the ancestors to look after the both of them.

Me: Where is Lizwi, King Xolo? Please tell me you have come with him.



Xolo: Our beasts have attacked him too badly and he died of his wounds. My apologies to you all but I feel no guilt because he tried to kill my only daughter on the soil of her people.

Father: He has saved me the guilt I would have carried for his execution.

Xolo: I have come with his body. I had it cleaned and smeared in the necessary spices and oils to preserve it.

Me: He does not even deserve that honour! If he had lived I would have killed him with my bare hands.

Father: We shall have to bury him at sunset. Are you sure it is him, Xolo?

Xolo: I am most certain.

Me: Should I put the days work to rest and have the Kingdom mourn their Prince?

Father: He died not as a prince. He was stripped off his title before he died. We shall not bury

him in the cemetery where our forefathers lie. He deserves not to have such an honour.

Me: As you wish, my King. Let me have the word spread to the Kingdom. Those who wish to mourn shall mourn but those who wish not shall not be forced.

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Father nodded and I left them to do what I must. I had all the royal messengers go out to the people to tell them that their younger prince has met his end and is to be laid to rest at sunset. The elders have agreed to not honour Lizwi as a Prince should be honored. His body is to lay with those of commoners. I kept myself busy with this duty to prevent my mind from thinking about Ndoni and our baby. I fear that Lizwi's actions might have led to her losing our unborn child. I hate him so much for all the pain he has caused. King Xolo's people preserved the body so well that Father and the elders managed to

truly identify it at Lizwi's. Sunset came and many chose not to bid farewell to their Prince. He must have angered many. A messenger was sent to Nande's Kingdom to inform her of her son's death and how his own stupidity led him to his end. The ceremony went well and Lizwi was put in his place of eternal rest as a commoner and not a Prince. Everything was done and we went back to the royal grounds. King Xolo is to leave early the next morning. I am to follow with my negotiators to finally make Ndoni mine.

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Xolo: Fear not, Ntsika. I might not hold knowledge of Ndoni's health but I do know that she is strong.

Me: I fear that this might have let her lose our baby, my King. She might be strong but if that has happened she will not be fine.

Xolo: I believe that she is fine and so is your heir.

Me: Yes, my King. (I looked down)

Father: Old friend, permission to have my son and the negotiators to travel with you to your soil. I know you might not be ready to welcome us yet but I wish not to see him like this no longer.

Me: I can not leave you.

Father: I am a man who can look after himself. The threat is no more and I wish to see you happy.

Xolo: We have been prepared for them for long now. We have just been waiting for your royal negotiators and the Prince to come. I do not have a problem if they travel with us.

Father: I shall have all be arranged now, Ntsika so it can be ready before sunrise. Are you in agreement?

Me: I am, father. My only wish is to finally wed her.

Xolo: I do hold fear for her safety. Are you sure that her life shall be in no harm once she comes to live here.

Father: No harm shall come to her, old friend. Those who wished her harm are no longer here. We give you our promise.

Xolo: Then I guess it is time to finally let the children wed as they have wished for so long.

Me: My thanks, my Kings. This brings much joy to my heart. Let me go and have my own preparations before the travels.

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I shook both their hands and left them. I went to do preparations for the travels. Almost all the royal carriages will go out to Zwelihle because they shall be carrying gifts to Ndoni's family. After all of this is done she shall come with me to Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I asked father to have the royal house and grounds cleansed before Ndoni arrives and he agreed. I retired to my

chamber feeling exhausted and I went to lie down. I hope that Ndoni still carries our child because I do not think she will be able to carry the pain of losing our unborn child. I can not wait to see her.

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#Ndoni

The sight of Lizwi's badly wounded body still haunts me. What kind of a fool was he? Even if he succeeded with his plan to kill me he surely must have known that he too shall die. Father left with his body at once and he was angry. I do hope that it will not cause another feud between the two Kings. I sat in Mother's chamber with her.

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Me: I still can not believe that Lizwi has come all this way to harm me.

Mother: Well he has failed and you still carry your child.

Me: I have never felt that much pain in my life, mother.

Mother: I fear that you might lose your unborn child but clearly he or she is a warrior.

Me: Just like his/her father (we laughed)

Mother: I have never seen a warrior who is a woman.

Me: If it is a girl then she might be the first (we laughed)

Mother: No, not if it's a Princess.

Me: Mother, I fear going to Umhlaba. What if me going there will bring more harm to my life?

Mother: Ntsika will not allow it to come to that, Ndoni. Laws shall also be protecting you now. Whoever wishes to harm you knows they shall face a great punishment because you are the future Queen. I know you hold fear in your heart

but I do not want you to allow evil to win. You and Ntsika have both almost met your end because you fought for this love so much. You are now finally able to be with him.

Me: I can not wait to wed him but I now feel a lot of fear. You and father will not go with me to that place.

Mother: Your husband will be there and he shall ensure that no harm comes to you and his heir. Now please stop making your heart so heavy by worrying. Mbaleki is also to go with you.

Me: Ntando's heart will be broken. (we laughed)

Mother: His turn shall come to have his own companion.

Me: When is father to return?

Mother: I hold no knowledge of that but he insisted on going himself to the Kingdom of Xhanti to hear what their Prince was doing here when he was to be in captivity.



Me: Lizwi knew he would not leave this soil alive. Why would someone risk their life like that?

Mother: We hold no knowledge of what goes on in the mind of evil people. I am just happy that Ntando saw him in time. I will not lie, my heart is happy that his heart beats no longer. Clearly all we need to do with a snake is to have it killed.

Me: Yes, but this stupid snake killed himself. Maybe he saw that his life is no longer of use. Does this mean that my dowry negotiations are to be delayed?

Mother: We have to wait for the King to tell us. It might be delayed because King Xhanti and Ntsika might wish to mourn their Lizwi. (I looked down)

Me: My belly is sure to be big by the time all of this happens. I must just accept that (she kissed my cheek)

Mother: I am sorry, my blossom but life keeps throwing these obstacles in our lives.

Me: Maybe it is a sign that we should not wed. Fate has never favoured our union in the first place.

Mother: If that was true, fate would not have allowed you to nurture Ntsika's heir in your womb. Your love has been tested but it is to make it stronger.

Me: I hear what you are saying, my Queen. I am happy that Ntsika's father is well because if he had died Ntsika would have to be King and I his Queen (she laughed softly)

Mother: What is wrong with that?

Me: I am not ready for such a big responsibility. I hold no knowledge of what an Umhlaba royal person does. I first want to learn everything before I am to be Queen someday.

Mother: I know you that Kingdom will be blessed to have you be it's King's wife. You and Ntsika shall lead with kindness and great strength.

Me: Such kind words, my Queen. My thanks but I am still happy that it is not to happen soon.  
(she laughed)

Mother: Come, my fellow Queen let us go and eat. (we laughed)

Me: Mother it is not funny.

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We stood and went to join the family. Bukhosi is away to stand in for father and it seems they are now taking him more seriously in these meetings. How I wish none of my brothers hold evil in their hearts like Lizwi. They are both kind though. Ntando is sweet and all love to be in his presence. Bukhosi is also sweet but he holds a serious personality. I love them both plenty. Zoleka has shown a little tooth. It is very nice. Watching Zinzi be a mother has taught me a lot. After my wedding I need to go to the orphanage and see my family. I miss them so much. I am glad that my body has been strong enough to

continue with the pregnancy. I am sad that my negotiations are to possibly be delayed but I understand and shall be patient

[03/02, 14:58] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 27 OBJ

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#Ndoni

Father has returned from his unpleasant journey to Umhlaba. He has not come alone because Ntsika and his negotiators have also set foot on the land of my ancestors to ask for my father's blessings to wed me. I have not been allowed to see him and it sits heavy on my heart but I chose to respect my father's rules. Today is the final day of negotiations because my negotiations have not made it easy for Ntsika's but they have reached an agreement. I

sat with Zinzi and the Mother as mother helped me dress in proper attire.

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Zinzi: I remember when it was my negotiations. My stomach felt like it had a big knot. (we laughed)

Mother: I was very calm on my negotiations. My heart was prepared for it since I was young.

Me: I feel very nervous. I do not know why the negotiators of Zwelihle have been so hard headed.

Mother: It is because you are a Princess of Zwelihle. The power you hail from plays a big part in these type of negotiations.

Zinzi: Not forgetting the fact that you already carry the heir of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. You shall soon honour that Kingdom with an heir.

Mother: I am just happy that it is now finally all coming together. Though you hold nerves, I also

know that you feel happiness.

Me: I do, mother.

Zinzi: May I be excused? I want to go check that the food for our guests feast is ready.

Mother: Yes, make sure that the meat is enough  
Zinzi. We are to feed a lot of African man today  
(we all laughed)

Zinzi: Do not fear, mother. The King made  
personally sure that there is enough meat  
(laughter once again)

Mother: Now go, dear child. I shall look after  
little Zoleka should she wake up before your  
return.

Zinzi: My thank, my Queen. Ndoni you look so  
beautiful (she smiled)

Me: But I. have not even finished dressing, Zinzi  
(I laughed)

Zinzi: I speak not only about your clothing. Your  
skin is just beautiful.

Me: My thanks, sister (I smiled)

Mother: She carries Prince Ntsika's heir well, pregnancy favours her (I blushed and looked down)

Zinzi: I am in agreement with you, my Queen. Now let me go.

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Zinzi embraced me and she left at once. She is so lucky to have a mother in law who wish evil against her. I ate some chopped fruit as mother is busy with me. I eat a lot but mother says it is normal.

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Mother: I have always wondered what doing this with my daughter shall be like. (I smiled).

Me: Is it as your imagination allowed you to believe?

Mother: No, my blossom. This far exceeds the expectation my mind had. I feel so much joy in

my heart knowing that you are finally getting what your heart has been desiring for so long. I know that Ntsika is blessed to have you as his bride. You bring light to the lives of those enter.

Me: I do not know what to say to reply to those kind words, Mother. (I started to cry)

Mother: You need not have a reply to it. Being a mother to your brothers is great because I love all of you equally but there is something special about being a mother to a daughter. You shall know what I speak of if you give life to your own daughter someday (we were both in tears)

Me: It pains me to leave you so soon after I have found you.

Mother: You are to extend your family, Ndoni. You are not leaving us because we have knowledge of where you shall be and so do you. Go and bless the Kingdom of Umhlaba Ochumileyo with your light as you have Zwelihle.

Me: I will miss you plenty.



Mother: Your father is also finding it difficult to let go but he does not show it (we laughed)

Me: It must be difficult to be a man then. My poor father.

Mother: Do not fear, I know he shall go to Umhlaba and say he is going for business but he will be going to see you (I laughed)

Me: How long shall you stay with me?

Mother: Only until after your wedding. I will travel with you and stay with you at your new home for the few days until your wedding. The Royal Family of Zwelihle and guests are to follow after and once your wedding celebrations are over I shall travel back with the Family.

Me: Mother, permission to ask an unusual question. (I looked down)

Mother: Ask me anything.

Me: On the night of my wedding, shall it be safe

to give myself to my husband? Is not harm going to come to the baby?

Mother: You can be one with your husband, my blossom. No harm is to come to your baby because of it, I assure you (she smiled)

Me: My thanks for answering.

Mother: If I do not answer you then you will get incorrect knowledge from others. Never fear to ask me anything. I have finally finished getting you ready. Wow, look at you! My beautiful Princess. (I laughed softly)

Me: I take this beauty from you. (she smiled)

Mother: I accept the compliment, my thanks.

Me: What is to happen next?

Mother: You are to be called to the chamber where the negotiations are. Do not fear, nothing much is expected of you. Your in laws just wish to see you.

Me: Is Ntsika to be there once I am called?

Mother: No, he is not. You are only to see him after the negotiations are concluded. Hold on, my blossom. It is not long until you see your Prince (I gave a blushing smile)

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Mother and I sat and waited for a long time. I even fell asleep due to the waiting until I felt a gentle shake on my body. I knew it is my mother because I know her scent. I opened my eyes and looked at her smiling face.

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Mother: Get up, Ndoni. They have called for you.

Me: I am feeling so nervous, Mother. What if I collapse? (she smiled)

Mother: I doubt that your heart shall allow you too because it is yearning to finally be reunited with Ntsika. Let me fix your headscarf.

Me: My thanks, my Queen. I love you.

Mother: And I you. There you go, now stand and go greet your guests.

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She embraced me and we stood together. I held no knowledge of what awaits me in that chamber. Mother walked with me but I had to leave her outside of the entrance. She kissed both my cheeks and I walked in. My heart is beating like a strong African drum. I bowed in greeting and sat down on the grass mat.

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Father: Princess Ndoniyamanzi of Zwelihle, do you know why you are called here?

Me: I do, my King.

Father: These are the men who represent Prince Ntsika of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. He has asked for your hand in marriage. Are you in agreement of this, dear daughter.

Me: I am in agreement, father.

Father: Then I as your father give blessing for you to wed the Prince of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. You may now excuse us, Princess.

Me: My thanks, my King and to you too my elders.

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I stood gracefully as mother has shown me. My head bowed and never making eye contact. I finally made my way outside the chamber and found mother smiling.

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Me: Father has blessed the union, mother (we jumped up and down)

Mother: Oh my dear beautiful daughter. My heart feels great joy.

Me: Mine too.

Mother: Come we need to check on the feast. You have to get ready to serve your groom and his family.

.

We left to where all the woman who helped cook were. Songs of celebration were sung and some danced. I have truly never in all my days felt this much joy. Even little Zoleka is laughing and making a lot of baby noise. My father's house was just filled with an air of happiness. Mother took me to the center of the happy mini celebrations and my heart hold so much joy that I started to dance. Not even shyness overpowers the happiness my heart holds at this moment.

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#Ntsika

I sat in the guest chamber waiting to hear from one of my negotiators what has been agreed upon. Ndoni's family has not made it easy for

us but I understand. I suddenly heard what sounds like many woman in celebration. It for some reason gave me hope. My chief negotiator came to where I am.

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Me: Please tell me that you come with good news. (he smiled)

Him: The Princess has not denied us, my Prince. Her father has given his blessings and we have agreed on the dowry. They have asked for plenty.

Me: I do care if they asked for my entire Kingdom because they are honouring me with a great treasure.

Him: May I be the first to give you congratulation, my Prince. Your bride is of true beauty (we shook hands)

Me: I am not going to deny that fact, my thanks.

Him: Come let us go to the royal house. You are

now a son in that house and they wish to welcome you with a feast.

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I put on my crown and we left at once. My legs wished to run as fast as they can but I kept them walking. The singing became louder as I approached the royal house. I looked at my beautiful second home. The place that has given me the greatest gift I have ever gotten. We entered the chamber where the singing comes and I felt overwhelmed. The King and his people all shook my hand in honour. The men sat down.

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Xolo: Welcome to the family of Zwelihle. You shall no longer visit as a guest here but as a son of the King and Queen. Look after our daughter, we have chosen to trust you with her.

Me: I shall honour and respect her, my King. I give you my promise (we shook hands)



Xolo: Have our guests be served please. Let them taste the delicious food the women of this soil prepares (he shouted and there was cheering)

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We sat and we waited for the feast to be put before us. I cared not about the food. All my eyes wishes to see is Ndoni. Bowls of water to wash our hands came and we all did. Then my Ndoni finally made an appearance holding a beautiful calabash that contained what I assumed is African beer. She made no eye contact but her beauty is visible even with her head bowed. She knelt before me and presented me with the beer. I felt my heart melt at the beautiful sight. She stood and left. Her body clearly a bit fuller then usual and it looked more beautiful. The food got served and it is truly the best that I have had. Songs of celebration continued until the feast came to an end. I asked the King for permission to be

excused and he agreed without hesitation. I stood and had one of the young maidens who I have seen walking about with Ndoni to please ask her to meet me out in the garden. I stood and felt the nice fresh cool air hit my body nicely when I felt gentle arms wrap around my waist from behind. I smiled because her scent made me know that it is her. I turned to look at her and she smiled.

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Ndoni: Greetings, my Prince (I smiled)

Me: Greeting, dear Princess. (I kissed her)

Ndoni: I have been missing you so much, Ntsika. (she said softly)

Me: Not as much as I have missed you. My heart holds so much happiness right now. We no longer need to hide our love and I need not feel guilty for holding you like this in your father's grounds.

Ndoni: It does feel good. How have you been?  
(her care melts my heart)

Me: I have not been too well. Father's sickness has been weighing heavy on my heart.

Ndoni: Does he still have no use for his legs?

Me: Yes, my heart and I fear that it is never to change. (she embraced me)

Ndoni: My apologies that you have gone through so much. I am just happy that King Xhanti still lives. He means plenty to you and I would have hated for your heart to be broken like that (she whispered in my ear while in my embrace)

Me: I am feeling much better now. I was worried sick when your father said he left while you were not well. I feared that you had lost our child. (I looked at her)

Ndoni: It seems we have made ourselves a little warrior. (I laughed)

Me: What if you carry a Princess?

Ndoni: No rule prohibits a girl child from being a warrior.

Me: I agree but not my Princess. She shall not go on battles with dirty men (she laughed)

Ndoni: If warriors are dirty men then that means you are too.

Me: I can not deny because we do not have luxury in battle camps (we both laughed)

Ndoni: Are you to continue being a warrior?

Me: Father wishes to step down as King (he eyes widened)

Ndoni: But that means you...

Me: I shall have to be King sooner than expected. Yes, that is what it means (I cut her short)

Ndoni: How does that make you feel?

Me: I am afraid, Ndoni. To step into such a

position at my age is not to be easy.

Ndoni: You are a great leader, Ntsika. If this is what your destiny looks like then you can not go against it. I know that it shall not be easy at first but I believe in you. (I smiled in delight)

Me: My thanks for the kind words. But you do realise that you are to be Queen soon if I sit on the throne? (she raised her brows)

Ndoni: I have forgotten about that for a while. Now my heart is beating out of control, feel it (she put my hand against her chest)

Me: If you believe that I can do it then you must believe that we both can. Do not fear, an elder is going to teach you all you need to know about Umhlaba. The type of Queen you shall be is up to you and I know you will be a kind one. I do not wish to have anyone by my side as I am about to take on a new journey in my life. I have wished for you to be mine the day I first met you, my future Queen (she smiled)

Ndoni: Let us worry about all of that on another day. Are you sure that your mother shall not harm me? I am so afraid to go back to Umhlaba, Ntsika.

Me: Nande knows what fate await her if she dares set foot back on the soil of my ancestors again. You need not fear. (she nodded)

Ndoni: I trust your words. When are we to leave for your Kingdom?

Me: The day after tomorrow. We still need to do the ceremony where we honour your family with gifts.

Ndoni: May I request something?

Me: Anything (I kissed her cheek)

Ndoni: I ask that we only unite in flesh on our wedding night, after the celebrations. I know that I am no longer pure but it would mean plenty to me.

Me: I hold no objection to that. I do wish to be

with you but I shall be patient. Is it safe for us to do it with you carrying a child (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: I also held fear of harming the baby but mother says no harm is to come to our child from us being one. (I breathed a sigh of relief)

Me: Then we need to hurry up and have the official celebrations. I miss having you in my arms.

Ndoni: I miss being in yours too (she blushed and looked down)

Me: You look so beautiful, Ndoni. More beautiful than the last time I have seen you.

Ndoni: My thanks, my Prince. Mother says that the pregnancy agrees with me.

Me: It does (I kissed her)

Ndoni: I can not wait to see Zipho. Have you told the the news about me?

Me: I have not but I am sure she will be

overjoyed to see you.

Ndoni: I also wish to honour the orphanage that I grew up in. They are in need of plenty and father has agreed to honour it to give his thanks.

Me: It is a wonderful idea. We shall all go and give thanks for they have kept you safe all these years.

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She embraced me and I lifted her off the ground and held her. I put her down and kissed her not fearing that the King might catch us. I wished that I could feel her nakedness and caress it but I have promised to wait until the night of our wedding.

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Me: My heart beats for you, Ndoniyamanzi. (I whispered to her)

Ndoni: And mine for you, Ntsika.

Me: Let us go back to the people before they



think we are up to no good. (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: Or before Mbaleki comes to look for me  
(I laughed)

.

We kissed for one last time and embraced. We went our separate ways because I have to go back and sit with the other men. I could not stop smiling. I am sure that many thinks that I am a crazy Prince. There shines light after so much darkness so I can not contain my happiness. Soon I will be taking my bride to the soil of my ancestors and in a few months she is to bless me and my people with a Prince or Princess. The little one's arrival will bring joy and maybe even out hope in father's heart. I sat down with the other man and as usual business is discussed. It is truly a great and blessed day. Fate favours us greatly and I beg of it to continue doing so.

[03/02, 14:58] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -

By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 28 OBJ

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#Nande

The ban from Umhlaba Ochumileyo has made my life that of difficulty. My home Kingdom does not afford the same luxuries as the one I wed to. The news about Lizwi's death and how it happened has been weighing heavy on my heart. I curse the day that this Ndoni set foot in the royal house as a servant. I sat and thought of all my worries when Nosizwe, my brother's wife and Queen entered my hut.

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Sizwe: Nande, I have come for you. My husband wishes to see you.

Me: What does my brother want?

Sizwe: I might be his wife but I do not hold the ability to read his thoughts. Now get up and follow me at once.

Me: I ask that you show me a bit of kindness, sister.

Sizwe: Did you show me kindness when I first entered these grounds? You treated me like some rotten savage because you did not wish to see your brother marry me. Now you are able to beg me?

Me: I was a young naive maiden back then. I wished for my brother to wed another friend of mine from a different Kingdom.

Sizwe: Does my face look like that of someone who cares? Just get up and follow me.

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I stood from the dry reed mat slowly and followed her. Even the smell of this place is unpleasant and all they wear is animal skin that

reeks of old rot. I entered the small excuse of a royal house and I bowed before Madoda who is the king and my older brother.

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Me: You have called for me, brother.

Madoda: Yes, I have Nande. I have been receiving complaints about you from Nosizwe. Is it true that you have refused to help her with the chores?

Me: It is true but I have a reason. I am mourning the death of my son.

Madoda: Was Lizwi a Prince of this soil?

Me: No, my King.

Madoda: Then what did you expect from us? Did you think that I would put my Kingdoms work at standstill and force my people to mourn for him?

Me: Not the entire Kingdom, brother. I ask for permission so that I could mourn him.

Sizwe: I have given her two days of rest to mourn her son. What more do you want?

Me: I want to be treated as a Princess in this house as I am rightfully entitled. (Nosizwe laughed and clapped her hands)

Madoda: You have been stripped off your title as Queen because of the witch tendencies you have shown in Umhlaba Ochumileyo. Do you really think that I would allow you to be called the Princess of Ilizwe Elibomvu after all of the shame you have brought me and my Kingdom? Here you are now Nande! Not Queen Nande or Princess Nande just plain Nande and you shall be treated as any person who holds no title.

Me: I beg of you, brother. Our parents must be turning in their grave because of your unkindness to their daughter.

Madoda: The only thing that is causing them to turn in their grave is the knowledge that their daughter is a witch who has wished death on

her own son. (I started to cry)

Sizwe: Do not shed your crocodile tears in my house. I have known you to have a dirty heart since the day that I met you. I thought that change would come to your heart but clearly that is to never happen. You tried to have your own son killed and expect us to reward you for it. Are you crazy? (she pointed her finger on my head many times)

Me: I beg for forgiveness. (I let out a bitter cry)

Madoda: You sit here before me in this situation because of yourself. Lizwi lies in his eternal resting place because of himself. The poor boy clearly inherited his evil ways from suckling on your breast as a baby. Ntsika was blessed to not hold the same curse.

Sizwe: We should not even allow you in here again but we know that you have no where else to go. You must now work like every person here. You are to make fire now and start

cooking.

Me: The Kingdom has people who do that.

Madoda: And you have just become one of those people.

Me: Brother, I shall fix my wrongdoings. Help me beg Xhanti to grant me a second chance, I beg of you.

Madoda: I shall not bother that poor man. He has been through enough because of your rotten son. I wash my hands off of everything that concerns you. I shall only allow you to stay on my soil because you are still my sister but dare to do anything wrong. We hold no trials here, I shall punish you heavily if I find that you have been plotting. You may leave me.

Me: As you wish. (I said softly)

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I stood up slowly because sleeping on a grass mat has been taking it's toll. My own brother

sees me as nothing. I no longer hold a title, I am now just a commoner. Nosizwe is clearly still holding a grudge towards me for all those many years I have treated her unkind. She now hold power to order me around and speak to me as she pleases.

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Sizwe: Do you know how to make a fire?

Me: I do not think that I remember how. I ask that you please show me.

Sizwe: You are such a liability, Nande. Your former servants have clearly made you forget the ways of your home Kingdom. What a stupid woman you have proven to be.

Me: I take offence, sister.

Sizwe: I do not care if you take a thousand offences. You are stupid to let yourself come back here when you were wed to power. Stupid fool of a woman and do not call me sister. I am



your Queen here and you are to address me accordingly.

Me: Yes, my Queen.

Sizwe: Fuzwayo, help this woman make a fire.

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The young maiden came to me and showed me how to make a fire. I do remember how it is done but I just never thought that this would be my life once again. I put the pots on the fire and started to cook until my gogo approached. Her back is already bent but she is in good health.

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Gogo: I see you have not forgotten our way of doing things.

Me: I do not wish to hear more about what a stupid woman I am, gogo.

Gogo: It is indeed true, you are stupid but I am not here to go on about that. I am here to ask you a question.

Me: Ask. (I said while stirring the big black pot)

Gogo: Are you to give up just like that? You are like an injured animal who sits and licks his wound.

Me: Is that not a wise thing?

Gogo: Yes, but you can not spend all your time nursing those wounds. You must fight back and make them feel the same pain.

Me: I do not have a death wish, gogo. My life might be unpleasant now but I still wish for my heart to beat.

Gogo: Is Lizwi not be be avenged for what they allowed those wild animals to do?

Me: May I please continue this horrible duty in peace?

Gogo: I shall leave you but you know where to find me if you wish to speak..

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She left me standing there and coughing due to the smoke. My eyes burning like they themselves are on fire. I would be a fool to go up against Xhanti but gogo has made me curious. I do not wish to harm my family any longer but I can not live like this Nosizwe shall make my life unbearable. If I am to do anything wrong in this Kingdom, death is surely what awaits me. I shall keep on being the good commoner but gogo's offer has put a lot of temptation in my heart.

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#Ndoni

The days has finally come! Ntsika and I are officially going to be wed. Mother and I have been in Umhlaba for a few days now. She has been giving me the best advise on what being a wife entails. All the guests from my Kingdom have arrived and so have other royal families.

The entire Kingdom of Umhlaba is invited because their Prince is to wed. I had dressmakers be sent to the orphanage to have attires be made for Mama and the girls. I have not seen them because I am not allowed to. The people from my Kingdom are already singing songs of celebrations outside. It is all just so overwhelming. I stood with Mother, Zinzi and Ncedi as they are helping me dress in my wedding attire.

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Me: I am so happy that it still fits. (they laughed)

Zinzi: I love weddings, it brings so many people together. Listen to all that singing.

Mother: I agree, Zinzi all of this warms my heart dearly. How are you feeling, Ndoni?

Ncedi: She is clearly nervous because she has been biting her bottom lip all this time (they laughed)

Zinzi: What is the Prince to kiss when you injure your lip? (they laughed and I blushed)

Me: He shall kiss the cheeks. Mother you have mentioned that I shall have to change attires again.

Mother: Yes, you are now to be dressed according to the way of Zwelihle but once we officially hand you over Ntsika's family shall take you and dress you in Umhlaba attire.

Me: I understand. All of this clothing already feels so heavy (they laughed)

Mother: The sun does not seem like it will shine and burn us too much so do not fear.

Me: Even the lady cheetah has a necklace (I laughed)

Zinzi: Her keeper is to wed so she must look the part. (I laughed softly)

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My nerves were even worse then those I had on

my celebrations. They finished getting me dressed and I can't believe that I am still expected to dance in this attire. We stepped out to where the singing and cheering is. Father smiled when he saw me. I could also hear Ntsika's people approach with their songs of celebration. We moved forward to meet them as they are doing the same. They finally made an appearance and I saw my Prince looking so handsome in his attire, by his side King Xhanti being carried by guards. It all truly looked beautiful. We met half way and the the elder signaled for the different singing from the two Kingdoms to stop. I sat on one side with my people and Ntsika sat on the other with his.

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Elder: Greetings to all! We all know that we can not continue with the celebrations until the Princess and Prince finally come together as one. Prince Ntsika of Umhlaba Ochumileyo, you are to stand and dance the dance of a true man.

Stand and show your lady that you wish for her to finally be yours. You shall then present her with a calabash to show that you have chosen her to be the nurturer of your home. If she accept she shall also stand and dance and present you with a shield and spear to show that she accepts you to be the man of the house, the one who shall protect it for all your days together.

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Ntsika's people started to sing and my Prince stood like the warrior that he is. He did a dance that shows his strength even more and knowing that it is for me made me blush and smile endlessly. He took the calabash and presented it to me and I accepted it. My people started to sing and I stood to dance for my Prince to show him that I accept, he was looking at me like I am some sort of magic. I bowed before him and presented him with the spear and shield and he accepted. Both families then sang the same

songs of celebration to indicate that we are now finally one. I was taken to the royal house to change into the attire of Umhlaba royalty. Ntsika and I sat together as we watched our family and guests cheer in celebration.

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Ntsika: It feels like I am dreaming. You are finally my wife (we both smiled)

Me: If it is a dream then may we never wake up (he kissed my hand)

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King Xhanti asked to address the crowd and everyone listened. He spoke very kind words and father also did the same. The food got served and there was plenty for everyone. I stood and went to where I saw Mama and the girls sat and Ntsika came with me. The little ones came running to hug my legs and I smiled in delight.



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Me: Greetings, Mama. How have you been?

Mama: I have been good, child. The shock of your news nearly made me collapse (she laughed softly)

Me: My apologies for that. This is Ntsika my hu...

Mama: You need not introduce me to my own Prince, child. Greetings, your highness.

Ntsika: Greetings, my lady. My thanks for honouring us with your presence. If it was not for your caring heart, I might not have Ndoni as my wife today.

Mama: Oh no, your highness. If fate wished for you to be together then no one holds the power to chance that.

Me: That is true but you have raised me well and I am forever grateful. I shall show my gratitude well now that I have the means to.

Mama: The King and Queen of Zwelihle has already done so much with the food, horse carriages and beds that they have brought. I can not expect more kindness.

Ntsika: That was the gratitude of Zwelihle, my lady. Now await that of the Prince and Princess of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. You are deserving of all of it. Please allow us to do this kindness.

Mama: Who am I to deny these girls from such, my Prince? I accept the kindness, my thanks to you both.

Me: I shall also send helpers to help you out at the orphanage (she started to cry)

Mama: My thanks, Ndoni. I mean your highness.

Me: I care not if you continue to call me Ndoni, Mama. (I embraced her)

Mama: Now you both go and greet your other guests. We shall speak again once you have time.

Me: Where is Zinzi?

Mama: She is not well and she shed many tears for not being able to come with us. She is to be well soon, do not fear.

Me: I shall go and visit her soon. Please do enjoy the celebrations.

.

I embraced her again and the little kids. My heart is happy that they have not forgotten about me. Poor Zinzi, I know she would have enjoyed this because the thought of being around royalty had always sounded nice to her. Ntsika and I walked about to greet our other guests and we have gotten many gifts. The celebrations went on and on until the sky was dark. It finally came to an end just before sunrise. Our guests retired to their chamber. I bid farewell to my family until sunrise. They are to leave in two days. Ntsika was still greeting some of our guests but I left him. I requested

for warm water to wash my body because it was a hot day. One of Ntsika's aunts walked in and offered to help me undress the many things I'm wearing.

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Her: It is such a pity that you are not pure. I am sure my nephew wishes to have a maiden with a smaller body on his wedding night.

Me: He is the one responsible for my disgrace, aunty and I am carrying his child that is why my body is no longer like before.

Her: I know but I am just saying what I think. You should blow out all off the candles and let him have you in the dark. Maybe he wishes not to see your new body. There all finished, you can get on with what you were about to. Please excuse me.

.

She gave me a fake smile and left my chamber.

I started to wash my body and what she said failed to escape my thoughts. Does Ntsika truly wish to be with a maiden with a different body? I put some body butter on my skin and wrapped a cloth around it. I had a servant rid of the water. I looked around the brightly candle lit chamber and went to blow out some of the candles. Ntsika walked in and looked around.

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Ntsika: Why is the chamber in such darkness? I can barely see you. (he kissed me)

Me: I do not think that it looks too bad.

Ntsika: If you say so, my heart. I have been looking forward to finally be with you all day. Now as my wife and it warms my heart so much. (we kissed)

Me: Ntsika, can we do this another time please?

Ntsika: What is the matter, Ndoni? Are you not well? (he looked concerned)

Me: I fear that you shall no longer desire me. (I said softly)

Ntsika: Why would you hold such a fear, Ndoni?

Me: My body had changed, it is not as you know it to be.

Ntsika: Is it not expected for a woman's body to change when she carries a child? Ndoni, I desire you now then I have before. I give you my promise. I wish to see all of you. I shall go light up the other candles.

.

He truly went to light them up and the chamber lit brightly again. He kissed me and lifted me off my feet. He gently took off the cloth and exposed my nakedness. He smiled and planted soft kisses on my entire body as he caressed it. I took off his attire and marvelled at the sight of my husband's strong beautiful body. Both now in our nakedness and we kissed and caressed each other until the chamber got filled with

sounds of pleasure. I felt him gently enter me and we became one. It felt truly special because he is now my husband. I no longer bare any shame by being one with him. We moved together in a love rhythm and the pleasure was so intense that I moaned out his name many times. Pleasure overtook both of our bodies and it is truly amazing. Being one with him as my husband feels different. I got so overwhelmed by the beauty of it all that tears came flowing down my cheeks. He looked at me concerned but I smiled and so did he. He wiped my tears off with his thumbs and planted a long soft kiss on my lips. We remained in each others arms. My head on his chest and I heard his heart beat strongly . The same heart that beats for me. Right now no one else exists, it is just me and my husband and I wish for the moment to never come to an end.

[03/02, 14:58] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 29 OBJ

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#Nande

It has been months since I have returned to my old life. I have managed to stay out of trouble hoping that my brother is to notice and give me favour. I know he would if his wife did not hate me. I was busy kneading dough to bake bread when Sizwe walked in.

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Me: You need not check up on me, I am almost finished.

Sizwe: The last time you kneaded dough that did not even rise because you are too stupid to know that yeast is to be used. (I clenched my jaw)

Me: Well fear not, I have added everything. The ginger is also ready.



Sizwe: Is it strong? You know Madoda likes it strong.

Me: Then why not prepare it yourself? (I mumbled softly)

Sizwe: If you wish to say anything then do not mumble like a coward.

Me: I was just mumbling a song. The dough has yeast and shall rise and the ginger is to be nice and strong.

Sizwe: Good, when you are finished you are to go fetch water. (my eyes widened)

Me: That is a job for young maidens. Do you wish for me to be laughing stock?

Sizwe: Nande, you already are a laughing stock. You are to fetch water and that is final.

Me: I can not go on like this, Nosizwe. This is the soil of my ancestors and I demand that you grant me a little respect. My titles might have been taken away for now but my blood is still

blue. I am still royalty here.

Sizwe: I do not care if you are a Princess, savage or witch. Here you are to do as we wish until we feel that you have learnt a lesson. The problem is you tried to kill Madoda's favourite nephew. His heart still holds a lot of anger for you.

Me: Have I not begged enough for forgiveness?

Sizwe: You are to ask him that. I have to leave you now and do not forget the water.

.

She gave me a cold look and turned to leave. I started to knead with frustration, punching the warm soft dough with great strength. I wished doing that and put a cloth over it. The thought of joining young maidens in the river is so humiliating but I have no choice. I washed my hands, took a bucket and made it to the river. I met beautiful young maiden who were singing as they held buckets of water on their heads.

Soft laughter and whispering started as I approached. I held my head high and kept on walking. I knelt down to fill the bucket with water when I felt a stone hit my head. I turned and saw a group of boys.

.

Me: Hey bunch of dirty, ill mannered boys! Do you not have respect for your elders? Who are your parents so I can go talk to them? (I shouted)

Them: Kill the witch!

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They kept on throwing little stones on me and repeating those words. I stood and ran as fast as my feet allowed. Nosizwe is to get the water herself because I have even left the bucket by the water. The children did not chase me but I ran to gogo's hut and entered quickly. She just say and said nothing.

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Me: Are you not going to ask me what the matter is? (I tried to catch my breath)

Gogo: Have you not told me to keep away from your business?

Me: I am tired of this, Gogo. Those boys by the river almost stoned me to death because someone has told them that I am a witch.

Gogo: Do not be such a soft woman, Nande. If they wished to stone you to death, you would not be standing before me.

Me: They called me a witch, Gogo. (she lifted her shoulders)

Gogo: Why have you run to my hut?

Me: I was being chased.

Gogo: Those boys stopped throwing those stones at you long ago but you kept running. Such a coward you are.

Me: How do you know when they have stopped chasing me?

Gogo: You are here for a reason, I know it. Tell me what you want. (she avoided my question)

Me: I am here because I needed a place to hide.

Gogo: To hide from nothing? Stop fooling yourself (I kept quiet for a long while)

Me: I am just tired of this life of being a nobody. If I am to die tomorrow, no one shall even care. I need your help to gain my power back.

Gogo: Was it not you who turned my offer to help down many months ago?

Me: I thought I could win Madoda's favour but he seems not to care about his own sister.

Gogo: What do you wish for me to do?

Me: Help me to be titled Princess of this soil again. It holds not the same power of being Queen but I shall work my way up once again.

Gogo: Getting Madoda to favour you is child's play but shall it get you the revenge on the future Queen of Umhlaba Ochumileyo? I know your heart craves it.

Me: If I dare set foot on Xhant's Kingdom I am surely going to die. I do wish to make this girl pay and her family for allowing their beasts to claw my son to his end.

Gogo: Have I said anything about travelling far to get this revenge?

Me: I do not understand.

Gogo: You can ask for help from dark energies.  
(my eyes widened in shock)

Me: I am no witch!

Gogo: Are you sure of that you just said? People already see you as one, Nande. It is a small price to pay to regain your high titles of power once again.

Me: I do not wish to harm Xhanti and Ntsika,

only his wife and her parents. If I agree, then what is to happen?

Gogo: It will be difficult to hurt her parents with our way, they are a family who is protected by guardians. They shall know of this evil before it is even to reach them. The only way to hurt them shall be through their only daughter. They love her dearly and I know the Queen is not to survive the loss of her daughter once again.

Me: Where do you get all of this information?

Gogo: Care not about that. The child that grows in her womb is a pure heir.

Me: What does that mean?

Gogo: It means that even if we have the Princess hurt, she is to recover because her child will heal her from inside. She can never be harmed while she is carrying him.

Me: So he acts as a shield for her. Does that mean that I need to wait more months until she

gives birth before getting rid of her?

Gogo: Yes, unless we find a way to rid her body of the child. Are you willing to kill your own grandchild, Nande? (I kept quiet)

Me: Well when this Ndoni finally dies then surely Ntsika is to wed again and shall have many other children. What is the sacrifice of one child right?

Gogo: If you choose to go this path then there shall be no turning back.

Me: My life can surely not become more worse than this. I will finally get my revenge. But if you say that her family has guardians. Does it not mean that she too is to be protected by those?

Gogo: She is now a wife of the Umhlaba Ochumileyo and lives in their royal house. She is now the Princess of Umhlaba Ochumileyo so I doubt she is to have the protection that she did when she was Princess of Zwelihle.



Me: I can not do this. I am no witch.

Gogo: I am not to force you, just trying to help you.

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I stood up quickly and left her hut. All of this sounds tempting. To be able to get my revenge without even setting foot in Umhlaba. To have Madoda give me back my title as Princess of this soil! But there is one problem, I am not a witch and gogo offers dark magic. Once a person goes with that life then there is no turning back. It is like selling your soul to the devil himself. I went back to do my chores and found Nosizwe upset with me for not having water. She even degraded the bread that I baked. I could no longer stand it. I can not live this life. I rushed to where the old woman was and told her that I accept her help. Maybe she can even help me be Queen of Umhlaba Ochumileyo once again. She said that we are to

start our plan as soon as possible.

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#Ndoni

My belly has been growing almost everyday. I still love being married to Ntsika. It has not been an easy few months because his aunt has stayed on to teach me the ways of the Kingdom. She does not seem to favour me much. Ntsika has gone with his father yesterday and shall only return at sunset. I went to the eating chamber and found aunt Nozinto stuff her mouth with a lot of food all at once. I greeted and sat down.

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Nozinto: Is this the time to get up? The sun came up long ago.

Me: I have not slept well last night, I only

managed to get a good slumber at sunrise.

Nozinto: It shows that Ntsika has brought us a lazy future Queen. Do not shame your husband like this. Finish eating so that we can go and do some of the duties.

Me: We may leave if you are ready. I am not feeling well.

Nozinto: Do you wish to starve my nephew's heir?

Me: No, I wish not aunty but I am not feeling well. I prefer not to eat.

Nozinto: Well maybe it is best because you are not even about to give birth yet but you are as big as ten hippo's. (I looked down)

Me: May we go now please.

Nozinto: Are you to dress like that? That is the material of Zwelihle and no Umhlaba Ochumileyo. We are to go on royal duties of this soil and not the one of your father.

Me: My mother has dresses made for when my belly is bigger. The attires made from the Umhlaba material fits me no longer. (she clapped once)

Nozinto: Let us go then, I shall bare the same of being seen with you looking like that. We are also not to take that animal with us.

Me: She is to go where I go, especially if we are not on royal grounds.

Nozinto: I can not...

Me: I said that she is to go where I go! (I cut her short in a stern voice)

Nozinto: Well if you wish to scare people away then so be it. Another thing, my sister in law's young maiden is to be expected soon. She shall return with me after I am done training you.

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She stood and walked away. I took a banana and followed behind her. This woman has a

problem with me and I do not know what it is. We went about our daily duties and she would put me on the spot by making funny remarks in front other people. It hurt my feelings a lot because I am a very sensitive person. We went back to the royal house and all I wish to do is eat and sleep. I asked for Zipho to bring me food to my chamber. She walked in smiling.

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Zipho: You look so tired, dear Princess.

Me: I am, Zipho. The heat is making my feet swell and I did not sleep last night.

Zipho: Is it because your Prince was not by your side? (she laughed).

Me: No, I just felt so bloated and had hot flashes.

Zipho: It must be part of the pregnancy. You are looking so beautiful.

Me: Nozinto, gave me an earful for not wearing

the traditional Umhlaba attire to my duties today. Those things do not even fit me.

Zipho: Ndoni, how long will you allow her to treat you like that?.

Me: I can not upset her, Zipho. She is the only one they could get in such short notice who was willing to come from her Kingdom to help me.

Zipho: It still does not mean that she can speak to you like she wishes. Tell Prince Ntsika.

Me: I can not run to my husband with every little problem.

Zipho: Then put your foot down and put her in her place. (I laughed softly)

Me: How are things between you and Bantu?  
(she smiled)

Zipho: He is a good man and he is to go to my family and ask for my hand in marriage soon  
(we both smiled and embraced)

Me: You deserve all of the happiness, sister. I shall come and dance at your wedding (she laughed)

Zipho: With your big belly?

Me: Yes, like this (I stood and danced and we both laughed so much)

Zipho: Just sit and eat, your highness and stop being silly.

Me: My thanks for making me laugh, Zipho.

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She waited and kept me company until I finished eating. I love spending time with her. To me she is a friend and not my servant. She and Bantu are to make a beautiful happy home. She left and I took a well needed rest. After a few hours I woke up feeling very irritated. I walked out of my chamber to stretch my legs when Nozinto approached.

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Nozinto: You truly are to make a lazy Queen. (I could no longer take it)

Me: Look auntie, I know not what your problem with me is and I do not care. You are not here to teach a commoner how to be royalty. You stand before a Princess and all you need to do is teach me the ways of this soil. I have been doing well but it seems it is of no use to you. If you do not wish to be here then speak. You also need to stop bothering yourself with my body. You have never carried a child so you shall not know the changes it comes with to a woman's body. You dare insult the future Queen of this soil again, you are sure to regret it later. I have swallowed all the bitterness and unkindness you have given me but it is to end today. Are we clear? (she looked at me shocked)

Nozinto: Are you making fun of my inability to have kids?

Me: If that is how you interpret what I have just



spoken then so be it. I am tired of you and you can go tell your brother if you wish. You are to give him the right report about my learning achievements or trouble is what shall follow you. Also that young maiden you said is on the way is to be turned back to wherever she comes from. I am not stupid. You have spoken about how Ntsika would perhaps wish to be with a maiden with a smaller body many times. You bring this girl to come and seduce my husband.

Nozinto: I have not planned su...

Me: I said that you are to send her back. (I cut her short)

Nozinto: But how she is already on the way.

Me: You are to tell a messenger which direction she comes from and have them meet her half way to tell her to go back. Surely the horses of your Kingdom are capable of turning around. Are they not?

Nozinto: My brother shall here of this.

Me: Do I look like I give a care? You do not wish to anger the daughter of King Xolo. I shall have your husband's little Kingdom burnt to the ground. Do not put me to the test. Now like I have said, you are to tell the King how well I am doing because we both know that I am excelling. You dare have that maiden set foot on this soil, you are sure to regret it. I am tired of you old women of this place thinking that I am a dirty mat you can just walk over.

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I looked her straight in the eyes as I spoke. She stood there clearly take aback by my words. I had her tell one of our messengers where this maiden comes from and I ordered hi. to meet her carriage half way and tell her to not dare set foot in my house. I do not care no more because clearly the woman I have met in this house think I am a fool. First Nande and now

Nozinto. I am not taking it anymore! I had the kitchen helpers prepare a feast for King Xhanti and Ntsika. They arrived just as the sky lit orange because of the beautiful sunset. We made our way to our private chamber and I literally threw myself on him. He laughed softly.

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Me: I have missed you so much.

Ntsika: Ndoni, I have been away for one night (I laughed softly)

Me: I have knowledge of that. Did all go well?

Ntsika: The travel was not a complete waste of time, my heart. Have you been well?

Me: I seem to always fail before your aunt's eyes, Ntsika. I am delaying you from being King and I can see the frustration in your father's face whenever your aunt reports on my progress. (he kissed my lips softly)

Ntsika: There is no rush to this. I am also still

learning plenty from father. Father adores you, Ndoni. He holds no frustration towards you. The only frustration he has is with his legs. How is our baby doing?

Me: He moves so much it feels really nice (I smiled)

Ntsika: To show that he is happy and in great health.

Me: We must stop assuming it is a Prince, it might be a little Ndoniyamanzi. (he laughed)

Ntsika: And she is surely to be as beautiful as the big Ndoniyamanzi.

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We laughed and he kissed me. I love being in his embrace so much. I had water be brought to our chamber so he could wash. He finished and we got ready to go to the night feast. We walked to the eating chamber and found the King and Nozinto sitting. We greeted and sat

down.

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Xhanti: Dear daughter, do you now think you hold enough knowledge to step up as Queen?

Me: I have been doing well in most of the duties that I have had to do, my King. I have made my mind hold knowledge of all the rules of this Kingdom.

Ntsika: She truly has, father. It seems that she holds knowledge of things that I do not even know (we laughed)

Xhanti: I am not surprised, she holds a sharp mind. Nozinto do you think that she is ready for this (I looked at her)

Nozinto: You know, brother I have not made it easy for her. She has been doing great in this new role but I think she has done something today that I wished for long ago. She showed me the strength I knew she holds inside of her

heart. She stood up for herself and that is a trait that a true Queen is to hold. She has truly impressed me and I think that she is ready to lead by Ntsika's side.

Xhanti: Now that is good news. I have been waiting to hear you say that for so long.

Nozinto: But she is to have an advisor. I shall not be able to do it because I hold position of Queen in my own Kingdom.

Ntsika: It is all to be arranged at the right time. I am just happy that my wife's hard work is finally being acknowledged. (I looked at him and smiled)

Xhanti: Let us eat, my body feels tired and needs rest.

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We sat and ate and I do not know if Nozinto's word is true or not but I do not care because I know I deserve praise for a change. We finished

and retired to our chambers. We got under the covers and I read the current book that caught our interest out loud until I heard Ntsiks snore. I laughed and put the book away. I could feel my slumber come nicely my prince laid by my side. Before I know it a snake wrapped itself around my belly so tightly that it felt like my spine would break. I screamed out in pain and tried to take this thing off my body but I failed. I heard Shiba's voice saying "I'm here" until I heard a voice shout my name out. I opened my eyes and was greeted by Ntsika's terrified face.

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Ntsika: Ndoniyamanzi, what seems to be the matter? You have been crying out in your sleep.

Me: I had a bad dream.

Ntsika: What was it about? (I told him)

Me: My belly feels like it burning, Ntsika. (the baby moved and he breathed a sigh of relief)

Ntsika: It seems to have just been a terrible dream. Try to go back to sleep, I shall stay awake until you close your eyes. (he kissed me)

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He held me so tightly that his body heat became too much to bare. The burning sensation began to slowly go away but I now feared going back to sleep. I hate snakes and even to have one before me in my dreams scares me. My eyes started to feel heavy and I tried to fight it but I failed. I finally gave up and let sleep overtake my body and hoping that no bad is to visit me in my slumber again.

[03/02, 14:58] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 30

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#King Xhanti



Today is the day that I have never expected to happen so soon. Ntsika and his bride are officially going to be titled King and Queen of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I trust in their ability to rule over this soil as I and many before them have done. My health is not as it has been but I have been hiding it to prevent causing panic to Ntsika. The royal family of Zwelihle has honoured the invitation to this beautiful event. I asked for Xolo to join me in the library chamber. He walked in, greeted and sat down.

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Me: My thanks for meeting me here, old friend.

Xolo: I know you would never just ask for me if it were not important. What seems to be weighing so heavy on your mind?

Me: Ntsika is about to sit on the throne of power.

Xolo: I hold full knowledge of that fact, I sit before you because I am here to witness it

happen. Are you starting to have second thoughts and wish to remain King?

Me: No, my heart holds no regret for this decision. I am not longer fit to sit in the seat of rule. I wish to ask you a great favour.

Xolo: I am listening. (he looked at me intensely)

Me: Ntsika is a good leader, it is a trait that he was born with and he knows the ways of this Kingdom well. I know that his rule is to come with plenty of changes because he is still young. I ask of you to please step in as one of his mentors.

Xolo: I hold no power to do that, Xhanti. Why do you speak like this? You are to be advisor to the young Prince as you have been since he knew what his responsibilities are.

Me: You hold the power to be an advisor and mentor to him, Xolo. You are no longer just a stranger to him, you too are his father and he hold great respect for you. I am not well, old

friend. I have lost the ability to walk and it had stripped me off my dignity. My body feels like that of an old man.

Xolo: You need not fear then. I have come with Ncedi. She shall make the feeling of illness go away. (I shook my head)

Me: I do not want her to help me. My ancestors have been calling me to their land for a long time now. I have resisted and stayed strong for the sake of my sin but I can no longer cope. My body feels pain at each sunset that causes me to cry in my chamber like a little baby. These pains are only felt by me and I no longer wish to live in such mystery, old friend.

Xolo: It weighs heavy on my heart to hear that. I truly had no idea that you have been suffering in silence like this. The way you have met this fate angers me even more because it was done by a person you called son.

Me: I am at peace, old friend. My heart feels joy

that Ntsika has found your daughter. She is a light in his life and I know in my heart that he is to be well once I am gone because he has her. All I ask is for you to guide the future King of Umhlaba when needed.

Xolo: He too is a light in Ndoni's life. They truly are still young and need guidance. Do not fear, old friend. Nobu and I shall stand ready to help these children. As you have mentioned they are to come with a new type of rule and I foresee greatness in it.

Me: My thanks, old friend. I am now surely to go in peace knowing that they are in your good hands. Do not fear, I have told the royal council about this and they had no problem.

Xolo: I too have to ask a favour of my own.

Me: I am listening

Xolo: I ask that you live long enough to meet your first grandchild and to name the little Prince or Princess.

Me: My apologies, old friend but I hold not the power to decide when my end is to come. I feel it is near but I know not of the day.

Xolo: I know that but Nobu has told me that Ndoni is to go into labour any day now. I beg of you to keep strong as you have done all these months. Your son is sure to appreciate the honour of you naming his child before you go to the land of your ancestors.

Me: Naming the next generation of Umhlaba royalty would indeed be an honour. I promise to try and remain strong until the little one finally decides to come to us. (we shook hands)

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We sat and spoke some more and I know that Ntsika is to get the best advise from his father in law. Xolo has made Zwelihle be as powerful and prosperous as it is today. Umhlaba Ochumileyo is surely to gain great strength from being in alliance with Zwelihle. I do not

know if my heart is to still beat until Ntsika's child is born but I do ask the ancestors to grant me this last ask of them. I already hold a name that is fitting for a Prince but I shall think of one for a Princess too. Xolo left me to get ready for the crowning ceremony and I had Jongi summoned in. She entered, bowed and stood.

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Jongi: You have called, my King. Is all alright? (I smiled)

Me: All is well, Jongi. I have something to tell you.

Jongi: I am listening.

Me: I wish for you to know that you are the one my heart has chosen and it has never changed it's choice. It has always been you. I want to give you my apologies for not making you feel worthy. Just look at how far Ntsika was willing to go for his bride when he still thought she is a nobody, he wanted to give up being a Prince

just to be with her. I did not hold the same courage. Now I wish that I had but it is too late.

Jongi: It is not too late, Xhanti. You are to step down as King in a few hours.

Me: My health is failing me. My life hangs by a thread. I have not called you here to talk about sad news. I have called you here to tell you that my heart is always to be yours. Do not fear our maiden is to be taken care of. I have spoken to Ntsika about it.

Jongi: My heart is to belong to you for all my days too. It pains me to see you like this (she started to cry)

Me: All shall be well (I kissed her lips)

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I have not felt Jongi's soft lips against mine in a long while. My body might be in pain but my heart and soul are feeling delight. I asked to be taken to my chamber and Jongi helped me

dress in my royal attire. I took my crown and looked at it for a long while. Ntsika and his wife are to have new crowns. My wish is that they start everything on a new page. They are to be a breath of long awaited fresh air in this house and Kingdom. I put in my crown but soon it is not to hold the same power as before. I am truly at peace with all.

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#Ndoni

The day has finally come. Ntsika and I woke up at sunrise at Prince and Princess but by sunset we are to be King and Queen. I no longer feel the same fear that I did when I was told that I am soon to be Queen. My belly is now so big that I can not even see my own toes nor even touch them. Mother has been with me for a month now because she says the baby is soon to come. Nozinto has not been mean to since I



put my foot down. I was alone in my chamber because I just wished to clear my mind. I sat and brushed my belly and could not help but smile. I felt a calmness come over my body.

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Shiba: Queen Ndoniyamanzi, you see now what I meant when I told you that you are to realise your destiny only if you set foot in this royal house back then.

Me: I see now, Shiba. I also realise why I had to meet Ntsika before meeting my family because the child we have made is the main reason why father did not kill Ntsika that night.

Shiba: Yes, child. I know that you have gone through many challenges but it has given you strength. You also still hold a kind heart in your chest. Not all people love a person with your kind nature, Ndoni so you are still to meet people who wish you harm. Dark magic has been trying to harm you but fear not no success

is to come from it.

Me: Is that why I have been having bad dreams?

Shiba: They are not dreams, what you dream is what truly is happening but the guardians of your soil the with you.

Me: My thanks for always being there in my times of need, Shiba. I thought that you would no longer exist in my life once I'm wed.

Shiba: You are not the only one who held that thought. Those who wish you harm thought so too. You are yet to be put to the test, Ndoni. I need you to be strong as you have always been. Your new title is to come with great responsibility but you and your King are to stay united at all times because together you hold great strength.

Me: We shall keep as one, I fail to foresee a future without him.

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It gives me great joy to talk to my guardian again. She has not made me hear her voice in a long while but she has been protecting me in the spirit world. It makes me happy because I hold no power in that world. I stood and started to get dressed. Ntsika is to get ready in another chamber. Mother walked in and I smiled.

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Mother: My blossom, why have you not called me to help you?

Me: I am able to dress myself, my Queen.

Mother: Are you able to put your shoes on too?  
(we both laughed)

Me: No, I am sure to need help with that. Can you believe that my attire had to be altered three times? (she laughed softly)

Mother: I can believe, my blossom. That is because my flower grows strong and healthy everyday (she kissed my belly and I smiled)

Me: Your flower needs to come soon. I can no longer find a good position to lie in at night. All feel so uncomfortable.

Mother: I believe that it is only a few days now. Even the royal midwife is ready.

Me: My thanks for being here, mother. I have been at peace since you set foot on this soil.

Mother: I am happy to hear that. The position of Queen is not easy, my blossom. You are now to face challenges you never knew existed. I need you to not trust just anyone because some are still loyal to Nande and do not wish you well.

When you do not feel well I beg of you to not just drink any remedy. Have a messenger send a letter to Zwelihle and Ncedi is to read it and help. Only trust a few with the baby once it is here. Royal babies are always in harms way.

Ensure that your husband is at peace and calm because he is not an ordinary man with ordinary problems. He is soon to have this Kingdom's

wellbeing in his hands and he needs you to also be strong for him.

Me: I shall, mother. (she suddenly looked behind me with eyes wide open)

Mother: Move slowly to the door, Ndoni.

Me: Why, mother?

Mother: Do as I order, Ndoniyamanzi.

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My heart started to race faster and faster. I know she said to move slowly but curiosity got to me and I looked back to also see what I'm ordered to walk away from. I wish I had not because it was a snake. I tried to run but I fell to the floor. Mbaleki is out to hunt so my fear got worse and worse. Mother tried to chase it away but I feared it would strike her.

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Shiba: Stand and face your enemy, Ndoniyamanzi. Take the sharp iron weapon

your groom holds in the chamber and face your enemy.

Me: I fail to, my legs are numb due to the fear.

Shiba: Rise from the floor, Ndoniyamanzi.

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I do not know where I got the strength but I stood and reached for Ntsika's weapon and chopped it in half just as it was about to strike my mother. I screamed and held on to the Queen because I fear this creature with all I have in me. Ntsika, Father, Bukhosi and Ntando came rushing in.

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Ntsika: What seems to be the matter?

Father: The enemy tried his luck but failed.

Ntsika: Ndoni, are you well? (he held me)

Father: She is a Princess of Zwelihle, do not fear.

Me: I am just frightened. Please have it burnt outside of royal grounds.

Bukhosi: We shall do as you ask, sister. Has no harm come to you both?

Mother: Ndoni fell, how are you feeling?  
(Ntsika's face was that of panic)

Me: I am well. I give you my promise.

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The men had the creature be taken out. Mbaleki returned after all the action was over. I am feeling some mild pain but I can bare with it until after the ceremony. I was too afraid to dress in my chamber so we moved to a different one. Even when we reached the other one my eyes first scanned every corner to see if there are no surprises in it. All was finished and the ceremony finally started. The elders first crowned Ntsika as I sat smiling with pride and joy. He looked so handsome in his new attire. I also got crowned and the attire felt so heavy. All

was done beautifully and according to culture. Ntsika reached out for my hand as we sat on our royal chairs. It feels so overwhelming to be seated on it. Almost making me feel like I am not worthy. The official ceremony came to an end.

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Elder: I honour the people of Umhlaba Ochumileyo with their new leaders. Prince Ntsika and Princess Ndoniyamanzi are no more. Now before you is King Ntsika and Queen Ndoniyamanzi of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. May they lead the people of this soil with great strength and grace. Let us all bow as per the way of Umhlaba Ochumileyo to show respect to the new King and Queen of this soil.

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All who is here bowed before us. From royalty to commoner and Ntsika gave permission to rise. The chamber got filled with cheer as the



people of our Kingdom welcomed it's new rulers. I was feeling so overwhelmed by the welcoming cheers that I cried. I looked at my hand that is entwined with Ntsika's strong one. Hoping that we are never to break this unity between us. We stood and the King of Umhlaba spoke to his people. I felt a sharp pain in my lower back but I let my husband finish with his speech. He finally finished but I felt another pain strike and I could not hide this one. Ntsika held me up.

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Ntsika: Ndoni, what is going on?

Me: I do not know.

Mother: I think she is going into labour. We need to have her taken to a private chamber.

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Ntsika held me up as we slowly walked out. I heard elder tell everyone to go and enjoy the

feast prepared for them. We finally reached the private chamber.

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Mother: All men are to leave the chamber at once!

Ntsika: I love you, Ndoni (he kissed my sweaty forehead and I smiled)

Father: Let us leave the women to help her. All is to be well. (they left us)

Me: Mother I feel so much pain.

Mother: All shall be well, my blossom. The midwife is on her way to the royal grounds. For now we are to take off all of this heavy clothes. You are to meet your baby soon.

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They took off all of my clothes and strangely it came with great relief. A cloth was put over my body. The pain would hit me and stop and hit me and stop. I can no longer take it. The

midwife came and washed her hands. She did what she needed to do but told me it is not yet time. When is the time to come? Mother is holding my hand as each pain strikes and Zipho is wiping my face with a cool cloth. The midwife kept on saying it is not yet time and I felt like kicking her. I do not think I am to do this again. Ntsika is to keep far away from me after this.

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#Ntsika

Ndoniyamanzi's screams have been breaking my heart. I cringe whenever I hear her scream because I am partly the reason why she is in such great pain. I kept on walking about like a mad man.

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Father: Ntsika, do you wish to walk a hole in the floor?

Me: I can not help it, father.

Xolo: Try to keep calm, my King. All shall be well. Take it from us because we have been in this position before.

Me: She has been in there for hours now. The sun is starting to set but she is still in there screaming in pain.

Bukhosi: Ndoni is just having a long labour.

Me: Did your bride have the same?

Bukhosi: No, brother. Zoleka was born very quick (I panicked even more)

Me: I am going to see what is going on!

Father: You are to do no such a thing. No where in history has a man been in the room when a woman is in labour.

Xolo: I agree with your father. That is for the women. Ndoni is in good care.

Me: I have heard of women who died during

childbirth. What if my Ndoni meets the same fate?

Father: We are not to think negatively. Your Queen and baby are to be well and alive after this.

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I sat and held my head. I heard another scream from the room Ndoni is in and I knew that it is hers. When is this baby to come because I hate knowing my lady is in pain. Hours and hours went by and then without any warning we heard a cry. This cry is different because it is that of a baby. I immediately stood to my feet and smiled.

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Father: Those are the cries of a healthy baby.

Xolo: I sure agree, old friend (Zipho walked in)

Zipho: My King, she has given birth to a healthy baby boy.

Me: How is she?

Zipho: She is weak but well. You may now come and see them.

Father: Blessed is the land of my ancestors to be honoured with an heir. Congratulations, my King.

Me: My thanks, father. (I smiled in delight)

Xolo: Now go and meet your son, son. (he shook my hand)

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They all shook my hand. I stood by the entrance and took a deep breath. I knocked first and was told to enter because all is proper. I found Ndoni holding our baby close to her chest. She truly looks exhausted but smiled as I approached. I knelt by her side and kissed her soft lips.

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Me: How are you feeling?

Ndoni: Just tired and in a bit of pain (she said softly)

Me: My thanks for this beautiful gift, my Queen.

Ndoni: Would you like to hold him?

Me: Am I allowed?

Nobu: Yes, you need no permission to hold your little Prince.

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I gently took him from his mother's chest. He is so small and soft that I feared my rough hands would bruise him. I held him in my arms and his eyes were shut. I kissed his little forehead and he let out a soft sound. I have never felt this feeling in my life before and I fail to describe it. All I know is that I love my little Prince. He feels so warm in my arms. Queen Nobu asked me to excuse them because they need to get Ndoni proper. I took the baby to where the men were. I walked so slowly because falling is not an

option. They were all so happy to finally meet him.

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Ntando: What are you to name him?

Me: I do not know.

Father: You are to name him Kamvalesizwe. He is the future of this soil because he is to succeed you someday. I give him my truest blessings. May he someday lead this land as we and those before us have.

Xolo: May prosperity, strength and goodness be with him. We welcome you Prince Kamvalesizwe of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

Me: A name truly suited for a Prince. My thanks father. He is blessed to have two powerful men as his grandfathers.

Father: Blessed are we to have him here.

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They all held the little Prince but I got called back to go with him to Ndoni's chamber. She was sitting up straight. Her mother and the midwife positioned the Kamva properly so he could start feeding. I could see that Ndoni is in pain as he started to feed but she kept on trying. He finally started to learn how it is done and they left us alone. I sat and watched my wife give care to our newborn and it was a beautiful sight. I thanked her once again for this gift. Just as we thought that being crowned King and Queen would be the highlight of the day our Prince decides to show. My heart is full and content. These are the moments my mind is surely to store for all my days. I am a father and I shall be a good father to him as mine have been. I shall learn from his mistakes too. I kissed my exhausted wife on her forehead then lips and planted a soft kiss on Kamva's head. He is the sight of perfection. One created from the love I share with my Queen. A love I cherish

with all my heart. Welcome to the world  
Kamvalesizwe, Prince of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 31

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#Nande

Anger could not begin to describe the rage I felt  
inside of me. All of this dark magic seems to be  
useless. I received a letter from one of those  
who are still loyal to me at Umhlaba  
Ochumileyo many days go. The whore's belly

grows daily and they are soon to crown her Queen. I sacrificed my soul to darkness for nothing. I walked in anger to gogo's hut and entered. The oil lamp lit dim but I could see her.

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Me: It seems that the power you think that you have is of no existence!

Gogo: Keep your voice down! Do you wish for the entire Kingdom to hear you?

Me: I am holding so much anger in me! Do you know that the whore lives and her curse of a child still grows inside of her?

Gogo: I hold knowledge of all of that, Nande. I am no fool. We have underestimated the protection that surrounds her. The spiritual guardians of the Kingdom of Zwelihle protects her and her husband's ancestors are too because they have chosen her for Ntsika. These two families have been in alliance long before the this time. Even in the spirit world, they work

together and form great power.

Me: Are you telling me that I am never to avenge myself and Lizwi?! (we heard noise on the outside)

Gogo: What is there? (she whispered)

Me: How am I to have that knowledge? You are the witch here.

Gogo: Right now sit two witches in this hut. You became one when you accepted my offer to use dark magic. Dare not insult me or you are to regret it.

Me: You tricked me into it because you knew my heart held anger for Ndoni and hurt for Lizwi.

Gogo: Are you to give up now? Of what use is that to you when you are already in.

Me: You do not even have a plan so I suggest we leave this plan.

Gogo: If you could listen, you are to know the plan that I have. We failed to get what we want

through the dark energies but we are still able to rid of her.

Me: How?

Gogo: We have Ntsika turn against his wife. (I laughed loudly)

Me: The love potion that she fed him is strong and is surely not to fade off quick. If it does then she is to get more.

Gogo: She has never fed him love potion. I have already started with the progress to have this be done. It shall indeed be a long one but it is possible.

Me: I need her out of the royal house soon and I want her stripped of the title of Queen she is to get. She must feel the pain that I am feeling at this moment.

Gogo: She is of wealth, even if she is stripped of her title as Queen she is to live. What is to hurt her is to see the man she loves take back his

love. You are to be patient because this is to be a long process but you shall see victory. This might even make you have the seat of Queen Mother of Umhlaba Ochumileyo (I smiled in delight)

Me: Tell me the plan and how far it is since you have mentioned that it is already in progress.

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She was about to tell me her plan when I suddenly heard chanting outside. I looked out and saw a mob of villagers who all lit fire lights. Some saying "burn the witch" and I knew that I had to go and play victim. Gogo did not even look bothered. I ran out and started to cry.

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Me: My thanks for finally coming to my rescue. I have been taken by force by this old woman.

Sizwe: Lies are what she speaks, my King.  
Fuzwayo and I have heard her and gogo talk

about the evil they plan to plot and dark magic is to be used.

Fuzwayo: It is true what the Queen speaks, my King. Nande is no victim.

Madoda: Are you a witch, Nande? (he shouted)

Me: I am not, brother. I beg of you to believe.

Sizwe: Dare you imply that your Queen speaks no truth? I have suspected the old woman for a long time now but hearing it with my own ears has left me feeling pure disgust.

Me: Madoda, she tricked me brother. She threatened to end all our lives and I went into agreement with her to save you!

Madoda: You look at me and see a fool?! You were capable of having your own son killed. What are our lives to you when your own son's meant nothing? You disgust me and I stand shamed to admit that we come from the same womb. I have been thinking about redeeming

you and title you Princess of this soil again. It is all that has been in my mind. Have you bewitched your King?

Me: I only wished to be treated with the respect that I deserve. You have driven me to it.

Sizwe: We can not harbour witches in our house, my King.

Gogo: Such a stupid girl you are! You have admitted to being dirty. Now they are sure to kill us (she spoke with calmness from her hut)

Me: I beg of you not to kill me, brother. I still wish to live. (I bowed and kissed his feet)

Madoda: Dare not put your filth on my feet. I warned you about this, Nande. Have I not? I told you that if you are to be wrong again I shall punish you without thinking twice. We hold no trials here, know the way of this Kingdom because you grew up in it. The people wish to see you dead as a fitting punishment for someone who does your evils and I shall allow



it.

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The chanting became stronger and the heat from all the fire lamp sticks began to make me feel hot. I managed to get away and run. The village men and boys came after me. I turned and saw that gogo's hut is engulfed with life flames. There is no way she is to survive it. I ran and hid behind some bunches until the mob passed by. I stood and took a different direction. I am now sure that they are not to follow me in this direction. I walked faster and faster until I saw many cheetah's approach me. My knees felt numb with fear. I heard a voice speak.

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Voice: You dared to bring harm to the child of Zwelihle!

Me: I do not hold knowledge of what you speak of. I beg of you! I am a nobody. I am just a commoner seeking work in farms.

Voice: You shall feel the wrath of the ancestors of Queen Ndoniyamanzi!

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I stood and shivered and heard all types of noises speak at once. I screamed out loud hoping that it is to stop but it did not. I pulled my own hair from it's roots to try and get the voices out but failed. The beasts surrounded me and I begged for the voice that I heard to grant me mercy. If I had known that Ndoni is of such power both in the spiritual world and physical, I would not have made an enemy out of her. Now she seeks revenge and I know that it is my end. These beasts would scratch me and walk around me. They are tormenting me. If they want me to feel more fear then they have succeeded. I cried out loud when one of them jumped on me knocking me down to the grass. It's power too strong to fight against. I could feel the claws as they pierced through my skin in all my body and I realised that others have

joined in the feast. I felt the other attack my neck and I knew that I am not to live from this. I am to meet the same end that Lizwi has and it makes me regret all of my actions.

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#Nosizwe

We feared that Nande being about could be dangerous. We do not know the power she holds due to this dark magic. Of of the village boys came running to where we stood.

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Him: Your highnesses, you are to come quickly. We have found her.

Madoda: Nosizwe, you are to stay behind.

Me: I shall do no such thing. I wish to see her punished.

Madoda: Lead the way boy.

Him: As you wish, my King.

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Madoda took a fire stick lamp and I held him by his clothing as we ran. It seemed Nande was to run out of this Kibgdom. We found her lying and barely recognised her. The only indication that it was truly her was the little mark she had under her foot.

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Madoda: It seems she was attacked by wild animal. A wild cat.

Boy: It was many cheetah's, my King.

Madoda: It seems she made more enemies than we thought. Cheetah's are of Zwelihle and she clearly made a wrong move by hurting their Princess.

Sizwe: Only a fool is to dare start a feud with the people of that soil.

Madoda: Have her body burnt to ashes because she is not to lie next to my ancestors. She died without a title and deserves not the honour.

Sizwe: How a woman who wed so well could end up here is sad. Her evil heart was her own worst enemy and now she has paid the price. I wish to say that I am sad but I feel nothing.

Madoda: She and that old woman were my family but even I feel nothing, my Queen.

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We stood and we watched as they lit the fire. I feel no pain because those who they have hurt are now sure to feel some kind of relief. We are to write a letter to Umhlaba Ochumileyo to have it known that their former Queen has met a sad end. A woman who once had it all got consumed by herself until nothing of her was left. Nothing but the ashes of a commoner who used to be Queen. Truly a foolish woman she was!

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#Ndoni

I looked at little Kamva as he slept between myself and his father. I am yet to put him in the little bed Ntsika had a craftsman make but for now I still wish to hold him close. His way to this world was that of great difficulty physically but he proves to be worth all of the pain.

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Me: I think he looks like me (Ntsika laughed)

Ntsika: No man is to be as beautiful as you are, my heart. That is sure to be a crime (we laughed)

Me: He is such perfection. No baby has ever been this beautiful

Ntsika: The same thought runs through my

mind but he is to look like his father.

Me: Truly is a beautiful name he was given. He indeed is the future of this Kingdom. Are you ready to officially be King?

Ntsika: I care not about that now, my heart. I wish to just enjoy this moment.

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We sat and heard a big thunder storm and could see it's strikes light up the sky. I got a big fright but Ntsika held me tightly. I thought Kamva would wake up and cry but my Prince continued to sleep soundly. Mbaleki stood by the window looking out and made the sounds of her kind. The thunder sounds stopped and it was followed by heavy rain. I have not heard this type of rain in a long while. Mother said that rain is a sign of blessings. We already hold the most beautiful blessing ever. There was a knock on the door and Ntsika stood to open. Mother walked in with a smile on her face.

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Mother: It seems like the birth of Kamva has come with more blessings.

Ntsika: What do you speak of, mother?

Mother: Stand here, you are to see what I speak of soon enough.

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Ntsika stood and I also waited in anticipation to see what mother speaks about. Has Ntando finally been blessed with a companion of his own? Then I saw a sight that left my mouth and eyes wide open. Even the exhaustion left my body. Ntsika's father was walking once again. He had to make use of a stick and balance with Father to be able to but he was using his legs once again. I looked at my husband and for the very first time in all the days that I have been with him, I saw him cry. I knew he is overwhelmed by the beauty of the sight before him.



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Father: It seems that this truly is a good day. You two have only been King and Queen for a few hours but blessings already follow you.

Ntsika: Father, my heart holds so much joy in my heart. I know that a man is not to cry but I fail to hold the happiness that I feel inside. I have seen you struggle but pretended not to because I did not wish to make you feel like less of a man.

Xhanti: Do not fear shedding tears, Ntsika. I have thought that this day is to be my end but it seems the time has not yet come. When the numbness in my legs left I thought I am in a deep slumber and is soon to wake. My body feels not like before but I no longer feel pain.

Ntsika: Are you to take your place as King again?  
(Xhanti laughed softly)

Xhanti: I do not wish to sit on the throne again, my son. I am to be advisor to you, my King.

Ntsika: As you wish. (they shook hands)

Xhanti: May I have an embrace instead. (Ntsika smiled)

Ntsika: I hold no objection to that request (he embraced his father)

Father: I am glad that you were given a second chance, old friend. We still have plenty to do together to make up for all the years lost. (they laughed)

Mother: My apologies for interrupting but I think that it is fair that we leave Ndoniyamanzi to rest.

Me: I do not mind, mother.

Xhanti: Rest, dear daughter. We are to meet again when the sun rises. I am yet to thank you for the gift you have honoured us with. My thanks, my Queen.

Me: The honour is mine, father.

Father: Our grandson looks like me (we all laughed)

Xhanti: You speak of the heir of this soil, old friend. He is to take after us.

Father: The bloodline of Zwelihle is a strong one, you know this to be true because you have seen it (they laughed again)

Mother: You both are to take the debate to another chamber.

Father: Ntsika, join us for a drink to welcome you officially to fatherhood. You are sure to show grey hair soon because it is not an easy title to hold but it is of great worth. (Ntsika laughed)

Ntsika: I look forward to all the grey hairs that are to come, father.

Xhanti: Spoken like a true father. Let us go now, my daughter needs her rest. (I smiled in delight after he said that)

Ntsika: I shall return soon. I love you, my Queen (he kissed my forehead)

Me: And I you, my King.

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He kissed Kamva's cheek. King Xhanti also came slowly to do the same and so did father. It seems Kamva has stolen the hearts of his grandfathers greatly. They left me with mother who held the baby in her arms.

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Mother: You have done well, my blossom. He is a beautiful boy and is to grow into a strong man.

Me: My thanks, mother. I do not wish to have another (she laughed softly)

Mother: That is what you speak now but someday you are to wish for another. Maybe a Princess.

Me: I feel a sense of peace now. Ntsika is to still have one parent in his life because Nande is with her people. It brings me joy that King Xhanti is well once again.

Mother: I am just glad that all is well. Rest, my blossom because I know you are tired. I shall stay here with you and hold this beautiful little person.

Me: My thanks for everything. (she kissed my cheeks)

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I laid on my side facing mother and Kamva. Mbaleki laid between us and growled softly. Mother started to sing a beautiful song softly. It spoke of the love of a mother and child. I do not know if she sang for me or Kamva. What I do know is that it sounded lovely to my ears. I felt a calmness wash over my body as my eyes grew heavy by the second. I heard mother's soft singing voice fade slowly and I finally fell asleep. It has truly been a day of blessings and my heart is overflowing with gratitude. I know that my King is to lead with a kind heart and strong mind. I wish to be strong in elements where he

is to lack and vice versa. So that together we shall lead this Kingdom to great wealth and prosperity to pave a way for our Prince.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 32

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#Ndoni

Months have passed and our little prince is now in his seventh month of age. We got news on Nande's death and it weighed heavy on my heart that she turned to evil once again. I hoped that the ban from the Kingdom would make her change. We have adjusted well in our new roles but I at times feel like Ntsika is not truly happy. I entered our chamber and found him getting dressed. I put Kamva on the bed and went to help him.

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Ntsika: My thanks, my Queen. It seems these royal attires become more difficult to figure out (I laughed softly)

Me: Ntsika, what seems to be the matter?

Ntsika: I do not understand. (he looked at me)

Me: Your mind seems to be far these days.  
What is bothering your thoughts?

Ntsika: I just have plenty to deal with, my heart.

Me: I know you, my King. I know what you are like when it is the pressures of being King that weigh you down. You are not under pressure at this moment (he laughed softly)

Ntsika: It seems I am an open book before you and you know what each page contains. You are right, it is something else (he looked down)

Me: I know that warrior Bantu led the young warriors to battle. Do you by any chance miss doing that?

Ntsika: If I had no better knowledge, I would say you are about to read my thoughts. (he picked Kamva up)

Me: You wish to be out in battle rather than here (I said softly)

Ntsika: No, my Queen. I wish to always be where you and our son is but you are correct in saying that I miss being a warrior.

Me: A King in battle is to be an easy target, Ntsika. I do not wish to be a young widower who has to raise a son alone.

Ntsika: Ndoni, I am not planning on going to battle. I have knowledge of the risks it is sure to have on my life.

Me: But not going is also causing you great unhappiness.

Ntsika: I am still to adjust fully to this new life, my heart. I am happy, my heart just misses an old part of my life.



Me: Are you truly still happy? (he smiled)

Ntsika: I am, I give you my promise. You think I would risk dying and let some dirty prince ask for your hand in marriage (I laughed)

Me: Why is he to be dirty?

Ntsika: Because I would not like him even if I'm dead (we both laughed)

Me: Let us not speak about you and death in the same sentence. It is a scary thought. (he kissed me)

Ntsika: As you wish, my beautiful Queen. Are you still to go to the orphanage?

Me: Yes, I have not set foot there in months and I want to see how far the girls have progressed in their reading skill (he smiled)

Ntsika: They are blessed to have you be their big sister. Please go with guards, Ndoni.

Me: I am taking the Prince with me. (he looked concerned)

Ntsika: Why not leave him with Zipho?

Me: She has asked to come with me. Do not fear, Ntsika. No harm is to come to him. I am his mother after all.

Ntsika: Okay but you two are to never go anywhere without any guards.

Me: We won't, I give you my promise. I love you.

Ntsika: And I you, my heart. Let me go to this meeting. The journey that awaits me is still a long one. I am to be back before sunset.

Me: Safe travels, my King. Come we shall see you out.

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We kissed and left our chamber. I had food packed for him because he does not have time to sit down for the morning feast. We bid temporary farewell and waved as the horses started to move until they were out of sight. I put Kamva on my back and wrapped a cloth

around my body to keep him secure. Ntsika's father also had his own business to attend to, so I sat and ate alone when Zipho walked in. She and warrior Bantu have since married and are expecting a baby.

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Me: Greetings, dear friend. Care to join me?

Zipho: Ndoni, I might be your friend but I still remain a servant. Have you forgotten?

Me: No, I have not. If you do not wish to join me here then let us carry enough food and go outside. (she laughed softly)

Zipho: Do you have no royal duties to attend to today?

Me: No, only a visit to the orphanage. You promised to come with me, Zipho. Do not tell me that you have forgotten. (she put her hand over her open mouth)

Zipho: My apologies, your highness. I have

forgotten but do not fear, I am still to go with you.

Me: How are you feeling?

Zipho: I feel ill almost everyday. I do not think pregnancy favours me.

Me: It shall soon pass, I also felt ill especially at sunrise.

Zipho: I miss Bantu dearly. My wish is for him to retire and be a palace guard. He even turned down the King's offer as advisor to continue being a warrior.

Me: It seems we have both married men who are warriors at heart before anything else. The King misses being in the mist of all the action. Surely Bantu is to retire once the baby is born.

Zipho: This is to be his last war, my Queen. I beg of you to have the King put down that order.

Me: I can not use my power as Queen to control your husband's life, Zipho. Speak to him and

surely he is to understand your fears. (she sighed loudly)

Zipho: He might be a kind man but he is also a stubborn man (I laughed softly)

Me: Come take the food you wish to eat and join me outside.

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She looked very afraid to do it but finally did. We walked outside and sat down on the grass mats to eat. After finishing I breastfed Kamva once again. My heart goes out to Zipho for this Bantu thing. We finished and went to get ready. I took guards with me as Ntsika's asked and off we went. I came with material of Mama to make dresses for the girls. We finally arrived and walked inside. The little ones came running and I knelt down to hug them all.

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Mama: My Queen, what an honour it is to have

you here.

Me: The honour is mine, Mama. This is Zipho, a friend of mine.

Zipho: Greetings, Mama. I hope you are well.

Mama: I am well, child. Having extra hands here has helped me plenty. My thanks again, Ndoni and thank the King as well.

Me: It has all been a pleasure.

Zinzi: Ndoni, it is so good to see you again (she walked in holding water)

Me: It is good to see you too, Zinzi. Can I have an embrace please (she put the bucket down and embraced me)

Mama: Zinzi, you are to no longer refer to your Queen by name.

Zinzi: But she was my sister before she was Queen, Mama.

Zipho: We know but you are to treat her with

respect.

Zinzi: And who are you? (she asked with attitude)

Me: I shall not tolerate you being disrespecting towards Zipho, Zinzi. She is a friend of mine.

Zinzi: Have you found a new friend now? Where does she live?

Zipho: I am a servant at the royal house. I live in the quarters.

Zinzi: I shall also go and pack my rags so I am to come and live with you.

Mama: You are to do no such a thing, Zinzi. If the Queen takes you in then she might as well just take all of the girls with her. Do not burden her with guilt like this.

Me: Mama is right, Zinzi. You can not come live with me. Zipho does not even live in the royal house.

Zinzi: If we are not welcome in your new home

then you too are not to come to ours, Ndoni.  
(she shouted and ran out)

Me: Zinzi: I stood to run after her but she ran faster)

Mama: Do not worry about her. You know how much Zinzi loves anything related to royalty. She is to calm soon

Me: I did not hope for the day to go like this.

Mama: Because of you our lives are now comfortable. Extra chambers got built and we now eat three times a day. We have cows and horses. We can not ask for more. Do not feel guilty because you no longer live here, my Queen. You did not forget us and for that we are grateful.

Zipho: I agree, do not feel guilty for who you are.

Me: What you say makes sense. I do hope Zinzi is to understand soon. I have come with material, Mama. You are to make dresses for



the girls (she smiled)

Mama: My thanks, child. Let me go and get you something to drink.

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Mama stood and made us something to drink. I sat Kamva down on a cloth on the floor as the kids wished to play with him. His giggles would fill the room. We sat for hours but Zinzi never returned. I guess I have hurt her a lot. We stood and asked to leave. I could see Zipho is tired. I put Kamva on my back once again and bid farewell to everybody. We again arrived safely and all went to rest. Hours have gone and Ntsika finally arrived. He truly looked exhausted so I had warm water be brought to our chamber so he could wash his body. I took some oils and waited for him to finish so I could massage his body. I let him sit up straight as I massaged his upper body and he closed his eyes in delight. I aim to make him feel like the King that he is.

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#Ntsika

The feeling of my Queen's soft, warm hands running from my shoulders and down to my spine felt sensational. My body reacted and I took her by her waist and sat her down on top of me. I kissed her like this is to be the last chance that I will get. My hands moving up her skirt as she let out soft moans of pleasure. I took off her clothes and caressed all of her. We made love and laid in each other's arms afterwards.

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Me: It seems I desire you more and more, my Queen

Ndoni: The feeling is mutual. How has your day been?

Me: It has been long. You are not to guess what

trading business they wish me to agree to. (she looked at me)

Ndoni: What is it that they want?

Me: People, my Queen.

Ndoni: As in slaves? (she sat up)

Me: They wish for Umhlaba Ochumileyo to sell some of it's people to slavery.

Ndoni: That is terrible! Ntsika I hope that you told them that we trade not in human lives.

Me: Calm, my Queen. I am not about to enter into the trading of slaves business. They have tried to convince me to change my mind, claiming that my Kingdom is to sure gain great wealth from it.

Ndoni: We speak here of people's children, sister and brothers. Who are sure to be shipped to foreign countries to be prisoners. It is such an evil business to be in, I do not care the wealth it carries.

Me: I agree with you, my heart but one gentlemen came to me and said that I must not have so much confidence in the business of farming because someday the land is sure to dry up.

Ndoni: It sounds more like a threat than a warning.

Me: I know and that is why I have put extra guards around the farms. I fear that the enemy is to try and poison our crops and kill the main trading source of this Kingdom. They know that it is sure to lead me to desperation. It seems slavery business is on a rise and the demand for the product is on the rise. Unfortunately the product is not gold or vegetables but people.

Ndoni: My thanks for turning the offer down. We can not have business ties that destroy the lives of others, even if they are just commoners.

Me: Let us hope that soon the market for slaves shall draw to an end.

Ndoni: Have you spoken to your father about this?

Me: I will do it during the night feast.

Ndoni: When is Bantu to return? Zipho is worried sick.

Me: He is to return when the time allows, Ndoni. Zipho married him knowing that he is a warrior.

Ndoni: She is carrying his child, Ntsika. It is understandable for her to fear.

Me: Let us hope he is to retire as a warrior once he is a father and take me up on my offer as advisor.

Ndoni: Poor, Zipho. (she said in a whisper)

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We stayed in each other's arms and just enjoyed the moment and made love once again. Ndoni stood to bath and I asked for my little Prince to be brought to me. I played with him and he made a lot of noise. After a while his

mother bathed him to get him ready for the night slumber. She fed him and held him in her arms until he finally closed his eyes. We put him to bed and went to join father in the night feast. We found him sitting and waiting for us. We greeted and we all ate. Ndoni left us to go and check on the baby even if we left him under supervision. She came back with a look of panic in her eyes.

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Ndoni: Where is Kamva? (I stood)

Me: He is surely in our chamber sleeping. Is that not where we have left him?

Ndoni: He is not there, Ntsika (she started to cry)

Me: What do you mean he is not there, Ndoni?

Ndoni: I found the servant on duty to care for him fast asleep. When I woke her up to ask her where he is she held no knowledge of it.

Me: Have that servant called in here at once! (I

shouted)

Father: Calm now, children. Maybe one of the servants heard him cry and took him. Have the house searched.

Ndoni: I shall go and ask Zipho if she had taken him (she ran out)

Me: This can not be happening right now!

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I ran out and searched in all the chambers. We called for all the servants on duty to join us and asked them if they have seen him but no one took him. Not even Jongile and Zipho who are his main caretakers when Ndoni is busy. I put out a search for him and sent out all the guards. Ndoni is crying uncontrollably and I do not know what to do. I rushed out and got on my horse and went looking. I stopped each and every single woman I saw holding a child but non of them were him. I conducted a door to door search but even that gave me no answers. I

rode back to the mainland and into the royal grounds feeling like the most useless man to be put on this soil. I walked in and Ndoni stood as she saw me.

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Ndoni: Where is he, Ntsika? Why have you not come with him?

Me: I have failed to find him. (she started to cry once again)

Father: Have messengers sent to all the neighbouring Kingdoms at once. Let it be known that the Prince of this soil has been taken and put a description of him in writing. No one is to rest until he is found! (he shouted and it became chaotic)

Zipho: Who could have taken little prince Kamva?  
All shall be well, my Queen (she embraced Ndoni)

Ndoni: I am going to go look for him myself.



Me: I have already done that, Ndoniyamanzi! We do not know who took him and for what reason. I can not allow you to go out and risk having you taken too.

Ndoni: I need not to have your permission, Ntsika. I am going to look for my son until I find him. Do you know how scared he must feel in a stranger's arms?! (she shouted)

Me: Do you think that I hold no knowledge of that, Ndoni? If you wish for me to go out and look again then I shall go but I am not going to allow you to go out in the dark.

Ndoni: Our son is out in that dark, Ntsika!

Father: To fight and shout at each other is of no benefit to anyone. It is of no benefit to us and it is of no benefit for Kamva. My Queen your King is correct, I am also not going to allow my daughter out in the dark night. (she ran out)

Me: Ndoniyamanzi! (I ran after her and grabbed her)

Ndoni: I can not let my baby be out alone,  
Ntsika. What kind of mother would that make  
me? (she broke down and crumbled to the floor)

Me: We are going to find him and bring him  
home. (I held her tightly)

Ndoni: How did this happen? We have not done  
anything out of the ordinary today. How could  
the servant we put in charge sleep while looking  
after him?

Me: I do not know. I shall not rest until he is  
home Ndoniyamanzi. I give you my promise.

Ndoni: My heart feels like it has left my chest,  
Ntsika. All of me feels pained. What if he is  
taken to be killed like an animal? (my jaw  
tighten)

Me: We are not to think like that. Whoever is  
guilty of this crime could not have gone to far.  
My heart feels pain too but I can not allow my  
mind to think the worst. I will go out and search  
again. You are to stay here please. Someone

might bring him back and he is sure to need his mother's warm embrace if it happens.

Ndoni: Okay, I shall stay here. (she said softly)

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I lifted her up from the floor and embraced her. She walked to our private chamber slowly and my heart broke with each step she stood because I know her heart holds great sadness. A tear fell from my right eye but I wiped it off quickly. I rubbed my face with my hands many time and made my way outside. I got onto my horse and rode on. Now most families have put out their oil lamps because it is night. I no longer knew where to look for him and I let the horse stand still. I got off and shouted in anger and frustration. I sat on the grass and let the tears flow freely. It is said that a man is not to cry but how can I not cry when a part of me has gone missing? I sat and feared going home because I have to look into Ndoni's

disappointed eyes as I tell her that I have failed to find him once again. I have heard stories of royal children being stolen but never have I thought that mine is to meet the same fate. I am now forced to go back as a failure and tell my Queen that I come not with our Prince because I do not know where he is. It is sure to break her heart even more as mine feels like it is in a million little pieces.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 33 OBJ

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#Ndoni

The disappearance of Kamvalesizwe is sure going to be the end of me. I should have put him on my back and let him sleep. Who would take a baby and for what reason? I hate how I

shouted at Ntsika earlier on. I laid on my back and heard the door of my chamber open. I jumped and sat up hoping that my King comes holding our boy but it is just Zipho.

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Me: Is the King not back from his search yet?  
(she sat next to me)

Zipho: He is yet to return, my Queen. I am sure he is leaving no stone unturned.

Me: I know that he is trying his best to find our son. I just hope that no harm is to come to him out in the dark night.

Zipho: Both your King and Prince are sure to return home safely.

Me: Go and rest, Zipho. You need not look after me, I am well.

Zipho: Of what use is going to my chamber going to be if I lay awake worried about prince Kamva. I have helped you care for him since

birth so my heart holds great love for him.

Me: My thanks, sister. If your body feels too tired do go and rest. I know nurturing a child in your womb is of no ease.

Zipho: It sure is not but I feel well. I have come with mango's, I know that you love them (I smiled)

Me: I do but have you come with them for me or is it to ease your cravings? (we laughed softly)

Zipho: Okay, I shall admit guilt. I am craving them and I hope that you are to decline the one I offered you (I laughed)

Me: You are going to give birth to a stingy human being if you do not share. Give me the mango.

Zipho: How I hate this pregnancy thing.

Me: It is to pass soon and you are to forget all the pain and discomfort. (she jumped and held her belly)

Zipho: My baby has just moved. (she smiled)

Me: Permission to feel please.

Zipho: Of course.

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She took my hands and placed it where she felt the movement. We waited for a long while but the little one moved again and tears fell from my cheek because it reminded me of Kamva.

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Zipho: My apologies for making you cry, Ndoni. I meant no harm.

Me: No harm is done, Zipho. Do not fear. (I wiped my tears off)

Zipho: You are to hold your little one soon, my Queen.

Me: I need to rest, Zipho. I ask that you please excuse me.

Zipho: You are to call when you need me.

Me: I shall, I give you my promise.

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She stood from where she sat slowly and left. I started to cry once again and heard the chamber door open. I thought it is Zipho once again but it is Ntsika. The look on his face said enough, he need not use words. I know that he has not found him.

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Ntsika: I have failed once again, my Queen and my apologies for it.

Me: Do not apologise for what we all can not control, my King. I know that you have tried your best.

Ntsika: I feel like a failure, Ndoniyamanzi. (he sat down and bowed his head)

Me: You are no such thing, Ntsika. No one thought that this is to happen. (I knelt before him and kissed his forehead)



Ntsika: I just wonder who might have done such an evil. Nande and Lizwi are no more. Perhaps being King has come with it's own dangers already. I turned down a deal that means much to the power and wealth hungry.

Me: Do you think that they would take him to force your hand and agree to the trading deal?

Ntsika: I do not know, my heart but I have sent guards to where they are.

Me: What are we to do if it is indeed them? Are we to trade our people's lives to slavery in return for our son? (he rubbed his face with his hands)

Ntsika: Is it not the most logical thing to do? (he said slowly)

Me: I do not know, my King. My mind is totally blank.

Ntsika: If it is them then they are sure to contact us and try to make a deal. Let us wait

until then.

Me: I do hope that it is not them.

Ntsika: Have you angered anyone in your royal duties and meeting lately? (I tried to think)

Me: No one powerful. I only had a little disagreement with Zinzi from the orphanage.

Ntsika: Am I to send guards there?

Me: She is still a child, Ntsika. Has nit even reached maturity yet. Even if she had all the power in the world, I do not think she would do such.

Ntsika: I shall send out guards anyway. I do not wish to take any chances. What might be a small disagreement to you could be a big one in her mind.

Me: As you wish then, send guards but ask them to not frighten anyone.

Ntsika: Let me go now.

Me: Has your father sent out a letter to my parents?

Ntsika: Come let us go and find out.

Me: I do not wish to be around people right now. I am fine here.

Ntsika: I found you here crying, Ndoni. Sitting alone allows your thoughts to think about all the worst events that are not even true.

Me: I was crying because I felt Zipho's baby move. He made me remember of the first time we felt Kamva move.

Ntsika: It was truly a moment of magic and he is to return and we will see him again. Please come sit with us. You need not speak to anyone. I just do not want you to sit here all alone.

Me: Okay, let us go. (we stood and embraced)

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We stayed in an embrace for a long while. Feeling his warm body against mine gave me

comfort. Being angry at him for failing to find Kamva is of no use because I know that he tried his best. I am hoping that it is not the trading people that took him. They are sure to have a war on their hands. It would be a dirty tactic to get their filthy business going. Ntsika held my hand and we walked out. Some of the elders have now also joined us and I just greeted and sat. I do not wish to speak. We sat and waited and waited. Where are you, Kamvalesizwe? I am sure he is hungry wherever he is and misses his home. The thought of it pained my heart so much. Even Shiba seems to be missing at this moment and her silence is just too loud.

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#Ntsika

When I walked into our chamber and found Ndoni crying I felt like someone is piercing my

heart. I hate it when she sheds tears.

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Me: Father, have you sent out word to Zwelihle?

Father: Without a doubt, Ntsika. He is their grandson too.

Ntsika: Perhaps they are to help us in the search.

Elder: Speaking about the Kingdom of Zwelihle. My Queen where is your beast? (Ndoni looked at him annoyed)

Ndoni: I hold no knowledge of her whereabouts, elder.

Me: I am sure she is out hunting.

Elder: Is it not strange that the animal is nowhere to be seen when the prince has gone missing?

Ndoni: Is she not to go out and hunt, eldet? Would you rather she stay by our side for all our

days and starve to death? (she is frustrated)

Elder: I am just saying that we must not forget that we speak here about a wild animal. He might be chosen for you by your ancestors but we are not to forget that the Prince is not of Zwelihle.

Ndoni: Mbaleki is a she and not a he. What are you implying, elder?

Elder: Perhaps she was not successful in her hunt and went for the easiest target.

Me: I do not like what you imply, elder. You have just insulted my wife's ancestors with your words. Kamvalesizwe might not be of Zwelihle but his mother is. If Mbaleki was a danger to any of us then surely she would have struck long ago.

Father: I agree with the King. These cheetah's might be wild but they are chosen. I have watched her look after the Prince. Let us not insult our daughter by disrespecting the way of

her people.

Elder: If you give so much trust to this beast then I shall keep my mouth shut.

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I could see the look of anger and frustration on Ndoni's face and it is to be understood because she had to listen to an insult directed at her protector. Mbaleki is fond of Kamvalesizwe and I know she is to never bring harm to him. We sat and waited until the roosters started to crow loudly. I knew in that moment that sunrise is near. After a while a guard came in a rush and we all sat up straight.

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Guard: My King, you are to come out at once (he shouted)

Me: Have you found the Prince?

Father: Go out and see at once, Ntsika.

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Ndoni ran out and I followed. The sun was now starting to rise and it lit the sky orange. We ran behind the guard to the outside of the royal grounds. The sight that greeted us was truly not to be expected. A stranger walked towards us and next to him is father's sister, Nozinto. They looked exhausted and frightened. Then without warning appeared Mbaleki and she held something in her mouth. Ndoni and I ran to meet her half way. When we reached her she put what she had down and wrapped in the cloth was a soundly sleeping Kamva. His mother took him into her arms and embraced him and she let out a soft cry. He is alive and well but what happened? I asked Nozinto but she kept quiet. I asked the man she came with but he also kept quiet.

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Me: I am not to ask you two again. (I shouted)

Him: Queen Nozinto has told me to bring her



here. I did not know why that was. We waited in the bushes until sunset and she left me alone for a long while.

Father: Did you come to the royal house to steal the Prince, Nozinto (he shouted in furry but she kept quiet)

Stranger: She later came with a baby wrapped in a cloth and told me that she found him in the bushes. I was ordered to take her back to our Kingdom. I did not ask many questions because she is the Queen. Who was I to say no?

Me: Just carry on telling us what happened. You are not to get pity from us.

Stranger: We left with the baby without a problem because he was asleep. He then started to cry out loudly and uncontrollably. I think his cries got the attention of the animal that carried him because it jumped on the carriage from no where and started to attempt an attack. We tried to chase him off but he

would not. A voice spoke and told us to put the child down and turn back here or we are sure to die.

Guard: We saw them approach and tried to take the Prince but the beast would not allow us, my King. (Ndoni gave Kamva to Zipho)

Ndoni: You dared to take a child from it's home! Away from his parents. Have you any idea what pain you have caused us? (she shouted at Nozinto)

Nozinto: All I wish is to give my King the son his heart wishes for.

Ndoni: So you thought that it is best that you give him my son. The son that I carried for months and gave birth to. Is it my fault that you are barren? Why have you not gone to an orphanage and seek a child there because Kamvalesizwe lacks not the love of his mother and father. (she shouted)

Nozinto: You are young and still able to have

plenty more. I just wanted to have a child and he is blood and caring for him would have been easy.

Me: Are you crazy? Do you think having more kids would have closed the empty space of losing him? (I shouted in anger)

Ndoni: Evil, just such evil!

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She marched to where Nozinto stood and gave out claps and punches. The guards wanted to stop her but I told them not to. I want her to let out all the anger and pain she is feeling and her victim deserves every blow. I have never in all the days I've been with her see her be violent. It seems she too grew tired because she stopped and cried. I went to pick her up from the ground and embrace her.

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Ndoni: You see who the real animal is, elder? It

is the daughter of this soil. You dared to insult my companion when you are the ones who raised the real animal!

Elder: We stand shamed to admit that she is ours.

Me: Have them both be kept in captivity. If they dare escape like you allowed with Lizwi. You are all going to regret it.

Father: They shall be punished accordingly, I give you my promise.

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Ndoni did not listen to all that was spoken. She took Kamva back and walked into the royal grounds and Mbaleki followed. The guards took Nozinto and the man to captivity. We can not punish her here. She is to go to her husband's soil. But I can not just have her leave without a punishment from this soil. I want to make an example of her for all those who dare try take my son again. I am to deal with it later. All I

wish to do now is to go and be with my son and wife. I walked into our chamber and found her washing Kamva. He giggled so much that it warmed my heart. Ndoni did not wish to speak to me so I sat and waited for her to calm down. She finished and laid on her side and started to breastfeed Kamva. He was rubbing his little feet together, clearly he is feeling great delight. I laid behind her and Kamva looked at both of us with those innocent eyes.

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Me: Ndoni, I ask that you please speak to me  
(she kept quiet)

Ndoni: What do you wish for me to say, Ntsika?  
(she finally said softly)

Me: Anything, my Queen but I ask that you do not push me away.

Ndoni: It seems your family does not want me in your life Ntsika. First it was your mother and Lizwi. Now it is your aunt who tried to steal my

baby and nearly stopping my heart because of it.

Me: My apologies for all the pain that you have felt because of my family.

Ndoni: I have been having great difficulty since I first set foot in this house. I do not know what I have done to your people to deserve such heartache. (she started to cry)

Me: You have done nothing, Ndoni. Nande and Lizwi were evil and Nozinto is just plain crazy. I am ashamed to call them family.

Me: I wish to go to Zwelihle with Kamva for a few days. (my heart sank)

Me: Ndoniyamanzi, please do not punish me for the sins of my family. I do not want you two to be far away from me. I rise in the morning with a happy heart because I know that I am to see you both. I beg of you to not go. We can ask your mother to visit us but do not go.

Ndoni: I do not wish to go and leave you but I am afraid, Ntsika. Am I to live in fear of all of your relatives?

Me: I am not going to allow any danger to come to you, even if it means I have to stick you both to my sides. (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: I love you but I do not wish to go everywhere you go at every moment, my King (I laughed softly)

Me: Please tell me that you are not to go to live in Zwelihle with our son. Your father is going to think he made a mistake by blessing our union.

Ndoni: I am not going to go. I do not wish to keep your son from you but you need to tell your family to start treating me with respect.

Me: Those who matter already respect you, my heart. My thanks for staying.

Ndoni: I am just glad that he is here with us.

Me: All thanks to Mbaleki. Clearly he knows

Kamva's cry because it seems it alerted her, maybe she was out hunting.

Ndoni: I knew that she would never harm him.

Me: I knew too (I kissed her neck)

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Kamve finished feeding and I held him to try and make him sleep. To have him in my arms again feels good. He is so heavy, I wonder where Mbaleki got the strength to carry him in her mouth. He finally closed his eyes and Ndoni brushed Mbaleki's fur until she closed her eyes. I guess we have two babies, I laughed at the thought. We put our son between us and my Queen finally fell asleep. We have been awake all night. It pains me that my family has hurt her so much, both directly and indirectly. I am going to call all relatives here and tell them that if any dare try something I shall not be kind. I am even thinking of cutting of Nozinto's hands as punishment. The hands that took my son and



thought it was fine to do so. She indeed is a crazy woman. Evil and craziness clearly runs in my family and I fear for Kamva and my future children. May these curses never get them. I snapped out of my thoughts and looked at my beautiful Queen. Still the most beautiful woman my eyes has seen. I smiled and kissed her lips softly and kissed our Prince's cheeks. I am to enjoy these cheek kisses because soon he is to grow up and shall not like them. My exhaustion finally won the battle as I felt my eyes grow heavy. I held Ndoni's hand and finally gave in. Our little prince safely sleeping between us.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 34

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#Ndoni

I laid in bed pretending to be asleep and waiting for Ntsika to fall asleep. I heard his snore fill our chamber and it annoyed me greatly. I knew that this is the perfect time to act on my plan. I stood slowly from the bed and took one of the spears in our chamber. He laid on his back and I gently got on top of. The moon lit our chamber beautifully so I was able to see him. His eyes opened and I pierced his chest with the spear I am holding. I aimed straight for the heart and I could see in his eyes how his soul is slowly escaping his body. I looked at my blood filled hands and felt nothing. No guilt, no regret, no hurt just absolutely nothing. Then a voice called my name.

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Voice: Ndoniyamanzi, Ndoniyamanzi!

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The voice became louder and I opened my eyes. They met with those of Ntsika's and he clearly

is very concerned. I was breathing heavily and I jumped into his embrace and started to cry.

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Ntsika: It was nothing but a terrible dream, my Queen. Do not fear (he kissed my neck while still holding me)

Me: I...I killed y...I killed you (I stuttered while crying)

Ntsika: What are you talking about, Ndoni?

Me: My hands were filled with your blood, my King. I pierced your heart with a spear and killed you.

Ntsika: Ndoni, am I not embracing you right now? It was all just a terrible night vision. Please try to calm.

Me: It felt real and I held no feelings of regret after I did it.

Ntsika: You are not capable of such evil, Ndoni. I refuse to believe that you are capable of

hurting those that you love.

Me: You are right, it was just a bad dream (I let go of him)

Ntsika: You gave me such a fright. You were shaking like a leaf on a windy day.

Me: My apologies for that.

Ntsika: You need not apologise for it. Let us get back to sleep.

Me: You can rest. I want to take off this moist night dress and wipe the sweat off my body.

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He did not go back to sleep but went to get a cloth for me. I took off what I am wearing and made myself decent. He held my naked body as we tried to sleep once again. I stayed awake and listened to his heart beat strongly. A tears fell from my eyes and onto his chest. I wiped them off and luckily he is already back in a deep slumber. I feared closing my eyes again but I

eventually had no choice when because my eyes grew heavy. I got woken up by Ntsika's soft kisses on my shoulders and I smiled.

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Me: Sunrise greetings, my King (he kissed my lips)

Ntsika: Sunrise greetings, my heart. Did you have a sweet slumber after the bad dream?

Me: I did, the dream did not come back. It really scared me. What if I hold an evil heart and I do not have knowledge of it?

Ntsika: That is a silly thought, Ndoni. Most of the vision we have seen while in deep slumber do not come true and are never to be true. Why would you pierce the heart that beats for you?

Me: I do not know.

Ntsika: I am about to leave on a long journey, my Queen. I do not want to leave this soil knowing that you are not well. I ask that you

please not keep the dream in your thoughts.

Me: I fail to rid my mind of it but I shall try.

Ntsika: Now let us get busy with other more important business (he smiled).

Me: What important business?

Ntsika: Making a brother or sister for Kamva. My poor boy has no one to play with (I laughed)

Me: He has little Thando.

Ntsika: It is not the same, my Queen. Do you not feel pity for our child? (we both laughed)

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He kissed my neck first because he knows it is my soft spot. I let out a soft moan. My hand travelled to "mkhonto" and has already grown to full strength. We caressed and explored each others bodies until we became on in flesh. Our bodies moved in the same rhythm and the pleasure caused us both to fill our chamber with sounds of love. Intense pleasure overtook

both our bodies at the same time and we held on to each other tightly trying to gain steady breathing.

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Ntsika: I love you (he whispered into my ear)

Me: And I you. (I looked at him)

Ntsika: I really wish for your body to accept my seed, my Queen.

Me: Ntsika, I ask that you not go on this journey. (his mood changed)

Ntsika: I thought we have spoken about this, Ndoni. It is of great importance that I go, my Queen.

Me: I just do not have a good feeling about this. You have never been to Bomubuphambili before. We do not know what it's people are like and you going there puts fear in my heart.

Ntsika: I am to go with father, Bantu and guards. No harm is to come to me, Ndoniyamanzi. I do

not wish to speak about this again. I am to go in a few hours and I do not wish to fight with you.

Me: I did not say that I wish to fight. All I ask is that you let pass this deal and not go to that soil.

Ntsika: It could mean great business, Ndoni. Do you not wish to see the Kingdom prosper?

Me: Do not insult me, Ntsika. I am your Queen and I wish to see Umhlaba Ochumileyo go from strength to strength. You just need not accept all deals that come your way to achieve it.

Ntsika: My apologies for the insult. I have not accepted anything, Ndoni. I do not even know what the details of the deal it. I am to go to there and find out.

Me: So are you not going to listen to me?

Ntsika: Is this about the dream? Ndoni, I would not go if I thought it is a risk to my life.

Me: I need to get up and get ready.



Ntsika: Ndoniyam...

Me: You are to get up as well because I do not wish to delay you from your journey (I cut him short)

Ntsika: Am I to leave while we are having a disagreement?

Me: I am not fighting with you. I am just telling you that something about this does not sit well with me. I fear that harm might come to you. (I started to cry)

Ntsika: We have traveled longer distances, Ndoni.

Me: This is not about distance, Ntsika. It is about my heart feeling fear for some reason.

Ntsika: I am to return, Ndoni. You know that I shall never hurt you.

Me: Then do not leave.

Ntsika: I can not Ndo...

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I stood from our bed before he could finish. I had warm water be brought to our chamber so that I could wash my body. I do not know why but my heart approves not of this journey. The Kingdom is sure not going to crumble because of one possible missed opportunity. I hate fighting with him especially when we are about to part for a few days. I'm hoping that he is going to tell me that he has changed his mind but I know how stubborn he can get.

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#Ntsika

I sat and watched as Ndoni bathed herself. I hate fighting with her like this but her reasons are not valid. Am I to turn down every possible deal whenever she has a bad feeling about it?

She gently put on her body butter on her soft skin and the chamber got filled with her lavender scent. A scent that still drives me crazy.

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Me: Ndoni (she looked at me)

Ndoni: Ntsika.

Me: If you wish for me to stay then I shall do it.

Ndoni: Your heart is already there, Ntsika. You will be in a grumpy mood if I were to keep you here. I am not your keeper so you need not ask for my permission.

Me: I am trying to make my mark, Ndoni. Other Kings already look down on me because I do not hold the knowledge that they have. (she came to sit next to me)

Ndoni: You are a great King, Ntsika. You can not compare yourself with those who have sat on their thrones for years and years. Your people

trust you and they have faith in you. You have already made your mark. Your Kingdom is prosperous.

Me: Our Kingdom (she smiled)

Ndoni: If you wish to go to this so badly then I give you my blessing. Just promise that you are to return alive and healthy.

Me: I give you my promise, my Queen. I am to return to you and our prince.

Ndoni: We might possibly have another on the way already.

Me: Are you saying that your body nurtures our second child?

Ndoni: I do not know but I have been feeling all the symptoms that I felt when I was pregnant with Kamva (I smiled and kissed her)

Me: Why have you not shared this news with me? I am feeling so happy. (I picked her up in an embrace)

Ndoni: I was not sure if I truly carry a child already but the midwife said that I am.

Me: Now I promise to definitely return safe. I am not going to miss the chance of meeting our second born. Next time I plan to be in the chamber while you give birth to stop the midwife from torturing you. (she laughed)

Ndoni: It is not the midwife that tortured me, it was your son because he refused to come quickly (we laughed)

Me: My thanks for the coming gift, my Queen. My heart is full of joy right now.

Ndoni: Mine too but promise to not tell anyone yet.

Me: For what reason? Such news is to bring happiness to all our lives.

Ndoni: We are to tell them only when I am showing a bit, Ntsika. I beg of you. (I took a deep breath)

Me: You are right, my Queen. Announcing it too early is not good.

Ndoni: Let me go before Kamva wakes up. I shall send for water so you can bath and get ready.

.

She stood and finished getting dressed. My bathing water was brought to our chamber and Ndoni went to check on Kamva. She soon returned so I guess he is still sleeping. I bathed and finished as she is sorting out my attire for my trip. I went to her and hugged her from behind. Still desiring her as strongly as before. It did not take much to make her react because I know just which spots to touch and kiss for her to let out those soft moans I love so much. I sat on the edge of the bed and put her on top of me. We caressed each others bodies until I let "mkhonto" enter the warm, moist folds of her temple. I held her waist as I watched her move.

Goodness what a beautiful sight! We made love until pleasure overtook us both. We had no time to lay in each others arms because we know Kamva is to wake up soon. We both got ourselves decent again and got dressed. Ndoni went to Kamva's chamber and I went to join the family in the morning feast.

.

Me: Greetings to all (I sat down)

Fikile: Greetings, my King. Is the Queen not to join us?

Me: She has gone to the Prince. I am sure they are to join us soon.

Father: I do hope that you have prepared well for this long journey.

Me: My Queen had made sure of that, Father. All of my clothing is ready.

Jongi: Why does she not let a servant do it?

Me: She prefers to do some things herself.

Father: She even kneads and bake bread at times. How I wish she had prepared it for the journey. Her bread is like non I've ever tasted.

Me: You have a wife now, old man. Do not abuse my wife's cooking skills (we laughed)

.

We sat and started to eat because I know Ndoni is to first bath Kamva. He is going to play and get himself dirty soon, as a boy should. Kamva came running in and came straight to me. I picked him up into the air. Ndoni walked in soon after.

.

Ndoni: Greeting to all (she sat down)

Father: Greetings, dear daughter. Do accept our apologies. We have started to feast without you.

Ndoni: It is of no bother, father.

Kamva: Greetings (he shouted)



Father: You almost forgot to send greetings to us. (we laughed)

Me: You need to eat. (he looked at me)

Kamva: No, Fada (he shook his head).

Ndoni: You are not to be difficult, Kamvalesizwe. Do you wish to starve?

Kamva: Kamva not eat food. (I could see his mother is getting frustrated)

Me: You are to eat, Kamva. Go to your mother and she is to feed you your porridge.

.

He walked slowly to Ndoni and she sat him down next to her and started to feed him She could not finish because she started to feel nausea and ran outside. I took water and rushed behind her. I waited until she finished and gave her the water. We walked back to the family.

.

Jongi: Is all well?

Ndoni: All is well. I just need to eat something.

Jongi: If I had no better knowledge I would think you are to have another little one (she smiled)

Me: If it happens we are to let you know do not worry (they laughed)

Fikile: You have finished all of your food. Kamva is such a big boy (he giggled)

Kamva: Kamva is a big boy.

Father: Such a big strong boy. (he clapped hands and so did Kamva)

Me: Father we are to finish and leave soon. Surely Bantu and the other guards are already ready and waiting for us.

Father: Let us go now. We do not wish to be delayed.

Ndoni: You have not even eaten much, my King.

Jongi: Do not fear, I had food packed for them.

He is to have as much as he wants while on the carriage.

Me: I have had enough, my Queen.

.

I could see that Ndoni still had doubts about this trip. Perhaps it is the pregnancy that is making her feel like this. Fikile took Kamva to play and father and Jongi also left us.

.

Me: My heart, I know that your heart does not approve of this trip. I am to be gone for a week.

Ndoni: I am no longer upset with you for deciding to go. You have told me why it means so much to you and I respect it. Mother expected to arrive at sunset so she is to keep me company until you return.

Me: Give my greetings to her. You ladies can hold a little celebration while we are away. (she laughed)

Ndoni: And make a lot of traditional beer.

Me: All the others are to have that beer but not you. I do not wish for my daughter to be born drunk (she laughed)

Ndoni: Fine, I am to stay away from it. Why are you so sure that I carry a daughter.

Me: I am hoping that it is to be one. Remember we are aiming for two boys and two girls.

Ndoni: What if we only have Princes? (she raised her brow)

Me: Then we shall exchange with Bukhosi.

Ndoni: That is silly (we laughed)

.

I looked at her beautiful face for a long while as she laughed. Beautiful is the lady my ancestors have chosen for me! There is no way I am going to allow anything separate me from her so she needs not to fear. I kissed her but got interrupted by Father saying it is time to leave.

We stood and walked out to find Kamva on Mbaleki's back.

.

Ndoni: Mbaleki is not your toy, Kamvalesizwi. If you wish for a horse have your father get you one. (she took him off and he started to cry)

Me: Our apologies, young prince but your mother is right. Mbaleki is not a horse. (I held him until he calmed)

Father: Ntsika, let us be on our way.

Fikile: Go well, father.

Father: My thanks, young maiden.

Me: Go to your mother. I am to leave now. (he clung to me)

Ndoni: Come one, baby. (she took him)

Me: I love you, my Queen.

Ndoni: And I you, my King. (I kissed her lips softly)

Me: You look after your mother for me (I tickled him and he giggled)

Ndoni: Say go well, father.

Kamva: Go well, fada. (I kissed his cheek)

.

I said my temporary farewells to them all. The all waved and Kamva did not cry as I thought he would. Bantu also said his goodbyes to his family and Thando cried for her father. How time has gone by quick. We were young warriors just not so long ago but now we are husbands and fathers. We still miss going to battle but I doubt we would trade our families for the bush. I do hope that Ndoni no longer holds fear in her heart about this trip. I have made sure that there are extra guards at the royal house while I am away and Mbaleki is sure to protect them from any threat. I look behind and found them still waving and I waved back. Soon we are to have another child and that has

brought so much joy to my heart. The horses picked up speed and soon even the royal house was out of sight. My heart longs for them already. I have been away from home for far longer than a week but this time it feels different. I think Ndoni's fears have now rubbed off on me but I have to go to this meeting. It might come with a great trading route for my Kingdom and I know my Queen knows it. Hoping that we are to be safe until we reach our destination.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

NOT AN INSERT!! The story is going to be fast forwarded in the next insert so this is just a mini summery.

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Life for King Ntsika and Queen Ndoniyamanzi has truly been that of bliss. They had their

moments of difficulty as leading a Kingdom is not easy. Ntsika indeed summonsed his relatives and put out a warning to all who dares harm his Queen. It seems to have done the trick because two years have passed and they have been at peace since. Prince Kamva is now two years and seven months. He is now able to walk and talk a bit. Mbaleki has grown into a big cheetah and continues to protect at all times. The council had Nozinto's fingers cut off to teach her a lesson. Her husband punished her by sending her to captivity and he married a woman who now carries his first legitimate child. Warrior Bantu's hip got pierced with a spear in battle and it forced him to retire. The injury left him with a permanent limp but he continues to train young warriors. He has also accepted the offer of advisor to his friend and King, Ntsika. Zipho gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Thando. Bantu wished for it to be a boy but he loves his daughter. She is now



senior at the royal house. Ntsika's father finally went against the elders and married Jongile. His health has improved but he still balances with a stick when walking. They asked for permission to have their daughter Fikile stay at the royal house and the King and Queen agreed for Xhanti's sake but laid down rules to her as well. She can not be titled Princess because the elders refused to allow it. King Xolo and Queen Nobu are both still good. Zinzi, my sister in law gave birth to another daughter. The King and Queen of Zwelihle are worried about Bukhosi who only produces maidens so far.

Ntandoyabantu has grown into a real strong young man now and is to reach maturity soon. The orphanage has taken in more children and Ndoniyamanzi continues to help out. Her relationship with Zinzi has not been the same since Ndoni told her she can not live in the royal house. Umhlaba Ochumileyo has been prospering and going from strength to strength

under the young leaders. So much so that it's trading ties have doubled. King Ntsika and his Queen still refuse to trade in human lives. Together they indeed seem to thrive and the King does not make major decisions on his own. He prefers to sit down and hear what his Queen thinks about matters first and they decide together.

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Question is! Is the unity between the King and Queen to remain solid or not?

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 35

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# Xhanti

I have never in all my days seen Ntsika handle business so poorly. We have been on our way

back to Umhlaba Ochumileyo for two days now but I still do not have any words for him. He has been short tempered and it has been annoying. I could see that even Bantu saw how foolish his friend has been.

.

Me: Are you ready to hear what is in my thoughts? (he looked at me)

Ntsika: Speak before you give yourself a headache, father. I can see that you have had plenty on your mind since we left that place.

Khanti: What has gotten into you, Ntsika. You have turned down a deal that could have come with plenty benefits.

Ntsika: Are you doubting my abilities, Father? You are the one who was too weak to lead our Kingdom and decided to put me in charge.

Me: Well it seems that I have made a mistake then. What I saw in those negotiations was

shameful!

Ntsika: I only wanted more for my Kingdom. We are the ones who were going to do most of the work.

Me: Have you not heard the part where they offered you the biggest percentage, Ntsika?

Bantu: I agree with your father, my King. It indeed was a great offer but your wanting more of the rewards clouded your judgement.

Ntsika: Do you dare imply that I am greedy?

Me: You did negotiate with greed in your heart. Now because of that greed we walked away with nothing. Do you think they are to consider us again when an opportunity arises? No, they are not because no one wants a wealth hungry partner. We make these deals to build ties with other Kingdoms and you have just ruined one of the biggest ties Umhlaba would have ever had.

Ntsika: Why did you not speak up. then, father?

All you did was sit and agree to every single word King Sipho spoke. At some stage I thought you would kiss his feet.

Me: I take offense, Ntsika. You might sit on the seat of power but I am still your father. I have put you in power and believe me I can still strip you off it all.

Ntsika: Let the horses stand still (he shouted)

Me: Are you crazy? I do not know about you but I wish to be home with my wife, daughters and grandson. Stopping is only going to delay us.

Ntsika: I do not wish to be with you two right now or we are sure to exchange words we can not take back. If you do not wish to be delayed then get out and walk.

.

He stepped out of the carriage leaving my mouth open with shock. I saw him walk far off and I got angry.

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Me: I think your friend has been bewitched.

Bantu: If I held no better knowledge I would agree. He was like this since the day before the negotiations. His temper is like that of a mad man.

Me: Something must have happened that we hold no knowledge of.

Bantu: I have asked him but he said nothing is the matter. I hope that he is not to take this temper to his Queen and Prince.

Me: That is another thing that bothers me. He is usually the first one to jump into the carriage and head home to be with his bride and son. Could it be another woman?

Bantu: I doubt that very much. Ntsika's heart belong to Queen Ndoni only and it has been like that since he laid eyes on her for the very first time.

Me: I hold knowledge of that but even you have to admit that the young maidens of the Kingdom we come from are of true beauty.

Bantu: So is his Queen. I do not believe that his heart got captured a second time. We are now only to wait and hope he returns to his old self.

.

Hours went by and Ntsika finally approached. He came in and ordered for the horses to move forward and with great speed.

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Ntsika: My apologies for being ill mannered, father.

Me: What seems to be the matter, son? Is something not well with you?

Ntsika: All is well, I give you my promise. Are you accepting my apology?

Me: Yes, I do but you are to never make such a bad business decision, Ntsika. If too many

similar mistakes are made the Kingdom is sure to fall apart someday.

Ntsika: I hear you, father. It is not to happen again. Do not fear, I shall send a letter to King Siphon and apologise for the greed I showed around his negotiation table.

Bantu: I am sure that he is to appreciate it and perhaps put the deal up on the table once again.

Me: We are not suppose to hope for such. He is sure to accept the apology but he is to never go into business with us again.

Ntsika: Umhlaba Ochumileyo is a great Kingdom. Surely more trading routes are to come our way.

.

We rode on in silence and I thoughts about a lot of things. I was planning to retire completely and not go on big royal duties but I have now



changed my mind. I can not risk having Ntsika go to meetings alone and fail to bring in business for us. I know that something is really wrong with him but I do not know what. I hope he has not deflowered one of King Siphos maidens because that is going to cause great conflict. We are sure to be delayed from reaching home on the time we planned. How I miss being at home.

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#Ndoni

The men are expected to arrive today at sunset. I do hope that Ntsika managed to secure this deal that he looked forward to hearing. It seems time is slow because I truly miss him. Mother has been here with me and her company is wonderful. The two of us sat as we watched Kamva play before us. Mbaleki went to him and licked his cheek. I could see the annoyance in

his face.

.

Kamva: No, Baleki. (he pushed Mbaleki's face away)

Mother: Mbaleki, stop licking my grandson with your rough tongue. (Mbaleki kept on licking)

Kamva: Baleki, stop once. (we laughed)

Mother: It's stop at once (he looked at mother)

Me: Mbaleki is just showing you love, boy. She means no harm.

Mother: He has grown so much and your father speak about him a lot. He is really praying for Bukhosi to have an heir next.

Me: It is not up to Bukhosi. Father needs to remember that.

Mother: What gender do you think the one you are carrying is going to be? (I looked at her)

Me: I am not pregnant, my Queen.

Mother: You either hold no knowledge that you are or you are keeping it a secret. (she laughed softly)

Me: Fine, I admit. I am pregnant. How did you know?

Mother: You have been running up and down feeling ill and I saw you eating soil yesterday (I laughed)

Me: I tried so hard to not let anyone notice anything. Do you think Jongi also knows?

Mother: I do not know but I am sure she has her suspicions. Have you told your King?

Me: I have and he was overjoyed. He wishes for a Princess. (I smiled)

Mother: It gives me joy to see that you are still happy, my blossom. I am now to give your father good feedback.

Me: Are you here to spy? (she laughed)

Mother: I am here to visit my child and

grandchild but Xolo did ask me to come with feedback of your wellbeing. So I guess I am his spy (we laughed)

Kamva: Mada, look (he opened his hand and revealed a small frog, we jumped up)

Mother: Kamvalesizwe do you wish to send your grandmother to her end? (he laughed)

Kamva: Kamva kiss it (I hit it out off his hand before it reached his lips and it hopped away)

Me: You are such a typical boy. Playing with scary creatures (I laughed)

Mother: Does Kamva wish to have sores here? (she pointed to his lips)

Kamva: No (she shook his head)

Mother: Then you are not to kiss any frogs or lizards. Come let us go inside before he picks up more surprises.

Me: We are such cowards. It is not even a big frog.

Kamva: Kamva wants milk.

Mother: Let us go and get the milk for you. My blossom, are you going to be well on your own?

Me: Yes, my Queen.

.

She kissed my cheek and held Kamva's hand. I know she is going to rinse those hands first. I stood and looked up at the clear sky. Hoping that the men are still well wherever they are at the moment. Soon they are going to set foot on their soil again. I had a feast prepared to welcome them. Hours went by and the sun started to set but still no sign of them. I fed Kamva because he goes to bed before everyone. I bathed him and he refused to close his eyes at first but he eventually did. My beautiful little prince. I left Mbaleki in his chamber as I usually do and left to join mother and the other ladies. I found mother sitting alone.

.

Me: My apologies for keeping you waiting.  
Where are the other ladies?

Mother: You need not apologise, I have just sat down myself. Jongi said that they are to join us soon.

Me: It is now becoming dark out. I hoped that the men would have been here by now.

Mother: Calm now, Ndoni. We are not going to be worried about nothing. Horses stop to drink water or maybe they stopped to stretch their legs. It could be anything but let us not think the worst.

Me: You are right, mother. Do you know that I fear sunsets now?

Mother: Because of the dream?

Me: I keep on having the same dream over and over mother. I no longer know what a peaceful slumber feels like. What if this is a sign.

Mother: A sign of what, Ndoni? That you are to

kill your husband soon? That is just silly.

Me: Then why does this vision keep on haunting my dreams. I am even considering sleeping in another chamber until it stops.

Mother: That is even more silly. It is nit wise for people who are wed to sleep in separate chamber. I am sure your husband is not going to agree to it either.

Me: I fear sleeping now but it is better because Ntsika is to be next to me tonight.

Mother: All is going to be well.

Fikile: Has father and brother not come yet, my Queen? (she asked while walking in)

Me: No, it seems like they have been delayed.

Mother: You children are not to fear. They are on their way.

Jongi: I agree with Queen Nobu. (she went to sit)

Me: No use in waiting because they might arrive

late in the night. Let us start eating before it all goes cold.

.

We all sat down and we started to eat. Hours passed and they still have not come. The ladies decided to retire to their rooms and sleep. I on the other hand fear sleeping so I shall wait for them. I went out and to see if Ziphoo is still awake. We have moved them to bigger chambers because her husband is now advisor to the King. She was still awake because little Thando refused to sleep. We sat and played with her until exhaustion won and she feel asleep. I could see that Zinzi is also tired so I excused myself. I took my oil lamp and braved the night to the royal house. There were night guards so I had no fear. I went to Kamva's room and found him sleeping soundly and Mbaleki next to him. I kissed them both and my lady cheetah opened her eyes quickly but closed them when she saw it's me. I went to my



chamber and had bathing water be brought to my chamber. I finished and put body butter on my skin. There was a knock on the door and I wrapped my body before opening. It is Ntsika and I jumped into his embrace. He hesitated but I finally felt his arms wrap around my waist.

.

Me: Since when are you knocking before you enter our chamber? (I laughed)

Ntsika: I am showing good manners (he looked nervous in a way)

Me: I am your wife, Ntsika. You have seen all of me before. Are you going to come in?

.

He walked in and looked around the entire chamber. His body looked a bit slimmer. Have they not been feeding my husband at that place?

.

Me: I had extra candles be put in that is why it looks different. How have you been (I kissed his lips)

Ntsika: Well and you, my Queen.

Me: I am just happy that you are home safely. Did you manage to get the deak?

Ntsika: Ndoni, my body is tired. I have been in a horse carriage for two day. All I need is to bath and rest.

Me: Of course, my apologies. I shall have water be brought in so that you can bath.

Ntsika: My thanks.

.

I had my water be deposed off and had them bring some for him. He stood and looked at the spears that were in our chamber.

.

Me: Your water is ready, my King. Do you need

any help? (I smiled)

Ntsika: No, I do not. You can go to bed.

Me: As you wish. My mother figured out that I am pregnant. I did not tell her, I give you my promise. (he faked a laugh)

Ntsika: Ndoni, I ask that we talk about all at sunrise. I beg of you. (my heart sank because I missed him)

Me: As you wish. Would you like for me to read our current book? I have not read it alone.

Ntsika: Do as you wish, Ndoniyamanzi. If you wish to read, read and if not then do not.

Me: Okay.

.

I decided not to read because he is not as excited about it as before. It is strange because he was so curious to know what the other chapters contained. I put on my night dress and went into the covers. He blew out some of the

candles saying it is too bright and started to bath himself. It seems my King is not himself. Maybe the deal did not go as he has hoped. I shall hear all about it when his mood is better. He covered his lower body with a cloth and I felt my body react at the beautiful sight of his body. I stood, took off my night dress and walked towards him and kissed him.

.

Ntsika: What are you doing, my Queen?

Me: Showing you how much I have missed you (I smiled)

Ntsika: Cover yourself, Ndoniyamanzi. I do not wish to see your nakedness. Have I not said that my body is tired?

Me: You have (I put my dress back on)

Ntsika: I am going to sleep now. Until sunrise.

.

He did not even kiss me. Ntsika has never

rejected me when I tried to show him love, especially when he has been away. Could it be that he no longer desires me?

.

Me: No, Ndoniyamanzi do not be silly of course he still desires you. His body is just feeling tired (I whispered to myself)

.

My heart felt a bit heavy as I blew the oil lamps and candles off. All that he has done has made me feel less special. I laid next to him and moved closer hoping that he is to wrap his strong arms around me but he did not. I moved back away to give him space because it seems that it is what he prefers. I started to cry silently but stopped. I am surely being silly because he has had a long trip. It is expected that he would be exhausted and maybe the deal was bad and it left him frustrated. My eyes grew heavy and I still feared falling asleep but I do not have a

choice. I finally gave in and fell asleep. Hoping for a peaceful night slumber.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 36

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#Ndoni

I woke up and looked to Ntsika's side. He slept peacefully and I decided not to disturb him. I got up and cleaned my mouth. I started to bath and get ready. I went to little Kamva's chamber and found him rubbing his eyes with his hands.

.

Me: Greetings, my prince (I kissed his cheek)

Kamva: Greetings. (he held my face and smiled)

Me: Did you have a sweet slumber? (he nodded)

Kamva: Baleki has gone.

Me: She has went out to eat. Come let us go so you can great you father.

Kamva: Fada?

Me: Yes, he has come back from his journey. He has missed Kamva so much. (he smiled)

.

I tried to hold his hand but he ran out ahead of me. Clearly he has missed his father just as much as I have. He waited for me by the door and I went to open it. He ran to the sleeping Ntsika and jumped on top of him. Ntsika jumped up clearly annoyed.

.

Ntsika: Have you no respect? It is ill manners to disturb a person while they sleep. (he said in a stern voice)

Kamva: Apology (he said softly and looked down)

Me: He is just a child, Ntsika. Is it a sin that he

is happy to see you again after days of not seeing you? (I picked my son up)

Ntsika: I am tired, Ndoniyamanzi. You should have kept the boy until I decide to wake up.

Me: Well excuse us then your royal grumpiness. We are to leave you now. I do not know what has gotten into you.

Ntsika: You are not to speak to me like that. (he looked at me intensely)

Me: I am not going to argue with you with our son in my arms. Go back to your precious slumber and maybe you are to return to your old self.

.

I walked out of the chamber while holding the sad Kamva. How dare he be rude to my son like that? Kamva has done what he does most times but today it is of annoyance to his father and I fail to understand why. Exhaustion is not



enough reason to be rude! I bathed Kamva and dressed him.

.

Me: You are not to play in mud and get dirty, Kamvalesizwe. No mud, are we clear? (I tickled his neck)

Kamva: No mud (he said while giggling)

Mother: Sunrise greetings to you both. (she said while walking in)

Me: Greetings mother. Have you slept well?

Mother: I have, my blossom.

Kamva: Fada shout at Kamva (he looked at his grandmother)

Mother: What seems to be the matter?

Me: Your father meant no harm, my prince. He is just very tired. Nothing seems to be the matter. Ntsika seems to be in a very bad mood since his return.

Mother: Has the deal not gone well?

Me: I shall hold no knowledge of that, my Queen. We are to hear from him when he wakes from his rest.

Mother: Come let us go and eat. Xhanti might shed some light on the matter.

.

She picked Kamva up and made bubble kisses on his neck and the royal passages got filled with his sweet giggles. We joined everyone else, greeted and sat down. Kamva ate his porridge without any difficulty.

.

Xhanti: Is the King not going to join us?

Me: He is still resting, father. He shall eat when he wakes.

Jongi: Perhaps he feels regret for messing up the deal. (Xhanti looked at her)

Xhanti: Let us not talk about royal duties during a family feast.

Me: How has the King messed up the deal, father?

Xhanti: He was not happy with the rewards it came with so he turned it down.

Me: Judging from the sound of your voice, you do not approve with his decision.

Xhanti: It is of no matter, my Queen. He is King and hold power to decide on what he wishes for his Kingdom.

Fikile: But you are more wiser, father. Is it not wise for him to still listen to your advise.

Xhanti: Let us put this matter to rest. Talking about it is not going to help any of us. It is just going to anger him when he finds we spoke about him behind his back.

.

We sat and continued to have our morning

feast. Ntsika joined us just as we all were about to finish. Usually Kamva runs to him but not this time. He sat and ate his food and I felt like I am looking at a stranger in the body of my husband. He stood after finishing saying he is going to get ready for the day. Mbaleki walked in and she walked around him in circles while sniffing at his clothing. Usually she licks his feet in joy of seeing him. I knew then that something is truly wrong with my King but what could it be? He went to our chamber to bath. I gave Kamva to mother and followed him. He covered himself as I walked in.

.

Me: Do not bother covering yourself, it is only me.

Ntsika: Is something the matter?

Me: What has gotten into you, my King?

Ntsika: I do not understand.

Me: You have been in a bad mood ever since your return. Father says you were not yourself even during the trading negotiations. Has something happened?

Ntsika: I do not know what you wish for me to say, Ndoniyamanzi.

Me: You shouted at Kamva when he meant no disrespect. He does what he did all the time. Why has he annoyed you now?

Ntsika: It has not been an easy journey. I am angry at myself for messing this deal up because I can see that it is hurting my father. I shall apologise to the prince for saddening him.

Me: Mistakes are made all the time and you are not immune to making them. More similar and better deals are to come. You can not carry the burden of regret forever.

Ntsika: You are right, my Queen.

Me: I have missed you, Ntsika.

Ntsika: I have missed you too.

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I stood and waited for him to give me an embrace but I had no such luck. I moved forward to where he stood and kissed him. Even his kiss is different, it does not have the passion it usually does. Could my King no longer love me? I tried to take off the cloth he had around him but his firm grip stopped me.

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Ntsika: What are you doing, Ndoniyamanzi?

Me: Is it not clear? I wish to be with you.

Ntsika: It is daylight. (I became confused)

Me: I do not understand.

Ntsika: Only loose woman offer themselves to a man in daylight. Those with self respect wait until the sun has gone down.

Me: Are you implying that I am a whore, Ntsika?

Ntsika: I have not spoken such words.

Me: We have been one in flesh during daylight many times and it has been of no bother.

Ntsika: They do things differently from the Kingdom I visited and I think it is a good way to do things.

Me: This is Umhlaba Ochumiley not Bomubuphabili. Have these people fed you something?

Ntsika: Being there have just opened my mind to a lot of things. Why are you always offering yourself to me? Are you addicted to bedroom dealings?

Me: I take offense, Ntsika. The last thing that I wish to do is fight over nothing. I do not like these new behaviours that you have picked up from this trip of yours. I do not care what you do but do not expect me and my son to take it. I am your Queen not some commoner and you are to treat me with respect.

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I walked out and left him to his bath. Who does he think he is? I am never going to offer myself to him again because he is clearly become a selfish bastard. I hate that I love him at this moment. I love him but I do not like the new person he has become. I joined mother outside and she was running after Kamva.

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Me: You are going to break your knees trying to chase him like that (she laughed)

Mother: This boy of yours is to be the end of me. He had something in his hand and would not let me see what. That is why I am chasing him (I laughed)

Me: Let me see what you hide in your hand, Kamva. (he came to me)

Kamva: Nothing, mada (he opened his empty hand)



Me: You are making my mother work for nothing, such a naughty boy (he giggled)

Mother: Zoleka does not do this to me at home. It seems like boys are troublesome indeed.

Me: My apologies, my Queen.

Mother: Do not apologise. I actually find great joy in it (she laughed)

Me: I am guessing that you are to go home soon

Mother: I should, my blossom. Is your husband well, Ndoni?

Me: I do not know.

Mother: He seems like he has a lot going on. He is not himself.

Me: I have noticed, my Queen. (I looked down)

Mother: All is going to be well. Marriage is not always easy. Men hate speaking about things that bother them but he shall speak to you soon

and tell you what is bothering him.

Me: I remain hoping because I do not like him like this.

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We sat there and watched Kamva play. Bantu came to the King and came with little Thando. The language she and Kamva speak is only understood by the two of them. I miss Ntsika so much. I miss him now more than I did when he was still away. My fear is that he is going to force all of us to adapt to the new him. I am trying not to upset myself because I know that it is not good for the child that I am carrying. What poison have those people fed my King? It has made him slimmer and it has also made him a man of ill manners. I sat and tried to think of all the possible things that might have happened on that soil.

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#"Ntsika"

I have never thought that this plan is going to work when I got told about it. I grew up as a commoner when I am indeed a Prince. When the old woman told me that I am a twin to the Prince of Umhlaba Ochumileyo I did not believe it. I was told that because I was born second he was chosen to be kept as future king. I was to be taken to the river and be drowned but it seems someone had mercy on my life. The old lady had a plan of making me take my brother's place and we had started our plan already but she died. She said that my mother, Nande who loved me and never wanted to give me away has been hurt because of Ntsika's bride. The old woman said that Xhanti forced Nande to give me up and I aim to make him pay dearly as well. The old lady also said all my mother wished was for me to replace Ntsika as King and bring her back as Queen Mother but she was killed before that. I never got to meet her

but the old woman told me she spoke about me every time. It shows that she loved me but she did not know that I am still alive. I thought of giving up the plan but I carry hate after I heard what they did to me and my mother. They chose him and wanted me to die so I shall make him feel the pain I have felt all my days of living. I have been stalking them for years with the help of friends. Friends who are now expecting rewards for their help. I had to learn his way of walking, speaking, laughing and all the other details. It took a long time but I finally managed to do it. I had Ntsika taken to be killed and I replaced him. It seems like they all believe that I am him but I just need to keep my temper under control because it seems he was of calm nature. Settling into this life is difficult because this Ndoni disgusts me after hearing what she has done that led to my mother's end. I also despise Xhanti and I shall make him pay for trying to have me killed as an infant. I sat with Xhanti

and Bantu.

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Me: I have something that I need to tell you.

Xhanti: Speak, my King.

Me: I am to take a second wife soon (they both looked shocked)

Bantu: My King, you were the one who told me that you are never going to be a polygamist because it is how many Kings die. You said that not all those wives are to hold a kind heart so you prefer one wife only.

Me: When have I spoke such foolish words?

Bantu: Since we were just young boys.

Me: Well you should have slapped me when I said it. It is only fitting for a King to have many wives.

Xhanti: This has come with shock because your great grandfather was the last to practise

polygamy. The ancestors made his other wives barren and only blessed the womb of the first wife and that is why we have since stopped the practise. What is the use of having many wives who are of no benefit?

Me: Well I can not live according to the fears of many years ago. All the wives that I marry are to be as fruitful as Ndoniyananzi. I have seen mature maidens amongs King Sipho's daughters. Send negotiators to Bomubuphambili at once.

Khanti: It is not to be that simple. You need to get blessings from your Queen and we have to talk to her family first. Why do you risk the great alliance we have with Zwelihle?

Me: I have spoken, let it be done. Surely Xolo knows that an African man is allowed more than one wife.

Babtu: Have you thought about what this is to do to your Queen?

Me: You are advisor of the business of the Kingdom and not of what I do in my private space. Know your place.

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I could see that they have both been caught off guard but I care not. Soon this Queen is going to be fat and I desire her not. I wish for the maiden that I saw in my quest. Xhanti had Ndoniyamanzi called in to tell her the news. She walked in and greeted.

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Ndoni: You have called, father.

Xhanti: I have, dear daughter because we have important things to discuss. First my apologies for this, I do not wish for this to happen. You are to know...

Me: I am taking a second wife soon (I cut him short and her eyes widened)

Ndoni: Why?

Me: Because another maiden has caught my heart.

Ndoni: I shall not give blessings to such!

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She stood in a rush and walked out. She made our way to our chamber and I followed her. I closed the door behind me and locked it.

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Me: I am to take a second wife, whether you like it or not.

Ndoni: Over my dead body! You think that I am to allow such. Your maiden is to regret the day she is to set foot in my house.

Me: Do you not wish to see me happy? Your body is not as it was and I do not wish to see it. That maiden is young and untouched and she makes me desire her! (she started to cry)

Ndoni: You are the one who touched me and made me impure, Ntsika. My body is not the



same because it has carried your heir and is now carrying your second. You are an ungrateful pig! I do not know what this maiden had fed you but it makes me hate you so much. You disgust me, filthy excuse of a man. I thought that you are a kind man but it seems you waited to show your true colours.

Me: You are to speak with me with respect! (I held her by her cheeks aggressively)

Ndoni: Or what? (her beast stretched at the door and I let go)

Me: We shall speak about this once we have calmed. You are to open the door and order your beast to calm.

Ndoni: You have turned into such a coward and I stand shamed to call you my husband. You deserve to have Mbaleki attack you right now but I do not wish for my son to grow up without his father. You had better go and vomit all that poison that you were fed or you stand to lose

everything soon. No second bride is to step foot in this house and you know that without my blessing nothing is to come from it.

Me: We are going to see. I am the King.

Ndoni: Clearly not the kind and sharp minded one that I once knew. You have turned into a dumb fool. The elders only approve a second wife against the wishes of the first when the first one is barren. As you can see barren is one thing that I am not. So like I have said, your desirable maiden is to come here only when my heart beats no longer. Dumb fool of a husband. Gone is the soft Ndoniyamanzi that you met years ago. Your evil family has made me grow a thick skin and I shall not allow you to walk over me.

Me: Get out of my chamber and do not return (I clenched my jaw)

Ndoni: With pleasure, I do not wish to lie next to filth. I do not know you anymore, Ntsika. You

promised to not hurt me but you have been doing so since your return. This maiden must be something special indeed.

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She left me standing there and the anger that I held in me was too much. She ordered her beast to go away. I am to have her chain it up or I will kill it. I have undermined this Ndoni very much. It seems she hold strength in her and it is going to cause trouble for my plans because she is Queen and she hold great power. I have to get a second wife that can carry my heirs. I shall have to find a way to get rid of Ntsika's heirs and start my own bloodline. I can not have this Ndoni stand in my way. She has already noticed that something is not right with "me" and I can not have her find out. Maybe I am truly to make her heart stop beating. She is now the only obstacle standing in my way. I can not have a Queen who tries to outsmart me. I let out a soft scream of anger and frustration. I need to

remember to be kinder because everyone is going to notice that I am an imposter. At least Ndoni thinks that I have been bewitched. What she does not know is that I'm truly just a replica of her husband and I can not let her find out that I am an imposter who has had the real King killed. If anyone finds out, I'm as good as dead even if I am truly a son in this family. The son that was meant to be drowned. The poor commoners that raised me named me Lahliwe (thrown away) because they found me abandoned. I was more of a servant to them than a son. Now I am King of one of the biggest Kingdoms and I shall kill anyone who dares try and take it away from me.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 37 OBJ

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#Ndoni

A big part of me wanted to order Mbaleki to give Ntsika a few scratches for what he is doing to me. How can I hurt him when I still love him so much? He wishes for a second wife but he promised to never turn into a polygamist. My King has turned into a monster and I fear that it might get worse. What could this maiden have given him? I asked Zipho to please care for Kamva until my anger has calmed. I laid in my prince's chamber and mother walked in.

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Me: My Queen, I am useless company at the moment. (I said softly)

Mother: What seems to be the matter, my blossom? I heard the chaos from afar and Kamva got a fright.

Me: He wishes for a second wife, mother. (I started to cry again)

Mother: Oh Ndoni, that is terrible news. What are his reasons?

Me: He said that he no longer desires me and seeks the untouched body of a maiden he saw while on his journey.

Mother: The pig is the one who touched you first and last. How dare he insult you so much? I am to have a word with him at once (she stood and I stopped her)

Me: Leave him, my Queen. If he thinks that I am going to bless their union then he clearly holds no knowledge of who I truly am. I have been like this family's mat for so long but I never thought that Ntsika's feet would also be the ones trying to walk all over me.

Mother: Did he hurt you? (I kept quiet)

Mother: I shall not ask you again, Ndoniyamanzi. (she said in a stern voice)

Me: He showed aggression. He held my jaw so

tightly, I thought it was going to crack.

Mother: Your father is to hear about this at once. I am going to send our guards to Zwelihle because I am not leaving you alone here.

Me: No, father can not know about this. You know that he is sure to break Ntsika's bones.

Mother: We have not honoured this house with you as a daughter only to see you suffer, Ndoni.

Me: I am not suffering. Something is not right with Ntsika. It is my duty as the woman he loves to save him. I suspect that they might have bewitched him.

Mother: Has Shiba not communicated with you?

Me: I have learnt to be patient, mother. She is to communicate when it is needed for her to but I can not wait until then. I have to get the poison they fed my husband out. Permission to have Ncedi come to the Kingdom.

Mother: She has gone with Bukhosi on an important duty, my blossom. Do not fear, we are to think of a plan soon. If he lays his hands on you again, I shall have him pay dearly. You do not need all of this heartache right now, you are carrying a child.

Me: He no longer seems to care about the child I carry nor about Kamva.

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We sat and talked and mother is truly concerned. I do not wish to involve my father yet because I fear his furry. A guard told me that I am needed in the guest chamber because we have guests. This has better not be about Ntsika's maiden. I stood and made my attire proper and left for the other chamber. Ntsika already seated and I felt disgust and pity all at the same time when I look at him. I sat in my chair next to him as he begun. He told me who the guest is and from where he is from.



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Guest: My thanks for allowing me time to speak, my King and Queen. I know that you are truly busy peop...

Ntsika: Get to the point (I looked at him and shook my head)

Guest: Of course, your highness. I have come with a new trading deal business. (Ntsika sat up)

Ntsika: Now you speak my language. What type trading?

Guest: The trade of slaves. (I stood)

Me: Umhlaba Ochumileyo does not trade in human lives. You are not the first to offer this and our answer still remains. We are not slave traders! (I shouted at the man)

Ntsika: It sounds like a good deal to me.

Me: Are you mad? You know how hard we have fought these kinds of deals off. People threatening to burn our Kingdom because we

did not agree but we never changed our minds.  
Why now?

Guest: We are to take the beggars and orphans.  
Surely no one is to miss them.

Me: Do not insult me in my own house! What part of we do not deal in human lives did you not understand. I do not care how what life a person lives but I still say that we do not trade human beings.

Ntsika: My apologies for my Queen's behavior. She is pregnant so she thinks with her emotions and not her mind. We are to think about this deal and meet up with you again.

Me: Trust me when I say that you are not going to meet up again because this deal is not going to happen. Now get out of my house.

Guest: It is sure to bring great wealth to yo...

Me: I said get out of my house before you lose your eye to my cheetah. (he stood and left)

Ntsika: Are you dumb? Did you not hear him speak of great wealth.

Me: I have been fighting this trade for too long to have you mess it up. My people are not going to be prisoners while innocent because of your new found greedy heart.

Ntsika: Must you always go against what I say?

Me: We used to agree on most things because you used to be a man who listened to advise given to him but now you are power hungry. That same curse your brother had and look where he ended up.

Ntsika: Speaking about where he ended up. I do not trust your beast. I have spoken to the elders and you are to chain that demon up in captivity or he is sure to be killed.

Me: Scared that she might rip that cold heart you hold from your chest?

Ntsika: I fear nothing. The royal council has

agreed with me. You let a wild animal watch over our son at night and they do not like it.

Me: The same wild animal that saved the life of their heir many years ago because they failed to.

Ntsika: The choice is yours. Chain her up or see her die. I want it done by sunset.

Me: You are hurting your son, Ntsika. Kamva loves Mbaleki and can not sleep if she is not beside him. Do not do this, I beg of you. Hurt me because I see your heart holds no feelings for me anymore but do not hurt him.

Ntsika: Oh you hold the ability to beg? Well I do not care. All I know is that I wish for that beast to be out of my house one way or another and you are to choose that way by sunset.

Me: My King, what has happened to you?

Ntsika: And you have better approve of the second wife or I am going to get you out of this

Kingdom too, one way or another.

Me: You tricked me into thinking that you are a good man but you hid your true self well. I have never thought I would utter these words to you but I will. I hate you, Ntsika.

Ntsika: Go away and leave me. I have important matters to think about. Like my coming wedding and the slave trade deal.

Me: Both of which you are only to get once I have met my end. Even then I shall haunt you. I am not going to lie down like a dead rotten animal. I am going to fight you.

Ntsika: If making you meet your end is the only way to get what I want then perhaps that is the plan I should consider. I do not want you. Your body, your face and just all of you disgusts me. (I felt a sharp sting in my heart)

Me: Why have you become so cruel?

Ntsika: Because I finally see the whore that you

truly are. Just as my mother did. Is Kamvalesizwe even my heir? He looks nothing like me. (I slapped him)

Me: Do not dare insult me like that again!

Ntsika: I can do as I wish!

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He slapped me so hard that I landed on the floor. Ntsika has never laid a hand on me before and I have never imagined that he would. He left in a hurry and Bantu walked in and helped me up.

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Bantu: Are you well, my Queen?

Me: I am well, warrior. Do not fear. Where is Kamva?

Bantu: Playing with Thando in our home. My apologies for this. I do not know the man who now calls himself my friend.

Me: Excuse me, warrior. My thanks for helping me up on my feet.

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I walked out quickly, almost running because I am holding back tears. I went to Kamva's room and my tears came flooding out. After a long while I woke up with sore eyes. I went to Xhanti to hear about the issue of Mbaleki and he said that it is true. The council have agreed to rid of her, either by captivity or death. I chose neither of those options. I let Kamva play with Mbaleki for the last time and even allowed him to climb on her back without shouting at him. After he was done I walked with her to the royal gate. I knelt to her level and looked into those kind eyes. Tears filled my eyes.

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Me: My apologies lady cheetah. I could not fight for you to stay. I can not let you rot in chains or die because of me. You are now free to go and

be with your kind. You are a skilled hunter so I know you shall service. My thanks for your kind deeds but I have to let you go.

Mother: This is crazy! These people have just spat on the ways of Zwelihle (she said behind me)

Me: I do not wish to fight. Now go, Mbaleki. You are free to go now (she hid her face in my neck and growled)

Mother: She knows only you, Ndoni. To her it feels the same as having her mother reject her. I shall have the guards take her to Zwelihle.

Me: I want her to be free. Go Mbaleki, it is an order!. (I said in a stern voice)

Mother: She is soon to return. I am going back to Zwelihle and I am taking you and Kamva with me. Your father is to know about all of this bad treatment they give to his only Princess. I am not asking you, Ndoniyamanzi. It is an order from your mother.



Me: They shall not allow me to go with their heir.

Mother: Xhanti is wise enough to know that your father is not to be angered. (she left me)

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I watched as Mbaleki slowly moved away from me. She kept on looking back and my heart would feel pain. She looked at me one last time before she ran as fast as she can. My beautiful lady cheetah. I stood and found mother seated with Xhanti, Ntsika and elder. I greeted and sat.

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Mother: I am not going to beat around the bush. I am taking my daughter and grandson with me to Zwelihle.

Elder: They now belong to this family. You have no right to do it.

Mother: Law allows me to. Your son has been hitting my daughter. I am to go with them and tell my husband what is going on here. A child

can not be separated from it's mother so Kamvalesizwe is to go with us. The elders of Zwelihle are to come here with my King and discuss this issue with you all. I have not given birth to my daughter only to have her die in the hands of your coward son.

Xhanti: Is this true, Ntsika? Have you raised your hand to your Queen.? (he looked down)

Ntsika: Anger overtook my body, Father. It is not to happen again. My apologies to my Queen.

Mother: You can give those apologies directly to the King of Zwelihle. In fact we are not the ones who will come to this soil. If he has found his senses again then he is to come to Zwelihle with his people to ask for forgiveness. Do you think we fear you, Ntsika?

Ntsika: No, my Queen.

Elder: What has your daughter done to anger our son so much?

Khanti: Do not answer that question, Nobu. Ntsika holds no right to beat up his Queen. I am allowing you to go with Kamva to the soil of your people, dear daughter. It shall surely teach Ntsika a lesson and we will come to your father to apologise soon.

Me: I have also not given Ntsika my blessings to wed again so there is to be no talk or arrangements of marriage while I am gone. Hopefully I am to return to the old Ntsika.

Mother: It is too late to travel now. We are to leave at sunset. I am shamed to call your son my son in law. He beats his pregnant wife.

Khanti: The Queen carries another child?

Me: I do father but I did not wish for it to be known yet.

Khanti: You dare hit a woman who carries a gift for us? Sies, I am shamed to calk you mine.

Me: Father, I also ask that no big deals be done

until my return. I as Queen need to give input too.

Xhanti: As you wish, my Queen.

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Ntsika stood in anger and left us. I do not care what becomes of him. I went to get Kamva from Zipho and found her feeding them. She gave me food also and we sat and ate. I told her that I am to leave but not the reasons. We finished and I thanked her again and left. I bathed the Prince and tried to put him to sleep but he would just not settle. He kept on crying and saying "Baleki" and it broke my heart. I can not call her back because I do not know what Ntsika is to do while she is here. He finally calmed and slept. I slept next to him and started to cry. How has this happened so quickly? I feel like a stranger is in my husband's body.

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#King Ntsika

I heard plenty of noise around me but I could not open my eyes. I fought to open them and I finally did. My head feels so sore. The man who sat next to me spoke.

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Him: I see you are finally awake.

Me: Where am I?

Him: You are in Bomubuphambili. About to be shipped away with the next slaves in a few weeks.

Me: No, I am no slave. I am the King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I beg of you to help me.

Him: How am I to help you when I fail to help myself?

Me: Why are we in chains?

Him: You are no longer human now, we are now as good as animals that it why. You must have really injured your head badly. You are not a King. You are slave number 159.

Me: No, I am not. How can I meet with the King? He knows me.

Him: Do you think that the King cares about you? You would not be here if he cared about commoners.

Me: I am not a commoner. I am the son of former King Xhanti. Married to Queen Ndoniyamanzi who hails from Zwelihle (he laughed)

Him: You think that I am to believe that you are wed to the daughter of the great King Xolo? He would have sent warriors and beasts a long time ago to free you. Get out of that crazy imagination and accept that you are a slave. A nobody who is about to go to foreign lands to work for free and be beaten until death.

Me: I am not slave. I am the King of Umhlaba Ocgumileyo (I shouted at all looked at me)

Him: Look around brother. You are not surrounded by royalty. You are surrounded by fellow new slaves who wait for a buyer to come get them like you and I. You are sure to go fast because it seems you hold great physical strength to go work for the masters.

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I sat and felt the heavy chain around my neck and I shouted in anger. I remember being in my chamber here as a guest. I was to go to the negotiations but I clearly never made it. I know someone hit my head from behind but I do not remember anything else. I can not be a slave! Surely my entire Kingdom is looking for me. My Queen shall never rest until I am home. Is this the plan of King Siphon? If it is then surely Bantu and father are here too. I have to make these people realise who I am before I get sold to a

slave master. I did not agree to this business because I know the pain it causes. Could it be the people of one of the slave deals I have turned down who did this? I have to find my way back to Ndoni. She must be worried sick about my whereabouts. How am going to tell these people that I am not slave 159 but King Ntsika of Umhlaba Ochumileyo? I shouted in frustration as I listened to the bitter cries of some of the young men I am captured with. I looked at the pain and defeat they clearly are feeling and this is why Ndoni and I have never agreed to be a part of such a dirty business. Now I am not a part of the business, I am the business because I am the product that they are about to trade. I closed my eyes and thought about Ndoni and Kamva and I hope that they are well. I hope she is not captured as well. What is going on?

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi



Insert 38 OBJ

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#Ndoni

I opened my eyes and was greeted by the sleeping Kamva. I can not believe that Ntsika doubts that our son is his. Kamva looks much like him, all he has that resembles me is the big eyes. I kissed his head and remembered that my Prince slept with a broken heart. I stood to get ready for my journey with mother to my home soil. All this news is surely going to anger the King of Zwelihle. I had bathing water be brought in and I started to bath myself. There was a knock on the door and I wrapped a cloth around my body and went to open. It's my mother.

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Mother: Greetings, my child (she kissed my

cheeks)

Me: Greeting, mother. You are dressed already. You must have woken up really early.

Mother: I did because I can not wait to get out of this miserable place.

Me: Kamva has not even opened his eyes yet, my Queen.

Mother: Do not fear, I shall bath him while he is in his slumber.

Me: Is that even possible without waking him? He becomes a grumpy prince when his sleep is disturbed. (she laughed)

Mother: Much like your father. I am not going to disturb him, you shall see. I have gentle hands (we laughed)

Me: I am not going to deny that. I will ask for more warm water.

Mother: Get yourself ready. I am going to have it all done myself so that we can finish quickly.

Me: My heart feels so heavy, mother. Usually Ntsika becomes sad when we go visit Zwelihle but now he does not seem to care. I know that he is no longer the kind man that I know but I love him. He has hurt me so much already. Why can I not force my heart to stop loving him?

Mother: It is not easy to dictate to the heart, my blossom. It is understandable that you still love him because he is the only man your heart has loved and he is the father of your children.

Me: I hear you, my Queen. How do you think father is going to take the news?

Mother: He is not going to be there when we arrive but he is to be back soon. I think you already know how he is going to react.

Me: Let us finish, mother.

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She indeed bathed Kamva without disturbing his slumber. That is a skill that I need to learn

quickly. I packed our attires and were ready to go. Xhanti asked for us to join him in the morning feast. Kamva woke up and we all went to the morning feast.

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Xhanti: Greetings, dear Queens.

Mother: Sunrise greetings, Xhanti.

Me: Greetings, Father.

Xhanti: It saddens my heart that you are to leave us soon.

Me: Ntsika has given me no choice, father. I do not know the stranger that he has become. All of him is different. What happened on that soil?

Xhanti: We were treated well on that soil, my Queen. Bantu is to be witness to that. I think that this maiden he speaks of must truly have a serious hold on him.

Me: Have you seen this maiden?

Xhanti: Sipho has many daughters because he has three wives. I do not know which he speaks of.

Ne: Something happened to my husband on that soil, that I am sure of. I do not know what happened but whatever it is has changed him. He looks thin and my warrior held the body of a man of strength.

Mother: Perhaps they fed him something. We all know that dark magic is a thing that exists. I advice that you take him to see a healer. I am not bringing my daughter back here unless he has changed his ways.

Xhanti: I am going to ask the family healer to come. Perhaps our ancestors are going to be able to shed some light on this matter. If he indeed has been bewitched it is to show soon. I have also noticed that he is different.

Kamva: Mada (I looked at him)

Me: Yes, Kamva.

Kamva: Kamva wants Baleki (my heart sank)

Me: She has gone to hunt for a few days. She is to return once she is very full. Do you understand, my prince? (he nodded)

Mother: Come finish your food so that Mbaleki can find Kamva full. (he smiled)

Kamva: Eat all food.

Khanti: Yes, young prince. I am going to miss him. Is the King not going to join us?

Me: I hold no knowledge of that, father. I do not think he is even bothered by our departure.

Kamva we are going to Zwelihle (I said in a cheerful voice)

Kamva: See more Baleki's (he giggled)

Mother: To him all the cheetah's are Mbaleki (we laughed)

Khanti: You are to send greetings to your other grandfather.

Me: Please excuse me, I am not feeling too well.

Xhanti: Is all well?

Me: It is just the illness that comes with pregnancy, Father. All is well.

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I ran out and made my way to the bushes outside and did my business. How I hate this part of pregnancy! I covered all with soil and went to rinse my mouth. I was walking back to the eating chamber using another entrance and I heard noise. At first I thought that it is the servants who are speaking to each other but I realised it does not sound like speaking. It sounds like the bedroom pleasure sounds and it came from my chamber. I opened the door and found Ntsika having bedroom dealings with one of the young servant maidens. I was so hurt that no sound could come from my mouth. This maiden saw me and jumped up.

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Her: My Queen (Ntsika looked at me)

Me: You are filthy, Ntsika. You get out of my chamber right now!

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I took her by her neck and led her out. She was begging me to not shame her by showing all her nakedness but I did not give a damn. All who were there saw her shame and I led her out of the royal house. Some were laughing, some shocked but I was angry and hurt. I left her there and Zipho came with a few slaps. I did not have time for her I wanted to go face that coward. I walked back to our chamber.

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Me: What have I ever done to you?

Ntsika: You refuse to let me have a second wife that is to satisfy my needs. So I am going to find other ways to do it because you fail to.



Me: You have turned into a dirty bastard.

.

I could see that he was becoming very angry. He was sitting on the bed not saying a word but his jaw is clenching so much you'd swear he is chewing something very sticky. I was feeling so hurt and betrayed by the man I thought loved me. He stood from the bed and he covered himself. Not quick enough because I saw something. He is not circumcised, my husband is circumcised! The shock that went through my body was too much. I knew that I can not tell him that I know. He might kill me and I want to know where my husband is, my real husband.

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Imposter: You are to speak to me with respect!  
(he shouted)

Me: The respect you speak of is to be earned. I will not respect someone who holds no regard for...

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He slapped me before I could finish and I landed on the floor. I stood quickly and he did not give me a chance to run because he held me up and threw me against the wall. So much that I feared my spine might be broken. He wanted to walk to me again but mother came in holding a weapon and cut his arm.

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Mother: You have just made the greatest mistake of your entire life. I am sure to make fire rain on you.

Khanti: What have you done, Ntsika? Do you know the consequences of what you just did? Is it a war you wish for?

Mother: Are you well, Ndoni.

Me: I think I have wet myself.

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I started to cry and she lifted up my dress

slightly. The warm fluid I felt running down my thighs is not urine, it is blood. Mother also started to cry and warrior Bantu came running and lifted me up to another chamber. Zipho came in with a caretaker. Mother told her that I am pregnant and she did her job.

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Her: My apologies, my Queen. Your body was too weak to keep the baby.

Me: Where is Kamva?

Zipho: With Jongile.

Me: I ask that you please have him ready to leave for Zwelihle.

Zipho: As you wish.

Me: Mother I ask that you call in warrior Bantu and caretaker you may excuse us.

Mother: I shall go at once.

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I felt a lot of physical pain but that pain does not compare to the pain I'm feeling emotionally. I am going to kill this man whoever he is but I can not be dumb about it. The elders shall never believe me when I say that he is an imposter. He holds the power of King and the knowledge of where my husband is so I am sure to need my father's help in dealing with this matter. I hold anger for Ntsika because I asked him not to go to that meeting. Look now he has given opportunity to an imposter to access our home. I fear that even he might be dead but I am not going to insult my warrior like that. He is out there and I need father and warrior Bantu's help to find him. Bantu walked in with mother and closed the door.

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Bantu: You have called, my Queen.

Me: My thanks for coming so soon, warrior.  
What I am about to tell you both is to remain

between the three of us. I know that I can trust my mother but can I trust you, warrior?

Bantu: You can, my Queen. I give you my promise.

Me: We hold an imposter. That man in there is not my King.

Bantu: I have been suspecting that, my Queen. This man holds no memories of our childhood nor of our times in battle. When I would ask him he says that he has forgotten. Ntsika is always the one with the sharpest mind and does not forget easily.

Mother: Is it not wise to tell the elders?

Me: You heard what elder asked when we told him that their son beats me. He wanted to know what I had done to their son to make him like that. They are not going to believe me and might even send me to captivity for insanity. We need father's advice on this. Bantu, you are to be our ears and eyes here. He is sure to slip up

and reveal things. I shall not rest until my King returns home whether he is dead or alive.

Mother: Ndoni, let your father deal with this. You need to recover.

Me: I am going to recover once my husband is home. My heart is only to find peace once I have killed this imposter.

Mother: You are no killer.

Me: He killed my child, mother. I am going to make him pay for it but I first need father's resources to find my King.

Bantu: Start where it all begun at Bomubuphambili. Your father's name is feared, my Queen. Have him go and see the King there.

Me: You are right, warrior. I am going to kill all who are involved in this. No one messes with my heart like this. Mother, we are to go at once. Warrior you are to tell us anything that you think might be important, especially the words he

utters when he is drunk.

Bantu: As you wish, my Queen. We are going to find the King and bring him home.

Mother: Rest your body a bit.

Me: I am to rest when that pig that calls himself my husband is dead. We have wasted enough time. Let us go.

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Bantu left us and mother helped me get decent for our journey. I know that I am not to travel in this condition but I can not waste time. The more time I waste the chances of finding my Ntsika are slim. Where are you my King? This imposter had more guards surrounding his damn coward. Mother, Kamva and I left for Zwelihle. It feels as if someone stabbed my heart and let it bleed from inside. Ntsika is to come home to the bad news and I know that it is going to break his heart. I am going to search all of Bomubuphambili even if I have to take all

the warriors of Zwelihle with me. Surely someone has seen something suspicious. Mother looked at me with concern the entire way. I just kept silent because I am trying to think of a solid plan. Where are you, my King? Please just give me a sign that your heart still beats wherever you are. Tears rolled down my cheeks and I wiped them off quickly.

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#Ntsika

Our captives took off the chains to let us go and work on the farms. We have been here all day without food or water. The sun is burning our skins so much. A guard came and I stopped working.

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Guard: Who gave you permission to stop



working? (he shouted)

Me: You are to watch your tone when you speak to me!

Guard: Or else what, slave? (he hit me with a stick on my back)

Me: Come down from that horse and fight me like a real man, coward. I am going to kill you with my bare hands. I am not going to continue with your filthy work until you give us water to drink. (I sat down)

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I could see that I have angered him a lot so much so that I felt more blows hit my back. Another guard came and stopped him.

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Guard 2: Are you crazy? You know that we are not to harm the strong ones. They still need to do the other job. (he shouted)

Guard 1: He is to be taught manners. I have

never met such a disrespectful slave.

Me: That is because you are not standing before a slave. I am a King and once my people find me you are going to pay for this treatment. I am not going to do another job for you.

Guard 2: Do not worry, you are sure to enjoy this job (he laughed)

Me: I demand water for me and all these people. While you are at it, I demand to see your King (they laughed)

Guard1: The only thing you are to achieve from this behavior of yours is have yourself killed or sold quicker.

Guard 2: Give them water before they collapse. We can not have that or we are sure to be in trouble.

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They indeed gave us water and pieces of bread. My back is sore but not too much. All the ones

that looked great in physical strength were chained up once again, myself included. The chains ran from our necks, to the hands all the way to our feet. They indeed are heavy. We were given water to bath and were told that we are to do our next job. I was so confused as to what it is. We were taken to tents. Each to a separate one. I entered and found a grass mat in the center and was ordered to go in and wait. I sat and a maiden walked in.

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Her: Greetings, my name is Nosandiso. I am assigned to you.

Me: I do not understand, my lady. Assigned to do what?

Her: You have shown great physical strength and that has made them choose you to impregnate me. All children born here are to be slaves and they choose strong men to pass on that gene to the next generation of slaves.

Me: Are you telling me that I am expecting to sleep with you so you can carry my child? A child that is to be deemed a slave the second it is born.

Her: We are going to get into deep trouble when we do not do it.

Me: I would rather they torture me to death than do it. I am not a slave. I am the King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I am not going to hurt my Queen by bringing illegitimate children to our house. Get dressed and leave, my lady.

Her: I do not wish to do this either because my heart belongs to someone else but we are never to get out of here.

Me: I am sure going to get out of here.

Her: I have a plan to help us both. Let us pretend like we are doing it. Make all the right noises to let them think that we are doing it.

Me: I care not what you do but I am telling you

that no seed of mine is to enter your body.

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She looked at me disappointed. I decided to go along with her plan and pretended to be one with this maiden. It is the most degrading thing that I have ever been asked to do. I do not care if they kill me if they find out. I desire no other lady and especially not in these disgusting circumstances. My body betrayed me because mkhonto reacted to seeing her naked body but I did not give in to it all. She wet the cloth that was in the tent to make it seem as if she had to use it to make us decent again.

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Me: I ask that you do not become offended by my rejection, my lady. You are of true beauty but I already have my Queen at home. She holds my heart. She is truly beautiful with big innocent eyes that make me weak. Skin that is as sweet and smooth as honey and a scent that I am

truly addicted to.

Her: I take no offense. You must truly love her.  
(I smiled)

Me: My heart beats for my Ndoni. She carries our second child and I am going to make sure that I am home by the time she has to give birth. I am going to fight until I get out of this place so I can be with my wife and son.

Her: Congratulations on your second child. Are you truly a King?

Me: Yes, but I can not prove it because no one believes me. My people are to come very soon.

Her: I ask that you please free me as well, my King. I have left my very old grandmother alone and I am worried sick about her. I ask that you have me freed once your people come for you.

Me: We are to be free soon, my lady. I promise you. (the curtain opened)

Guard: Are you two plotting an escape?

Her: No, we are just trying to get to know each other since we are to spend more time together.

Guard: Do not take me for a fool. I have heard what you just said about being free. (he slapped her)

Me: You dare raise a hand on a lady, bloody coward.

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I shouted and went for him. I punched him multiple times until his face and my fists were covered in blood. I felt people pull at me and putting the chains back on. They dragged me to open ground and they all hit me at once. Each blow stung because I only wore the cloth wrapped around my waist. Bunch of cowards can not fight me fairly without these chains. I am going to make the whole lot pay. They beat me up and put me in a cold chamber by myself. I thought of Ndoni and feared that she might also be captured and is to be used at a breeding

machine of young slaves soon. Why have I not seen father and Bantu? What if they have been killed? Why has no one come for me yet? It can only be because they are captured or killed. I felt a sharp sting in my heart as I thought of those two possibilities. I can not die, not before I know where my Queen, Prince and family is. I have to speak to King Siphosomwele somehow. I know that they are not going to kill me because I am a "quality slave" sure to bring in good rewards. I have to find a way home before the buyers set foot on this soil because once I'm sold, I am never going to be able to prove my true identity. I am sure to be slave forever if I do not find a way out. I ask for my ancestors to keep me safe and alive until I go home. Even if it is just to see Ndoniyamanzi and Kamva one more time and also to meet our unborn child.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi



Insert 39 OBJ

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#Lahliwe

Days have gone by since my brother's bride has left this house. Suddenly the air I breathe feel more fresher. I am still planning to get rid of her soon. I have already gotten rid of the unborn heir she carried and soon I am going to get rid of the one who lives. I can not allow Ntsika's bloodline to be future King. I am in my chamber with a maiden servant. Never in my life have so many maidens allowed me to have them. The door flung open and we jumped up.

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Xhanti: I am sick of your behavior, Ntsika! (he shouted)

Me: I demand that you at least show me the respect that I deserve. This is my private chamber!

Xhanti: You are busy being a whore of a man while you neglect the business of your Kingdom. You have let Ndoniyamanzi go and I promise you that you are never to find such a lady again. You have killed your own child! You have now gone too far.

Me: I am King and I can go as far as I wish. Ndoni is a woman who tries to outsmart her own husband. She is to blame for losing that child because her attitude angered me.

Xhanti: Her independent mind is one of the things that have captured you in the first place. You used to love how she is.

Ntsika: Well the maiden I have made a promise to does not back talk when I speak. She has been taught to be submissive as a woman is expected to.

Xhanti: You were lucky to find a Queen who is smart, kind, love and respectful. A combination you are never going to find again. Most men

beg their ancestors for such a lady but never find such luck. You do not know the mess you have caused. Xolo is not going to take this lying down. Do you remember how he almost made you meet your end? Next time you are sure not to be kucky because you have angered the one person who was able to protect you from him. If I have to give you up to prevent a war with Zwelihle then I am sure going to.

Me: You are willing to give up your own son to be killed to save this Kingdom?

Xhanti: You are not my son. My son is wise and does not make foolish decisions. My son would not beat up his wife ever, especially while she carried his child. I do not know what that maiden has done to you but I am to find out today. Get dressed because the healer is going to be here soon. Stop sticking your manhood in every maiden in this Kingdom and do as expected of you. Be the King of this soil or risk having your title stripped.

Me: Is that a threat?

Xhanti: It is a promise. You undermine the power that I still hold in this Kingdom. Get dressed at once.

Me: I am not going to meet up with your healer only to have you bewitch me. Now get out of my chamber at once.

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He left and closed the chamber door. I let out a shout in frustration and felt this maiden's soft hand around my neck and calmed. I became one with her again and again. Xhanti needs to be dealt with. He is right, he holds power to dethrone me. All he needs is enough votes from the royal council. It seems my anger is more of a problem than I realised. Soon many are going to wonder where the sudden short temper comes from. I have not given much attention to the Kingdom's businesses because I fail to understand how it all works and I can not ask

for help either because they know the real Ntsika holds great knowledge of everything. I got told that I have a guest and it is an important one. I got up and got dressed. I went to the guest chamber and almost got a fright. It is the Prince of Bomubuphambili, Ngxaki (Trouble).

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Me: What are you doing here?

Ngxaki: I have been waiting for you to bring your end of the deal, Lahliwe.

Me: Do not call me by that name. The walls have ears. Do you wish for someone to hear you?

Ngxaki: Look if you do not stick to the deal then I am going to stand on the highest mountain and tell all who you truly are. I only agreed to help you with this plan of yours because you promised me slaves once you are King.

Me: Do you think that I hold knowledge of that? I know I stand here as Ntsika's replacement because of your help. I wish to remain and steal his identity forever so I shall not disappoint you.

Ngxaki: Why have I not had my slaves, "Ntsika".?

Me: It seems like he was against this idea so his Queen has been making it difficult to for me to approve the deal.

Ngxaki: You let yourself be dictated by a woman? A powerless woman?

Me: She has great power here, her husband made sure of that.

Ngxaki: Well you are her husband now so make sure that this happens. Do you know the wealth I am losing because of you? If my father finds out I have helped you rid of the real King, I am sure going to die. I wish for you to remain King as much as you do because it is going to help us both stay alive. No one is to ever find out

about this.

Me: You are not to come here again. What have you done with the real King? I hope you have killed him.

Ngxaki: Do not worry yourself about that. He is never going to bother us again. I am to send negotiators once again and this time you are to approve the deal. Are we clear Lahliwe?

Me: Do not call me that? (I shouted in anger)

Ngxaki: You are to speak to me with respect! I hold power to destroy you.

Me: If you destroy me, you destroy yourself. You are sure to pay the price if your father finds out that you run a secret slave trade right under his nose.

Ngxaki: And the puppy learns how to bark. You bark does not scare me, Lahliwe. Do not dare get on my wrong side! Say yes to the trade in the next meeting and give me my slaves. I have

passed a nice orphanage full of maidens on my way here. I do not hold enough slave maidens and I am sure to have my pick there once you given the agreement. (there was fiddling at the door)

Me: Go before anyone sees you here.

Ngxaki: Fear not, coward. Your father saw us together at my soil when you visited. To him I am a dear friend of yours and I am a guest for a day or two.

Me: Dare not raise any suspicions. Stop calling me Lahliwe. I am now King Ntsika of this soil (he laughed)

Ngxaki: You wish but I will let you believe it because I need you in power. I have met the real King and you still have a long way to being like him.

Me: Do not insult me.

Ngxaki: Just reward me with what I want. Do



you have any idea how difficult it was to make this plan a reality for you? I had to convince my father, in fact beg him to invite Umhlaba for the salt deal because he wanted our Kingdom to do it alone then you spat in his face by refusing it due to your gutter greed. You are to make up for it by marrying one of my sisters. I am the son of the third wife so my sister and I are not seen as truly important. If she marries into such a strong Kingdom she is sure to get the respect she deserves. I want all of it done soon.

Me: I am going to ensure that it is done.

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It seems even this Ngxaki is going to be a problem. He is the only one who knows my true secret and I fear he is going to misuse that power. His sister is not even beautiful but I do not have a choice. Xhanti seems to like Ngxaki, if only he knew what an evil man he truly is. They have both walked the royal grounds as

Xhanti asked for Ngxaki to give apologies for turning down the deal once again. I soon have to learn how to be a King who brings business in for the Kingdom and keep it prosperous. I do not know how I am to do that because I can not read properly. I also have to go to Zwelihle and ask for fake forgiveness because I feel no remorse for what I have done.

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#King Ntsika

I was working in the hot son once again and today I decided to stay out of trouble. I have tried to beg the guards to allow me to see the King but I have been failing. The maiden I am meant to impregnate has been asking me about when we are leaving non stop. I fear that she is going to think that I am lying to her and end up telling the guards that I have not had her all this

time. The gentleman that spoke to me when I first woke up worked closer to me.

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Him: Do you still wish to escape? (he whispered)

Me: Pardon?

Him: Do you still wish to escape or not?

Me: My plan was to meet the King and have him known what his people have done to me.

Him: Stop being a fool! Come from your imaginative royal fantasies. We are slaves and I have a plan to get away.

Me: Do we not risk getting caught and being killed?.

Him: Slavery is no luxury. I would rather risk dying on my ancestors soil then in the hands of a master in foreign land. Are you to come or not?

Guard: Why are the two of you whispering like witches at night?

Me: You are sure to know how witches whisper at night because your mother must be one (I looked at him intensely)

Guard: You are lucky to be one of the "good quality" slaves or I would have killed you right now.

Me: I dare you to put down your weapons and come off that horse you use as a shield. Come use your fists and fight me like a man. We shall then see who is to die. (he clenched his jaw in anger)

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We looked at each other intensely and he broke the eyes contact and let his horse move forward. The coward ness of these men! The man spoke to me again.

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Him: Are you crazy? We can not escape with you if you bring too much attention to yourself.

Me: My apologies. I am going to go with you but I have promised a maiden to free her as well.

Him: Maidens are only going to slow us down. You are to break that promise. I have gone to all the strong looking men with this plan. Some are warriors captured in defeated battles so it is sure going to work.

Me: What is this clever plan of yours?

Him: They only tie us up in chains at sunset and there are not so many guards. We are to overpower the guards before they get a chance to chain us up.

Me: What about the guards outside of this area? Surely there are to be more outside.

Him: Someone from this Kingdom is going to escape with us. He knows the way out of this place. Are you coming with us?

Me: Are you to get me to Umhlaba Ochumileyo?

Him: No, once we are in the field we go our separate ways.

Me: Okay, I am coming with you.

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We worked and worked and they gave us water once today. I hoped to speak to the King but it seems like I am to have no such luck so escaping is my only way out. I feel bad for the maiden that I have made a promise to but I need to take any opportunity that is going to come my way.

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We finished our day's work and as usual and it was time for us to be chained up once again. I looked at all the men that I am in cahoots with and we all gave each other a nodding signal. I got on the horse and tried to overpower the man on it, we both fell because the horse panicked and moved around. I took his weapon and pierced his stomach with it. Many of the

other men did the same thing but something unexpected happened. They released wild dogs on us as we tried to run away. I could hear some of the men cry out in agony as I used my new found weapon to scare these creatures away. One attacked me from behind and it made me lose balance and I fell to the ground. I did not give up even if it's teeth sliced my skin. How can I give up when I have a pregnant wife and son to go home to? I managed to run away into the open field. So far my ancestors have kept me safe and enabled me to get away. I ran not even knowing the direction that I am running to. I heard a strong deep voice call my name. It did not say slave 159, it actually said Ntsika! I looked back and was too far to see who it is. I feared going back because I might die if I was to return but a strong feeling that I felt told me that I must run back. I know that it is my ancestors giving me a sign. Suddenly I saw a cheetah approach from afar. Could my

Queen have found me? I ran back not knowing if I am running to my death or to safety. As I went back I saw the King of Zwelihle. I crumbled to the grass as he came running to me.

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Xolo: You are safe now, son. You are bleeding so much.

Me: I am well, my King. Is Ndoniyamanzi and Kamva safe?

Xolo: You have an imposter in your home, Ntsika. It seems there is a person who looks like and has been trying to be you. Do not fear, Ndoni and Kamva are in Zwelihle. We now have to go and get that imposter out of your sear before he does any damage.

Sipho: King Ntsika, allow me to extend my apologies. I do not know how my son managed to keep this secret. I held no knowledge of this, I give you my promise.



Xolo: We are to deal with this another time. I am not going to take this lightly, Siphso. Your son had my son held captive.

Siphso: I am sure Ngxaki held no knowledge of this imposter's plan. The only thing he is guilty of is having a secret slave trade.

Me: All who have been captured with me are to be returned to their home soils. I am not asking you.

Siphso: Anything to avoid a war with Umhlaba Ochumileyo and Zwelihle. I am going to have them transported out to their soils.

Xolo: Come, I knew you might be injured so I have come with Ncedi. She is going to tend to your wounds while we take you to Ndoni. She is worried sick.

Me: My thanks again for this, father.

Xolo: It is your wife you need to thank. She saw that the stranger in the house is not you and

acted quickly.

Me: First take me to my soil to rid my Kingdom of this imposter. I fear my father's life might be in danger. Ndoni and Kamva are surely in good hands in Zwelihle.

Xolo: We are to go to Umhlaba Ocgumileyo then. Siphso this is not the end of this! You and your people are going to pay for this. If you say that you are not responsible for this then I am going to give you time to give me the person who is. I am to return here and I want answers or you are to regret this dearly.

Siphso: You are to come to answers, I give you my promise.

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Xolo helped me up and my body is in so much pain. I have to return to my soil soon. I do not know what the agenda of this imposter is. I can not risk having my family killed. I am glad that Ndoni and Kamva are not in that house. I have

to thank my wife dearly. If she did not notice that he is not me so soon I might have been sold. The other captured people thanked me and apologised for not believing me. I had the maidens freed too. I am sure that most are pregnant already and I am glad that I never slept with that maiden. King Siphos better has answers on our next return because I am not going to rest until whoever did this pays. I asked for King Xolo to have the horses pick up speed so we can reach my soil soon. Ncedi was busy tending to my bite and scratch wounds. I am just happy to be a free man once again. I asked King Xolo if Ndoni is all well he said yes but he looks like he is hiding something. I am going to deal with this imposter and get my wife and son back to where they belong.

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#Ndoni

I have asked one of the warriors of Zwelihle to teach me basic weapon skills in a day. I have not yet perfected it but it shall have to do for my plan. The physical pain of losing my baby is not so bad anymore but I still get pain in my lower belly. I have lied to mother and said I am going to sleep a few days ago but what I really did was sneak off to Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I am going to kill that man who pretends to be my husband. The hate that I feel for him for killing my unborn child has turned me into something that I never thought I would be. I waited like a thief until it was dark and I made my way back to the royal house. The guards know their Queen so I had no problem going in. All I was waiting for was for the imposter to sleep. I entered his chamber and he snored so loudly I felt disgusted. I tied his hands gently just as the warrior taught me. I took the blades of Zwelihle and he opened his eyes, clearly shocked)

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Me: You make a single sound and you are going to feel just how sharp this blade is. Where is my husband? (I whispered)

Imposter: My Queen, have you been bewitched? I am your husband.

Me: You sure look a lot like him but you are never going to be even half the man that he is. Now answer me. Where is my husband?

Imposter: You are to be killed for killing your King

Me: Do you think I hold no knowledge of that? You have already killed a part of me when you beat my unborn child out of me. (I stuck the blade a little and he started to bleed a bit)

Imposter: Okay, stop. I beg of you to not slit my throat. I am also a victim here. I am your husband's t...

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The door flung open and a stranger came in and

he started to give alert and I took the blade and stuck it in this imposter. The stranger ran to untie him and it seems that I have missed his heart. I felt someone pull at me and held me tight. It is the guards. Jongi came running in.

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Stranger: She has stabbed the King. I have seen it with my own eyes.

Jongi: King Ntsika, are you well?

Imposter: I want her killed for this. She is to get the punishment of death for doing something like this. Get the caretaker, I am bleeding to death.

Jongi: Dear Queen, what has gotten into you? Are you guilty of this?.

Me: He is not my husband! That man that is on that bed is not my husband! Jongi, Ntsika is circumcised and that man that sits there is not! You can go check for yourself if you do not

believe me. Call father he is going to be the one who agrees with me because he knows his son.

Jongi: He is away on royal duties.

Imposter: Take her to captivity. She is clearly insane. Send word out to Zwelihle and tell them that their daughter is to be put to death soon. I am not going to reveal my nakedness and be shamed.

Me: Call warrior Bantu. He went to initiation school with Ntsika. He shall tell you that my husband, my real husband does not have a foreskin.

Imposter: Go and get that Bantu. Clearly he is in cahoots with the evil Queen! Take him to captivity too. Guards take her to captivity. I shall let the elders know that she has plotted to kill the King. I want her killed.

Me: We hold trials here, fool. I do not know where you come from but I can tell you this. My King is on his way! I can feel him. You leave

Bantu out of this. I am the one who wants you dead and he has nothing to do with it.

Imposter: Your King is going to find you dead! I am the King. Who do you think they will believe. A bitter wife who would rather kill me than see me take another wife? You are clearly crazy and I do not know why I married you. Do not forget that I have a witness to all of this. Take her away from my sight. I am ashamed to call her my wife and mother of my son. (I laughed)

Me: You are going to die soon. Even if I am dead but I know that you are sure to follow in the most painful manner ever. I do not regret all of this. All I regret is missing your cold heart.

Imposter: I can not believe that I have been married to such a cruel woman. Jongi you also stand witness of how she feels no guilt about this. You are going to pay a heavy price for this. I can not believe that I loved you, Ndoniyamanzi (I spat on him and he slapped me)



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The guards took me away violently and I know that begging is not going to help. How sad that Xhanti is away on business! I wished for him to back me up and now I have put Bantu in danger too. I know that the council is going to find me guilty because they are going to favour "Ntsika". I also know that I am to die the same way I wished to have the "King" die. Shiba is also quiet and I have learnt to not rush her. If it is a part of my destiny she is going to allow it. If dying like this is a part of that destiny she can not intervene. She has not intervened yet so I guess it is all happening as it should. Perhaps Ntsika has died and fate knows that I will not be able to live without him. I know that a war is sure to follow after my death because my father is not going to let it go. Mother is most probably on her way with warriors already. I laughed at that thought. The guards threw me into the chamber of captivity. It reeked of urine and the

ground is muddy. It is so dark in here but I felt no fear. I am still to kill that imposter because even if I die he is to pay for my death. Zwelihle is sure to avenge it's Princess. I sat and hoped that father comes with Ntsika before they make me meet my end. Even if it is to just see him once. I miss him very much.

[03/02, 16:48] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 40 OBJ

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#Lahliwe

Two days have passed since that whore stabbed me. If Ngxaki had not entered when he did I know she would have killed me. Ntsika chose a crazy wife and I am going to have her killed by sunset. I sat with Ngxaki who is also nagging me to annoyance.

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Ngxaki: You need to have that woman killed m.

Me: Do you think that I do not realise that? She knows that I am not her husband.

Ngxaki: Why have you been so careless? I told you before that the real King went to the mountain as a young boy for his initiation. If you had allowed my people to cut that skin off your manhood then we would not be in this situation.

Me: I have seen boys go to the mountain never to return. I was not about to send myself to my death.

Ngxaki: Now look where your coward behavior has gotten us. I want my slaves, Lahliwe. I have not risked my title as Prince for nothing. I refuse to allow you to get between me and great wealth. You should have treated this woman with kindness as her husband did and she would not have had reason to suspect so soon. Pathetic excuse of a person, I wonder if you

even are a son of royalty.

Me: Directing your insults at me is not going to help either of us move forward. I hope that you killed Ntsika because his wife keeps on saying he is on his way.

Ngxaki: He is long gone by now. I have shipped him to foreign lands as a slave. Did you not say that you wanted to make him suffer for the rest of his days just as you did while growing up?

Me: I did and you are right. Death would have been too quick and kind. The slave masters are going to work and beat him to death. A slow agonising death because he shall wake up everyday wishing that he was dead. Why did I not think about that?

Ngxaki: Because you hold the mind of a fool. I am keeping Xhanti hostage in the underground chamber as you have asked. I had to wait for him to return from his trip and took him before he reached his bride. He was going to demand

you to show your nakedness.

Me: I want him to be killed. The elder seems to believe my story about their Queen having gone crazy. Foolish old man!

Ngxaki: Xhanti's wife is not exactly the most brightest either (we laughed)

Me: The bright one is in captivity for insanity and attempting to kill the King. I shall have Bantu be executed with her because he knows plenty about Ntsika. They have been friends since they were just boys.

Ngxaki: Do as you must but I just want my slaves. I have to return back to my soil because I lied to my father about my whereabouts.

Me: Are you certain that Ntsika has gone already?

Ngxaki: Do I look stupid?

Me: Excuse me. I have to meet with the family for the morning feast. Are you going to join us?

Ngxaki: I prefer going into the villages to see where the potential slaves are. So that once you have agreed to a slaves trade I shall know where to start first.

Me: Do as you wish but you are not to abduct any people. Wait until I give you the go ahead.

Ngxaki: Be quick about it.

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He left me standing there wondering who is really in charge between the two of us. It seems we are going to have many obstacles in this business partnership that we have. I walked to the eating chamber and found Fikile and Jongi seated.

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Me: Greetings (I sat down)

Jongi: Greetings, my King. When is your father expected to be back?

Me: It seems the business he left for is taking

longer than expected.

Fikile: I am happy that father is not here. What if the Queen had tried to kill him too? Insane people do many things that are not kind.

Me: I can not believe that she hid her crazy nature from me. Clearly my mother was right about her. She saw something in Ndoni that we did not and that is why she wanted to rid if the girl so much.

Jongi: I have never expected Ndoni to be a killer, ever!

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We sat and we ate and it seems that they still believe that I am Ntsika. We sat peacefully when we heard chaotic noise. Nobu walked in shouting.

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Nobu: Where is my daughter (she pointed at me)

Guard: We tried to stop her but she would not

back down.

Me: This is not Zwelihle, my Queen. You are in the royal house of Umhl...

Nobu: Do not test me, coward. I have asked you where my child is. (she cut me short)

Me: She is in captivity.

Nobu: What have you done to my child? (she slapped me and I stood)

Me: You are to show some respect! (she stepped closer to my face)

Nobu: I do not fear you!

Jongi: Let us all calm. Queen Nobu, your daughter is in captivity for attempting to kill the King.

Nobu: This thing you call a King is an imposter!

Me: Clearly your daughter gets her insanity from her mother (I laughed)

Nobu: You are going to die at sunset.



Me: Your child is the one who is going to die at sunset. Good thing you are here to bid your farewells. Take her to captivity to see her crazy daughter before she meets her end.

Nobu: Enjoy this while it lasts, devil.

Me: Do not leave their sight. She might help her ugly daughter to escape.

Nobu: Ugly is your mother. (she spat on my face)

Me: Take this old whore away!

Guards: As you wish.

Nobu: I can walk by myself. You dare touch me you are sure to wake up with no hands tomorrow. (they left)

Fikile: Such disrespect!

Jongi: Keep out of adult business.

Me: What she speaks is correct. Clearly the people of Zwelihle are ill mannered.

Jongi: Any mother would have been upset if her

child is held in captivity, even if the child is guilty.

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I no longer had an appetite for the food. I had the servant maiden who satisfies my manly needs come to me. I need something that is going to calm me down and holding the tender breasts of a woman is going to do that perfectly. I am to go to the council meeting for Ndoni's crime soon and I hope that Ngxaki returns in time to be witness. I shall have to have Xhanti strangled to death by sunset. Eliminate all the enemies so that I can finally be Ntsika without any threats.

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#Ndoni

I have slowly been losing hope in this dark smelly chamber. Perhaps it is time that I accept

my fate. Clearly Ntsika is not going to be found. I am filthy because I have not bathed since my captivity but I am about to die so why must I be clean for that. I heard someone call my name and I jumped up from the muddy floor. It is my mother's voice and my heart held hope.

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Mother: Ndoniyamanzi!

Me: I am in here, mother. Have them give you a lamp because it is dark in here.

Mother: Wait I am going to be back right now.

Me: I am not going anywhere, do not fear (I laughed softly and she appeared holding a lamp)

Mother: Oh my child. What have they done to you, Ndoniyamanzi? Why is your dress bloody?

Me: It is from my monthly cycle, mother. They are not allowing me to bath. I am not hurt, do not worry. (she started to cry)

Mother: Why have you come back here without

your father, my blossom. I went to your chamber and did not find you. We searched the entire Zwelihle and I knew you might be here when we could not find you.

Me: I wanted to kill him, mother. He killed my child and possibly even my husband. The pain I am feeling inside is too great. I can not even cry anymore. A part of me died when the caretaker told me that I had lost my unborn baby and I fear that I am never going to fill this void ever again. All because of that imposter. I am angry at Ntsika too because I begged him to not go on this trip.

Mother: Ndoni, I know that you are hurting, my blossom and I am sorry. I wish that I could take all the pain from your heart but I can not. Ntsika held no knowledge of what was going to happen.

Me: I miss him so much. He might be dead by now.

Mother: No, we are not going to think like that. He is going to come soon and get you out of here.

Me: I am going to die by sunset, mother. The royal council of this place is clearly full of fools. Can you believe that they say I am insane? (I laughed in disbelief)

Guard: Time to go now.

Nobu: You do not dare put your filthy hands on me.

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He did not listen so she broke the oil lamp on him and he caught fire. His screams filled the chamber and he rolled down on the mud. The other guards took a hold of her, opened the chamber I'm in and threw her inside.

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Me: You are going to pay for this. My Queen, are you well?

Mother: I am well. I wish I had burnt that imposter instead. (we laughed)

Me: Then we would both be waiting death for killing a pig.

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Mother and I sat and we did not talk much. She told me that Kamva was crying wanting to see me. It breaks my heart that he suddenly has to adapt to situations he hardly even understands. A guard came and violently took me out of my cell. Mother tried to hold on to me but failed. I knew that I am to stand before the council of fools. I entered where they were and saw the imposter with a devilish smile on his face.

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Elder: My Queen, you hold knowledge of the crime that you have committed. Are you guilty of this hideous crime.

Me: I am not guilty of trying to kill...

Imposter: She is guilty and I have witnesses! (he cut me short)

Me: Let me finish because until you I am not a coward who beats pregnant women. As I was saying before this devil interrupted me.

Imposter: I take offense, elder!

Elder: Refer to your King by his rightful title.

Me: The devil that sits there is not my husband. Yes, I am guilty of trying to kill that thing that sits there and if I could turn back time I would do it again. The only thing I would do differently is to stab his heart over and over again until I know that it does not beat anymore. You all are going to die in the hands of that thing and you are going to remember my words.

Elder: Is that a threat?

Me: It is a promise, elder. Ask him to reveal his manhood to you. My husband is circumcised and that thing that sits there is not.

Imposter: Do you want me to be shamed? I am not going to degrade myself by showing you my nakedness.

Me: Elder you and all these people are a bunch of fool.

Elder: Show some respect!

Me: I show respect to that who respect me in return. You are all fool and we know that fools die quick. He is an imposter and he is going to lead your ancestors Kingdom to nothing. Fools, fools, fools.

Elder: I am not going to listen to your insults anymore. We thought we are getting a proper bride for our son but clearly not. You tried to kill your own husband. Maybe you even killed your own unborn child by drinking remedies. (a sharp sting hit my heart)

Me: Have you asked yourself where my father in law is? Who knows what this thing has done to him. He is going to kill all of you.



Imposter: Father is away on business. (I laughed loudly)

Elder: She truly is insane and I will not stand for it. You are now stripped from your title as Queen. You are to die by the same fate that you have wished for the King. You ar...

Me: Spare me all the details. Strip me of Queen of this soil, I care not. You are to send my body to Zwelihle with my mother. I am going to be buried with my people as a Princess.

Imposter: You are to be buried here as a commoner.

Me: Elder, I am going to make sure that my last words is to curse this soil. Your soil is to go dry after that and your Kingdom is sure to die. Have a ruling made that I be taken to Zwelihle to be buried there. (I looked at him intensely)

Elder: You are to go back to your soil once you have met your end. They shall take you to your place of eternal sleep. I give you my promise

just do not curse this soil.

Me: Now have the Queen of Zwelihle released at once.

Elder: It shall be done.

Imposter: I ask for privacy with my soon to be dead wife. She has pained me but I still love her and wish to bid my final farewells.

Elder: As you wish, my King. May your soul find rest, child.

Me: May your life find peace once my husband returns, fools.

Elder: Insanity (I laughed loudly and they left in shock)

Imposter: Oh you have made my job easier. I wanted to kill you but now I don't have to because you have led yourself to your death.

Me: You think that I fear death? I would rather die a slow agonising death a hundred times over then remain in this house as your Queen.

You wish you were like my husband. He is no coward and you are the King of cowards. A pathetic man who would rather live under the shadow of another man rather than make his own mark in the world.

Imposter: He did not show so much strength when I took him and turned him into a slave. Yes, he is now the property of a ruthless slave master. He is going to wish for death for all his remaining days on this life.

Me: Are you certain? Maybe you would have done that but not my warrior. I am not going to insult him by not believing in his abilities to return home. He is going to return. (I laughed once again and it angered him)

Imposter: Stop laughing you crazy whore! (he slapped me)

Me: Your slaps are now starting to feel like those of a little boy.

Imposter: Get her out of here. I shall see her

once she has met her end. Filthy whore just look at you.

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They took me away once and I gave him one last kick in the face as the guards held me by my arms. I do not know where this new found confidence comes from because I am going to die soon. I wish I could give Kamva one last kiss. They let my mother go and she could not stop weeping. She knows that starting a mini war with the guards she came with is only going to mean death. I sat in the dark chamber and begged Shiba to talk to me. I heard a voice saying "It is all as it should be. You have gain strength, child". I have thought as much she is not going to help if it is a part of my destiny. I guess I am going to the grave with my new strength. Hours passed and the guards came to get me. I am to be taken to the hill of execution and die by spear. I started to cry uncontrollably as we walked but not out of fear for death but

rather the way I am to meet this death. I am to die never knowing where Ntsika truly is. They did not allow mother to go up with me. They are only going to allow her to see me once it is time for her to get my lifeless body. The fact that I am to be buried in Zwelihle brings me peace because I do not wish to rest on this soil. I wiped of my tears and calmed myself. I am not going to meet my end in tears like a coward.

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#Ntsika

We have been on the road non stop. I have asked for us not to stop because it would cause delays. I do not wish to be too late. We have finally made our way onto the soil of my people. We entered the royal grounds and it seems chaotic. Could something have happened to father? I got off the slow moving carriage and ran inside.

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Xolo: Ntsika, you are going to injure yourself more.

Me: Something has happened, my King. I can not care about myself right now. Father might be in danger.

Zipho: You are an evil man, my King. I held such respect for you but I no longer do. You have let my husband be kept in those filthy chamber for doing nothing. Do not have him killed, I beg of you. (she started to cry)

Me: What do you speak of, Zipho!

Zipho: Bantu held no knowledge of Ndoni's plan to kill you. Do not let him meet the same fate as her. (my heart started to raise)

Me: What fate? What fate, Zipho (I shouted at her)

Zipho: Do not act dumb. You had her executed for trying to kill you. They have taken her to the

hill to kill her (she broke down)

Xolo: Where is this hill they have taken my daughter? (he shouted)

Nobu: Xolo, Oh my King. They have taken Ndoniyamanzi.

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I did not even have time to stand and listen to the rest of the story. I ran out and got onto my horse and ordered it to ride as fast as possible. They have sent for my Queen to be executed? The elders approved such rubbish! If they have sent her to the hill then they are sure to kill her with an iron weapon. I felt a sharp pain in my heart as I thought about it. I finally came to the scene where it is all to happen and got off my horse. There was just so much blood before me. I went to look and saw the body of the guards. Some had stretches, clearly those of a wild cat. Some had stab wounds. I looked around but there is no sign of Ndoni. I called her out by her

name but no response. I got onto my horse and went to start looking for her. I saw her running from afar. I know it's her because next to her ran her cheetah. I called out and she looked back once but kept on running. I finally approached her and got off my horse. She stood holding a weapon and I was impressed at how well she held it.

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Ndoni: Keep away from me if you wish to live. I know how to use this, I promise.

Me: It is me, Ndoniyamanzi. Put the weapon down, my heart. I am not going to harm you. If I have wished so then Mbaleki would have killed me long ago.

Ndoni: Please just leave me alone and let my mother go. We are going to return to Zwelihle and never set foot here again. I beg of you. (she started to cry)

Me: My Queen, I am not the imposter. Tell me



what you saw that made you know that he is not me and I am going to prove it. (she kept quiet for a long while)

Ndoni: He is not circumcised. (she finally said softly)

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I knew that I had to show her proof that it is truly me. I showed her my manhood and she crumbled to the grass letting the weapon fall next to her. I made myself decent and ran to her. I held her tightly as we both just cried. I have missed her so much that I could not hold the happiness I am feeling right now.

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Me: My apologies for all the pain that you have gone through, Ndoni.

Ndoni: You left, Ntsika. I begged you to not go but you left and gave that man an opportunity to come into our house.

Me: I am sorry. I am truly sorry for not listening to you. Come let us go home.

Ndoni: That place is filled with evil. If Mbaleki did not disobey my order and stayed away, I would have been dead. You would have found my dead body. I am upset with you, my King.

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My heart sank as she uttered those words because I truly should have listened. I lifted her up and embraced her. I helped her get on the horse and rode back to the mainland. She did not speak a word on our way back and went straight to Kamva's chamber and her mother followed.

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Xolo: Come she is in good hands. Your father was found in the underground chamber but he is not harmed. The imposter is in the council chamber.

Me: My thanks for keeping him here while I went to look for Ndoni. Where is father?

Xolo: In the council chamber.

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We walked to that chamber and I entered. I do not blame everyone for being fooled because he looks much like me.

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Me: Who are you?

Imposter: King Ntsika of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.  
(I laughed)

Me: I am not to ask you again.

Imposter: I am your twin! (I looked at father who looked shocked)

Father: I do not know what he speaks about.  
You were never born a twin.

Imposter: You are the one who had me taken away from my mother, you bastard.

Me: Is he my brother, father? I ask that you tell the truth please.

Father: Ntsika, I was there when you were born. You are not a twin. I swear on the graves of my ancestors. I do not know who this stranger is .

Imposter: The old woman said that you are my father and Nande is my mother! How do you explain the strong resemblance to your son?

Father: I do not know. The old woman you speak of was a witch. I do not know how she managed this but you are not my son's twin.

Ntsika we have had twins once in this family and it was with your grandfather. His twin died straight after birth so it was not needed to send him away. You have been fooled by those who have fooled you but you are not my son.

Elder: I stand witness to what your father speaks. You are not a twin.

Me: You elder I strip you off your title as council head. I am going to have a new council. You

have sent my wife to meet a painful end just because you are too big of a fool to listen to a woman. I no longer have a council. I am going to make all the decisions in this Kingdom with my Queen. You keep your mouth shut from now on because you no longer have a voice here.

Elder: He had us all fooled. My apologies to the Que...

Me: Keep quiet! My Queen does not accept your apology. What is your real name, Imposter?

Imposter: Lahliwe because the people who raised me found me abandoned as a baby. I am as much a victim to all of this. I did not ask to have our father kill me. (Jongi walked in)

Me: We are busy here, Jongile.

Jongi: My apologies, my King but I can hear you from afar. You truly are a twin. Nande gave birth to two children and never told Xhanti. She had her grandmother take the other child to be drowned in the river because she said he was a

curse. We all thought that her grandmother had the job done.

Lahliwe: Do not speak ill of my dead mother. She loved me dearly and wanted me.

Father: If she did tgen she would not have hidden your existence from us.

Jongi: Ntsika was kept because he was the stronger looking baby and he came first.

Father: You knew all along and you kept quiet. It makes you as evil as Nande! Am I cursed with bad wives.

Jongi: My apologies, I did not mean to keep the secret from you.

Me: You and mother have ruined lives by your secret! Where are you from, Lahliwe?

Lahliwe: I grew up in a farm in another Kingdom. The old lady came and told me who I am. You have lived the life that I was deprived.

Me: It is the fault of the mother you speak so

dearly of.

Lahliwe: I might not have known her but I loved her. I believe that Xhanti is the evil here. If I can turn back time I would have killed him on the first day I sat foot in this house.

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I untied him and I started to beat him up. He has clearly come with the agenda to kill those that I love and they makes me mad as hell. King Xolo stopped me.

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Father: We will have him be held in captivity and decide what to do with him once we have all come from the shock. Go and be with your bride. She has been through a lot.

Me: What do you mean? What else has happened to Ndoni?

Xolo: It is best that she tell you. Your father and I are going to deal with this. Go and be with your

wife.

Me: Bantu has also better be out of captivity.  
His wife is worried about him.

Father: He is at his home.

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I left them there and left for Kamva's chamber because it is where Ndoni is. What else could have happened to my wife? I knocked and was given permission to enter. My mother in law left us.

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Me: Ndoniyamanzi, I know that you are upset with me for not listening to you and I am truly sorry. If I knew that this is where it would end I would not have gone.

Ndoni: I am not angry anymore, my King. I am just glad that you are home safe.

Me: What else happened to you, my Queen? It seems everyone knows something but not me.



(she kept quiet)

Ndoni: I am sorry (she started to cry)

Me: What for, my Queen? (I wiped her tears off)

Ndoni: I am... I am no longer pregnant (she broke down)

Me: What happened?

Ndoni: He beat me up one time. So much so that my body was too weak to keep the child. I am sorry, Ntsika.

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I kissed her lips and rushed out. The anger that I was feeling was just too much. He dared to kill my child? He dared to beat up my lady? I took one of the spears in our chamber and I went to the council chamber first. Luckily they have still sat there with him asking questions. I marched to him and held him by his throat.

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Me: You know, if you came into my house and was kind to my Queen. I would have had mercy on you and given you a lenient punishment but you came into my house and you dared to hit my wife, my wife! You have killed my child and no words describe what what I feel for you.

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I looked him in the eyes as I stuck the spear in his heart. He looked at me and I slowly saw how life is escaping him. I do not care if he is my brother but he has gone to far. I looked at my blood filled hands and back to him and I felt nothing. No regret, no pain, no remorse. Just pure nothing!

[03/02, 19:12] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 41 OBJ

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#Ndoni

I stood in the middle of the chamber sobbing. I felt guilt for my own child's death for the first time. Should I not have angered the imposter that day? The look of pain in Ntsika's eyes as I told him that I no longer carry his child is to haunt my mind forever. I continued to clean my filthy body and let him have his space. Mother walked in once again.

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Mother: Ntsika has killed the imposter. The man was his twin brother, my blossom. (my eyes widened in shock)

Me: Where is he now? Take me to him.

Mother: He rushed out and got onto his horse. Do not fear, warrior Bantu went after him.

Me: Have a horse prepared for me too. I am going to him.

Mother: No, I am not going to allow that. You

have not rested your body ever since you lost your child, Ndoni. You have to rest properly. You can not even ride a horse.

Me: I thought I would be relieved or happy to hear that the imposter is dead, mother but I am not. I thought he was a stranger but he was my husband's womb partner.

Mother: His approach was not good, Ndoni. He should have come out and in truth but instead he chose an evil approach. Almost having you killed and had you lose your unborn child. Do not feel guilty.

Me: I am just sad that my husband had to kill his own brother and it has clearly upset him a lot. Where has this twin been?

Mother: You are not going to believe (she told me everything)

Me: Nande again! How could she keep a child from her husband? I think men are to be allowed in the chamber when a woman is in

labour now. If Xhanti was allowed in then he would have seen that she gave birth to two babies.

Mother: I just want to know why Jongi did not say that there is a second baby. You told her that there is an imposter and she knew Ntsika is a twin but kept her mouth shut.

Me: Only she can answer that, Mother. I have to go and get Kamva soon.

Mother: Oh my grandchild is going to be overjoyed to see his parents and Baleki. (we laughed)

Me: When is he going to speak properly?

Mother: He is going to soon, do not rush him. I love how he starts his sentences with Kamva instead of "I"

Me: "Kamva wants milk" (I said trying to imitate him)

Mother: How I hope he grows up to be a kind

man. It seems Xhanti was cursed with bad sons and only blessed with one good one.

Me: And I am lucky to be the wife of that one good one. I do think that this Lahliwe was going to be decent if his mother had not done such a great injustice to him. Clearly the pain from his upbringing caused him to seek revenge on Ntsika, the twin who had it all. Such a pity.

Mother: It is sad indeed. I wish for women who are like Nande to be barren. She has destroyed her children's lives so much. (there was a knock on the door)

Me: Enter (Fikile entered)

Fikile: My father wishes to see you, my Queen.

Me: Tell him that I am quickly making myself proper. I am going to join him soon.

Fikile: I am going to tell him (she left)

Mother: They had better not be starting up more trouble.

Me: We remain wondering until we hear what he has to say.

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I took my time to finish up because I owe these people nothing at all. I cleaned Mbaleki of the mud and blood from my escape. I kissed her forehead and thanked her for everything. The few days out in the bush must have been good because she has even gained weight. Maybe all the available animals she could hunt. My little prince is going to be happy to see her once again. I got myself decent and walked out to where my father and Ntsika's father sat.

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Father: How are you feeling, my daughter?

Me: I am well, father. My thanks for returning my husband to me safely (I embraced him tightly)

Father: Do you not know that I would do

anything for you? Your husband is strong and would have come home by himself. He had already gotten away by the time I got there.

Me: I never had any doubt in his abilities. He is a true warrior.

Xhanti: Dear daughter, I do not have words to tell you. No words can describe just how sorry I am that you have once again gone through suffering because of my blood. If you wish to return to Zwelihle once again we are not going to stop you.

Me: I do not wish to leave my husband. The Prince is going to come home because his father has missed him dearly. I do hope that it is the last time that I am going to feel suffering because of the people of this family. I do not blame you father because you held no knowledge of your son's existence.

Elder: We indeed have been true fool dau...

Me: Do not call me daughter, elder. It seems



you have doubted me and the ways of my people for long now. Do not call me daughter when you are unable to treat me as a daughter. You have given me a heavy judgement for speaking the truth. If you had listened to me and had the imposter show himself before you then you would have known that I spoke the truth. Do not call me daughter because you do not deserve to have me as a daughter. I should have you all punished for incorrect and impulsive judgement but I am not. My heart is not as unkind as yours.

Father: All of me wants to make every guard, council members and all of this soil who have mistreated you pay for what happened.

Honestly I do not feel anything for the death of your other son because I would have found a way to do it myself. I love my grandchildren and he has robbed me of a chance to a grandfather again. Ntsika has asked me to find peace in my heart and it is the only reason I am sitting as

calmly as this. If Mbaleki had not found Ndoni in time we would be speaking a different story. I would have killed anything that breaths in this place. I have given your people many chances, Xhanti. If my daughter is hurt again in future because of the people you call family I will not be kind. I am kind because our children love each other and we are bound by Kamva.

Xhanti: I understand, old friend. If your daughter is hurt by my people ever again then you are to burn everything down and I am not going to fight you.

Father: You are lucky to have such a strong Queen with a sharp mind. Your son is to never meet another one like her. Even if he travels the world, he is not going to find another her.

Xhanti: Ntsika holds knowledge of that, old friend. I have also decided to send Jongi back to her mother's home. To live with a woman who is able to keep such a secret is sure to be

my end someday.

Me: What about Fikile?

Khanti: She is to go with her mother and visit when time allows.

Mother: How do you know that they are not going to grow bitter hearts and come for my child?

Khanti: Because your husband has already warned them of what might happen should they even think about it. Do not fear.

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I stood and asked to be excused and went to Jongile. I want to know why she kept quiet about this. I knocked and she gave me permission to enter. She sat crying in her chamber.

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Me: Father has told me that he decided to do.

Jongi: I have made him hate me, my Queen.

Me: He loves you, Jongi. Father just does not like feeling betrayed. Much like most people. Why did you not tell anyone?

Jongi: When Nande was still alive I feared talking because of her and I guess I also forgot about the secret eventually.

Me: Did you know that it was the twin when I said the man is an imposter?

Jongi: Something in the back of my mind thought of that possibility but I did not want to believe it because I knew him to be dead.

Me: That was your chance to redeem yourself, Jongi. Father would have forgiven you if he knew you have tried to stop the evil when it was happening. Do you know the damage this has done? A child grew up thinking he is not wanted and it eventually turned his heart to stone. I lost my unborn child in the hands of this man. My husband has to live with the pain of knowing

that he killed his own twin brother for all his day. So much damage that could have been prevented. (she started to cry)

Jongi: I am going to live with the guilt forever and I deserve this punishment.

Me: Do not fear, you are not going to go hungry. Father is still going to make sure that Fikile is taken care off. Another thing, I know my father has warned you about this but I am going to as well. If you ever plot against me, my husband or family out of anger I am not responsible for, I am going to deal with you as I have dealt with all who have tried. It is not a threat, it is a promise. Now would be the wrong time to get on my bad side. (she looked down in shock)

Jongi: I know better than to do you harm. I have seen your power. My apologies for keeping this secret.

Me: Do not worry. Maybe your husband is going to forgive you in time.

.

I stood and left her and went to Zipho's home to apologise to warrior Bantu but then I remember mother said he went after Ntsika. I knocked and they gave permission to enter. They were about to bow but I stopped them. Thando went running to Mbaleki and wrapped her little arms around her neck.

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Zipho: Careful, Thando. She is looking tired.

Me: It is all the new fat she has gotten. How are you, sister?

Zipho: My husband is home again, my Queen. I am well. I need to apologise to your husband for accusing him of being cruel to my husband when indeed it was an imposter.

Me: I need to apologise to your husband for having him captured. (we laughed)

Zipho: How are you, Ndoni?

Me: I am well (I said softly)

Zipho: How are you, my Queen? Now answer me truthfully.

Me: I am exhausted, Zipho. I have been feeling empty ever since I lost my unborn child. I even fear looking Ntsika in the eyes again. (I started to cry)

Zipho: You are not to blame, Ndoni. Your body was too weak to carry the child because of the abuse that man subjected you to. Your husband does not hate you for it. He is just hurt.

Me: You are right. How is warrior Bantu? Did they not harm his already injured hip?

Zipho: He is well and strong. Why do you think I wanted to marry a warrior? (we laughed)

Me: Look at us being married and moved up in life. We were just servants not so long ago. Now we are Queen and head of the royal house staff.

Zipho: Servants who were in love with best friend warriors. Warriors who are now King and Chief advisor to the King. (we laughed)

Me: I am just happy that we kept the friendships. Does the staff call you senior? (we laughed)

Zipho: Most of them do and they make me feel like junior Jongi (I laughed)

Me: You are so crazy. Give me something to eat please. I have not eaten since I came out of captivity.

Zipho: Is tea and bread fine?

Me: It is perfect. That meal reminds me of the time I lived in the orphanage. (we smiled)

Zipho: Do you know that at times I forget that you are Queen. Your humbleness is too amazing, my Queen.

Me: I forget that I am a Queen too sometimes. My life started as that of a humble commoner, my sister. A big part of me is grateful for that.



Zipho: Your mother grew up in royalty but she too is kind and humble. It must be in your blood (I laughed)

Me: It must.

Zipho: If I was not married and your father was also not married. I would have married your father (I laughed so hard)

Me: No, he is old.

Zipho: The most handsome old man my eyes have ever had the pleasure of seeing (we laughed)

Me: Please make my food and stop talking nonsense about my father. Queen Nobu is going to slap you. My thanks for making me laugh.

Zipho: It is my pleasure, sister. I love you.

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She embraced me for a long while. We sat and ate the freshly baked bread and it tasted so

delicious. I played with Thando who spoke her own foreign language but it made me laugh a lot. She is such a beautiful baby with hair that is going to be the envy of most maidens once she is grown. It was dark outside but I did not care. I am waiting for my husband to return. Zipho did not mind me being here because she is also waiting for her husband to return. Thando fell asleep and we sat and spoke softly while laughing. Zipho is silly but I love her jokes very much. I started to feel sleepy and bid temporary farewell to her and left. I got to the royal house and kissed my mother goodnight and embraced my father. I am not ready to go to the chamber we sleep in usually because it is there where I lost my child. I walked to Kamva's chamber and wore my night dress and got under the covers. Mbaleki slept immediately so I guess she is tired. I tried to keep my eyes open until Ntsika arrives but I failed. My eyes grew heavy and I fell asleep.

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#Ntsika

The look of pain and defeat in Ndoni's eyes is all that I could think of. I still feel nothing for my twin brother because he has ripped my heart out with what he did. I have been riding almost all night and could hear Bantu shout my name but I did not slow down. I got tired and eventually signaled for the horse to stand and he caught up.

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Bantu: Do you wish do kill yourself, my King? Such speed for a horse can be dangerous for the rider. (I laughed)

Me: Says the man who used to go to secret horse races as a boy (we both laughed)

Bantu: We are no longer those young boys. I have a hip problem. If that is not a sign of

ageing than I do not know what is.

Me: It is a sign of injury not growing old. My apologies for being held captive for nothing, brother.

Bantu: It was not a big deal. What is bothering you. Is it the killing of the imposter?

Me: It is the killing of my unborn child in the hands of the imposter. It is also the pain my wife had to endure. I am to blame for all of it. She warned me about going on this trip.

Bantu: That man would have found another way to try and replace you. My condolences for the loss of the unborn Prince or Princess.

Me: It was a Princess, I can feel it. Let us stop I am not about to cry on your rough man shoulders. I am going to go cry on my wife's soft chest (he laughed)

Bantu: I do not wish to have your big head on my shoulders. It is good to have you back,

brother.

Me: It is good to be back. (we heard cries from afar)

Bantu: What is that?

Me: Going there is the only way we are to know.

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We rode with great speed to the carriage that held the cries. We caught up quickly. It sounded like little children. A man stepped out and I recognised him from somewhere. They held oil lamps so I could see their faces.

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Him: Lahliwe, I grew tired of waiting for you so I helped myself to what you have promised. (I finally recognised him)

Me: What have I promised you, Ngxaki?

Ngxaki: Do not act like a fool. You have promised me slaves in return for my help to

have Ntsika sold to slavery.

Me: Ngxaki, so you are the one responsible for my capture.

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I got off my horse and I started beating the daylight from him. I knew that I will not kill him because his father must come and answer to this as well. Bantu looked inside the carriage and found young girls. I recognise some from Ndoni's old home. I gave him another beating for stealing children from my soil to sell in their disgusting trade. These are babies and do not deserve such a life. No one deserves such a life. I had the carriage turn back around and tied this excuse of a Prince next to it so he could walk. We arrived at the orphanage and the old lady was so happy to see her girls. I had Bantu ride back to the mainland to have guards be put here. He came back after a while and we headed back to the mainland with Bantu. We

went to tell everyone what he was trying to do. We kept him in captivity as injured as he is and under strict guarding. I am too tired to deal with all else now so I went to my chamber but found it empty. Queen Nobu told me that she is sleeping in Kamva's chamber. I looked at her beautiful face as she was sleeping soundly. I kissed her forehead and stood. I had water brought to my chamber so I could bath. I took off the blood filled clothing and started to bath myself. The warm water stung but I knew that I had to wash it off. I dried my body with a cloth and sat on the bed gently. I tried to put body butter on my back but failed due to the pain. I felt warm hands on my back and then a few soft kisses. I smiled in delight.

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Ndoni: What have they done to you, Ntsika?

Me: It is because of the life that I lived as a slave. The stripes are not sore but the bite

wounds are.

Ndoni: Seeing you like this pains my heart. Tell me what happened there?

Me: I am going to another day, my Queen. Could you please apply this remedy Ncedi made for me.

Ndoni: Yes, give it here. I am going to be as gentle as possible.

Me: You are always gentle. I am sorry for not being here to protect you, my heart. You did not deserve all the pain you have gone through.

Ndoni: You need not apologise, my King. Everything happened as it should. How are you feeling?

Me: If you talk about my twin brother then I feel nothing. The guilt has not come yet. It seems like the dream you had has come true.

Ndoni: I never wished for it to.

Me: We are going to get through this too, Ndoni.



The loss of our child and all else. Stronger united remember? (I held her hand)

Ndoni: Stronger united, my King always. (I kissed her)

Me: Permission to have the Prince come home. I have missed him.

Ndoni: He is your son, you need not ask for permission. He is going to be home soon.

Me: We are to cleanse this house before he sets foot here.

Ndoni: I agree. I love you, Ntsika. I ask that you not leave me again.

Me: Not like this. I love you, Ndoniyamanzi. Now I know more than ever that I am blessed to have you. My thanks for knowing me so well.

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She kissed me and I wanted to make love to her but she stopped me. I understand because she has been through too much. I got into bed and

held her tightly and she felt so warm. Her lavender scent never leave my nostrils just as I like it. She looked up at me, smiled and we kissed again. How I have missed these moments! At some point I thought that I am never going to feel the touch of my woman again. I still have to deal with Ngxaki but not now. Now all I wish is to give my body the well deserved rest that it craves while I am close to my Ndoni, my heart, my Queen. Life surely can not throw worse our way. I think that even fate must accept defeat now because I am not planning on parting with my heart no matter the obstacles thrown our way.

[03/02, 19:13] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 42

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#Ndoni

Weeks have passed and my King and I have been distant. Physically I am now back to normal but not emotionally and I fail to understand why. Ntandoyabantu and Bukhosi are here to rest. They are just passing through to another Kingdom. They have come with Kamva so Ntsika is at his most happiest. I am busy bathing myself when the chamber door opened and I quickly covered myself. It is Ntsika and he sat on the bed.

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Ntsika: Ndoni (he said softly)

Me: Ntsika (I turned to look at him)

Ntsika: I miss you, my Queen.

Me: I do not understand. Am I not standing before you?

Ntsika: You are but I can not help but feel like you are pushing me away. Look even now when I walked in you covered yourself.

Me: How was I to know that it is you that entered?

Ntsika: You still cling to that wrap around your body like you fear it might fall and reveal your nakedness. Why are you hiding yourself from me, my Queen? (I kept quiet for a long time)

Me: Because at times I fear you, Ntsika (I said softly)

Ntsika: Fear me? (he stood and walked to where I stood)

Me: I do not know why it is like this. Sometimes when you are angry I fear that you might hit me.

Ntsika: I would never hit you, Ndoniyamanzi. I know that you have suffered greatly because of a man that had the same image as me but he was not me and I am not him. You have seen me angered many times. Have I ever directed that anger to you physically?

Me: No (I looked down)

Ntsika: I wish for things to return to normal, my Queen. I have not heard you laugh in a long time.

Me: Much has changed, Ntsika. We must go to the eating chamber for the morning feast. It would be rude to keep the family waiting.

Ntsika: I am going to sit and wait until you are finished and we can go together.

Me: Do you not get it, Ntsika? I do not wish for you to see my nakedness (I shouted while crying)

Ntsika: Why would you deprive my eyes of such a beautiful sight?

Me: It is not beautiful anymore, my King.

Ntsika: What else has happened, Ndoni? Has he...has he forced you to have bedroom dealings with him? (I could see he struggled to ask the question)

Me: No, my King.

Ntsika: Talk to me, Ndoniyamanzi. I am not able to read your mind.

Me: My body is not the same as it was before I had our Prince.

Kamva: Mada (he shouted on the other side of the door)

Me: We are to speak again later.

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He went to open the door and Kamva ran in. I picked him up trying to avoid making eye contact with Ntsika. He left us and Kamva ran after him. Finally I could dress in comfort now. I have been hiding myself from him because I fear that he might see what Lahliwe did when he saw my nakedness. I no longer have the confidence to be with him. I finished and went to the eating chamber where I found everyone seated.

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Me: Greetings. (I sat down)

Ntando: Greetings Ndoni, Did you know that Mbaleki is pregnant. (my eyes widened)

Me: She has just gotten fat. She is not pregnant.

Bukhosi: She is, my Queen.

Me: What do we do in such a situation? Are her cubs not going to be wild?

Ntsika: I do not believe that your ancestors would have allowed her to have little ones if they were to be a danger to us. Are we to keep them?

Me: I do not know, my King. Do you wish for us to keep them?

Ntsika: I do not have a problem with having more Mbaleki's. (he laughed softly)

Kamva: More Baleki (we laughed)

Ntando: Maybe you are to give me one.

Me: I need to ask father if keeping the little ones is safe. I can not believe Mbaleki is to have little ones. Making a grandmother out of me at such a young age (they laughed)

Bukhosi: Clearly she does more than just hunting.

Me: I suspect Mlilo or Mqhobi. You and father are to pay for damages to my lady cheetah (they laughed)

Ntando: Ndoni, are we still to go to the orphanage?

Me: Yes, I am going. I did not know that you wish to come with me.

Ntando: I do (he smiled)

Ntsika: Bukhosi, Kamva and I are to go to the farms and check out if all is still well.

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I do not know why Ntando is so happy to go to the orphanage but I am not going to question it.



I got Kamva ready for his trip around the farms with his father. I have been avoiding Ntsika since our conversation earlier on. We bid our farewells and we all went our separate ways. Ntando and I arrived at the orphanage, we entered and greeted.

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Zinzi: My Queen, my apologies for being ill mannered to you all this time. My heart has just been heavy for losing a sister.

Me: You have not lost me, Zinzi. I come here as much as I can but it has been you who has been pushing me away. My apologies if you feel like you have lost a sister but I can not be the same Ndoni you once knew. I am now Queen and I have plenty of responsibilities but it does not mean that I love you any less. You are all still my sister but I just can not live with you.

Zinzi: I understand, sister. My apologies once again.

Me: Apology accepted. (I stood and embraced her)

Mama: It brings me joy to see peace between the two of you again. Zinzi, you have to go now and get water.

Ntando: Permission to go with you, young maiden.

Zinzi: It is of no need, my Prince.

Ntando: But I insist. You are sure to need the protection of a young warrior in case of danger. (I laughed softly)

Zinzi: You may come with me if Mama and the Queen allows.

Mama: You may go with her but do not do any naughty things.

Zinzi: Do not worry, Mama. I shall not have any boy kiss me.

Me: Ntandoyabantu, you need to behave and do not keep Zinzi from her duties.

Ntando: I hold no hidden agenda, Ndoni. I give you my promise. May we go, my lady? (Zinzi smiled)

Zinzi: We may, my Prince (they left us)

Mama: Zinzi is going to start planning her wedding to the Prince in her imagination. (I laughed)

Me: She is half royalty is she not?

Mama: Yes, her mother was a servant in one of the neighbouring Kingdoms and had bedroom dealings with the Prince there.

Me: I think that children such as Zinzi need to be crowned Princesses because it seems most Kingdoms lack maidens. Soon there is not going to be any full blooded royal maidens left.

Mama: It is not a change that is to come soon, my Queen. Zinzi is like a shame to her father and his wife shall never accept a bastard.

Me: Have you told her where she can find her

father?

Mama: She knows now who and where he is. I fear that she might run off to find him and only be disappointed to find that she is not welcome. Enough about Zinzi. I have a matter that weighs heavy on my heart, my Queen. Permission to speak to you about it.

Me: Speak, Mama.

Mama: There is word going around the Kingdom that says that Umhlaba Ochumileyo is soon to trade slaves. Is it true?

Me: It is all just a rumour. The imposter that was in the royal house pretending to be the King wanted to approve the deal but it has been called off. Nothing is going to happen. That man took the children without permission. My King and I had no knowledge of it. He would not have stopped the children thief if he was also guilty.

Mama: My apologies for bringing this up again.

I am just so worried about the safety of the girls.

Me: We have put guards here so no harm is to come your way. I give you my promise.

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I sat and played with the girls and the older ones read for me. It is not yet perfect reading but they are improving. It was time for us to head back but Ntando has not returned. The river is not even that far. I do hope that they are well and safe. The two of them finally arrived talking non stop. We bid farewell and made our way back to the mainland.

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Ntando: That Zinzi is a beautiful maiden.

Me: She truly is. What has taken you so long to get water?

Ntando: We have not done any indecency, Ndoni. I give you my promise. We sat in the

shade and ate fruit and she sang for me. She has a truly magical voice (I smiled)

Me: Yes, she is gifted. Has your heart chosen her?

Ntando: I am too young for such, Ndoni. You know that we can not love commoners. I am sure a suitor is chosen for me already. I am to reach maturity soon (he looked afar while saying it)

Me: You have liked Zinzi's company since you went with father to give the orphanage gifts. Bukhosi told me.

Ntando: Bukhosi has a big mouth. Does he not know that the business of men are to remain between men? (I laughed softly)

Me: She is half royalty. (he quickly turned his head to look at me)

Ntando: Do you think the King and Queen are to allow a marriage between a half blood royal and

a full blood one?

Me: You are still too young to think about marriage, Ntando. Let us talk again once you have reached maturity. Perhaps the rules are to change in a few years.

Ntando: You are the best sister, Ndoni. I have always been able to speak to you freely. (he smiled)

Me: Next time you are to visit for longer. I love you.

Ntando: And I you. I am sure to come visit more often.

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We rode on until we got to the mainland.

Ntando asked to go meet Bukhosi and Ntsika in the farms so I had a horse prepared for him. He is in love with Zinzi but they are still too young to speak of marriage. If only they knew that this thing called marriage is not an easy partnership

to be in at times. Mbaleki laid lazily in the shade and I went to inspect her. She truly looks pregnant! What am I to do with the little ones once they come. Are they chosen as she is or are they meant to be wild? Why would I be blessed with many protesters? I went about my duties of the day. I thought about what Ntsika spoke and truth is I miss him dearly but I fear being with him. It seems that the wounds of what happened has stayed even when I thought that it is all finally over.

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#Ntsika

I can not believe that Ndoni would think that I care about the changes her body has gone through due to Kamva's birth. She has never had a problem before so why now? I walked in deep thoughts when I heard Bukhosi call out my



name. I looked at him.

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Bukhosi: Your people have been greeting you but it seems your thoughts took you far.

Me: Where is Kamvalesizwe? (he pointed ahead)

Bukhosi: Is something the matter, brother?

Me: I am just thinking about all that has happened. So much has changed.

Bukhosi: No one would remain the same after what you and Ndoni have been through. You were made a slave and that is sure to leave it's own emotional wounds.

Me: That is why I do not wish to involve my Kingdom in such. At least Ngxaki was dealt with according and is to never be a problem again.

Ntando: Brothers, wait up! (he shouted behind us and ran to us)

Me: Where is Ndoni?

Ntando: She has gone back to the mainland.

Me: I need to head back quickly.

Bukhosi: Is something the matter?

Me: No, I just need to do something very important. I ask that you look after Kamva and ensure that he returns home safely.

Ntando: We are his uncles. Do not fear, he is in safe hands. Go and attend to your other business.

Me: My thanks.

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I ran to where my horse is tied and I rode as fast as possible. If Ndoniyamanzi does not believe that I still desire her then I shall prove it with actions. I arrived in the mainland and got into the royal house. I found her speaking to one of the servants and I rushed to her and picked her up. The shock and confusion made her unable to speak. I walked to our chamber,

closed the door and put her on the bed.

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Ndoni: What are you doing? (she smiled)

Me: Showing you just how much I love you and desire you.

Ndoni: You need not pro...

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I kissed her before she could finish and she reacted with a soft moan. The wait was just too much so I took off all her clothing and I just took a moment to appreciate the beauty before me. I do not know how she can say that her nakedness is no longer beautiful. I kissed and caressed all of her and her soft moans filled the chamber. Both of our clothing landed on the floor, we caressed each others bodies and I finally became one with her. The pleasure became so intense that I am sure all can hear our love sounds. I made love to my Queen again

and it feels magical. I held her tightly in my arms as we tried to breath normally.

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Me: Never say you are no longer beautiful, Ndoni. It broke my heart when you uttered those words.

Ndoni: You are an amazing man, Ntsika. I guess I no longer felt worthy of you after all that has happened.

Me: You are worthy of all the good that life has to offer, my Queen. I have missed being one with you again. (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: I thought you have lost your mind when you picked me up.

Me: I just could not wait to have you again. May I ask you something?

Ndoni: Ask, my King.

Me: Can we please try to have another child? Please do not drink the remedy that prevents

pregnancy. (she lifted her head and looked up at me)

Ndoni: I would love to carry your child again. I love you. (I smiled in delight)

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We kissed once again and made love again and again. Having her in my arms makes me feel like the most wealthiest man in my life. We fell asleep but got woken up by a loud knock. I stood up, made myself decent and went to open up. It was a guard saying father wants to see us at once. Ndoni got up and we first made ourselves decent.

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Ndoni: What could be so urgent?

Me: I do not know, my Queen. Hopefully there is not going to be more problems. We have had too much of those.

Ndoni: Let us go because I die of curiosity.

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I held her hand and we made our way to the guest chamber where father is. With him is a man and a woman with someone sitting on the floor with a blanket covering him or her. We greeted and sat down.

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Me: You have called, father.

Father: Yes, my King and my thanks for coming at once. This is a matter of great urgency. These are the people of the Amandla Kingdom.

Me: Was there not word of that Kingdom being no more?

Father: Indeed it is no longer in existence because of an invasion from another Kingdom. Most of it's people were killed and some sold..

Ndoni: Do they seek help in reclaiming what they have lost, father?

Father: No, my Queen. They come with another

matter. They say that their Princess was captured into slavery and it was there that she met King Ntsika.

Me: Who is this Princess? I ask that she be revealed.

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The woman stood and went to reveal the person that sat on the floor. She looked familiar but I could not recall properly. After some thought I finally recognised her. It is the maiden I was expected to impregnate when I was captured.

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Woman: My King, I am the grandmother of the Princess. She has told me what happened between the two of you in captivity. You have made her impure and now she is carrying the child of this soil.

Ndoni: Ntsika? (she said softly)

Me: I have not touched tha...

Woman: My granddaughter was pure and you have taken her innocence. She is now carrying your heir and we expect you to do the right thing and marry her.

Me: I do not care what your daughter has told you but I have not touched her! Ndoni, I have not impregnated anyone. I give you my promise.

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The look of pain and disappointment in her eyes pained me so much. She started to cry and stood up quickly. I tried to run after her but father advised that I let her calm down. I watched as she ran out of the royal grounds and Mbaleki followed her keeper. What is this maiden planning! I have not even kissed her, let alone impregnate her. I can not have Ndoni believe that I betrayed her like this. I have never even wished for a second wife and I refuse to raise a child that is not mine. I went back to get



this maiden speak the truth but she would not change her story. How am I going to prove to my Queen that this is not my child?

[03/02, 19:14] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 43 OBJ

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#Ntsika

I did not listen to father so I ran out after Ndoniyamanzi. Surely she could not have gone too far. I ran out into the open field but could not see her and panic started to creep into my heart. I walked forward and saw her lying in the grass facing the sky. She looked at me as I approached but faced the sky once again. I laid next to her and just kept silent for a while.

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Me: I have not had any bedroom dealings with

that maiden or any other maiden, Ndoni. (she kept quiet)

Ndoni: How am I to know when you never speak about your experiences at that place, Ntsika?

Me: I do not wish to make your heart feel heavy by telling you such details.

Ndoni: I am your wife, Ntsika. You are meant to share your pain with me. I am not some weak young girl. I have asked you over and over again what they have done to you but you keep on avoiding speaking about it.

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I took her by her waist and laid her on top of me. Her big eyes now small due to the crying. She is right I have not told her about my temporary suffering as a slave. I kissed her lips and she rested her head on my chest.

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Me: I have not spoken about it because it has

effected me more than I realised, my heart. (she looked at me)

Ndoni: Is it why you have been restless in your sleep? You at times cry out in your sleep but refuse to share anything once you wake up.

Me: I am a man, Ndoni. How am I suppose to tell my lady that I carry fear in my heart? I fear going to distant soils because I fear being taken once again.

Ndoni: Your lady does not see you as less of a man just because you hold fear, my King. You are going to get through this but I can not have you shut me out.

Me: We have both been closed books to each other after all we have witnessed. My apologies for not sharing my bad experience. The life of a slave is enough to break even the strongest of men.

Ndoni: Nothing can break my warrior. You have just gone through a terrible thing but I know you

are going to get through it. I believe in you, my King.

Me: I have you by my side so I can get through it. I need to free my mind off the chains and stop feeling fear. I have not made her pregnant. The guards ordered the physically strong men to be one in flesh with the slave maidens. The aim is to have children who are to be born as slaves.

Ndoni: That is so terrible. The poor little children are to never have a true identity.

Me: It is a filthy business but this maiden and I pretended to be having bedroom dealings to fool the guards but my seed has never gone into her body, my Queen. I give you my promise. I do not wish to have another woman carry my children. My only sin is not telling you what happened there because if you had knowledge you would not have reacted as you have just now.

Ndoni: I felt too hurt to stay in the chamber. My

apologies for that. How are we to deal with this?

Me: I am not going to accept responsibility for the child created by another man.

Ndoni: Why would she come up with such a lie? It is because of you that she is free.

Me: It is actually because of you. When the men I planned an escape with approached me saying that we are not to take the women with us. It is because of you and your father that she sits there and not working for a slave master. She even said that her heart belongs to someone else.

Ndoni: It seems these titles we hold attract all types of crazy. I at times wish to be an ordinary person.

Me: Let us lie in this grass and be ordinary before going back to deal with our new crazy.  
(she laughed softly)

Ndoni: The problem is not going to solve itself, Ntsika.

Me: I hold knowledge of that, my heart but you believe me and that is all that matters. (I kissed her passionately)

Ndoni: My King, you are making my body react to your touch. (I brushed her thighs gently)

Me: That is what I want, my Queen. I can not get enough of you and I do not wish to. (she kissed my neck and it felt sensational)

Ndoni: I do not wish for you to stop either. Please have me here. I wish to feel you inside of me. (she whispered)

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I cupped her face in my hands and looked at her intensely and the look of passion in her eyes drove me crazy. Not even the possibility of wild animals is going to stop me. I made love to her. The world and all its problems disappeared into

the background for a while and I wished that it would not stop but we had to go back to reality. We walked to a near by river and played in the water. She laughed so much that I felt my heart be filled with joy. I have not heard that sweet laugh in a long while. After a while we walked back to the royal grounds holding hands.

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Ndoni: I ask that you please teach me how to ride a horse when you have time. (I looked at her)

Me: You have never wished to learn.

Ndoni: I realised when I ran out that getting on a horse would have spared me a lot of effort. (we laughed)

Me: We are to start the lessons soon, my heart. Kamva seems to like it a lit (she smiled)

Ndoni: He is growing up so quickly. My King, would you agree to also teach me weapon skills.

The warrior in Zwelihle covered the basics but I need true training (she said with excitement)

Me: Just give me your promise that you won't wish to go to battle with our warriors soon (she laughed)

Ndoni: No, it is just for survival. I do not wish to be helpless as I was a few weeks ago. I want to know how to defend myself and Kamva should there be danger while you are away. (I smiled with pride)

Me: I am going to teach you all that I know. No leniency is to be given to you. (she jumped on me with an embrace)

Ndoni: You are to treat me as you would any other young warrior. I am not going to be angry at you for shouting at me, I give you my promise.

Me: We have reached home. Are you ready to deal with everything?

Ndoni: We do not have a choice, my King.



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I kissed her hand and we walked in to the guest chamber. It seems our guests got served drinks and food. Ndoni and I sat down and all eyes were on us.

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Father: We are glad that you both are back.  
Ntsika, this maiden still speaks the same story.

Me: Young maiden, I do not know what you wish to achieve from your plan but you and I both know that it is not my child that grows in your belly.

Her: You did not say such cruel words when you had me and disgraced me, my King.

Ndoni: The King says that he is not guilty of this, father and I believe my husband.

Grandmother: We know that the thought of welcoming a second wife in your home makes you feel threatened but my child has not come

to take your place. She just wishes for a warm home for her unborn child.

Ndoni: What is your name, dear Princess?

Her: Nosandiso, my Queen.

Ndoni: You know the shock of your news made my mind go blank for a moment but once I laid on the grass looking up in the sky I gathered my thoughts. When the King of Zwelihle held a celebration for my return years ago your family honoured the invitation. You did say you are a Princess of the Amandla soil right? Why is it that I do not remember your face being amongst them?

Her: Uhm... I am not feeling well (she "collapsed")

Grandmother: I ask for a chamber to put her in. Being pregnant is not easy. Surely you hold knowledge of that, my Queen.

Me: We can all see that she is running from the

truth. I do not wish to harm her unborn child though so let her go and rest. We are to continue later.

Ndoni: Do not even think of spreading dark medicine in my house. You are sure to regret it because I am going to know.

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Ndoni had a servant go to prepare a chamber for our unwelcome pregnant guest. She also excused herself saying she is going to and go about her business. It gives me great joy to have her in my corner. I sat Ruth Father who remain asking me plenty of questions and it started to annoy me greatly. I stood and went out to the farms to check on the Princes. Kamva ran to me as I approached and I picked him up. He is becoming heavier by day. We sat under a tree and ate strawberries and suddenly all seemed hopeful again. Ndoni and I seem to be going back to normal and our son is happy. Our farms

are producing beautiful products and soon we are going to have a child. We have conceived another child today, I can just feel it. I sat with my brothers and looked out into the beautiful of the soil of my ancestors.

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#Ndoni

If Ntsika had not kept what happened to him in that terrible place my reaction would have been better. It seems like the problems of life keep making a stop at our doorstep before moving on. I took a spear and Mbaleki to the guest chamber where this maiden is. I went in without knocking and found her and her grandmother whispering.

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Me: Do not stop your secret conversation

because of me.

Grandmother: I ask that you give us privacy to rest, my Queen.

Me: Am I a guest in your house or are you a guest in my house?

Grandmother: My apologies for offending you. It is just that my child needs to rest.

Me: I am going to make sure she rest, my lady. I ask that you please excuse us.

Grandmother: As you wish.

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She nervously looked at her child and left slowly. I sat next to the maiden and Mbaleki also climbed onto the bed and she jumped up.

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Me: Do not fear, dear Princess. She does not bite.

Her: It is a wild animal. How could you say that

she does not bite?

Me: You are right she truly is a wild animal and she has given her victims painful deaths. I cringe as I think of how she clawed them. I can still hear their cries of agony. At times even I do not have control of her. She hates deceivers and she can smell them. How I wish I had that gift. To sniff out liars and deal with them according. Are you a deceiver, dear Princess?

Her: No, my Queen.

Me: I love truthful people because they calm my craziness. I sometimes wonder what it would be like to skin a liar alive (I looked at the spear)

Her: Then I pity those who dare li...lie to you. (I smiled at her)

Me: Just imagine, maiden. If I could skin the liar's face then perhaps I will be able to make the entire world see just how untruthful they are. I am to start around the edges and cut open the skin then peel it away slowly as I listen to the

agonising screams of my victim (I laughed out loud)

Her: I have not slept with the King. I am not even pregnant. (she spoke so quickly)

Me: I already held knowledge of that, maiden. What was your plan? He is no fool and would never have taken responsibility for a sin he has not committed.

Her: After our Kingdom burnt down my grandmother and I have no where to go. I told her about the kindness of your husband and out of desperation made a plan. Please accept our apologies.

Me: I am going to have mercy on you because you already have nothing and because I know that you went through a bad time in the slave camp. You are to take your grandmother and whoever the other person is and make sure you never set foot on my soil again. Should I find you here in future you are sure not going to be

as lucky. If I dare hear that you have tried to do this on someone else you will pay dearly. You might have seen an easy target when you saw us for some reason but we are a lot of things but weak is not one of them. What did you plan? To fake a pregnancy until when?

Her: I was going to say I have lost the child once I was married. (my heart sank)

Me: Do you think that losing a child is a thing to play with? You do not realise the pain it causes to woman who have really gone through it and you were willing to lie about such a serious and painful thing. I wish that you never feel the pain of losing a child someday. Now get out of my house at once.

Her: You are never going to see us again. We give you our promise. Our apologies once again.

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She stood up quickly from the bed and she



walked out. She went to tell father that she has been lying all this time and father wanted her to be punished but I let them go. Something just tells me that they are not bad people, they are people who are led by desperation. I have had enough with having people held in captivity or having them killed. Truth is that I am exhausted and all I hope for is peace. Mother has once told me that a woman sometimes needs to do stuff she has never imagined to keep her marriage intact. I have just threatened to skin a person alive and just thinking about it makes my skin crawl. I am just happy that this was not a prolonged problem. I thought that she would stand by her story but she clearly was afraid. After they were taken away I went to bath because lying in the grass is clearly not a good idea. I finished and Ntsika walked in.

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Ntsika: Father has told me the maiden confessed after you spoke with her.

Me: It did not take much effort. I am just glad we rid of the problem quickly. Where is Kamvalesizwe?

Ntsika: They are all at Bantu's. Zipho has cooking a nice meal and they have invited us. I have honoured the invitation on your behalf as well.

Me: I would love to go. Should I have them bring water so you can bath. Surely your body feels itchy.

Ntsika: We are going to sit around a fire, my Queen. I am going to bath once we have returned.

Me: I am not going to stay up and help you (he laughed)

Ntsika: Do not speak to soon. You are sure to crave this handsome King of yours soon (I laughed)

Me: Stop being silly, my handsome King. What

can we take to Zipho as a gift?

Ntsika: They have not asked for anything.

Me: We can not arrive empty handed, my King. I am going to take lots of ginger.

Ntsika: As you wish. I am happy, Ndoni. (he smiled)

Me: I am also happy and it is all because of you m.

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We kissed and I finished getting dressed. I had ginger be put in a bucket and fruit. We invited Xhanti because he needs some happiness too. He gladly accepted. Ntsika carried the gift to Zipho and Bantu's home. We arrived and greeted.

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Zipho: My thanks for the ginger and fruits, my King and Queen. We are sure to have big bellies once we finish. (we laughed)

Me: My thanks for the invite. We needed to spend some time outside a bit. It smells so lovely already. Do you need and help.

Bantu: You are our guests. You need not lift a finger.

Ntsika: We have stopped being guests in each others homes long ago.

Xhanti: It seems like this is a celebration of young people.

Ntando: It is not. It is a celebration for old people, youth and little babies. (we laughed)

Bukhosi: I am just curious to know when the food is going to be ready.

Bantu: I share the same curiosity as you, brother.

Zipho: Good thing I am cooking in big pots because it seems you are all going to eat a lot. I will go and pour this delicious ginger for everyone.

Me: I am going to help you. You can not leave me here with all the complaining hungry men.

Ntsika: You are not to rid of any of us anytime soon, especially not of me so get used to the complaining, dear wife. (everyone laughed)

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We left and all we heard behind us were man laughter and big voices. Ntandoyabantu is just too mature for his age. He speaks as if he is the same age as the other men. Even father was laughing so much and it warmed my heart. We served everyone ginger and went to stir the pots. How I have missed this life!

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Zipho: I have never seen anyone looking so happy while stirring a pot.

Me: This reminds me so much of my old life as a commoner. I now have people who do all of this for me.

Zipho: Is that not a good thing?

Me: It has it's moments but nothing beats this. Just look at how happy everyone is. Even Thando and Kamva are still awake because they feel the joy.

Zipho: It gives me joy that you are laughing again, sister. (Ntsika walked up to us)

Ntsika: My Queen, is the food not ready? Your King is dying of hunger (he whispered and I laughed)

Me: Why are you whispering?

Ntsika: The men said you two would listen and bring the food if the King gives an order. (we laughed)

Zipho: The food is ready, my King. You can go and tell the starving group. I am going to go get bowls to dish up in (she left us)

Ntsika: Give me a little piece of meat before the others see (I laughed so much)

Me: Only because I have so much love for you and do not wish to see you starve.

Ntsika: I am never to starve while you are in my life. (I kissed him)

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I gave him the meat and he left. I heard some complaining from the group and I laughed. Zipho and I prepared the food for eating. We all sat and had a great feast with our friends. I was feeding Kamva while eating. After eating we sat around the fire and the laughter filled the open air. I felt like an ordinary person for the first time after a long while. I am not Ndoniyamanzi the Queen at this moment. I am Ndoniyamanzi the wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. Titles that hold much greater worth to me than that of Queen. So for now I am just going to enjoy the moment of being an ordinary person surrounded by those my heart beat for.

[03/02, 19:16] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -

By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 44<sup>OBJ</sup>

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#Ntsika

Weeks have gone and life has been filled with well deserved peace. I have even fought against the fear of traveling long distances. Ndoni has started her training in horse riding and weapon using skills. I find that there is something that fascinates me when I see her holding those sharp irons. I turned to look at her sleeping peacefully next to me. The sun perfectly kissing her beautiful smooth skin. She opened her eyes and covered her face with her hands when she found me starrng.

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Me: Sunrise greetings, lady warrior (she laughed softly)



Ndoni: I am still too much of an amateur to be titled that, my King. Sunrise greetings to you as well (I kissed her)

Me: You have been learning quickly, my Queen, even Bantu is impressed.

Ndoni: Does that mean that you are going to agree if I wish to go on battle? (I raised my brow and she laughed)

Me: Battle camps are no place for a lady, Ndoni. It is no pleasant place to be. Women are to be nurturers. Who is going to care for the home when woman also go to battle.

Ndoni: I do not wish to go to battle, my King. I was just being silly. What are you going to do if the next generation of young maidens have a wish to be seen as warriors?

Me: I have not thought about that but I do not think it is going to be wise. What happens if warriors fall in love and the maiden warriors fall pregnant?

Ndoni: You have a point but maidens can be taught this skill to protect themselves. Most husbands are away from their homes due to work and it leaves the women alone and vulnerable. Is it not wise to give them the means to defend themselves and their children?

Me: We could approve that order, my Queen but most women are not interested in handling knives and spears.

Ndoni: Which is just such a pity. There is also the issue of royalty marrying royalty. What is to happen to the offsprings if one of their parents is a commoner and the other a royal being?

Me: I do not hold any knowledge of that, my Queen. It is not much to do with the children but more to do with the alliance. Arranged marriages are more business than anything else.

Ndoni: What are we to do if Kamvalesizwe falls in love with a commoner someday? Would

building an alliance be more important than his happiness?

Me: I am all for marrying for love, Ndoni. Before I met you I was willing to marry out of obligation but once my heart chose you I no longer wished to. Why are we speaking about this?

Ndoni: I have just been thinking about Ntando a lot lately.

Me: Has something happened to our brother?  
(she smiled)

Ndoni: I think his heart has chosen a young maiden. (I laughed softly)

Me: It is understandable, he is to reach maturity soon. Who has his heart chosen?

Ndoni: Zinzi from the orphanage.

Me: Is the King and Queen of Zwelihle going to approve such a union?

Me: Father is not going to. Look how far he was willing to travel to find Bukhosi's bride. Zinzi is

half royalty. Does that not count for something?

Me: I think if the fathers of these children take their commoner lovers as second wives the elders might allow a full blood royal and a half blood one to wed because two Kingdoms will still be able to build an alliance.

Ndoni: I think that is a thing that Kingdoms must consider. To allow a union between half blood royal and full blood ones.

Me: All is going to be well. We are young and can implement a new rule but it does not mean that all other Kingdoms are going to do the same.

Ndoni: I just think that it is unfair for children like Zinzi to grow up in orphanages while her father still breaths.

Me: It truly is sad and that is why I do not wish to have illegitimate children. I love children and I would not wish to see any of my own suffer.

Ndoni: And that is one of the reasons why I love you. Most men are not bothered with their children because they think it is the job of their mothers to look after them but not you. I love how much time you spend time with the Prince when you are free. (I smiled in delight)

Me: I do not have a reply to those sweet words. My thanks, my Queen (I kissed her)

Ndoni: Are you free to go to the garden at sunset? We have not gone there in a long time.

Me: I am free but for now I need you to get ready. I have a gift for you. (she smiled)

Ndoni: What is it? Is it the beaded necklace I saw in the market?

Me: I am not going to tell you. Let us get up and see.

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She jumped up and had water be brought to our chamber. We both got ourselves ready for the

day and I could see she is excited. How come I hold no knowledge of this necklace she wishes for? I have to ask Zipho about it. We got dressed and ready.

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Ndoni: I am decent and ready to see my gift.  
(she smiled in excitement)

Me: It is outside. (I smiled)

Ndoni: My King, why is the gift outside? Is it something big?

Me: I prefer to show my lady rather than explain.

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She rushed out of our chamber and I followed. I chased her as we made our way out and she laughed so much when I caught her and put her over my shoulder. I carried her to where her gift stood and put her down gently.

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Ndoni: Ntsika where is the gift? All I see is horses.

Me: You can bring her! (I shouted to a male servant)

Servant: Here she is, my King (he came with a horse)

Me: You are now the new keeper of this beauty. Your riding skills are perfect, my Queen and I am giving you this horse as a gift (she started to cry)

Ndoni: She is beautiful, Ntsika. Look at how her fur shines. I love her so much, my King. (she jumped into my arms)

Me: I am glad you love her. You are to name her yourself but do not fear she is trained and ready.

Ndoni: As if you would risk giving me an ill trained horse. (I laughed)

Me: You know me too well. (she kissed me)

Ndoni: I do not know what to name her. She is just perfect. I am going to think about a suitable name soon.

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She brushed her horse while smiling. The look of love and fascination on her face made me happy. She could not ride her yet because the horse had no saddle strapped on but she is to ride her when we go to the garden later on. She thanked me once again and we went back to the royal house. We had our morning feast. Ndoni went to bath Kamva afterwards and I went to sit with father. He looked like a sad injured animal.

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Me: Has something happened, father?

Father: I do not understand, my King.

Me: You look like a man who carries great burdens on his shoulders. What seems to be



the matter?

Father: I feel like a man without purpose, Ntsika. I do not know when last my heart felt joy.

Me: Does it long for Jongi?

Father: It used to think that Jongi is the lady it wishes to have but I can not be with a woman who keeps secrets.

Me: What would help you then?

Father: I ask that you go to the other Kingdoms and seek a wife for me (my eyes widened)

Me: A young maiden? (he laughed)

Father: Do not be silly. An old maiden who has not wed.

Me: And you wish for her to be royalty? Have you any idea how difficult that is going to be? I do not have time for that.

Father: The Queen might be able to help. I am old, Ntsika and all I seek is great company.

Me: I am going to ask Ndoni to take over this task but do not hold any expectations. What are the odds of an old maiden being available? I sure hope that you are to be lucky in love this time father.

Father: I have been begging the ancestors to let fate favour me in love.

Me: I think you were suppose to have married many wives as a young man. (we laughed)

Father: A man with too many women under his roof is never to find true peace. One is more than enough but I have just been choosing wrong. Perhaps with Ndoni's help I am going to find a kind woman.

Me: I am going to ask her.

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Suddenly he no longer looked so sad. I understand what father means by craving company. I love the conversations I have with

my Queen. They make me see things from another perspective and my lady is a person who does not fear telling me what she thinks. Surely Ndoni is not going to mind helping father seek this old maiden he wishes for. I just hope that the next one is going to deserve him because the last two clearly did not. I stood and went to help Bantu with the training of young warriors. A life that I truly miss but I know I am to never return to it. My priorities have changed so much. but I would be an ungrateful man if I were to complain.

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#Ndoni.

I went to get Zipho while she was busy with her duties to show her my new horse. I still can not believe that I have my own horse that I can independently ride on. Usually woman are only

seen riding in carriages but not on the horse.

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Zipho: Are you not afraid of failing on this?

Me: Well she is to have a saddle whenever I ride, Zipho. Do you not wish for me to teach you?

Zipho: With what time between being a wife, mother and senior?

Me: Now you are just making excuses, Zipho. Surely if I can do it so can you. (she laughed)

Zipho: Okay, I admit I am afraid of doing it. I am not as brave as you.

Me: You are a strong brave women. You and I are to ride to the market on our own. Does that not sound like fun?

Zipho: A Queen at the market without guards is a Queen at risk (I laughed)

Me: Okay you are right.

Zipho: I do agree that it is truly a beautiful

animal.

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We walked back to the royal grounds and went about our business. Kamva came running to me and hugged my legs as I approached. He was saying something but spoke in his weird language so I had to make him slow down.

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Me: What seems to be the matter?

Kamva: Many Baleki's.

Me: Yes, there are many Mbaleki's in Zwelihle. Do you wish to visit there? (he shook his head)

Kamva: Many Baleki's (he said in frustration)

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I did not understand what he was saying so he took my hand and led me to a guest chamber and we walked in. I found Mbaleki lying on her side breastfeeding two cubs. I smiled and

walked closer. They looked so small and beautiful. Their mother is licking them while they nurse.

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Me: Shiba, I need you to talk to me please. I do not know if I should keep the little ones. (there was silence)

Kamva: My Baleki (he tried to pick up one)

Me: Do not pick the little Mbaleki up, Kamva. You might hurt him. Let us not hold them. (he sulked)

Shiba: Greetings, child (I smiled in relief)

Me: I have started to think you have left me forever.

Shiba: You might not see me or hear the sound of my at all times but I am going to remain with you. You are growing into the woman you are meant to be Ndoniyamanzi. You have even surprised me with the graceful strength you

show.

Me: I had no choice, Shiba. You did warn me about the difficult times and I am grateful for it. Could you please tell fate to give me some rest? (she laughed softly)

Shiba: All is to happen as it should be. Do not worry about your protector's offsprings. They are a gift for your children.

Me: I only have one child and there are two of them.

Shiba: You carry your second child.

Me: My children are heirs to this family and not that of Zwelihle. Is this not going to cause conflict with this family?

Shiba: Zwelihle and Umhlaba Ochumileyo are now bound by the children you and Ntsika have and are to have in future. Both the ancestors of this soil and that of your people have approved this union between the two families before you

and Ntsika were even born. Your children are under the protection of both families and cheetahs are a part of that protection. Do not fear.

Me: Why have you not told me all of this before?

Shiba: I am telling you now, my Queen. I know that you and your King are going to care well for the offsprings. Do not feed them meat hunted by someone else. Once they reach a certain age they are to go out and learn to hunt from their mother.

Me: As you wish. My thanks for making things clearer. Are the cheetah's not going to age before they reach maturity?

Shiba: You are not always going to hear my voice but I am here. These are chosen animals, child. Do not fear about the details.

Congratulations on your coming gift. (I smiled)

Me: I have not had any symptoms so I would



not have know now. My thanks for telling me. Is it to be a Prince or a Princess.

Shiba: You are to know once the baby is here (I laughed softly)

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Those were her last words until she speaks again. Kamva seems to like the one with the unusual spots. I picked them up and kissed them and they felt so warm. I am now a grandmother, I laughed at that thought. I can not believe that I am carrying another child. We left Mbaleki with her little ones. We must surely name them soon. I played with Kamva and Thando outside until they became tired. We all went to rest. I woke up after a while and fixed myself. I asked Zipho to look after Kamva as I am going to the garden with Ntsika. I packed food for us and found my horse ready for me to ride on. I got on and it felt magical. We rode slowly while we talked about the business of

the Kingdom. My horse rides with such gentleness. A true lady she is! We arrived and made our way inside.

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Me: It has been a while since we set foot here. It seems to become more beautiful.

Ntsika: As do you (I smiled and blushed)

Me: My thank. You must be hungry.

Ntsika: I could eat a whole cow. (I laughed)

Me: I have a gift for you (he smiled)

Ntsika: I did not expect anything in return, my Queen but I look forward to seeing my gift.

Where is it? (he kissed me)

Me: In here (I took his hand and placed it on my belly)

Ntsika: I do not unde... Wait is the gift a child? (he looked at me)

Me: Yes, it is. (he picked me up in an embrace)

Ntsika: The most wonderful news I have heard in a long while. My thanks for the coming gift, my Queen.

Me: I am happy too. I did not think it was going to happen so soon.

Ntsika: I knew it was just a matter of time. You look so beautiful (I blushed)

Me: My thanks. There is more news. Mbaleki has given birth to two little ones.

Ntsika: I was starting to wonder when they are to come. Are we to keep them?

Me: One is gifted to Kamvalesizwe and the other to our unborn child. I hope you do not mind (he smiled)

Ntsika: Mbaleki has been a blessing to us and having more of her is even better. I do not mind at all, my Queen.

Me: Shiba has been so quiet, I thought she has left.

Ntsika: The ancestors and guardians are not to be rushed. I am just happy that we are soon going to be blessed with another child. I hope Kamva is going to be welcoming to the little one.

Me: He is a gentle boy so I am sure he is going to love his new brother or sister. Still hoping for a Princess?

Ntsika: I am, my Queen. Umhlaba Ochumileyo needs maidens. (I smiled)

Me: That is true.

Ntsika: I am going to be in the chamber when you give birth to tell our child to come quick and not cause my Queen any pain (we both laughed)

Me: If the child is as stubborn as you can bet hen he/she is sure not going to listen. (he laughed)

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He kissed me for a long while and embraced

me. The look of happiness on his face can not be described in words. We put the blanket on the ground, sat and started to eat. Good thing I packed a lot of food because we both seemed to be hungry. I laid in his arms in pleasant silent. We eventually fell asleep but woke up after a while. We made love and he told me about his father's request. Where am I suppose to find an old maiden to wed my father inlaw? I agreed because it sounds like Ntsika really wants me to help. He took out a book and read before it became dark. Listening to him read while we laid in each others arms in our favourite place reminded me of the first time we started to be lovers. The sun started to set and soon the dark sky got filled with stars. Nothing beats watching the beauty of nature while in the arms of the one you love.

[03/02, 19:17] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 45 OBJ

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#Ntsika

Months have by and life has truly been kind to us. Ndoniyamanzi's belly is growing beautiful. Kamvalesizwe is able to speak a bit better now. Mbaleki's little ones are bigger now. One is female and I take that as a sign that a Princess is on the way. Ndoni has gone to Zwelihle with Kamva and Zipho for Princess Mbali, Bukhosi's second baby's celebration. I could not go because my duties here are too great. I sat with father during the morning feast.

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Father: The passages in this house are now too quiet. The Prince is missed already. (I laughed)

Me: When he is here he becomes too much for you to handle. They are to be back soon, do not worry.

Father: Has the Queen found a potential maiden for me?

Me: She is taking this task seriously, father because she wishes to see you happy. Do not fear, once she has met the one she deems worthy to be your bride she is going to know. She has even mentioned that she is going to look amongst the maidens who are sure to honour the invitation to the celebration.

Father: I do hope...

Guard: My apologies, your highnesses but there is a guest in great panic asking to see the King. He says it is of great importance (he cut father short and I stood)

Me: Does this guest have an identity?

Guard: He did not say, my King. He has blood on his clothing and wish to see you.

Father: Let us go listen, my King. It has sparked curiosity in my mind.

Me: Let him wait in the guest chamber and offer him something to drink.

Guard: As you wish (he left in a hurry)

Me: I wonder what an injured stranger wishes to tell me

Father: Let us go and find out.

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We both stood leaving our food and rushed to the guest chamber. We found a man seated and having water. His clothing is indeed filled with blood but he sure did not look like he is bleeding to death. He stood and bowed as we approached.

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Me: You may rise (he stood)

Him: My thanks, my King and apologies for coming to your house unannounced.

Me: Who are you and what do you seek here?



Him: Permission to not reveal my identity, my King. It is sure to anger many people even more.

Father: You are wasting our time, stranger. (he shouted)

Him: I am Phindile, a craftsman in the Kingdom of Bambanani which is under the ru...

Me: Of King Goba! Tell us what you seek on my soil (I cut him short and looked at him)

Him: I have been traveling for an entire week to reach your soil, my King. I wish to warn you of the invasion my King is planning on your land. (I walked about)

Father: How would you hold knowledge of this?

Him: I overheard two of his guards speaks to each other about this plan while they were walking about in the market.

Me: How are we to believe that this is true? You have come all the way from your soil to rat out

your own King. What is your plan, stranger?

Him: I hold no hidden agenda, my King. King Goba is a cruel King and many of his people would sell him out because we hate him. You and your Queen visited our Kingdom long ago and you came to my market place. I have never seen such kindness from royalty and my mind was never to forget you both. Allow me to do this kindness to for you in return. I would rather risk losing my life warning you about this than sit and watch how that cruel man ruin you.

Father: Do you expect us to believe a man who is disloyal to his own King?

Him: You can kill me now if you wish, your highness but all I ask is that you prepare for an attack. I do not know when it is to happen but it is to very soon.

Me: If this is true then we give our thanks but we can not let you go. We are to keep you in our royal captivity until we find out if there is any

truth in this matter.

Him: As you wish, your highness.

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I let the guards take our guest to captivity and had food be taken to him. I can not fully trust a man who is willing to betray his own King. I sat with father and looks of panic and uncertainty is written on his face.

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Father: Are we to take this warning seriously?

Me: We would be fools not to, father. I am going to go talk to Bantu.

Father: How dare Goba try to do this to us.

Me: I am going to see you later, father. Have more guards called for the royal house. Have messengers be sent to Zwelihle and ask Ndoni's father for warriors. We do not know how big this attack might be. I am not going to lose my people and the land of my ancestors to

Goba.

Father: As you wish.

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I went to my private chamber and wore my battle attire. I have not had the pleasure of feeling this material on my skin in a long while. I took my weapons and headed out. I rushed out to Bantu's house and found him sharpening his weapons. He stood when he saw me and we shook hands.

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Bantu: You do not look like a pleased man, my King.

Me: We have gotten a warning about a possible invasion. (his eyes widened)

Bantu: Where is it to come from?

Me: King Goba of Bambanani.

Bantu: We are not even in war with that

Kingdom. Why would he planning such? Who is your source?

Me: He is a King, Bantu and a power hungry one at that. It would not be the first that this is happening. We got word from a commoner in his Kingdom. We have no ties with this Kingdom but we have been existing well together.

Bantu: We are to prepare defense and attack lines. They must come to men who are prepared.

Me: The young warriors are to join in. We can not risk being out numbered.

Bantu: I have just given most the honours of warriors and some are still semi skilled. Are you going to be a part of this?

Me: Do not insult me, warrior. I am not going to sit in some secret underground chamber while my Kingdom is under threat. I am a warrior and I am going to make sure that they regret ever

plotting against my Kingdom. My Queen and Prince are in safety and that puts my mind to ease.

Bantu: I advise that you send word to Zwelihle, my King. Ask the King to help with more warriors because we do not know what to expect.

Me: It is already done, warrior. Father has sent word out for assistance.

Bantu: Let us not stand and waste time. We need to put our defense in action in case of an attack.

Me: Good thing we plan for such events well ahead of time or else we would be losing our minds with intense panic. Are you going to be able to fight if need be, brother? I know your hip is an issue.

Bantu: You think that I am going to sit and watch as you have all the fun. We battle together, brother. (I laughed)

Me: Together, brother (we shook hands)

Bantu: I do not wish for this warning to be true but the thrill of using our shields and weapons in battle again is sure to feel good.

Me: Let what you have just said never reach the ears of our brides (we both laughed)

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He rushed to get dressed in proper attire and we both got on our horses. I looked at Ndoni's horse as it stood graceful and I am glad it's keeper is not here. We assembled all the guards and warriors and we told them about the possible threat to our Kingdom. We ordered all to take up their places and be ready for anything. I have also ordered for some men to go ahead in the direction of Goba's Kingdom to see if there is any possible action. Father has asked me to stay in the royal house but I can not. If it is a war that Goba wants then he is sure to get it. I am not going to hide away like a

coward. I am going to fight like the true warrior that I am. I do hope that this plot is false and that the stranger heard wrong but I have to be prepared because Kingdom get invaded all the time. I am sure not going to sleep until I know what is what!

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#Ndoni

My back is sore from all this carriage riding. How I wish for a quicker way to reach our destination. I am happy that I am going to see my family soon because it has been a while. I was taking a little rest when I got woken up by Kamva climbing on me.

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Kamva: No my mada (he pushed one of the little cheetah's away)



Zipho: My Prince it seems you do not wish to share your mother. (I laughed softly)

Me: He has been a bit grumpy. Maybe he is just tired. (I held him and he rested his head on my shoulder)

Zipho: My thanks for inviting me with you, my Queen. I have truly never been a guest at a royal celebration.

Me: I am just happy that you honoured the invitation. Ntsika could not make it so I am happy that I have you here by my side.

Zipho: I am very excited. I have made special attires for this visit (I laughed softly)

Me: I have too. We are almost there. I can already see the royal house from afar (I pointed at it)

Zipho: I am glad that we are to rest soon, we have been on this thing for far too long. Do you think Bantu is going to survive without me?

Me: They are grown men. The royal staff are going to cook for them but I understand your concerns. Men can be cry babies at times even the strongest ones (we laughed)

Zipho: I hope Thando behaves well. This is her first long distance trip.

Me: When has Thando and Kamva ever behaved well? Do not worry, she is going to have great fun.

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The horses moved at a greater speed because I asked for it. I just wish to get off and rest properly. Little Mbali is to finally be introduced properly to the people of Zwelihle. We entered the royal gate and found mother standing outside waiting for us. I got out and she embraced us.

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Mother: Oh my blossom, I am so happy that you

are here.

Me: We are happy too, my Queen. You remember Zipho? My good friend and senior of the Umhlaba royal house.

Mother: Welcome to our soil, child.

Zipho: What a beautiful your soil is, my Queen. It is truly an honour (she smiled)

Mother: We do hope that you enjoy your stay here with us. I have prepared your chambers for you. You all must be tired because it has been a long journey.

Me: We would like to rest first, my Queen. Where is the King and Princes?

Mother: Your father and Bukhosi are sitting in the kraal quit other men and Ntando is out in the field catching birds with his friends. One would swear we starve that boy (I laughed)

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We walked in and the helpers showed Zipho the

chamber she and Thando are to use during their stay. Mother had food taken there too and we left her to rest. I walked to my chamber and put the sleeping Kamva down.

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Mother: You need to stop picking up Kamvalesizwe, Ndoni. You are pregnant (I laughed softly)

Me: You sound just like Ntsika. I am well, mother.

Mother: My son is right. Pity he could not come. Is all well?

Me: All is well. He just has a lot of business to deal with. He sends his apologies for not honouring the invitation.

Mother: Do not be silly. We understand that he is King and has a lot to deal with. How are you?

Me: I am so well. This pregnancy is kind to me because I do not feel ill all the time.

Mother: I am so glad that you are happy. Let me leave you to rest before sunset. The celebrations are to start soon.

Me: My thanks for everything, my Queen.

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She kissed my cheek and Kamva's and left. I laid next to the little prince and immediately closed my eyes. I am truly exhausted. After a while I heard a noise. Almost like something falling and I jumped up to see what it is. It is just Ncedi unpacking our attires. I looked at her and I thought of something. She can be perfect for Xhanti. I sat up and saw Kamva is not next to me.

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Ncedi: Do not fear, dear Queen. He is playing with Zoleka and Thando. (she smiled)

Me: I am glad because he has been grumpy. How are you, Ncedi?

Ncedi: I am well, my Queen and you.

Me: I am hungry but well (she laughed)

Ncedi: I am going to have them bring you food.  
(she wanted to go out)

Me: My thanks for your kindness but I would rather go and eat with the people. Permission to ask a private question. (she looked at me)

Ncedi: You may ask.

Me: Have you ever been married? (she looked taken aback)

Ncedi: What an unexpected question, my Queen. No, I have never wed nor have I ever had children.

Me: Do you wish to wed someday? (she laughed softly)

Ncedi: Am I not too old for that?

Me: The heart has no age. Well that is what I have heard people say.

Ncedi: I wished to get married when I was a young maiden but the one my heart chose died in battle (she looked down)

Me: My apologies, my lady. I am sure you would have been a good wife. What would you say to marrying royalty? (she looked edgy all of a sudden)

Ncedi: Permission to leave, my Queen. I have lots to do.

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She rushed out before I could even reply. Have I said something offensive? I suddenly felt really bad for asking about her personal life. The Queen walked in and looked confused.

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Mother: Is something the matter with Ncedi? She almost ran me over.

Me: It is all my fault. I asked her rather personal questions and offended her I think.

Mother: Ncedi is not easily offended. What have you asked her?

Me: If she would like to marry royalty. My father in law seeks an older maiden to wed and I am put in charge of this task. He needs a good woman and Ncedi is a very good woman and she saved his life. (she laughed).

Mother: What is Xhanti to do with another wife? (I laughed)

Me: He craves company, mother and all the other benefits of marriage I guess (she laughed)

Mother: I guess I can not blame him. The benefits of marriage are nice. (she winked at me)

Me: I shall not speak about such with you, old woman. (she laughed)

Mother: So you wish to take our healer to your soil?

Me: Mother, I need to complete this task. You



should see how Ntsika's father looks at times. He sure needs joy. I hope you have invited some good woman to the celebrations. If Ncedi rejects my father's hand turn I am to choose from your single friends.

Mother: Shame my blossom, I am going to help you. I know many old maidens for poor old Xhanti. (I smiled)

Me: My thanks, I appreciate it. Now can I please get some food.

Mother: Let us go feed you, mother of cheetahs (we both laughed)

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I went to Zipho's chamber first to see if she is awake and she indeed is. We went to where the feast for the guests is and helped ourselves. Afterwards I took her on a tour around the royal grounds. She was truly fascinated with the Beauty of the place. Father and Bukhosi finally had time to come greet. Father picked Kamva

up.

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Father: Dear daughter, why do you feed my grandson? He is so heavy.

Kamva: Big boy (he shouted and we laughed)

Bukhosi: It seems even he holds knowledge of the fact that he has grown)

Me: His father is to blame for that because he compliments him on his growth often.

Father: Ntsika is doing well. Pity he could not come.

Kamva: Fada busy King. (I smiled because I told him that)

Father: We are going to introduce him to some of the guests. Is that well?

Me: All is well, father.

Bukhosi: Come let us go drink traditional beer, nephew (I raised my brows and they laughed)

Father: He is just being silly. We are only going to feed him meat.

Me: Do keep an eyes on him, father. I beg of you.

Father: I would never put my grandson's life in danger, Ndoni. Do not fear. (I smiled)

Bukhosi: We are going to see you again soon. Say farewell, mother.

Kamva: Farewell, mada (he waved)

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I kissed him and waved back until they disappeared from my sight. Thando played with Zoleka even if she is a bit older. We went to help out with the cooking and peeling for the night feast our guests are to have during the celebration. Hours went by and it was time for the celebration to start. I had a Zwelihle attires be made for Zipho while we were still in Umhlaba Ochumileyo and I am glad it fits

properly. We went to bath and prepare for the feast. I also got my Prince ready for everything. Ntando arrived and wanted to know why I have not come with Zinzi. It seems like I am going to be a go between between these two because Zinzi also asks about him. The singing and celebration sounds started outside. Bukhosi was no where to be seen and Ntando and I were asked to look for him. This is his daughter's celebration so we can not start without him. Zinzi did not seem bothered by her husband's absence at all. I walked in frustration looking for a grown man who knows that nothing is to start without him. I heard voices in one of the rondavals on the royal grounds. It sounded like Bukhosi's voice and I knocked briefly and went in. What I saw shocked me and made my heart sore at the same time. Bukhosi and Ncedile were putting their clothing on. The look of shock on both their faces is indescribable. I closed the door, Bukhosi called out my name

but I rushed back to the royal house. I told the Queen that I could not find him. I can not tell on my brother! He walked in after a while looking shamed but the celebration finally started. Father stood to address his guests.

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Father: Greetings to all. Firstly we want to give our thanks to all who have honoured this invitation. As we know as per our ways when a new member joins the royal family we are to introduce it to the people of Zwelihle. I am now going to give Prince Bukhosi and Princess Zinzi the honour to introduce to you the new Princess of Zwelihle. (they stood)

Bukhosi: My thanks, my King. Like the King has just said, we are obligated to introduce the new members of the ruling family to the people. My bride, Princess Zinzi and I have welcomed another daughter. Blessed is our soil to have this little Princess. We introduce to the people

of Zwelihle and guests Princess Mbali of Zwelihle.

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He held Mbali up to the people and they started to cheer. She started to cry and Zinzi took her to try and calm her. Father spoke more words and afterwards allowed for our guests to have fun. Bukhosi came to sit next to me.

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Bikhosi: Ndoni, about what you saw please do not te...

Me: Do not fear, Bukhosi. I am not going to tell the King and Queen this (I cut him short)

Bukhosi: My thanks, sister.

Me: Ncedi is only a few years younger than the Queen, Bukhosi. Do you think they are to be happy with this? If I could catch you then it is only a matter of time before mother or father does too.

Bukhosi: I can not help it, Ndoni.

Mother: My blossom, please come here. (she shouted from across the chamber)

Me: We are going to speak about this soon.

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I stood and left him seated. Does he not know the trouble this could bring Ncedi? He is safe because he is future King but it might come with a ban for Ncedi. How could she allow such and with a child? I will speak to them both once all has calmed. Mother introduced me to some single old maidens but all just sounded too selfish. The woman chosen is to live with us in the royal house so I must choose well. Ncedi could not even look me in the eyes. I kept on looking at Zinzi and felt sorry for her. The celebrations went on and on. I fed my child and I held him in my arms until he finally fell asleep. Mother stood and the crowd became silent as she gave words of gratitude. Most guests stood

and went to retire for the night. A woman walked in and father stood. Clearly looking panicked as she approached.

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Father: Guards, get her out of here! (he shouted and they did as he ordered)

Her: I want my child! (she shouted out)

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Those were her first and last words as the guards carried her out. We all looked at the King. He is clearly angry as never before and he left us at once. I wanted to ask mother what the matter is but she followed him soon after. The three of us stood confused. Why would this lady want her child from father? Did he have her child held in captivity? I told the others that I am going to my chamber. Going to ask the King and Queen what that is all about is of no use because they clearly do not wish to talk. I took Kamva's celebration attire of without disturbing



his sleep and put him under the covers. I also changed into my nightdress and laid next to him. I gave him a kiss on the head and closed my eyes. Today has been a day of shock and confusion. Hopefully tomorrow I am to find more clarity about it all. My mind finally went quiet and I was able to fall asleep.

[03/02, 19:20] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 46 OBJ

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#Ndoni

Two days have gone by and the tension in the Zwelihle royal house has made me decide to

leave for Umhlaba Ochumileyo sooner than expected. I can not take it anymore. The King and Queen have been quiet about what the woman meant by she wants her child. Bukhosi and Ncedi have been too "busy" to speak to me. The cheetahs have been restless and I do not know why. I went to where Ncedi stood and she rushed away when she saw me. I grabbed her by the arm.

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Me: Do not test me, Ncedile. I am not your fool.

Ncedi: I would never imply that you are a fool, my Queen.

Me: Follow me.

Ncedi: Where to, my Queen? I have duties to attend to.

Me: Did I not say do not test me? (I looked at her intensely)

Ncedi: As you wish, your highness.

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I led the way in a rush and she followed me. We are on our way to Bukhosi's chamber so they can explain. I saw Zinzi outside so I know he is alone. I did not even knock. He turned to look at us.

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Bukhosi: Have you no respect, Ndoni? You could have seen my nakedness.

Me: I am sure if Ncedile stepped in here alone you would not have minded showing your nakedness. You both have a lot to explain.

Bukhosi: I need not explain my actions to you. I am no little boy. (he shouted in frustration)

Me: Well compared to her you are a little boy (I pointed at Ncedi)

Bukhosi: I have duties to attend to. I do not have time for nonsense.

Me: You get out of this door I am also going out

to where the Queen is and let her in on our little secret.

Ncedi: No, I beg of you to not let the royal parents know, my Queen (she said in a shaky voice m)

Me: You should have thought about that before you had bedroom dealings with a child. A child, Ncedi!

Bukhosi: I am not a child, Ndoni. Ncedi and I are in love (my mouth went open with shock)

Me: She is old enough to be your mother, Bukhosi. When Ncedi reached maturity you were not even born yet. Does that not bother you?

Ncedi: We have not planned this, my Queen.

Me: You dare speak while I am speaking.

Bukhosi: Do not speak to her in that manner (he pointed his finger at me)

Me: She has to feel some sort of shame. When

did you start to seduce my brother?

Bukhosi: I am the one who went after Ncedi, Ndoniyamanzi. She did not seduce me. I only started having bedroom dealings with her after I reached maturity.

Me: If you think mother and father are to give blessings to this union then you clearly are a fool, brother.

Bukhosi: I take offense, Ndoni. (he shouted)

Me: You are to have shame, Ncedi. You are almost the same age as his mother. You have cared for him since he was just an infant but now you deem him grown enough to be a lover. They is sick and disgusting! I had so much respect for you and even saw you as worthy enough to wed my father in law. Do not listen to what nonsense Bukhosi feeds you. You are never to be a second royal wife. He is not going to get any punishment should this dirty secret come our because he is precious to this

Kingdom. You on the other hand face a heavy punishment. Do you know that they can accuse you on feeding him love potion?

Bukhosi: That is utter nonsense.

Me: Do not be a fool, Ncedi. This is not love, it is some twisted lust. I might have lost respect for you but I do not wish to see you punished. (she cried and ran out)

Bukhosi: Are you satisfied now? (Zinzi walked in)

Zinzi: What seems to be the matter?

Bukhosi: I have duties to attend to. (he left in a rush)

Me: Nothing, sister. Let me go and check on Kamva (I turned to leave)

Zinzi: You know. Do you not? (I turned to look at her)

Me: About what?

Zinzi: We are both adults here, Ndoni. You have

found out about Bukhosi's love secret.

Me: You know about it? Why have you not said anything to the King and Queen? (I closed the door)

Zinzi: Men get away with too much, sister. I am sure going to be blamed for this. The elders are going to say that I fail to satisfy my own husband. I can not face the humiliation it comes with.

Me: Do you not wish for him to stop it? If Ncedi is banned then he is sure to get over this lust. (she laughed)

Zinzi: Ncedile is not the first one. Bukhosi has a soft spot for older women. It is his curse and he can not seem to rid of it.

Me: You have to find a way to stop it.

Zinzi: How, Ndoni. Do you think I like completing with a woman with wrinkled breasts?

Me: Involve the elders. He is talking about

making her his second wife.

Zinzi: That is just wishful thinking from his part. I would not give blessings to such and neither would your parent. I can not go back to my Kingdom as a wife who failed to keep her family together. That is why I have accepted that my husband likes his maidens old. He is with me to fulfil his duties as Prince and future King. You are lucky, Ndoni. I envy you because your King loves you. I am sure even when you are one in flesh he romances you and make you feel special. I am just here to bare heirs. (she started to cry)

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I wanted to embrace her but she wiped her tears off quickly and left in a rush. This arranged marriages in royal families has to stop. Zinzi deserves to be with a man who is going to love her and give her the romancing she craves during love making. Bukhosi is selfish. I went to



Ncedi once again.

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Ncedi: I do not wish to fight, my Queen. My apologies for what I have allowed to happen.

Me: Stay away from my brother, Ncedile. I do not think you wish for Queen Nobu to know about this.

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I left her standing there and I can not believe Zinzi is not going to try and put a stop to this. If she does not want to do anything to keep her family intact then I can not either. I went to the main sleeping chamber and knocked. The Queen gave permission to enter.

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Mother: You do not look pleased.

Me: I am just not feeling too well. Mother, why have you and father been avoiding us? (she stood)

Mother: I do not know what you talk about.

Me: I am no child, my Queen. Stop treating me like one. You two have not been the same since that woman showed up at the celebration. Why is she seeking her child from the King?

Mother: It is not an issue I wish to talk about, Ndoni.

Me: Well that is a pity because I wish to speak about it. I am to nag you until you tell me. What has father done to the poor woman's child?

Mother: He only loved him and still does (come sit next to me)

Me: Okay (we sat and she held my hand)

Mother: What I am about to tell you is going to shock you and make you feel sad. I do not wish to upset you while you are pregnant.

Me: I am a grown woman, mother. A Queen to my own Kingdom and I do not scare easily anymore. What is the matter?

Mother: The name of the woman that you saw is Nomvula. She was one of the royal house servants.

Me: Do not tell me that father had indecent dealings with her and made he...

Mother: Let me finish speaking, my Queen.

Me: My apologies, I am listening.

Mother: Oh telling this story is not easy. (she took a deep breath and exhaled)

Me: I did not mean to make your heart feel heavy.

Mother: I need to speak about it, perhaps I am to feel better afterwards. When I married your father I thought that we were to have a child soon as it is expected of a royal wife but that did not happen. Six months passed and then a year but nothing happened. The elders started to complain and started to accuse me of being barren. Your father saw the pain that this

caused me and he suggested that we get another woman to have children for us.

Me: Are you telling me that we are not yours?

Mother: I agreed with the idea because I could no longer take the insults from the elders from both families. We had to choose a maiden we trusted and at that time it was Nomvula. We told her about the idea and she agreed to do it. She and the King had to have bedroom dealings of course (she started to cry and I embraced her)

Me: You need not go on if you do not wish to.

Mother: She fell pregnant quickly, my blossom. We told the elders that I am pregnant but need to go to a place of safety to give birth in peace. The elders bought the story and because Nomvula was a key servant they did not question her going with me. Months and months passed and she finally gave birth to a boy.

Me: Bukhosi! (I asked in shock and she nodded)

Mother: I did not think that I would love him but my heart got filled with love and joy once I saw him. We came back to the Kingdom and the eldest gave me and your father praise. Nomvula started to make threats of revealing the secret if Xolo does not make her a second wife. He refused because his heart had chosen me and he banned her from the Kingdom. She knew going against a ban would put her life at risk so she stayed away.

Me: Until the night of the celebration (she nodded)

Mother: The only people who know about this is me, your father, Nomvula, the midwife and now you.

Me: I have not expected to hear such news. If you are barren then who is our mother? (she smiled)

Mother: You and Ntandoyabantu are the fruits

of my womb. It seems all we had to do was be patient. I am your mother and I am Bukhosi's mother too. I just did not nurture him in my womb.

Me: What does that mean for the Kingdom? Is Ntandoyabantu then not to be father's successor?

Mother: By law he is but this is a secret best kept dead and buried. It is to cause great damage to Bukhosi's life.

Me: No secret remains buried, my Queen. Nomvula already came to prove that. I do not even know what to say. So many shady dealings in this house. (I stood)

Mother: What do you mean? Is there something I need to know (I shook my head)

Me: I am just amazed at how you have handled this. It could not have been easy to know that your husband is having bedroom dealings with another woman to produce an heir for the

Kingdom. I am sure watching her belly grown was not easy either. Yet you have not carries bitterness and you love Bukhosi as you do us. You are truly a wonderful woman, my Queen.

Mother: It was not easy but I could never punish my boy for this. We wanted him and the ancestors blessed us with him. All we need to do it keep Nomvula away from here or she is sure going to cause damage.

Me: I am not going to tell anyone. I give you my promise (I embraced her)

Mother: Do not fool yourself. You are sure to tell your husband (we laughed softly)

Me: I am going to try.

Mother: Do not keep secrets from your groom. If you wish to share it with him it is fine. Ntsika is not a man who gossips.

Me: I have to go give Zipho rest and look after the children. She has not come as a staff

member but as a guest. Are you going to be fine on your own?

Mother: Go and be with you friend. (she smiled)

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I kissed and hugged her and I left. The news that I have just heard has left me with all types of emotions. Bukhosi is a half blood royal? I still do not see him as any less of a brother though. Mother and father are to stop fooling themselves. A secret does not remain a secret forever. Nomvula is sure to come back and claim her child once again. Does she not care about the pain she might cause him? I went to Zipho who was having fun with the other ladies. I sat with them as we watched the children play. The little ones slept and I took them to my chamber because Zipho wished to visit the market. Thando, Kamva and I laid next to each other and I felt a sweet slumber creep in.

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Shiba: My Queen, go and warn your father of an attack planned against Zwelihle. (I sat up)

Me: An attack? Why are you not telling this to father, Shiba?

Shiba: It is of no importance. Get up at once, Ndoniyamanzi. Time is not on your side. The danger is near.

Me: How big is the threat to be?

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She kept quiet and I jumped up in fear and panic. I asked for a help to look after the children and I left Mbaleki and her cubs there too. I looked for father everywhere but could not find him. I finally went out in the far east of the royal ground and found him speaking to a few of the Head warriors. He spoke loudly so I could hear everything as I approached.

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Father: It seems my son in law's Kingdom is in

danger. You are to gather some of the best men and sent them out to Umhlaba Ochumileyo at once. Go time might not be our friend. (he shouted)

Me: Father, what do you mean Umhlaba is in danger.

Father: Xhanti put word out of a possible invasion from Goba of Bambanani and they asked for extra warriors. (i started to panic)

Me: There is an attack coming to Zwelihle too. (his eyes widened)

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He rushed to the royal house and I ran behind him. What is going on? How can both Kingdoms be under threat? Clearly the enemy has been planning this a long time ago and I wonder who it is. Could it be this Goba who is planning an attack on Umhlaba also. Father assembled the council and Bukhosi and I told them what Shiba told me.

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Bukhosi: Are we to take a warning seriously? Why would Shiba give it to Ndoni and not you, father?

Father: She is a Princess of this soil is she not? I am going to take this warning seriously.

Bukhosi: What are the chances of both Umhlaba and Zwelihle being attacked? It does no...

Me: We are not going to listen to you coming up with silly assumptions. Do you not know that a warning is always taken seriously? No matter how small now if you do not have solutions then shut up. (I shouted at him)

Mother: Come, my blossom. You can not carry so much burden in your situation.

Me: I am not going anywhere until I hear what their plan is.

Father: We prepare for such, dear daughter. All

we can do know is fight and hope the ancestors are with us.

Me: I say send men out to meet them because if we wait until they set ground on Zwihle soil we put the lives of the people and those of our own in danger.

Bukhosi: I say we wait for them to show themselves.

Me: Then it is sure to be the death of the royal family because they are expecting that.

Bukhosi: You are not even allowed in here Ndoni. Women do not discuss battle details.

Me: My King discusses it with me and he is a warrior. He knows best when it comes to such. Father send out warriors ahead and make it difficult for the enemy to set foot of your soil.

Father: We are to send warriors ahead. Some are to remain to protect here should the enemy gain some sort of access.

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He implemented his already existing defense and attacks lines. He sent out some warriors ahead in the direction of Bambanani. It is better to battle in open field first then wait until they reach the Kingdom. All the woman and children got assembled to a place of safety. Most of the men were armed and ready for anything. I thought about Ntsika and my heart felt pained at the possibility that they might already be under attack. I have faith in him and I know that he is going to handle this in the best way possible. I took my baby and wrapped him on my back. I do not know how much damage this attack might bring or if it is to reach the royal grounds but I had to get weapons of my own just in case. It explains why the cheetahs have been so restless. All of the are out of the royal house and preparing their own defense I guess. Some of the guests are still here and wished to get on their carriages and go at once but that is

going to be dangerous. The chaos calmed after a while and all we could hope for is that our plan is enough to withstand anything to come our way.

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#Ntsika

Days have passed and there has been no sign of any possible attack. Even one of the warriors that I have sent ahead came saying that there is no action happening in the directions I ordered them to. What could be happening? Has Goba changed his mind? I paroled the Kingdom with Bantu.

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Bantu: Go and rest, my King.

Me: Of what use is going to the royal house when my mind won't quiet down?

Bantu: Of what use will you be in a battle if you are too tired to lift a shield?

Me: I do not understand, warrior. It is all just too quiet. Something should have happened by now

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Bantu: I agree with you on that. The silence is worrisome. What exactly has this stranger heard?

Me: That he heard two guards speak about a plot against the Kingdom.

Bantu: Go and rest. If something happens then I am sure to alert you.

Me: What about you?

Bantu: We are going to take turns. Being sleep deprived is dangerous

Me: Let me go then.

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I turned my horse around and let it ride to the

royal house. Bantu is right I truly am sleep deprived and it is truly dangerous. I went in and ate some fruit.

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Father: That is not food. (he walked in)

Me: I have just come to rest.

Khanti: I think we are panicking for nothing, Ntsika. If something has not happen by now then surely this thing is false.

Me: Why would a stranger come from so far away only to give us false information?

Father: Perhaps he thought he would receive royal gifts from us as a reward.

Me: It can not be that, father. I sense truth in what he speaks and he has not asked for any rewards. He has not even complained about being kept in captivity.

Father: Then I remain confused.



Me: I am going to go ask him again.

Father: What happened to resting, my King?

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I did not answer him because I wanted to ask the stranger what exactly it is that he heard those guards said. I ran to the royal captivity and found him resting. I called out to him and he jumped up and bowed.

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Me: You may rise (he stood)

Him: My thank, my King.

Me: Stranger, what exactly were the words used by the guards you overheard in your Kingdom?

Him: I can not recall each detail as it is because I am no longer a young man and I stood far.

Me: I beg that you try. It is of great importance (he kept quiet and looked up clearly trying to think)

Him: They something like...uhm creating havoc and disaster in the land of Queen Ndoniyamanzi (he finally said slowly)

Me: The land of Ndoniyamanzi? Are you sure they spoke about my Queen.?

Him: I know no other Queen with that name that is why I rushed here because this is her land too since she is it's Queen.

Me: Zwelihle! (I shouted out)

Him: Pardon, my King.

Me: They did not mean the soil she is a bride of but the one she is a daughter.

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I stood quickly leaving the man clearly confused. The attack is to be at Zwelihle and not Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I got my weapons and shield and rode out to Bantu once again.

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Bantu: Such a quick rest? I do not th...

Me: The attack is aimed at Zwelihle. The stranger said that the guards said they are to attack the land of Queen Ndoniyamanzi. They meant her home land. I am going to Zwelihle. Have warriors sent with me.

Bantu: I am coming with.

Me: Stay here and be in charge. I do not know if my assumption is correct. You are to remain here just in case I am wrong

Bantu: I ask that you bring my wife and daughter home, brother.

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I gave him a nod and turned to the direction of Zwelihle. Bantu can not expect me to give him such a promise when I fear for my own wife and son's safety. I am going to try my best to bring them all back. I looked behind me and saw many men follow on horses from afar.

Something tells me that I am correct about the attack going to Zwelihle. We have no conflict with Goba. Surely King Xolo is well prepared. All Kingdoms are to ways be prepared for a possible unexpected attack at all times. I can not have Ndoni be under fear of an attack and lose another child. I should not have let them go without me and now I might not be in time to protect them. My mind was filled with so much but I hope that this threat is nothing but a terrible rumour. I am not going to take breaks. How can I rest when the lives of those that I love are in danger once again? How I wish this horse could fly into the air so I can arrive quickly. May the ancestors of Zwelihle and Umhlaba Ochumileyo unite and help us get through this.

[03/02, 19:21] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 47

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#Xolo

A day has gone by and we truly are under attack. My warriors managed to overpower the first line of enemy warriors but we can not celebrate yet. I have lost a few warriors already but not as much as them. The last time our Kingdom had an invasion attack was when I was still a young Prince. It seems too much is happening all at once and I fear I might make mistakes. I stood with a smile of pure pride as my daughter had all the men listen to her when we planned a defense and attack line. Clearly Ntsika's love for everything related to battle has rubbed off on her. I was also a young warrior once so it also runs through her veins. I was in my private chamber changing attires when my Queen entered.

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Nobu: You are not to go out and battle, Xolo.

Me: The more men are available to fight the better, my Queen. Surely you know this.

Nobu: Do you think you are still young, Xolo? Have you seen the grey hair in your head start to show?

Me: My Kingdom is under attack, Nobu. We might have overpowered the first line of attackers but Goba is sure to send more our way. (I raised my voice)

Nobu: We have more than enough young men out, my King.

Me: Some of them perished when we ambushed Goba's men. Good plan that our daughter had to meet them ahead. They did not expect it because they did not know we hold knowledge of their plot but they were too close to just relax. If the first line of attackers were so close than rest assured that the second is to come.

Nobu: Our daughter has a sharp mind, much

like her father. (I smiled in delight)

Me: I ask to be excused, my Queen. (I was about to walk out)

Nobu: Ndoniyamanzi knows (I looked back at her)

Me: Ndoni knows a lot of things. What is it that you speak of?

Nobu: Nomvula being Bukhosi's real mother (she looked down)

Me: I can not deal with this at the moment, my Queen. Let me get us out of harms way first then we are to speak about this. Just ensure that Ndoni breaths no word of this to anyone.

Nobu: She is no fool. She knows what the implications might be but I wish she was not here right now. My child can not lose another baby.

Me: You always tell me that we are to remain positive. Now it is time to follow your own

words of wisdom. How are the women and children?

Nobu: Zinzi, Zipho and Ndoni are good at maintaining calm. Just make sure that we do not lose our land to Goba. I can not imagine having him rule of this soil.

Me: He is to succeed in doing that once I am dead. I do hope Ntsika Is still well. Clearly this is a deliberate attack on both the Kingdoms. He must be working with another Kingdom. Where would he get enough men to attack both Kingdoms at the same time?

Nobu: I do not know just make sure that they are defeated before they reach the our soil.

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I kissed her cheek and rushed out to join the other men. Goba's warriors clearly did not expect a counter attack and that is what we are using to our advantage all thanks to my dear daughter. Blessed is Umhlaba Ochumileyo to



have my Ndoniyamanzi as it's Queen. I have not heard from Nomvula again and I can not risk having Bukhosi find out or even Ntando because he is going to want to take his rightful place as successor. A war between brothers can be a deadly one and I can not allow the same fate of Xhanti's sons befall on my boys.

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#Ndoni

I have not been sleeping well because I fear slumber is going to be a weaknesses in such a situation. I watched as the children played with the cubs and laugh out in delight. Being a child in such chaotic moments must be nice because you are not really aware of the seriousness of everything.

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Me: My apologies for putting your life and little Thando's in danger.

Zipho: Do not be silly. We have both had a good time and no one is to blame for this. I have faith in your father.

Me: Last night I found myself unable to hold my tears back as I thought about Ntsika. They sent that letter to father days before we even knew about the attack on Zwelihle. That means that they could be under attack as we speak.

Zopho: I have also thought about Bantu but do not forget that we speak about skilled warriors here.

Me: Skilled warriors who have not been to battle in years but you are right. Let us not insult our husbands by doubting their abilities. (she smiled)

Zipho: How are you?

Me: I do not know, Zipho. So much has

happened since I have arrived and the hold no knowledge of my own feelings at the moment.

Zipho: I do not like hearing that while you are carrying a child.

Me: I am going to be well, do not fear. (we held hands)

Kamva: Mada, Kamva hungry. (he stood and looked up at me)

Me: Let me go and get food for them. Please keep an eye on him.

Zipho: You need not even ask. (I knelt down)

Me: I am going to go make food for you. Stay with auntie Zipho (he nodded)

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I kissed his little nose and made my way out to get food. The helpers met me outside and were carrying food already. I smiled in delight because Kamva becomes grumpy when he is hungry. The Queen followed after the food

servers.

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Mother: Are you not going to eat?

Me: I am, mother. I was just on my way to ask for the food to be served. What is news about what is happening?

Mother: It seems we have the upper hand. Your father is impressed with your plan to attack first. The enemy was not expecting it. We lost some warriors but not as much as them and we have managed to keep them away from the Kingdom and on to open field.

Me: It is one of Ntsika's plans. I can truly not take credit for it.

Mother: It might be his plan but you suggested it and we are thankful to you both. Ndoni, what seems to bother you?

Me: Mother, we are under attack and if things go badly we might lose our Kingdom.

Mother: I am well aware of that but something else is bothering you. (Ncedi walked by looking fearful)

Me: I am just worried about my husband, father in law, warrior Bantu and my people of both these beautiful soils. (she embraced me)

Mother: Our ancestors are sure not to take a slumber while we are in such crises. Do not fear. Let us go feed my unborn grandchild (we both smiled.

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We went to where the feast is and found most food gone but enough is left to fill our stomachs. There was singing from the ladies and I guess it is to distract the mind from thinking the worst. We sat, sang, danced and laughed one would never say we might possibly die soon if things are to go wrong. Bukhosi approached me and asked to speak to me. I put Kamva on my back because I can see his eyes

are growing heavy with sleep. We walked to a chamber where we had private time.

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Me: I do not have the strength to fight about your love interests. You are a man and old enough to do what you wish.

Bukhosi: I have come to give my apology, Ndoni. I felt attacked when you confronted me and my first instinct was to defend myself.

Me: Do you know the pain you are causing Zinzi? She is beautiful and kind, Bukhosi. What more does your greedy heart want?

Bukhosi: Do you think I have not tried to fight off the feelings I have for Ncedi, Ndoni? I know you look at me with eyes filled with judgment and I understand why. Most men my age go for young maidens but I am clearly not like that.

Me: I did look at you with judgment at first but now I just feel pity. Not for you but for Zinzi and

my nieces. You know the trouble father went through to seek a royal wife for you but you are ungrateful.

Bukhosi: I care for Zinzi but not all of us are lucky to wed those we love, Ndoni. Not all of it s are to have beautiful love stories to tell our children and grandchildren.

Me: You risk making an enemy of Zinzi's family. Zwelihle is a strong Kingdom but it is not indestructible. The current events are to prove that to you. What happens if they take offense when they hear about this? Are we to risk a war with them too? Zinzi set foot on this soil as a pure maiden and you had the honour to deflower her. She has given you beautiful babies but your greedy heart and manhood clearly does not get enough.

Bukhosi: I am a man, Ndoni.

Me: Right now I am doubting that very much. Your actions are that of a boy. You are

humiliating your wife by having shady dealings with a woman old enough to be your mother. That is not the actions of a future King.

Bukhosi: Do not fear. Ncedi has called it off.

Me: Until you meet another old maiden who is going to tickle your weird fantasies. Stay away from Ncedile before you cause her trouble. The King and Queen are not in the most pleasant moods at the moment and you do not wish to see what they might do to punish Ncedi. I accept your apology for your behavior this morning but I can not accept your behavior. I wish Zinzi meets a man who is to love her and show it to her. You clearly do not deserve the kind Princess.

Bukhosi: I am going to try harder and learn to love her, Ndoni but even you have to accept that if she continues to give me daughters then a second wife is to be presented.

Me: And you think it is to be Ncedi? That



second wife is to be a young maiden from a royal family not an old maiden who is a royal house help. Wake up and stop allowing your imagination to fool you. Think like the grown man you say that you are.

Bukhosi: I know that I have disappointed you and you are right. I ought to think like a future King.

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I left him standing there and walked out. I can not keep on worrying about other people's marriages when I do not even know how my husband is where he is. I even fear putting Kamva down for a proper rest because Mbaleki is our on parole and her babies are too young to defend. He is to rest while on my back. Hours went by and I saw father move out in a rush and I followed him. He got on his horse with a lot of guards and rode his horse in speed. What could possibly be the matter? He held the weapons of

Zwelihle. Could our defenses have weakened? We got assembled into a private underground chamber by Bukhosi and Ntando. I stood in awe of how much maturity Ntando keeps showing. He spoke to the people and no one asked questions they just followed his order. Could the ancestors be giving us a sign by giving Bukhosi only maidens? Does it tell us that Ntandoyabantu's future offsprings might sit on the throne many years to come? I sat in thoughts and I listened to some of the guest speak about how much they regret honouring the invitation to the celebration. Mother kept on looking at a woman who sat in the far corner with a scald wrapped around her face. She approached the woman after a while and she moved deeper into the crowd of women. I approached her from the other side because she is clearly running from mother. She bumped into me and I took off her scarf, it's Nomvula.

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Mother: What do you want here? Do you have a death wish?

Her: By the looks of things we are all to die soon. I want my child to know his mother before I meet my end. Bukhosi! Bukhosi! (she shouted out)

Zinzi: My Queen what does she mean by this?

Nomvula: Bukhosi is my son. Nobubele is barre... (mother cut her short with a slap and took her out by her clothing)

Nomvula: Tell them the truth. You failed at your duties of being a proper wife to your King.

Bukhosi: Mother, what seems to be the matter?

Mother: Nothing is the mat...

Nomvula: You say mother to the wrong woman. You are of my womb.

(Bukhosi's eyes widened)

Bukhosi: Go away from here with your lies,

stranger. Guards take her away at once (he shouted in anger and they did as he ordered)

Nomvula: Half of my blood runs through your veins and you...

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They took her away before she could finish. What is this woman trying to achieve. Bukhosi looked at the Queen and and me. The look on his face was not describable. It is a mix of confusion, denial, hurt, anger and much more. He rushed out and the guards tried to stop him because of the possible danger out and he is no fighter but he would not listen. We ran after him and he got onto his horse and rode off. We all stood not knowing what to do. I wanted to get on a horse and go after him but I can not risk losing another baby. I am not going to survive it a second time.

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Zinzi: My Queen tell me that there is no truth to

this. Do you know the anger this is to cause to my father?

Mother: Are you not a future Queen, Zinzi? Are you going to listen to every rumour a commoner brings and follow ghosts?

Zinzi: No, my Queen. (she said softly)

Mother: Then I am not going to speak about this again. Bukhosi is my child. Guards go after him and bring him back. I can not lose my boy. (two guards left at once)

Guard: Your highnesses, the King has given us strict orders to hide you in the secret chamber. I ask that you all come with me.

Me: What is happening? Why must we hide has something gone wrong?

Mother: Let us not go against your father's orders. We are to do as he has ordered.

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No one even dared to utter a word after that

because she clearly is not in the mood for nonsense at the moment. I thought about what Zinzi said and it is what I have been fearing since I heard about Bukhosi. Her family is not going to be pleased with Father lying to them about Bukhosi. He is a half blood royal disguised as a full blood one. How I wish father had not went to find a bride for him. We walked to the secret chamber and I was shamed at all that Zipho has to witness. Something is clearly wrong out there if father ordered us to the secret chamber. Has the enemy gained upper hand? I am feeling fear like never before. I fear for my son and all the little ones here. Shiba has been silent but I know that she is doing her best to help. Surely Ntsika's ancestors are also on alerts because their daughter and grandson's lives are in danger. I could see the look of panic on everyone's face. Ntandoyabantu and Zinzi looked more confused than anything. I do hope that Father and Bukhosi are to return safely and

that Ntsika and everyone else is also safe. I held my Prince as he rested his head on my shoulder and Mbaleki's little ones rested on my lap. I still had my weapons close, just in case. I am not going to allow them to take my life without a fight.

[03/02, 19:22] Ron: grateful.

More Than Just A Servant - By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 48

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#Ndoni

Hours have passed and Bukhosi has not returned yet. Mother is walking about clearly worried and in panic. All the women with little ones held their children close and waited to see what fate is to await us soon. The guards are

clearly also in great panic but are not communicating with any of us. I stood and went to mother to try and get her to calm.

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Me: Mother sit down. You are not doing yourself any justice by walking about like this.

Mother: Do not tell me what to do, Ndoniyamanzi. My husband and son are out there. (she shouted)

Me: Your husband and son are my father and brother, my Queen. Do you think I am sitting there in delight while all of this is happening?

Mother: You are right, my blossom and my apologies for shouting at you. I just wish for Bukhosi to return he is no fighter. Your father knows how to handle such situations but Bukhosi is vulnerable in such situations.

Me: The news shocked him but he is not going to lead himself to his end. What are you going



to do with Nomvula?

Mother: Of what use is doing anything to her if she has already spoken about the secret for all to hear? All that needs to be done is damage control.

Me: The elders are going to demand that Ntando takes up his place as father's successor.

Mother: This is bad because it might cause conflict between the two brothers.

Me: What I fear is the conflict that this is sure to cause between Zwelihle and Zinzi's home soil. Her father is sure to hold great anger once he finds out about this.

Mother: Oh but why is all this nonsense happening all at once? Nomvula is here to claim a grown man. Does she really think Bukhosi is to leave and live a life of a commoner with her? He might not be of my womb but he still remains a Prince of this soil because Xolo's

blood runs through his soil. He even has the royal markings so the ancestors have approved of him.

Me: Perhaps they have approved of him as Prince of Zwelihle but do they approve of him as future King? (she looked at me)

Mother: Is that not an insult to your brother, Ndoni? Just because he is half commoner it does not mean he can not be King. He has been raised here and only knows the life of royalty.

Me: The ancestors have been giving him maidens only. Who is to succeed him someday when he only has daughters?

Mother: I have not thought so far along.

Me: If Ntando is to fall in love with a half blood commoner are you going to bless the union?

Mother: We have already been looking for a suitor for Ntando. If he wishes to wed a half blood then it is to be as a second wife.

Me: That would be unfair. Your son is a half blood yet you deemed him worthy enough to wed a true Princess. You might be annoyed with what I speak but in your heart you know that I speak the truth.

Mother: I do not know what to do anymore, my blossom (she started to cry)

Me: We are going to try and solve it all once we are out of this terrible crisis. I love you and you are a true mother but even you have to accept that the secret is out and it is time to face it's consequences. (I embraced her)

Mother: What you speak is the truth, my Queen. When have you become so wise? (I laughed softly)

Me: I am my mother's daughter so I learn from the best. Do not fear all is to work out as it should. Shiba tells me that many times and she is right.

Mother: That brings calm over me. Come give

Kamvalesizwe here. Let me give your back rest.

Me: My thanks (I smiled)

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I gently took the wrap off and took him off my back and put him on mother's. I do hope that he sleeps until sunrise. Mother went to sit with her friends and I must say she has helped me by taking Kamva. My feet have been sore and slightly swollen. Zinzi approached and I tried to avoid her but could not.

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Zinzi: How are you feeling, Ndoni?

Me: I am exhausted and my feet hurt.

Zinzi: Ask one of the helpers to rub your feet and back. I know that pregnancy is not easy and I can only imagine how unpleasant it is in such a situation.

Me: I am going to ask for help later. It seems Mbali refuses to calm for long.

Zinzi: I do not know what the matter with my little Princess is. It must be all this tension. Ndoni, do you hold any knowledge of what the strange woman said earlier? (my heart started to race)

Me: How would I know what she speaks of when I do not even know the stranger?

Zinzi: What she said left me with many questions. What if it is true? What if your mother is barren and had other women bare children for her?

Me: I take offense, Zinzi. This is your Queen you speak of here. My mother is not barren. We are hers.

Zinzi: My apologies for the insult. I should not have implied that you are half bloods.

Me: It is well. We are all not ourselves at the moment but we are going to sit down and talk about all once this attack has come to an end.

Zinzi: I do hope Bukhosi returns. He might not care about me but I love him (my heart sank)

Me: All is going to be well. Your husband is to return home.

Zinzi: I do hope the ancestors are also protecting your King. May the ancestors of Zwelihle and Umhlaba Ochumileyo protect the people of their soil. (I smiled)

Me: I am sure they hear our plea and are sure to do as we all are asking. My King is well, I can feel it. I can not explain it but I feel him.

Zinzi: Wow to know such love must truly feel magical. To have your heart beat at the same rhythm like the one you love.

Me: Do you still hope to find such love?

Zinzi: I hoped that Bukhosi would choose me but he has not but I do wish it.

Me: Bukhosi is a fool. You are beautiful and he is clearly a blind man. How I wish you can have

what your heart desires. (she smiled)

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She stood forward and embraced me. I wrapped my arms around her too. I am glad she did not ask more about Nomvula because I am not the best of liars. I went to sit with Zipho who did not look as scared as one would expect. I do know that she is worried about her husband though. His hip might slow him down in battle and it could have dire consequences. I went around the chamber checking to see if everyone is still well. I saw a lady who has been sitting alone all this time. I went to ask if all is well.

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Me: Greetings, my lady (she bowed her head and smiled)

Her: Greetings, my Queen. To what do I owe the honour of having you seated next to me?

Me: I am concerned about you. You have been

sitting here all alone.

Her: I have come with my sister in law (she pointed at one of mother's friends)

Me: Why are you not sitting with her and her people?

Her: She would not be pleased to have me next to her, my Queen. Family troubles.

Me: Why have you come with her then?

Her: I have no choice. Her husband is a King and if she orders me to go with her I must.

Me: If she is your sister in law then the King is your brother, which makes you a Princess. Why are you allowing them to treat you so badly?

Her: He is my step brother. The former King was not my father so I can not be deemed a Princess.

Me: Are you married?

Her: I have never had the privilege to wed, my



Queen. I have accepted that my ancestors wish no such life for me.

Me: That might change soon (she laughed)

Her: Now you are making fun of me, my Queen. Who wishes for an old maiden?

Me: I know of a few men who would love to have a kind old maiden to spend the rest of their days with.

Her: I would not even know how to behave before a man.

Me: Are you telling me you have never had male company? (she looked down)

Her: I have kissed a boy in my younger years but I have not done more. (my mouth fell open in shocked)

Me: That is something I have never in all my years heard of.

Her: I know it is embarrassing for an older maiden like myself to be untouched but my

mother made me promise to never allow a man to touch me until I am wed. I have never wed and I do not wish to break the promise I made to my mother in her dying bed. (I kept quiet )

Me: Ncumi, you have just made me speechless. It is not embracing, my lady just highly unusual.

Her: I made a pro...

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She did not finish her sentence because we got interrupted by Bukhosi budging in. He looked flushed.

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Bukhosi: Zwelihle is in great danger. What I have seen is ugly. We are to prepare ourselves for the worst (the women started to cry and the children followed)

Mother: Could you not call us aside to tell us this? Now you have caused panic. Have you seen your father?

Bukhosi: They have already started to burn some of the farms, mother. It seems the enemy has found a way to sneak into the Kingdom. Father is most probably unaware of this and the palace guards are not too strong to fight enemy warriors.

Me: Get all the women weapons. If they come for us then let us not allow them to take our lives and those of our children without a fight.

Mother: Guards get more weapons and shields (she shouted and they left at once.

Ntando: I have been training with the warriors for a long while. It is now time to put the training to the test.

Mother: No, you are to remain at the back with other children.

Ntando: I am not the Prince of cowardness, mother. My people's lives are in danger and hiding like a coward is of no option. Like Ndoni said, we are to give them a fight so that they are

not to forget us even if we have met our ends.

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The guards came with weapons and we hid the small children as best we possibly thought. I could already smell the smoke that came from wherever the fire is. It has now all become real. We are now truly aware of the seriousness of the matter. Most warriors are out and palace guards do not hold the same fighting skills. I looked at my family and hoped that the ancestors shield us somehow together with all the other women. We left those who were too afraid to fight. There was suddenly great panic between the guards as they marched to the front of the royal house to fight off the threat. We are now ready for whatever fate that awaits us, whether it is to live or to meet our end we do not know. Strange men started to make their way in and we all work together to try and defeat the enemy. I was in awe of how much ordinary women are willing to go to keep their

children safe. Our guards also did our best but they got overpowered. Suddenly too many of these strange men came through and we knew that I stood no chance.

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One of them: Surrender or die! You are a bunch of helpless woman and we do not want to harm you but if you continue with your silly attack we will kill you.

Me: It seems you feel threatened by these helpless women, coward!

Him: Do you know how real men make big mouth whores such as yourself shut up? (he shouted)

Bukhosi: You dare not call my sister a whore, bloody cowa... (he did not finish because three men started to beat him up)

Me: Bukhosi. (I shouted)

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The chaos started all over again and I truly did not know what is what anymore. I made use of the fighting skills as best as my husband taught me and hoped that it is to do me some kind of good. I suddenly felt two men pick me up and I kicked and screamed and watched as all the other surviving women got carried away in a different direction. Why am I being carried to a different direction?

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#Ntsika

Finally we have set foot on Zwelihle after what felt like a lifetime. I could see two black smoke clouds from afar and panic caught my mind. This is surely worse than I possibly thought. I can not go to open battle now because I know Ndoni is sure not going to be there. I gave order to most men to go out into open field. I have explained the attire of the warriors of Zwelihle

so they know who they are fighting with and who against. I left for the royal grounds with some of my warriors and a warrior of Zwelihle approached, clearly thinking that I am here to attack and not protect. He saw the symbol of Umhlaba on my attire and allowed us through. I rode my horse as fast as possible. We made it to royal grounds and it seems the enemy arrived before us. I got off my horse and got my shield and weapons ready. I gave command for my warriors to charge ahead and kill whoever is a threat. They do not have many warriors here so it was not a difficult fight. I fought my way through the chaos and finally made way into the royal house. There is no one of the royal family in sight and I hope that they are not amongst the dead and injured that laid on the floor. We heard cries of women and shouting from men. I gave order for my warriors to go look at the matter while I search the chambers for the family. Even if it is just one. I suddenly heard the

agonising scream of a grown man followed by male voices and a lady scream. The lady shouted "Let go of me, filthy pigs" and I realised it is the voice of my Queen. I rushed to where the noise is and I found a man holding her down, her hands tied and her dress torn. She was kicking about trying to fight him off. I rushed and let his neck meet my blade killing him instantly. I knelt down to her and untied her.

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Ndoni: Nts...Ntsika (she let out a bitter cry and jumped into my arms)

Me: You are safe, you are safe. Have they tried to hurt you you in this manner before? (she shook her head)

Ndoni: He almost had me as his forcefully. (her grip around me tightened)

Me: All is well now.

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She let go of me and I tried to fix her dress so we could get up. Suddenly my hand had blood as I touched her thigh. She looked at it and started to cry and I knew what she was thinking. I lifted it up again to inspect where the injury might be and realised that it is not even her blood.

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Me: It is not your blood, Ndoni. Do not fear. You have not lost our child.

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She covered her face with her hands and wept. I put my head on her belly and kissed it. For a minute I also thought that she had lost our child.

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Ndoni: We need to go find the others, my King.

Me: I have sent warriors their direction. We managed to overpower the enemy but you are

right let us go.

Ndoni: My thanks for coming, my warrior. I am so happy to see you.

Me: How can I not come for you? Do you not know the end of me is sure to be the end of me?  
(I kissed her)

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She stood and we went to the other chamber but got greeted by crying women and children. My warriors have done a good job. Queen Nobu rushed to us as soon as she saw us.

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Nobu: Why does your dress have blood, Ndoni? Do not tell me that...

Ndoni: It is not my blood, mother. Do not fear.

Me: Where is the King?

Nobu: Out to battle. I do not even know if he still lives (she cried)

Me: I am going to go and look for him.

Ndoni: Be careful, Ntsika.

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I rushed out and got onto my horse to go look for my father in law. He has saved my life before and helping him fight for his Kingdom is the least that I can do. I got off my horse and started to battle. I have missed the thrill this comes with. How I wish my brother Bantu is here to fight alongside me as we have as young men. It seems the Zwelihle and Umhlaba Ochumileyo warriors are working well together because the enemy is losing lots of men. The fighting came with it's scratches and bruises but a warrior is not fazed by small injury. I fought and defeated men and saw Ndoni's father also fighting. Hours went by and we finally claimed victory. I went to King Xolo who was bleeding from his chest.

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Me: We have to take you back to the mainland, my King.

Xolo: I do not know what I would have done if you had not come with extra men, my King. How great is the damage in Umhlaba Ochumileyo?

Me: We hope that there is no damage. It seems the stranger was warning me about this attack but he was not clear about it.

Xolo: My thanks, my son. I know that Goba no longer have men to battle and I am to send out warriors to finish him off. He should not have messed with Zwelihle. Now I am going to invade his Kingdom and take his land.

Me: We are to plan it well soon, father. You are bleeding too much and it worries me.

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I helped him get on the horse and I also got onto mine. I let his run alongside mine in a

steady speed. I let the warriors stand guard for longer just in case but I am pretty sure that we have defeated the enemy. We finally made our way to the chaotic royal grounds and I helped him inside.

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Nobu: Xolo! (she ran to us)

Xolo: It seems your King still has the spirit of warrior inside him (he laughed softly)

Nobu: That is not something to laugh about. Take him to the chamber that side, Ntsika. I shall have caretakers be with him at once.

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I walked him to where the Queen said and put him down. He let out a loud groan. Clearly that of pain and the caretakers rushed to his aid. It seems the bodies of those who have perished during the attack has been taken. I went to look for Ndoni and found her giving water to people

and Kamva held her dress as she moved. He turned and looked my direction and ran to me.

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Kamva: Fada, Fada, Fada (he fell half way but got up and continued to run to me and I picked him up)

Me: You did not even cry when you just fell, my boy. You are now a strong boy, a little warrior.

Ndoni: Come sit down let me look at those wounds on your body.

Me: These are not dangerous, my Queen. Is everyone safe? I have seen Ntando but not Bukhosi.

Ndoni: He got beaten up badly by the men that attacked the royal house so he is still under care. I do not know what would have come to us if you had not come, my King. We would all have met our end.

Me: Do not think about what has already gone.

All is well we just need to help with aid and help Zwelihle stand once again.

Zipho: Greetings, my King. How is Bantu? (I smiled)

Me: He was well when I left him. Do not fear I do not think Umhlaba is in any danger. He is going to be happy to see you and Thando. He made me promise to bring you back.

Zipho: We all thank you for saving our lives

Me: Thanks the warriors of our soil, my lady.

Zipho: I thank you all. I am sure Bantu's heart is to be sad once he hears he missed out on battle (we laughed)

Me: That is true.

Zipho: Let me leave you. My thanks once again. I stand proud to call you my King. You lead us well. (I smiled and nodded and she left)

Ndoni: I stand proud to call you my husband. My strong warrior.

Me: All this praise is sure going to make me the first African man to blush (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: Have we lost a lot of men?

Me: No, we have not. These young warriors sure know how to fight. How are you feeling?

Ndoni: I am worried about father and Bukhosi but I am well because you are here. The damage to the Kingdom is big but I am sure with help father is going to restore it once again. I have never seen so many dead bodies but I am glad that most are of the enemy. We have to honour our warriors, my King.

Me: We are going to once all has settled. For now I just wish for an embrace. (she smiled)

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The three of us embraced and I am so happy that we have not lost loved ones to death. The cheetahs walked in and the one was limping but it is not Mbaleki. He cubs rushed to her and she



licked their faces. Clearly happy to see them again. Ntandoyabantu attended to the beasts and ensured that they are not injured. Ndoni went to check on her beast and she is filled with blood but most is not hers. Ndoni made me sit down by force to clean my wounds because she feared they might get infected and I did not argue with her. There is still great chaos around us and we are sure not to sleep soon but the threat has been defeated and that is all that matters. I thank the ancestors for making me come in time to stop that bastard from raping my wife. I am also glad that our child still grows in her womb. The blood on her thigh almost made my heart stop. After this is over we are to teach Goba a lesson. I am sure his people are going to thank us. Now we wait to hear about King Xolo and Bukhosi's conditions. I do hope that they both live to celebrate this victory with us. We can not celebrate with funerals. I got on my horse with Ntando and we rode out to the

burning crops. It is sure to cripple their vegetable trade routes but they can start afresh. I am going to help my second home stand on it's feet again. I am a son here and it is my duty to help my family. The smoke filled the air clearly indicating that disaster struck but it was not to last. The ancestors of the two soils did not let the enemy see us defeated and for that I remain truly grateful.

[03/02, 19:23] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 49

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#King Xolo

Days have gone and my body still feels weak and in pain but I do know that the injury is not going to kill me. Nobu has not allowed me to get out and walk about and it is frustrating but I

know better than to argue with my Queen. I sat up when she walked in and I smiled.

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Nobu: That smile is sure not going to let me grant you permission to walk about (I laughed)

Me: I have given up in trying to convince you to let me go on with my duties. How is Bukhosi?

Nobu: He is healing, it seems the bones in his side are broken.

Me: That is not a good thing, my Queen. Let us hope it is nothing as serious as that.

Nobu: He is in good care, Xolo. Our son might not be a warrior but he is strong in his own right. (I smiled)

Me: I have not thanked you for never carrying hate in your heart for him, Nobu. Not many women are able to love a child who is not of their wombs as you do Bukhosi.

Nobu: I need not be given any special thanks for

loving my own son. He might not come from me but my heart holds great love for him.

Me: The royal elders and council have asked for a meeting.

Nobu: But Xolo, you know...

Me: I can not lie in this chamber much longer, my Queen. The business of the Kingdom has crippled and Bukhosi is not well enough to stand in for me as he usually does and no one is to take Ntandoyabantu. seriously yet.

Nobu: Ntsika and your brothers have been handling business on your behalf, my King.

Me: I am grateful for all he has done but I can not let him go on and neglect his own Kingdom. Bongo and Duma I do not trust. They might see this as an opportunity to cripple my rule even more.

Nobu: Fine, you are to go to the meeting but you need to rest afterwards. (I smiled)

Me: I do not know the meaning of the word rest but I am going to try for you. Is Nomvula still in captivity? (she stood and kept busy)

Nobu: She has sparked curiosity in many people's minds, Xolo. This is unfortunately no longer a secret.

Me: Kumkani is not going to be pleased with us having married his daughter to our half commoner son. I fear another attack is soon to hit us.

Nobu: Zwelihle is sure to burn to ashes and never rise if we get attacked right now. You must do something about this, my King.

Me: I am going to try my best to avoid another attack on our soil. I regret ever asking Nomvula to have our child.

Nobu: Do not say that. To regret it means we regret Bukhosi's existence.

Me: Has Ntando not spoken about this since he

heard Nomvula?

Nobu: Ntando has been too occupied with helping in the restoring of this Kingdom to be bothered by such right now. I am so proud of him. I think we have a your younger twin in him. (I laughed in delight)

Me: They both have their unique strengths.

Nobu: Let me clean your wound and help you get ready for the meeting later.

Me: Blessed am I to have you as my bride (she blushed)

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She took the dirty cloth from my wound and cleaned it. It stung a lot but I had to brave it. She finished everything and helped me get ready for the day. I am glad that I am to do something for the day rather than just stay in this chamber. I do not know how I am going to handle the Bukhosi issue but I must sure think

of a way.

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#King Ntsika

The past few days have been busy for all who wish to see this land prosperous again. I have sent a note to father to have him send more aid to this soil. I am sure it is on its way. I walked to the chamber I share with my Queen during our stay here and found her applying body butter on her freshly bathed skin. She looked at me and smiled.

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Ndoni: You need rest, Ntsika. Exhaustion is sure going to be the end of you.

Me: You are right, my heart (I laid on the bed on my back)

Ndoni: I have missed you. We have all been so busy with repairing and restoring that I hardly see you. (she got on top of me)

Me: There is great progress, my Queen. Soon Zwelihle is to be as it was before this disaster.

Ndoni: All thanks to the King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

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She kissed me and my body immediately reacted because she is in her nakedness. She took off my clothing and kissed and explored my body. We made love like it is the last time we are to ever do it again. I do not think I am going to stop desiring this beautiful lady of mine. We laid in each others arms when I felt our child move. I sat up in excitement and held her belly.

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Me: What are you doing in there little Princess? I



hope your moving is not causing any pain to my Queen.

Ndoni: No pain, do not fear (she laughed softly)

Me: That felt like a strong kick. It is all just so magical. I can not wait to see you, dear daughter.

Ndoni: Or son (she smiled)

Me: The cheetah gifted to our unborn child is female and I think the ancestors are giving us a sign.

Ndoni: I am just happy that she is still growing well. So much has happened that could have caused my body to be too weak to carry our child. (she said softly)

Me: Let us not think about that. You both are well and safe and so is our little boy. (she kept quiet for a while)

Ndoni: Would you have seen the same woman in me if that coward succeeded in raping me?

(her eyes got filled with tears)

Me: Blink so that the tears can fall, my lady. I want you to see me properly when I give you an answer.

Ndoni: My apologies for such a question (she blinked and tears fell down her cheeks)

Me: You need not apologise. Ndoniyamanzi, you are the only woman my heart beats for. I do not think any fate is to change that. If he succeeded I would have been angry at myself for not protecting you and I would have hated to see you carry such an emotional burden. But I would not have seen you as less of a woman.

Ndoni: I am glad you came in time because I do not wish for another man to have me. (I smiled)

Me: I am sure to kill any man who dares try to invade my temple. (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: I have good news for you. (I smiled)

Me: I am listening.

Ndoni: I think I might have found a maiden for father to wed (she smiled in excitement)

Me: You seeked a maiden during all the chaos?

Ndoni: That is the thing, my King. I did not go out seeking a maiden. I just found her and I think the ancestors wanted us to meet.

Me: Does this lady have an identity?

Ndoni: Her name is Ncumisa but I hold no knowledge of the soil she hails from. She is untouched too.

Me: Ndoni, father wishes for an older maiden with wisdom so he can have great company when with her. Not a young naive maiden, my Queen.

Ndoni: She is his age (my eyes widened in shock)

Me: Why is she untouched if she is so old?

Ndoni: She has been keeping herself for her wedding night. (I laughed loudly)

Me: So if she accepts to be father's bride, he is to deflower her? (we both laughed)

Ndoni: I think it is beautiful, Ntsika. I am sure even father is going to be shocked.

Me: We are to find out where she is from then, my Queen. He truly wishes to have a wife. Does this maiden wish to ever have a child?

Ndoni: That is to be between her and father should they wed, my King. There is more that I wished to discuss with you but I have not had any time.

Me: This sounds like unpleasant news judging from your tone. What is the matter?

Ndoni: Bukhosi is a half royal (my heart nearly stopped due to shock)

Me: I do not understand (she told me everything and I kept silent)

Ndoni: It is shocking news, I know.

Me: Does the royal parents of Zwelihle realise

the damage this secret is going to cause?

Ndoni: It is no longer a complete secret.

Nomvula told the news before many people and now I know it is just a matter of time before it goes to the ears of Zinzi's family.

Me: I would not take being fooled like that lightly. Your father has done great injustice to this Princess by marrying her off to his half blood. I mean no insult but it is not right, my Queen.

Ndoni: I take no offense because I agree with you. We wait to see how they are to deal with it.

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We kept on discussing the Bukhosi issue and it is truly a mess. We made love and got the well deserved rest that my body needs. After a while there was a knock on the door. I got myself decent and went to open.

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Guard: My King, the King of Zwelihle wishes to see you in the council chamber at once.

Me: Tell him that I am to join him soon.

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He nodded and left. I put the rest of my clothing on and went to the sleeping Ndoni. I am not going to wake her up so I kissed her lips softly and left. Why would the King wish to see me? I thought he was not strong enough to get up. I walked into the chamber and bowed my head in greeting.

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Xolo: My thanks for coming, son.

Me: Why have you called me here, father. Is something the matter?

Xolo: We are to have a council meeting soon and I wish for you to be here.

Me: I would be honoured, father but are the Council members not going to take offense by

me being here?

Xolo: Do not fear, I am going to handle them.

Me: You are looking stronger. That is good.

Xolo: The pain still remains but a man sheds no tears because of a little wound (we both laughed)

Me: That is true, warrior.

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We talked and planned while we waited for the other men to join us. Ndoni's uncles arrived first and they greeted with a look of unpleasantness on their faces. The elders also arrived and the King started to speak.

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Duma: My apologies for interrupting, brother. Permission to speak before you continue.

Xolo: Have your say, Duma. (he looked annoyed)

Duma: Is this not the business of Zwelihle? Why

do I see the King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo in a council meeting?

Bongo: I agree with our younger brother. He might be a son in law here but this is the Council of Zwelihle.

Me: I meant no offense by being here uncles. The King asked me to be present and I accepted the honour. My King, perhaps it is best I leave.

Xolo: You are to go no where, my King. Duma and Bongo where would you be at this moment had King Ntsika not come?

Duma: I do not und...

Xolo: You would be dead dammit. We would all have been in a dark hole with dirt on us had it not been for his help. (he shouted)

Elder: Calm, son.

Xolo: I am not going to calm, elder. All the ungrateful loud mouths who do not wish to see



my son here can stand and leave our sacred chamber. (he looked at his brothers)

Duma: Our apologies for being ungrateful, brother.

Xolo: You hid in your house during the chaos instead of coming to fight for the soil of your people and now that it is over you dare become brave with your mouths. Zwelihle stands today because of King Ntsika and his warriors. I hold no knowledge of how you treat your sons in law but do not expect me to follow what you do.

Elder: Permission to proceed with what we have gathered here for. We would like to know what the reasons for the attack was, my King.

Xolo: I have sent out men to bring Goba to me and his sons. I hold no knowledge of the reasons but I know that they are soon to bring the enemy to me.

Duma: I say let us give order to have him killed.

Me: Of stay use is he to us if he is dead? We need them alive so he can give us answers.

Bongo: We can not let the enemy live, my King.

Xolo: It seems you fear that the enemy is to reveal truths that you both hold knowledge of.

Duma: I take offense, brother.

Bongo: I do too, my King. Why would we work with the enemy to destroy the land of our ancestors?

Me: Father, continue with our plan to bring Goba and his sons to your soil. If you say that you are in no conflict with his Kingdom then he is to come and tell us his reasons.

Elder: I agree with both Kings. Are we to seize Bambanani and keep it or sell it?

Xolo: We are keeping it and we are to have more farming done on it. The wealth from it is to benefit Zwelihle and Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

Duma: Is that not too much of a reward to the

King?

Me: I do not expect any rewards, my King. This is the soil of my Queen's ancestors and I do not wish to see it in crisis. No rewards are needed.

Xolo: It is not up for negotiation, my King. You have helped seize it and it is only fair that your Kingdom reaps the benefits as well. I have spoken and made my decision.

Elder: We agree to it, son.

Bongo: There is the issue of Bukhosi. Xolo:  
What about Bukhosi?

Bongo: We all know about the rumour going around that he is not the son of your Queen.  
(Xolo's jaw tightened)

Xolo: It seems there is no use hiding the truth anymore. It is true (he told them the entire story)

Elder: That means the Prince is not to sit on the throne when the time comes. We can not be led by a half blood. No wonder he gets no boy

children. The ancestors are not happy.

Duma: How are we to know that Ntandoyabantu is not a product of a commoner's womb either?

Xolo: Do not insult me nor my Queen like that. You have all seen Nobubelele pregnant with the princess and later the younger prince.

Elder: Ndoniyananzi and Ntandoyabantu are hers. I hold knowledge of that. Why have you not told us about this plan, Xolo?

Xolo: When elder? All you people did back then was throw insults on my Queen claiming that her womb is cursed. I did what I thought is best to protect the honour of my bride. (he shouted)

Me: Try to calm, my King.

Bongo: We can not continue to have him as your successor. He does not even deserve the title of Prince. Do you know the anger this is sure to cause Kumkani?

Elder: You should have let us in on this secret of

yours. We ought to deal with this maiden who is Bukhosi's true mother. Bukhosi can be in charge of the other lands we have as Prince but he is never to sit on the throne of this soil. We are to keep this silent from King Kumkani or we are to be in deep trouble. Duma and Bongo, you both are to shut your mouths or face the punishment of having your tongues cut out.

Duma: All I am saying is Bukhosi is to step down as heir to the throne.

Xolo: I am going to sit down and speak to my son myself. No one is to tell him the whole truth but me and my Queen.

Elder: As you wish, my King. We are to meet again once you have done so. My thanks to all of you for coming.

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They all stood and left and I remained with King Xolo. He looks upset and angry and I feared to anger him more by speaking.

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Xolo: I do not trust my brothers.

Me: Why can royal brothers just not get along?  
It seems to be a curse with being of royal blood.

Xolo: It is the fight for power, my King. The brother I got along with died from a fever when we were young boys. Zwelihle would have been greater with him by my side.

Me: At least you hold knowledge of what it feels like to have a true brother.

Xolo: When are you and Ndoni to return to your soil?

Me: In a few days. Have we overstayed our welcome? (he laughed)

Xolo: Do not be silly. I just know how demanding leading a Kingdom is and I do not wish for you to neglect yours.

Me: Father still has some energy left in him so he takes care of many things in my absence.

Soon we might celebrate his wedding.

Xolo: I was wondering when he is to take a wife again. No man is to live alone.

Me: Ndoni has found him an untouched old maiden (we both laughed)

Xolo: Where has my daughter found such?

Me: I hold no knowledge of that, my King.

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We kept on making fun of father's situation and there was great laughter. I also told him that I do not trust his brothers so he must keep alert at all times. His Queen walked in and took him to rest and I could see he is annoyed. I went about my business and he is right we must go back to our soil soon.

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#Queen Ndoni

I woke up to find Ntsika's side empty and cold. So much for resting! I got up, got myself decent and dressed. I sent Zipho home as soon as the danger was over because I know she misses her husband. I went out to look for something to do and decided to go check on Bukhosi. I entered and went to his bed. The swelling on his face has down.

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Bukhosi: I need to get out of here and feel the sun on my skin.

Me: Good luck with convincing the Queen to allow that. Even father is a prisoner (he laughed softly)

Bukhosi: We are blessed to have her. Ndoni, how much truth do you think that woman's word's hold?

Me: Which one? (I tried avoiding the question)



Bukhosi: The one claiming that I am of her womb.

Me: I do not know, Bukhosi. Only the Queen and King are to shed light on the issue. What would you do if it were true?

Bukhosi: I do not know.

Me: Let us not talk about it. How are you feeling?

Bukhosi: I think that I have broken bones. Zinzi has been looking after me well. You were right, I do not deserve her.

Me: I am sorry, my brother but it is true. I hope this near death event has taught you to appreciate Bukhosi. No more Ncedi or any other maiden.

Bukhosi: I am going to be kind to Zinzi. I give you my promise. (the door opened)

Zinzi: My apologies. I did not know you are here, my Queen. I have just come to clean his wounds

Bukhosi: Other women would have left me to rot but not you. You are special, Zinzi and my truest apologies for treating you as I have. You deserve more for you are of great worth.

Zinzi: Is it not my duty as your bride? It seems this injury has turned you into a person I do not know (she smiled)

Me: They have beaten the foolishness out of him (they laughed)

Bukhosi: I was not raised like that. I have never heard the Queen complain about the King sleeping around and I ought to treat you as my father has my mother.

Zinzi: That warms my heart, my Prince.

Me: Let me leave you both to your business.

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I kissed Bukhosi's forehead and left them. He seems like he truly means why he has just spoken. Perhaps all he needed was a wake up

call and a heavy beating gave it to him but I do not want to speak to soon. He might change his tune once he has healed. I went to where the Queen stood.

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Mother: You need to sit. Look at those feet.

Me: They are in no pain. Mother, I wish to ask you something.

Mother: My ears are yours.

Me: There was a maiden here, her name is Ncumisa. She is the sister in law of one of your friends.

Mother: Ncumi, Nopopi's servant?

Me: She is the stepsister of Nopopi's King, not a servant.

Mother: I know her to be a servant. What you speak is new to me. What about her?

Me: I wish to ask for her hand on behalf of my

father in law. (she looked shocked)

Mother: Does he not wish for a royal bride, Ndoni?

Me: Stay good has that done him in the past? Jongi was far from being royal but he wed her. Plus we seek not a maiden to give our soil heirs. Only a maiden to love and care for Ntsika's father.

Mother: You are on quite a mission, my blossom (she laughed)

Me: Where is Ncumi from?

Mother: From Intaba'ende. They have already gone so you are to travel there. I do not want you to go so far, Ndoni.

Me: We have royal messengers at Umhlaba too. (she laughed softly)

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It seems that all it coming together well. I am to sent a letter to Ncumi's family soon. Mother

told me that they are going to tell Bukhosi the truth because the Council also know and do not want Bukhosi as future King. I let a male servant prepare a horse for me to go out in the field because that is where Ntsika is with Kamva. I truly did find them there and the three of us walked about.

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Me: Most of the commoners houses destroyed are built again.

Ntsika: It shows how great working together as a team truly is. We are to go home soon, my Queen.

Me: I know and I agree. We have our own Kingdom to look after. Zwelihle is going to be well. Even the small Kingdoms led by chiefs have given aid to help restore this soil. A Kingdom truly needs to have more friends than enemies or it is not going to last.

Ntsika: Sometimes the enemy is a part of the

Kingdom.

Me: What makes you say that? (I looked at him)

Ntsika: Something about your uncles is not right.

Me: But that is no surprise, my King. They always hold their own different opinions.

Ntsika: I hope that is all there is to them.

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We talked more and it seems he thinks father's brothers are up to no good. I do not communicate with them much but they truly are annoying. Kamva became hungry and we had to go back. We all sat as a family having a great feast. Even Bukhosi has joined us but they had to carry him in. We sat and ate when Zimba rushed in. He bowed his head in greeting.

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Zimba: My apologies for interrupting, my King but you have guests. It seems they have come

in great urgency.

Father: Have they said who they are?

Zimba: They need no introduction, my King. It is King Kumkani and his bride.

Zinzi: My father? (she smiled)

Zimba: Yes, dear Princess (she stood and ran out)

Father: Tell them that we are going to meet them soon.

Zimba: As you wish (he left)

Bukhosi: What would my father in law be doing here? He is never a man to travel this far. Surely it is of great importance.

Father: My Queen, let us go and meet our guests. It is rude to keep them waiting.

Bukhosi: Have me taken to meet them.

Mother: You are not to meet any guests in that condition. Go and rest. .

I could see the panic on both Mother and Father's face. Could Zinzi's parents have found out about the matter? Did she send a note to her soil without any of us knowing about it? All these questions ran through my mind and not a single one had an answer. I looked Ntsika and I could see that he also feared that the visit from Zinzi's people is not a pleasant one. Are we to prepare for another war? Is this the end of my people's soil? We sat as we waited to hear the news of what is truly happening. May fate shine some light on us after we have gone through so much darkness.

[03/02, 19:24] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 50

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#Xolo



My Queen held my arm as we rushed to the guest chamber. She is busy fidgeting her fingers and I know it is a sign of nerves. We walked in and Kumkani charged at me with a punch. I am not about to be insulted in my house so I fought back. All the children ran in and Bukhosi got carried to the chamber. I held Kumkani down to try and calm him.

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Me: Do not let me make a fool of you in front of your Queen, Kumkani. (I shouted)

Kumkani: What else could make me more of a fool than to know that I gave my daughter to a boy who is not even a true Prince? Let go of me at once! (I let go and he stood)

Me: You dare not come into my house in such a disrespectful manner again.

Bukhosi: So it is true. I am not yours, my Queen (he looked defeated)

Nobu: You are mine, Bukhosi. I might not ha...

Kholeka: You dare deny a truth that you know, Nobubele. Are any of these children even yours?  
(Nobu slapped her)

Nobu: I am not one of your servant girls. Do you hear me? You are in my house and you are to respect me or you are sure to regret it.

Kholeka: You have brought shame to my daughter and you must not think that we are to let go of this.

Zinzi: Mother, let us sit down and speak like adults. I beg of you.

Kumkani: Go pack your clothing, we are leaving for our soil at once. Get ready for the wrath of my Kingdom, Xolo.

Bukhosi: She was not even pure on our wedding night (he shouted in anger)

Me: What do you speak of, Bukhosi?

Kholeka: You damn hald blood coward. How

dare you insult my daughter like that. She was a pure maiden until you had her. We saw the proof on the sheet you presented to us.

Zinzi: I beg of you to not do this, Bukhosi (she started to cry)

Bukhosi: My apologies, Zinzi but I can not stand here and let your family insult mine as if they have raised a perfect child. I had to cut my arm slightly and let drops of blood fall on our wedding sheet because your daughter was not pure on our wedding night.

Kumkani: That is of no truth. Our child was untouc...

Zinzi: He speaks the truth, Father. I was not pure when we wed. My heart chose a young warrior of our soil and I was foolish enough to let him have me. My apologies (Kumkani shouted in anger)

Kholeka: How could you do that to us, Zinzi? Do you know the shame I feel at this moment?

Me: Now we are all to try and calm down. We are to sit and seek a way forward that is best for all of us.

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Everyone sat down except for Kumkani. Clearly he did not expect such a confession from his precious daughter. It seems there is dishonesty on both sides of the family. I looked at my eldest son and the look of pain on his face pained me. I looked at Nobu who is fighting away the tears threatening her eyes. Kumkani finally sat down.

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Kumkani: The injustice that you have done to us is far greater than the one our daughter has.

Me: She held no knowledge of my son being a half commoner yet she allowed a union between them to happen knowing that she has been made impure.

Ntsika: My Kings, we are to get no where with all of this. Let our aim now be to find a peaceful way to move forward.

Bukhosi: There is more to the story.

Nobu: What else could be the matter (Zinzi let out a loud cry)

Bukhosi: Zinzi was pregnant with the child of her lover. She lost her unborn child but we said nothing about it (everyone's mouth widened with shock)

Ndoni: Do not tell me you are responsible for the loss of the child, Bukhosi.

Zinzi: He... he wa... he was not responsible.

Nobu: You came here knowing that you are pregnant with another man's child yet you let us take you to wed our son. I do not even know what to say, Zinzi. I have loved you as my own child.

Zinzi: I told him the truth the day before we wed

but Bukhosi did not wish disappoint his father so we agreed to keep it quiet?

Me: You were going to try and make us believe that your bastard child is a royal child of Zwelihle? Do you not know that we know our children?

Zinzi: Clearly the ancestors did not wish for the child to live so what I was planning is of no use but I told Bukhosi about my secret before we wed and I thought of running away but he stopped me and promised to keep the secret.

Nobu: This is the Princess you bragged so much about!

Kumkani: Zinzi, I am shamed to call you mine. Imagine the embarrassment we are to face once the people of our soil know that our only Princess has had bedroom dealings with a commoner and carried his child. All of me wishes to disown you right now!

Zinzi: I am sure deserving of being dead in your

eyes for the shame this has brought you.

Ndoni: What do we do now?

Zinzi: I am not happy in this marriage. Bukhosi sees me not as his wife but the one to bare children for his family.

Bukhosi: I have kept your secrets up until now. Does that not show you just how much I care about you?

Zinzi: I need more than just care, Bukhosi. I need true love. You have kept the secret for your own selfish reasons. Have you told them that you only desire maidens who are old enough to be your mother.

Nobu: Is this true, Bukhosi? That would truly be a disgrace..

Bukhosi: I have stopped doing it, mother.

Me: You are to speak about desires once you are in your private chamber. I think it is best that the Princess returns to her home soil until

we have a solution for this.

Nobu: I agree with my King. Just too many secrets have been revealed. You need to go with your daughter and deal with her issue and we are to do the same with our son. Once we have all calmed we are to meet once again.

Kumkani: This is all just such a mess and I fear it is never to be restored.

Me: We are going to work hard to fix this because we are all still in shock at the moment.

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Zinzi stood to pack her bags and that of the children. So much has been revealed and it feels worse than Goba's attack. They left us to help their daughter. Kumkani is breathing fire and I feel pity for him. I still hope that we can restore the marriage between our children to not bring shame to any of the Kingdoms. We sat with our children.



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Nobu: Bukhosi, I know that this is a great shock to you but I want you to know that I love you.

Bukhosi: I have thought about the possibility of this being true and I thought that I might be angry but I am not. I am relieved. (we all looked at each other)

Me: Of what relief is finding out such news?

Bukhosi: Because it has freed me from the burden of being King someday. I love this Kingdom and wish to see it prosper but I do not wish to lead it. The pressure is just too great. (we all looked at him shocked)

Me: Have you forgiven us?

Bukhosi: Mother might not have given birth to me but she has never ill treated me and for that she is to remain my mother for all my days in this life (Nobu stood and embraced him)

Nobu: We did what we thought is best at that

time, my son. We did not think that it is ever to be known by all but now it is. You might not be mine but you are a Prince of this soil. If you were not then the ancestors would not have given you the royal markings of Zwelihle nor would they have given you a protector.

Bukhosi: I hold knowledge of that, mother. I am hurt but not enough to cause chaos. I grew up surrounded by love and kindness and I am not going to spit in your faces by being ungrateful. Permission to see the lady who has carried me in her womb.

Me: You are a grown man. You are able to decide for yourself.

Bukhosi: Is it well with you, mother?

Nobu: Yes, just do not run away with her (he laughed softly)

Bukhosi: I shall not, I give you my promise.

Ntando: Does this mean that I am to succeed

father?

Me: Yes, it does young prince.

Ntando: Bukhosi I am sure to need your help with this. You hold great knowledge.

Bukhosi: You are sure going to lead the people of this soil well, Ntando.

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He asked for the guards to lift him up and take him to the place of captivity. I do not like him meeting Nomvula but I can not stop a grown man. He seemed to take this news well. Could it still be the denial speaking? I sure hope that he truly means what he says and that he is not planning revenge. The guards came to tell me that Goba has finally set foot on this soil. I asked Ntsika to come with me and he agreed. We went out to where he is.

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Goba: If you kill me then my grandchildren are

sure to grow up and destroy your land someday.

Me: I am going to kill you and I am going to ensure that I live long enough to see their attempt to avenge you. Why have you come after my land, Goba?

Goba's son: My father owes you no explanation. Do you not know that Kingdoms are invaded all the time?

Ntsika: We are not to ask you again.

Goba's son: Go die (he shouted)

Ntsika: Or maybe I should give you a little taste of what death might feel like.

Goba: You dare threaten a man that is tied up. Untie him and fight him like a man (Ntsika smiled)

Ntsika: Untie the man. Perhaps he is to prove to be more man than his father.

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The guards untied him and he took off the top clothing he wore. He tried to wave a punch but Ntsika gave him a beating he is sure to never forget. Both him and his father were begging. Ntsika stopped.

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Ntsika: Like I have just said. We are not going to ask again.

Goba: The snakes who have plotted against you are those you call brother. Duma is clearly eager to see you and all the children you have die so he can take your place on the seat of power. Dumb Bongo is just his lapdog and agrees to everything. Do not worry, you are not the first to have evil brothers.

Me: Have them taken to the execution hill. No one dares to try and kill my family and the people of my Kingdom and lives to tell about it. Do you know how many lives have been lost in your attack? Did you really think you could lead

my Zwelihle?

Goba: If it was not for the help of this thing you call a son in law I'd be sitting on your throne as we speak. Thank your ancestors that help came in time, fool. I do not fear death and I am going to be averaged. Even it is in many years to come but you are going to hear of the name Goba again.

Me: Take them away and let them face the full punishment for the crime that they have committed. I am not going to dirty the claws of my beast with worthless men. Zimba make sure they do as ordered (Zimba nodded and they were taken away)

Ntsika: What are we to do with your brothers?

Me: The elders are to know at once but they are to be captured and face the same punishment. They have betrayed the land of their forefathers. A crime not to be taken lightly.

Ntsika: May Kamvalesizwe and his future

brothers not carry the curse our brothers have.  
It only leads to one thing.

Me: Death (he nodded)

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We left for the royal grounds at once and sent guards to those two fools houses. Duma ran away like the coward that he is but soon found him. It pains me to lose more brothers but I can not have people who plot against me in my council. What they have done has caused many people to meet painful ends. People who have nothing to do with the feud between us. I do not blame Bukhosi for being relieved after realising that he is not to be future King. This title is both a curse and a blessing but more a curse because there exists limited trust in a royal family.

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#Ndoni

All this news have been too much. It seems to be raining secrets in the Zwelihle royal house. I rushed to Zinzi's chamber as she packed.

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Zinzi: I do not wish to hear what a disgrace of a woman I am, Ndoni. My mother has told me that countless times.

Me: I am not coming here to fight, Zinzi. I am just here to say sorry for the loss of your child long ago. It is a pain I do not even wish on my worst enemy. Is this why you put up with Bukhosi's scandals?

Zinzi: At first it was the reason but then I truly fell for him. I do wish to come back.

Me: To a man that might never love you?

Zinzi: Is it not what I deserve for the shame I have brought to my family? I can no longer take.



My father looks at me and he sees nothing but a disgrace.

Me: I have lost my virginity to Ntsika before we wed also. You are not the first nor last maiden to do it, Zinzi. I can not judge you for something that I too have done. It would sure mean I am a hypocrite. All is going to be well.

Zinzi: It is not, Ndoni (she broke down and cried)

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I ran to embrace her as she crumbled to the floor. My own tears just flooded out because I truly do care about Zinzi. I do not judge her and I hope Bukhosi is going to ask for her to return so they can try. She asked to be left alone and I did as she wished. I went to get Kamvalesizwe and held him until he fell asleep. The Queen came to me.

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Me: I am truly exhausted. We need some joy

after all of this.

Mother: Fate is to give it to us soon but for now we need to be patient.

Me: We are to leave for our soil in two days. Ntsika has done his duties all is now up to the people of Zwelihle.

Mother: Yes, go home to some peace and plan Xhanti's wedding so we can all celebrate. All that is happening is the concern of your father and I.

Me: Promise to write notes on the progress once we have gone.

Mother: I give you my promise, my blossom. Take your prince away from this tension. He is too young for this.

Me: He truly is (I kisses his head)

Mother: You and your husband have helped us so much. Our thanks, my Queen.

Me: You are our family and I know you were

going to help if this happened to Umhlaba Ochumileyo. At least the Goba issue has been dealt with.

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We talked more and it is really time that we leave. I have witnessed too many deaths here and secrets coming out. My uncles are in captivity but I know the fate that awaits them already. I am now going to focus on arranging a wedding. Something we can surely celebrate and I seek no other maiden for my father in law but Ncumisa. I feel like she is chosen. Mother stood and left and Ntsika walked in.

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Me: I ask that we leave tomorrow or the day after, my King. Surely mother and father can deal with all else.

Ntsika: I was thinking the exact same thing, my Queen. We need rest.

Me: Do you think Bukhosi is truly to let go without a fight?

Ntsika: I have never told you this but he has spoken about not being keen to sit on the throne. I guess this has truly given him an excuse not to but I do not know if he is to have a change of heart soon.

Me: I also felt truth in what he spoke. I think that what he did to protect Zinzi's honour was amazing. I know he did it so he would not seem as ungrateful to father for looking for a bride for him but he could have chosen to speak up any time but he did not.

Ntsika: I think Bukhosi loves Zinzi even if he does not realise it. Not most men could do as he has.

Me: Let us let them deal with their own issues. If they need help they are sure to speak up. You and I are to try and bring joy by planning father's wedding. (he smiled)

Ntsika: I still can not believe that she is pure.  
(he laughed)

Me: Stop making fun of your future stepmother.  
I just hope that she is truly a kind woman.

Ntsika: So do I, my Queen. No lying, evil woman  
is to be tolerated.

Me: That is true, my K...

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I got cut off by the bitter scream of what sounds like a woman. Ntsika and I looked at each other. Even Kamva opened his eyes in fright. Ntsika quickly ran out. I patted Kamva's back and he closed his eyes once again. I put him down and ran to the direction where the chaos seems to be. I felt like my pace is too slow because I could not reach the chamber fast enough. What could be going on? I hope that it is not another crises or another secret. Have we not had enough of that? What has the Kingdom of Zwelihle done to remain in such

darkness?

[03/02, 19:26] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 50 continued OBJ

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#Queen Ndoni

I ran as fast as I possibly could to where all the chaos is and it seems to be outside the royal house. King Kumkani was beating up someone and it seems the screaming came from Zinzi.

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Kumkani: You dared to have bedroom dealings with my daughter and let her nurture your filthy seed.

Zinzi: Father, I ask that you stop this. I am just as guilty as Zola (she cried out)

Father: You are not going to kill your daughter's

lover on my grounds, Kumkani. (he stopped Kumkani)

Zola: I ask that you let me marry her, my King. I still love Zinzi.

Kumkani: You bloody traitor. You dare ask me to bless your filthy union.

Zinzi: I wish to marry him, father. We are to go far and you never have to see us again. Just do not kill him. He is the only man who has shown me love. I am not happy with Bukhosi (she started to cry)

Kholeka: If you go with this commoner you are no longer my daughter. You are dead to me (she spat on the ground)

Mother: If you wish to run off to foreign land then you are sure not taking my granddaughters with you. These are the children of the soil and I am not going to allow you to deprive them of a decent life.

Zinzi: They can stay here at Zwelihle. I just can not stay here where I am not appreciated nor can I go home to face the shame I have brought. Father, you can tell the people of our soil that I have died. That is sure to spare you the shame you fear so much.

Me: Are you just going to leave your children, Zinzi?.

Zinzi: It is not an easy decision to make, Ndoni but I have no choice. I have even thought of ending my life but I do not want to meet my end in that manner. I want to be happy in love once again as I was before I wed Bukhosi. Zola holds my heart and I hold his..

Kumkani: You are a disgrace and not worthy to be deemed a Princess. If you were not my child I would have strangled you to death. If you wish to go with this thing and live a poor life then go. Just never return to our soil because you no longer have parents in us. Even if our paths



meet again just pretend that you do not know us. In the old days shameful women like you would have been stoned to death as they deserve.

Zinzi: I am glad that I no longer have to call you father because your heart is cold. Queen Nobu, my apologies for all I have done. My thanks for teaching me all that you know and for loving me as a daughter. I do not deserve it. King Xolo, my thanks for thinking that I was good enough to be deemed your daughter in law. You have both been kind to me and I know Zoleka and Mbali are to grow up loved. I ask that you not tell them that I abandoned them but rather tell them that I have died. I do not wish for them to think that they were unworthy of my love. I love them but I can not go on living my life like this. I ask for your blessings to leave. (they both kept quiet)

Father: It pains us to see you leave, Princess.

Kumkani: She is no longer a Princess. She is now a commoner.

Father: I had hoped that we are to fix this mess to spare both families shame but we can not keep you here against your will. You are no prisoner here. If leaving is what your heart truly wants then I give you my blessings.

Mother: It pains me that your daughters are to grow up without their mother but like the King has said. We can not force you to stay so you may go if you wish.

Zinzi: My thanks, my King and Queen. You are sure to find a suitable daughter in law soon but I am not the chosen one.

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Her parents left without even saying farewell to their only daughter properly. I do not think I could ever deem little Kamva as dead while he is still alive just because of a mistake he made. Everyone bid farewell to Zinzi but she asked

that Bukhosi not be called. I stood and watched as she and her injured man put stuff into a carriage.

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Me: I do hope that you find the happiness that you seek, Zinzi.

Zinzi: Do you not see the way he looks at me Ndoni? It is a look of love and respect. One I am never going to get from your brother.

Me: I am just sad that you leave your children behind. Mbali is still breastfeeding.

Zinzi: It pains me too but I am no use as a mother if I am miserable. What happens if my misery becomes so worse that I end up killing myself and them? (my heart sank)

Me: Do not speak like that. You are not capable of such. If you wish to see your children in future you must come. You might be banned from your soil but the King and Queen did not.

Zinzi: You are far too kind, Ndoni but I ask that they grow up thinking that I have died. I am never to return here again. I love you, sister. You have never ill treated me even after you heard my secret you did not judge. May fate always smile on you, Ndoni. May your marriage and the Kingdom that you lead prosper. You were born to be Queen but some of us are just not and I no longer wish to force myself into thinking that I am.

Me: I love you. May your life be filled with the happiness you seek.

Zola: My lady, we have to leave at once.

Zinzi: Of course, warrior. Farewell, Queen Ndoniyamanzi.

Me: Farewell, dear Princess.

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We embraced each other while tears flowed down our cheeks. She went to the carriage and

it started to move out of the royal grounds until it was out of sight. I stood and felt my King's strong yet gentle embrace from behind and I started to cry.

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Me: So many bad and sad things have happened here, my King. I do not wish to be here no longer.

Ntsika: We are to leave at sunrise then, my Queen. I think that the worst is over now. Let us try to move forward.

Me: Bukhosi is sure to regret never loving her. Now she is gone and the only reminder of her are those two beautiful kids who have to suffer because of the foolish choices the adults in their lives have made.

Ntsika: I feel for the children as well. I know what it is like to be deprived of the love of a mother. That is why I am so thankful to have you be the mother of our children. Our boy is so

happy because he gets all your love.

Me: It is because he gets your love too. I can not wait for our second to come. My back is in pain and I feel tired.

Ntsika: I am going to rub your back when we are alone in our private chamber.

Me: I am going to prepare the note for Ncumi's family and send it at once. It still has a long way to go and I wish to celebrate for a change. (he smiled)

Ntsika: This celebration is to bring great joy but not as much joy as our Princess is sure to bring (we both smiled)

Me: Ntsika, stop saying it is a Princess. I do not wish for you to be disappointed if it is a Prince.

Ntsika: A Prince would be as much of a blessing as a Princess but I can just feel that we are to have a girl. She is going to have your beautiful skin and be as beautiful as her mother.

(I smiled)

Me: What are we to do if we have twins?

Ntsika: We keep both our children. We do not wish to have another Lahliwe out there. We are also going to place a law in our house. Whoever hates their brother or sister is to be banned from the Kingdom (I laughed but he is serious)

Me: Are you serious, my King?

Ntsika: I am tired of this hate and endless conflict amongst royal children, my Queen. So yes, I am very serious. You hate on your brother and sister you are to go do it far away not in my house.

Me: I agree with you, my pillar. We ought to try and raise our children in harmony. I love you.

Ntsika: And I you. Now let us go in and pack our attires for our journey at sunrise.

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We walked in and told everyone that we are

going to leave soon. They showed sadness but understood that we can not stay. Ntsika helped me write a letter to Ncumi's family to ask for her hand in marriage. They haf better not give us problems or we are to have trouble. I sense that they never wished to see her happy and that is to end soon. I do not know but I have a good feeling about this maiden. Her presence just felt right. Ntsika and I went to our chamber to the sleeping Kamva. He had me take my clothing off and massaged my lower back and sides. My King has magical hands because I fell asleep during all of it. Tomorrow we are to send the letter to Intaba'ende and also leave to go home after a long time. I can not wait to just sit and not feel worried about something or someone.

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Bukhosi



I have been standing outside this chamber where my "mother" is held in. My heart has been too fearful to enter but I knew that I had to. I took a deep breath and finally went. She is held in royal captivity so there is light and I can see her properly. She stood when she saw me.

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Her: My son (she smiled)

Me: Do not call me that. I am the son of Queen Nobubele.

Her: She is not the one who carried you in her womb. I felt all the illness that came with being pregnant with you. I felt all the moving you made and felt the excruciating pains of labour.

Me: What is it that you seek? Why have you come now?

Her: Your father banned me from the Kingdom. Do you know what the punishment for going against a ban was back then? I could not risk it.

Me: You can still get a punishment because father never lifted the ban.

Her: I just had to see you. You are my only child. I have wed before but could not have children.

Me: Of what business is that of mine?

Her: Do you not see, my son? Clearly Nobubele has bewitched me.

Me: Do not dare insult the woman that I call mother when you do not even know her. She had cared for me when you failed.

Her: You make it sound like I had a choice.

Me: You had a choice. You could have agreed to never give them a child in the first place. They did no injustice to you because you knew what you were getting yourself into. I ask again. Why are you here?

Her: I know that the Kingdom has a lot of gold. Take many of it and let us run away.

Me: Are you asking me to steal from my own

father? I am not going to help you with your plan. I do not wish to go with you because I have a mother.

Her: My blood run through your veins not Nobu's

Me: The curse of your blood I am going to carry for all my days to come. Your blood might run through my veins but Nobu's love runs through my entire being. I am to have you punished for bringing public shame to my mother but I am not because I pity you. I am going to ask father to release you and you are never to set foot on this soil ever again. If you thought I would give you my loyalty over Queen Nobu then you thought wrong. If you dare seek revenge on my mother, kindness is what I shall not show you.

Her: You are a weak man just like your father. I curse the day I ever gave you life.

Me: Good because I curse it too.

Her: Arg damn you Nobubele (she shouted)

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I left her and she was kicking the wall in frustration. No one dares to insult my mother like that. All this woman was is a child barer but she is not my mother. I am not to turn my back on my own. I went to the royal house and found the Queen sitting alone. She stood and embraced me. Oh my dear mother!

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Mother: How are you feeling?

Me: Well, my Queen.

Mother: Are you going to go with her?

Me: Who is to be advisor to the future King if I leave. Ntandoyabantu needs me.

Mother: Why have you never told us that you do not wish to succeed your father?

Me: It would only have angered father and the Council would have labeled me a weak man or a coward.

Mother: Oh my child. We apologise but we are just doing as we were taught by those before us. We did not mean to make you feel pressure.

Me: Do not fear, I understand. Where is Zinzi? I wish to tell her something. (she looked down)

Mother: It seems the warrior that her heart chose was one of the protectors her father came with. Zinzi realised that her heart still belongs to him and she left with him. (I stood)

Me: Do not tell me my children left with some stranger of a man.

Mother: The girls are here. She left them under my care.

Me: She must truly have felt unhappy in our union for her to leave her children. Zinzi love our daughters with all she has in her. I failed as a husband and now my daughters are to grow up without their mother. (my heart sank)

Mother: Arranged marriages do not always end

up good. Some are lucky and learn to love each other but some hate each other more and more as years pass.

Me: But she loved me, Mother. Ndoni was right, I am a fool to never force my heart more. I had to put in more effort.

Mother: It is too late now, Bukhosi.

Me: Why did you not tell me when she left?

Mother: She wished for you to only know once she has gone. My apologies but we can find you another bride.

Me: I am going to try and find her. By luck the horses got too tired to move forward and they got delayed.

Mother: You do not even know the direction that they went, Bukhosi.

Me: I am going to look in all directions with the help of the guards. (I stood and ran )

Mother: Bukhosi! (she shouted)

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I did not turn around to give her my attention when she called my name. Zinzi must give me another chance. I got on my horse and had guards search the other directions. I stopped each carriage I met on the way but no Zinzi. I rode for hours with no luck and decided to return to the mainland before I put my life at risk. On my way back I realised just how much my bride loved me but I failed to see it. Yes, she came with her own imperfections but she was a kind beautiful woman and I was too stupid to realise it. I screamed in regret as I came to a realisation. I realised for the first time that I do not need to learn to love Zinzi. I already love her but now I can not tell her that. I only realise now the worth of what I have lost now that it is no longer in my life. How could I have been such a fool?

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#King Xolo

I sat in my chamber alone thinking about many things. I do hope Bukhosi is to take Zinzi's departure well. I can not have him be emotionally unstable. I sat and felt a warm wind of peace go through me. The last time that happened was when Shiba still communicated with me.

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Voice: Xolo (I sat up)

Me: Shiba? Is that truly you, guardian. I have not heard the sound of your voice since... since...

Shiba: Since you went against my warnings and advice. Look now where it has led you. Did I not warn you to not have a child with a commoner? (she cut me short and I looked down)

Me: You have guardian Shiba but I was too



foolish to listen.

Shiba: You have defied me many times, my King and it has caused me great anger. That is why I have stopped giving you the honour of hearing me speak. I was so angry at you that I even wanted to destroy this soil myself but I could not because of your daughter. I wanted her to return home to a complete home because she deserved that much after growing up amongst strangers. Your other children do not even know the sound of my voice because of you. The only reason Bukhosi was honoured with royal markings it is because your Queen agreed to your plan. I am going to give you a second chance.

Me: I am not worthy of it, guardian. I was so set on creating my own destiny that I forgot that you know better than me. I have given you my apologies many times and I am happy that you have forgiven me.

Shiba: You dare not go against my wisdom and challenge it again or you are going to make this land of yours suffer for your wrongdoings. You are to cleanse the royal house and grounds. Have all the commoners do the same with their house. It is to lift the dark cloud that has come over this Kingdom. I am giving you one last chance.

Me: A chance I am never to take for granted ever again. Am I going to receive your warnings and advice once again like before, Shiba?

Shiba: Yes, you are but you are to listen when advised. Ndoni listens and that is why you knew of the attack beforehand. Do not make me think that your daughter is more wise than you, Xolo. She lives today because she has always followed my words of wisdom. You you decide to be deaf to my wisdom then you are sure not to have many more days on this earth. You are going to be the cause of your own death if you remain too stubborn to listen to your ancestors.

Me: I am never going to defy my ancestors anymore. I give you my promise.

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I suddenly felt peace all around me for the first time in a long while. Could all this have been Shiba's way to make me listen? I should have listened when she told me that I must wait and not have a child with Nomvula. Have I angered the ancestors so much that they would be willing to destroy their own land? I can not risk having the burden of knowing that I am to blame on my shoulder. I am going to do the cleansing before Ndoni and her family leaves. I am not going against Shiba's advice anymore. Hearing her voice is good because I was just a young King with no children the last time I heard her gentle voice. It seems the ancestors have forgiven me and are to bring light to Zwelihle once again. It bring joy to my heart.

[03/02, 19:26] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -

By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 51 OBJ

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#Ndoni

Months have passed and today is my father in laws wedding celebration. The bride's family was honoured with dowry and all has truly been well. All the important people have honoured the invitation to see the former King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. I sat and watched as mother is busy picking out and attire for today.

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Me: Choose any one of them, my Queen. They are all of true beauty.

Mother: I should have had new ones made for me but I listened to your father when he said I have too many special occasion attires already.  
(I laughed)

Me: Why would you listen to father? He knows nothing about clothing because he is a man. Ntsika does not even notice when I am wearing a new one. I found myself thinking about Zinzi so much today.

Mother: You miss her.

Me: Weddings were her favourite events. She would have loved to be here.

Mother: If we knew where about she is, we would send her an invitation.

Me: That is true. (the door open)

Zipho: My Queen, you are needed in the other chamber.

Mother: Ndoni, you can not go around doing all else as if you do not have servants. Rest my child I beg of you.

Me: The servants are mostly busy preparing the feasts and attending to the guests. I have promised father a good wedding day and I am

to keep that promise. Please do excuse me.

Mother: Do not be amazed if you collapse due to lack of rest. (I laughed softly).

Me: Well fortunately for me I have a wonderful mother who is to sure care for me should it happen (she smiled and I kissed her cheek)

Mother: You two are to get ready as soon as you finish doing what you are about to be busy with.

Zipho: We are sure going to do that, my Queen.

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I held Zipho's hand and rushed out with her before mother can ask more questions. I do hope that she comes with the news I hope to hear. We stood in a private corner so we can speak.

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Me: Is she here?

Zipho: Yes, our true bride has set foot on this soil together with her family. (I breathed a sigh of relief)

Me: Now let us go and confront those fools who think it is wise to make a fool out of us.

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We laughed and left for the guest quarters on the other far side of the royal grounds. My feet are truly hurting but I can not rest until I have sorted all out. I stepped into the chamber chosen for the bride and family to get ready and entered. The "bride" sat with a beaded veil over her face.

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Nopopi: Greetings Queen Ndoni. You know that you are not allowed to be here.

Me: This is a part of my house. I can be wherever I wish to be.

Nopopi: I hold knowledge of that but we are to

meet when the two families come together in song not now.

Me: Did you really think that you can fool me? Do I look like a fool to you?

Nopopi: I would not dare imply that, my Queen. I hold no knowledge of what you speak of.

Me: Reveal the bride to me.

Nopopi: It is not the way of Intaba'ende.

Me: Are you in Intaba'ende or are you on my soil?

Nopopi: I am on your soil, my Queen but the bride is from Intaba'ende. Are we not suppose to be respectful of each other's ways of doing things. (Zipho and I laughed)

Me: I said take of the veil of the brides face and reveal her to me. (I shouted and she jumped in fright)

Nopopi: As you wish.



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She went to the bride and with shaking hands took off the beaded veil covering the bride. Just as we suspected it is not the Ncumisa that I know. I can not believe these people.

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Me: Who is that? (she looked down)

Nopopi: It is my sister, my Queen.

Me: Did I ask for your sister?

Nopopi: She is a better option then Ncumisa. She is of royalty and Ncumi is just a servant.

Me: You are to have shame. You call yourself a Queen but you sink so low. Ncumi might not be blood related to your husband but she is still his sister. You have been ill treating her for such a long time and now that she is to finally find joy you take that away from her. Have you no shame?

Nopopi: I can no...

Me: Your father in law never even honoured Ncumi's mother by giving her family dowry. In the African culture it means he had no right to call her wife nor did he have any right to call Ncumi daughter. You and your people are to take all the gifts my family took to your family as part of the dowry to Ncumi's mother's family. Are we clear?

Nopopi: Are you to ruin your father in laws day just because of Ncumisa? She is too far away to wed him but we have a bride ready for him.

Me: I do not want the bride you chose. I want the bride that I chose. I was surprised when my husband came back from your soil and described a maiden that did not sound like the Ncumi that I know. Ncumi has once mentioned that you are not kind to her so I knew you would plot against her so she may not wed. You and your people are disgusting human beings.

Nopopi: My apologies for trying to fool your

people, my Queen. If we wait a bit longer we can bring Ncumi in a few days just do not ask us to return the gifts. They are going to help us plenty.

Me: Do not dare test me! Take all the gifts that you have received to Ncumi's aunt or you are sure to pay a dear price. My cheetah's young ones have not had their own first hunt before. I should guess that means their teeth and claws are much sharper than the rest. Do not force me to make you their first kill (I pointed at her)

Nopopi: We are to take everything back to Ncumi's maternal family as you wish, my Queen but you must honour us for all that we have done for Ncumi.

Me: I have already honoured her maternal aunt with gifts. You expect me to honour you for ill treating her? Are you mad? . There is going to be a celebration here today and I wish for you to stay and watch as Ncumi finally finds

happiness. If you dare try to ruin things you are to know me well and trust me you do not wish to.

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I left them there standing like a bunch of statues. She dares comes to my Kingdom and try to fool me? Why are some women so evil? I went to the chamber where Ncumi is and knocked. They gave permission to enter and I did. All bowed and I gave permission to rise.

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Me: Greetings to all.

Ncumi: Greetings, my Queen. How are you?

Me: I am not the one getting married, my lady. I am to ask you that question. (she smiled)

Ncumi: I still can not believe that it is truly me who is about to wed. My thanks for deeming me worthy to wed the former King.

Me: I just can not believe that Nopopi has tried

to give us a bride that we have not chosen. Did she really think that I was going to keep quiet and watch her stranger wed my father?

Ncumi: Those people have been ill treating me for so long and I am just happy that I too am to be treated like a human being and not just a thing.

Me: The former King can not wait to see you, my lady. Soon I am to call you mother (she laughed softly)

Ncumi: A true honour that is going to be.

Me: Let me go and get ready. I am to see you at the celebration. I have dealt with your sister in law. Do not worry about her. Just enjoy your day and fear nothing. Former King Xhanti is truly a kind man.

Ncumi: I can not wait to meet him. (I smiled)

Me: I am just happy that you have made it in time.

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I left them and went to the royal house to get myself ready for the celebration. I went to see if Kamva is still well and found him peacefully playing with other children. I went to my chamber and started to change when Ntsika walked in. I looked at him and smiled.

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Ntsika: You are going to be the most beautiful woman at that wedding. (I blushed)

Me: Even if I am as big as an elephant?

Ntsika: Do not say that, my Queen. I love watching your body change to accommodate our child.

Me: I wish for the child to come now. My body feels so tired.

Ntsika: My apologies, if I could help carry the baby I would have (I laughed).

Me: That would have been the strangest thing

ever. How is father feeling?

Ntsika: He said he has done this too many times to feel nerves but I know that he is afraid.

Me: I would too if I only got a chance to meet my groom on our wedding day. Can you believe what Nopopi did?. Ntsika: I am listening, my Queen.

Me: Do you remember when you came from the dowry negotiations and you described Ncumi to father but I told you it does not sound like the Ncumi I know?

Ntsika: I remember.

Me: It truly was not her, my King. They wanted to give us a bride of their choice and not the one we chose. They have even come with the stranger so she can get married to father.

Ntsika: But they told us that it Ncumisa. Are you telling me that our true bride is still on far soil?  
(he started to panic)

Me: Calm, my pillar. I figured it out in time and sent for messengers to fetch the true Ncumisa just in time. She has set foot on our soil with her aunt and she is getting ready to be wed to your father (he breathed a sigh of relief)

Ntsika: I am truly impressed with you, my Queen. Father is to thank you a lot for all that you have done.

Me: I only wish to see him happy.

Ntsika: He is going to be soon, my heart but you are to make a promise to me right now.

Me: I can not give you one if I do not know what I am promising (I laughed softly)

Ntsika: Promise me that you are to rest as soon as the celebration is over. You have been busy all this time and I can no longer take it.

Me: I am going to rest, I give you my promise.

Ntsika: If not then I am going to be forced to tie you to the bed, my Queen. (I laughed)



Me: I am not going to risk being forced to rest so I am going to do it willingly.

Ntsika: Let us get dressed so we can finally get father his wife.

Me: Please go get the Prince before you get busy, my King. He was playing with the other children but he must come so I can dress him.

Ntsika: Hopefully he is not covered in soil or mud wherever he is. You know how Kamvalesizwe is (he laughed)

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Ntsika left to go get Kamva and I hope that he is not dirty because I have bathed him already. I finished getting ready and I look decent even if I feel like a pregnant elephant. Ntsika walked in with Kamva and he was grey due to all the dirt. I had to wipe his body once again. How am I to cope with two children? Ntsika got dressed as I got our son ready. I looked at my handsome King when he finished and I found myself falling

in love with him even more. We all got ready and we truly looked good.

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#Xhanti

I can not believe that I am finally going to wed again. I have a good feeling about this one for some reason because she is chosen by my daughter and I trust her. The songs of celebration already started and it was followed by the beautiful beats of drums. That was when I knew that it is truly my day. I got dressed fully and Xolo joined me.

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Xolo: Still not feeling any nerves even when you are about to wed a stranger? (I laughed)

Me: Jongi was no stranger and look where we ended up. Maybe meeting my bride for the first

time today is not such a bad thing.

Xolo: But you have to admit that it is strange. They were suppose to send her here after the dowry negotiations so you both can get to know each other.

Me: It is how they do it in her family. I know better than to disrespect the ways of another Kingdom.

Xolo: I hope the fate has favored you in love this time, old friend.

Me: We hope for the same, old friend. How are things in Zwelihle?

Xolo: Oh my land is gaining strength each day. The cleansing has done a lot of good. Soon we are to get our vegetable and fruits trade routes to full strength once again.

Me: That is truly the best news ever. I was afraid when I heard you were being attacked.

Xolo: Ntsika has put a stop to it before much

damage was done. I have never thanked you for raising such a good son because if it was not for your teaching my daughter would not have such a strong, smart husband.

Me: I am to thank you and Nobu for blessing us with a daughter such as Ndoni. She is the light that keeps this Kingdom warm. All speak about her kindness.

Xolo: Unfortunately we are not to take credit for that. She was raised by strangers.

Me: She is kind because she was born to kindness. How are your sons?

Xolo: Well, it seems Bukhosi truly never wished to be King. Can you imagine the disaster if Ntando was born a girl? I would have no one to succeed me.

Me: That would truly have been a disaster but you have an heir so fear not. I have lost two sons.

Xolo: Are you planning on having more? (I laughed loudly)

Me: Why would an old man such as myself wish for babies?

Xolo: Your bride has never had children, Xhanti. Do you not think she wishes to know what it might be like?

Me: I hope Ndoni told her to not have such a wish but if the ancestors agree than who am I not to.

Xolo: And trust me, you wish not to anger the ancestors. I have and my Kingdom almost paid the price for my stubbornness.

Me: We learn from our mistakes, old friend. Do not put too much burden on yourself.

Xolo: There is a black pepper trade deal I wish to speak to you and Ntsika about. Do remind me after the celebration.

Me: You are to speak to the King, my King. I am

going to be busy after the celebration. (we both laughed)

Xolo: Spoken like a true man. In that case I am not going to bother you, brother (we shook hands)

Me: Let us go before the women come and drag us out.

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We stood and went out to meet the people. The singing is now intense and we all knew it is time. The young maidens sang for me as we went to meet the family of the bride. Ntsika and Xolo walked next to me and now the nerves started to creep into my body. I could see the bride's people approach in song and my heart started to beat faster. I feel like a young man once again. We sang until the two groups met. Because we are not joined yet we sang different songs. The elder of Umhlaba Ochumileyo raised his hand to signal for silence and all went quiet.

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Elder: Greetings to all who have come to celebrate with us. My thanks to everyone who had joined us here today to witness the former King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo wed once again. We all hold knowledge of how things are to be done according to culture. King Xhanti, you are to give your bride a calabash that you have chosen and present it to her to show her that you choose her to be the nurturer in your house and if she accepts she is to give you a new sharp spear to indicate that she accepts you as husband and protector of the household.

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According to culture the man is to give a manly dance to impress the maiden and I stood and danced like I am a young man trying to impress a young maiden. I danced and handed her the calabash. She accepted it and my heart jumped with joy. She started to dance as per her

people's ways and presented me with a spear and shield. I have done this before but never have I felt this honoured. The elders of both families started to initiate the ceremony that is to declare us husband and wife as per African culture. They finally finished and they took off her beaded veil. She was looking down.

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Me: I ask that you please look at me my lady. You are my wife now and I wish to see your face properly.

Her: As you wish.

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She lifted her face slowly and I felt my heart be taken at the same time. I could not help but dance in celebration of the beautiful woman before me and she looked down and blushed as I praised her. Beautiful is the lady my ancestors led my daughter to. The young maidens sang once again and we made our way to the royal



house to celebrate the union. Ndoni and my family took her away to dress her in the attire of Umhlaba Ochumikeyo. She came back looking like the true bride of this soil that she is. The elders spoke to the guests and I thought to speak to my bride.

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Me: It is such a beautiful pleasure to finally meet you, my lady. My thanks for not turning down my proposal (she smiled).

Ncumi: Who am I to turn down such a beautiful honour?

Me: I do hope that you are here by your own will and are not forced.

Ncumi: I am here because I want to be, do not fear. I do hope that I am to be the bride that you have yearned for so long. I promise to give you the honour and respect that a man such as yourself deserve. (I smiled in delight)

Me: You are of true beauty, Ncumi (she blushed and looked down)

Ncumi: No one had ever uttered such words of beauty to me. My thanks for that. You are a handsome man too, dear King.

Me: Call me Xhanti. It is only fitting that you call me by name. You have captured my heart already.

Ncumi: Mine was captured while the Queen described the type of man that you are to me (she laughed softly)

Me: I hope she has not made me sound like perfection because I am far from that.

Ncumi: I wish not for a perfect man. All I wish is to be loved and respected as I am. I have not had such in my life.

Me: I am to love, honour and respect you, my lady. I give you my promise but I ask that you do the same because I have also not had luck with

finding such.

Ncumi: I also give you my promise to love, honour and respect you.

Me: You make me feel like a young man once again. (we both laughed)

Ncumi: It is like that when the heart is happy because I feel the same way.

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We continued to speak as our guest speakers spoke. I thought that my heart had chosen Jongi but nothing is to describe how I feel about Ncumi. Her energy feels so pure and good and I can not find words to use to describe what she makes me feel. It seems my lady's heart cares about me too. The celebration went on and on and there was a lot of food and drinks. I saw my dear daughter sitting and looking tired and I walked to her. She was about to stand but I stopped her.

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Me: You are to rest now, my Queen. It seems my grandchild is going to come soon.

Ndoni: Not soon enough, father. I am so happy that all went well. Do you like Ncumi?

Me: I do not like her.

Ndoni: Oh (she looked down)

Me: I absolutely love her (she smiled in relief)

Ndoni: Father, you almost made me think that I have failed you. I am happy to see you happy once again. I know that you two are to get to know each other first but I have a great feeling about her.

Me: I have only spoken a few words with her but she feels familiar to my soul. I wish to give you my thanks for bringing her into my life. I truly appreciate it.

Ndoni: Nothing gives me more pleasure than seeing my family happy. You need not thank me,

father but I am glad that you have found the happiness you have been seeking. I know that life has not been easy for you in these past years but I feel a change now (I smiled)

Ntsika: What are you two whispering about?  
(we laughed)

Me: You are to never let go of this gem you have found, Ntsika. Our Kingdom is blessed to have Ndoniyamanzi lead it and we are blessed to have her in our lives.

Ntsika: I would be a fool to let go of her, father. Blessed is my heart to belong to this lady.  
(Ndoni blushed)

Ndoni: All this praise is going to make my dark skin turn red due to the blushing (we laughed)

Ntsika: Congratulations on your wedding, father. I have just spoken to your lady and she truly seems to be kind. I do not wish to see you hurt again and I have a feeling that she is going to keep your heart safe.

Me: My thanks, son. I have a good feeling about this too.

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I went back to my bride and the celebration continued. We were laughing so much one is to believe that we are great friends from years back. Hours and hours went by and the celebration were soon coming to an end but not quite. Ncumi and I decided to go to our private chamber. We walked to it and entered. I could not help feeling like she is nervous.

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Me: Has something frightened you, Ncumi?  
(she looked at me)

Ncumi: The nerves just refuse to leave my body.

Me: Why are you nervous when it is just you and I?

Ncumi: It is our wedding night and we both

know what is to be expected. (I laughed softly)

Me: You need to be afraid. I do not have any expectations. We can sit and talk until a day you feel comfortable.

Ncumi: I wish not to wait any longer. I want to be one with you in flesh. I have never been with a man and now that I am wed I wish to know what it is like... that's if you want to of course.

Me: Are you truly untouched?

Ncumi: Yes, is that to be a problem?

Me: No, it is just unusual in our age. You truly are something special. (she smiled)

Ncumi: My thanks.

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I walked to her and first embraces her. I might not be a young groom but the feel of her warm body against mine as we embraced made my body react. I kissed my new wife and even her kissing was that of an amateur but she caught

on quickly. She is nervous but she needs not be. We did all until we were finally one in flesh. I think being intimate now feels much greater than all the other times. The proof of her innocence was on our sheet and I still could not believe it. Ncumi is a combination of a wise woman who has a certain innocence to her. Truly the lady makes my heart feel young. We laid in each others arms and I can not wait to find out more about her and learn more of the type of person she is. It is true that they say about the heart knowing no age.

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#Bukhosi

All this wedding celebration has made me miss Zinzi. I remember how miserable I was on our wedding day. I did not wish to marry her but now I miss her. I sat with the few guests that



did not wish to retire to their chamber when Ndoni came in.

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Ndoni: I have a gift for you.

Me: Is it something that is going to make me feel like less of the fool that I am?

Ndoni: I am not going to feel sorry for you for what you feel because it is your own fault. This gift that I am going to give you is precious and you better take good care of it.

Bukhosi: I am not about to throw away a gift my own sister gave me. Where is it?

Ndoni: Outside, so go out with the royal staff member here and he is to show it to you.

Bukhosi: I have a feeling that you are not to take no for an answer so okay. My thanks for the gift.

Ndoni: You do not even know what it is (she laughed)

Me: Let me go and find out.

Ndoni: Bukhosi, remember you are to care for it as you would care for yourself. Give me your promise.

Me: I give you my promise (we both smiled)

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I walked out with the male servant and he led me out to where Ndoni's gift is. We stood in front of a carriage. Did she get me a carriage? But why when we have plenty. While I stood in confusion a lady walked out and I realised that it is Zinzi. I did not know if I am to run to her or not but she walked towards me.

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Zinzi: Greetings (she said softly)

Me: Greetings, dear Princess. You are the last person I have expected to see.

Zinzi: When I left I told Ndoni which Kingdom I plan to settle in and it seems she kept it in mind.

She had people search all of Igugu, they found me and went to tell her. She sent me a note telling me that you filled with regret about not being a true husband to me and told me the girls cry for me every night. She told me when the wedding is to be and I thought it is best that I come here instead of Zwelihle because you would be here. (she started to cry)

Me: They do, my lady. Especially Zoleka because she is old enough to know that you are not there. Ndoni is right I do have regret for not honouring you. I have been a fool and it took losing you to realise it. My apologies, Zinzi. I ask that you return home to me and our daughters. No one there holds any hate towards you.

Zinzi: I have not had any bedroom dealings with Zola. I give you my promise. We would try but his manhood would not react. He got frustrated and I woke up with him gone and I have been too afraid to return to Zwelihle. I realised that

the ancestors still see us as married so being with another man is wrong and that was a way to show it to me. I wish to come back to Zwelihle if you allow. I miss my children so much it hurts.

Me: I love you (her eyes widened)

Zinzi: You mean that, Bukhosi?

Me: I truly do. (she started to cry)

Zinzi: And I love you. Let us try to restore our family. We owe it to our daughters and ourselves. No more Ncedi or any other maiden Bukhosi.

Me: I have not been with Ncedi since Ndoni caught us. It seems I liked only the thrill of having a secret but nothing more. I am going to be a better husband to you.

Zinzi: I am going to be a better wife too. We have much to speak about but I believe we can make it work.

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I grabbed her and kissed her. I have kissed her before but never like this. It seems that I have depriving her of a lot. We walked in and found Ndoni waiting for us. We went to her and thanked her many times over and all she said was she only wants to see those she love happy. Zinzi asked to see the children but they are already asleep so she just kissed them softly while crying tears of joy. We went to the King and Queen but they said they knew she'd be back because she is always to be a bride of Zwelihle. We went to retire for the day in the chamber I am sleeping in for the duration of my stay at Umhlaba Ochumileyo. Zinzi and I kissed and it led to greater passion. Passion that we never shared before and I made love to her for the very first time and I can not believe that I have been missing. I held her tightly almost as if I fear that she is to go once again. I am sure never going to take this second chance for

granted. My sister is such a gift herself and I am grateful to have her in my life.

[03/02, 19:27] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

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#Ndoni

Days have passed and the wedding celebrations have finally come to an end. I am now truly exhausted and only wish to lie on my side until the baby decides to come. The rain started to fall softly cooling the air. The rain caused the soil to give a pleasant scent and I immediately craved it. I stood and went out to get some and it tasted as good as it smells. Ncumisa walked out with a smile.

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Ncumi: That baby is sure to come out filled with

mud (I laughed)

Me: The rain made the soil smell so good that I could not resist. How have you been? (she smiled)

Ncumi: So happy that I fear it is all just a dream and I am going to be expected to wake up soon.

Me: Father seems to be at his most happiest too. It is all real, do not worry. You are braver than me. I do not think I would agree to marrying a man I only met on our wedding day (she smiled)

Ncumi: I was also afraid but my mother showed herself to me in her dream and she looked happy so I knew all is surely to be well. Anything is sure to be an improvement from the life I lived with my brother and his wife.

Me: Why did your mother's family allow the former King to wed your mother without a bride price?

Ncumi: They abducted her while she was fetching water in the river. I was on her back so they had to take me with. I am just thankful that they never killed me as an infant because the late King was a cruel man and that is why my Mother's family feared demanding dowry from him.

Me: Oh but that is so sad. Your mother must have been truly unhappy.

Ncumi: She was but we at least ate everyday there. Her family was very poor so as painful as the life was she bared it because it came with materialistic benefits. She died when I was just about to reach maturity and life started to become unbearable for me.

Me: My apologies for all you have suffered. No child deserves such a life. I grew up in an orphanage but I at least was not ill treated.

Ncumi: Some people are of true kindness out there. Such as all the people in your family. No



one has been ill treating me

Me: We only turn on those who turn on us.

Mother: Ndoniyamanzi, stop eating dirt. (she said in a stern voice as she approached)

Me: It is not because I want to but I just can not help it. I crave for it.

Mother: You do not even know what stepped on that soil. Please throw it away (I sulked and emptied my hands)

Me: You have not even greeted properly but you are already shouting. (we laughed)

Mother: My apologies, greetings to you both. (she smiled)

Ncumi: Greetings, my Queen.

Mother: Ncumi, how is married life treating you so far? (Ncumi blushed and looked down)

Ncumi: It is all my that my imagination allowed me to believe and more, my Queen. I am truly

happy.

Mother: I hope that Xhanti caters for your private needs good (she winked)

Me: Queen Nobu, no. (I pulled a shocked face and they laughed)

Ncumi: He does and I love all that comes with marriage.

Mother: It gets much better with age, I tell you.

Me: I am not about to sit and listen to my mothers speak about such. Do excuse me please.

Mother: Oh come on, my blossom. We are all adults here. You know that we speak of because you show the proof (she pointed at my belly and we laughed)

Me: Temporary farewell to you both.

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They laughed and I left them to speak about old

age bedroom dealings. They really are not that old but I do not wish to hear such details. I went to Zinzi and Bukhosi's chamber and found her packing.

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Me: Are you happy to be returning home?

Zinzi: I have missed Zwelihle so much. I can not thank you enough for what you have done, Ndoni. Bukhosi and I are on better terms.

Me: I have done nothing. All I did was write you a note of truth and you did the rest.

Zinzi: He even romances me when we make love now. It feels magical.(she giggled)

Me: Soon we are to expect another child from you two if you go on with the magic (we both laughed)

Zinzi: I wish he was my first lover.

Me: Do not think about what you can never get back. Let us all just move forward. I am just sad

that you all have to leave tomorrow.

Zinzi: At least the Queen is staying with you to help with the baby.

Me: The baby that wishes not to come to this life (she laughed)

Zinzi: Soon, dear Queen. I do hope my mother and father are going to forgive me.

Me: They too need to ask for your forgiveness for all the hurtful words that they spoke.

Zinzi: I have disappointed them, Ndoni and humiliated them by going away with a commoner in front of everyone. My father is sure to never forgive me.

Me: Ask Bukhosi to send the elders of Zwelihle there with gifts to apologise. Let the elders handle your father. Zinzi, does the fact that Bukhosi is a half blood not bother you?

Zinzi: I was willing to live all my days with a poor commoner not so long ago so no it does

not. He has finally grown into the man that I hoped he would be and his title is of no importance. (I smiled)

Me: He truly has grown into a fine man. I thought that the news were going to turn his heart to stone. What are you to do about Ncedi?

Zinzi: I can not tell on her and risk having the royal house lose it's healer. She is an important part there but Bukhosi promised to stay away from her.

Me: She is going to stay away, I just have a feeling because she fears being banned from Zwelihle. Where is Bukhosi anyway? (she seemed edgy)

Zinzi: I do not know, my Queen.

Me: Let me leave you yo go about your business. I am going to rest while Kamva is out with his father.

Zinzi: Go rest those swollen feet. (we laughed)

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I embraced her and left her to continue with her packing duties. I wanted to go to the eating chamber to see if Bukhosi is not there. Even Ntando is no where to be seen and it is not nice because they are to return home tomorrow. I wanted to enter when Zipho called out my name and ran to me.

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Me: What is the matter? Has something happened?

Zipho: You are not to go in there, my Queen.

Me: Why? (I looked at her confused)

Zipho: The staff has not finished cleaning.

Me: But they were suppose to do their duties right after the morning feast. Why have they not?

Zipho: It is all my fault, my Queen. I forgot to assign each to their duties of the day. Do go and rest elsewhere until we have finished. My apologies for the laziness I have shown.

Me: All is well, Zipho (I smiled)

Zipho: I am to call you when they have finished.

Me: I am going to lie down for a moment.

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She nodded quickly while giving me a nervous smile and I left her. I looked back and found her starrng and waving and I waved back. What is the matter with Zipho today? She never forgets to give duties to her staff but I guess we all become forgetful. Most of the servants are out of sight and I guess it is due to Zipho's mistake. I was about to go to my chamber when I saw Ntando approach on a horse. I went out and waited until he approached.

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Me: Where do you come from, Ntandoyabantu?

Ntando: No where, Ndoni (he said softly)

Me: So if I am to ask father if he gave permission for you to leave what would he say?

Ntando: Fine, I went to the river to meet Zinzi (my eyes widened)

Me: Are you crazy, Ntando? You went out so far without a guard?

Ntando: The guards would have told father and he would not have given permission.

Me: Ntando, Zinzi I do hope that these secret meetings are innocent.

Ntando: I am not dumb, Ndoni. I do not wish to have a baby yet. We just sat and talked.

Me: How did you even know she would be at the river?

Ntando: This is usually the time when young maidens meet at the river to get water or wash



clothing. I ask that you not tell our parents that I went far without protection. They are sure to lecture me about risks. (I laughed)

Me: I do not even know where father is at the moment but you are never to go alone again.

Ntando: I would ask you but I am sure your body is too tired to travel. Zinzi sends her regards. (I smiled)

Me: My thanks and yes I am going to rest now.

Ntando: I am going to make her my bride once I have reached maturity.

Me: We are to deal with it once you are old enough to wed.

Ntando: But the Royal parents can not stop me, not after the truth about Bukhosi. It would not be fair.

Me: You are future King, Ntando but I agree with you. You must be allowed to marry who you want to. Come let us go inside and talk.

Ntando: I can not because I have a duty to attend to.

Me: I hope you have not made Zinzi a promise to meet her once again (he laughed)

Ntando: The duty is here in the mainland, do not fear. Now go and rest.

Me: At least go and change your clothing. It is wet from the morning rain.

Ntando: It will dry on my body. The sun is already starting to shine again.

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I laughed and he walked away with his horse. It seems he truly is serious about marrying Zinzi someday and the Bukhosi issue gave him enough reason to persuade the King and Queen. I finally went to my chamber because it seems all have duties to attend to. I felt a slight pain but I do not think it is enough to call in labour pain. I laid on my side and felt a sweet slumber

approached and I finally fell asleep.

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#Ntsika

Hiding this secret celebration from Ndoni has sure not been easy because she is a smart woman. I asked the family to help me honour my wife in celebration and all were too happy to help me. I am busy with the other men getting the meat ready to be cooked. It is not to be a big celebrations, only family.

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Bukhosi: Brother, you have now put pressure on us.

Me: What type of pressure?

Bantu: Our wives now expect us to honour them as well. (I laughed)

Xolo: My Nobu prefers gifts.

Father: Well Ncumi and I are still newly weds so we are both still happy.

Bantu: Give it a few months, my King then the newly wed magic is sure to float into thin air (we laughed)

Me: I still feel newly wed magic with my bride and we have been married for years.

Bukhosi: That is because you are addicted to Ndoni as she is to you (laughter)

Me: Is that such a bad thing?

Xolo: It is not, my King. I still desire my Nobu as I did when I was still a young man.

Bukhosi: Father, I wish not to know about your desires for mother (we laughed)

Father: These young men think we have lost our touch just because we have matured. We can still teach you lessons about how to handle the soft body of a woman.

Me: Save me such lessons from you, I beg of you.

Bantu: Bukhosi you need to go and honour Zinzi many times for all the wrongs you did (we laughed)

Bukhosi: All I can say is do not take your ladies for granted. I have learnt the hard way.

Me: I would kill any man who comes here saying he is to take my Queen away.

Bukhosi: What if she willingly wishes to go?

Me: I am still going to kill him (they laughed)

Xolo: Ntsiks, have you told your father about the pepper deal?

Me: He has been too busy enjoying the company of his new bride.

Father: Can you blame me? (we laughed)

Bantu: I think that if both Kingdoms work together in this deal we can supply the big

demand.

Xolo: And they are to trade livestock in return.  
We can never have enough livestock.

Father: Then why are we still discussing it? Let us agree to this deal as quickly as possible.

Xolo: I agree.

Me: How is your vegetable trade doing, father?

Xolo: The two farms that were burnt are slowly showing greens again but I have lost a few deals.

Bukhosi: But nothing big. So it is sure not going to cripple the Kingdom.

Me: All this good news and joy is truly amazing.

Father: Now we await the biggest joy of this year. My second grandchild. How I hope the ancestors hear our plea for a Princess.

Xolo: There is something special about Princesses that just fill a father's heart.

Bukhosi: I do know what you mean, father (he smiled)

Bantu: I had hoped for Thando to be born a boy but once I saw her I was truly thankful.

Me: It is a Princess.

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We sat and talked about all else and the feast is also coming together. Zipho came to tell us that Ndoni almost saw the food in the eating chamber and she was sure going to ask a lot of questions. All the food got ready and all got prepared. I was told to go get Ndoni and bring her to the eating chamber. I walked to our chamber and found her sleeping.

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Me: Ndoni, please wake up (I shook her softly)

Ndoni: No (she turned and faced the other side)

Me: Kamva fell (her eyes immediately opened)

Ndoni: Where is he? How badly hurt is he? (she said while standing up)

Me: He is fine, my Queen. He just does not wish to be with anyone but his mother.

Me: Where is he?

Me: In the eating chamber with Queen Nobu.

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She did not even reply. She just went there as quickly as possible and I followed. I hate lying to her but it was the only way I could get her to wake up quickly. We walked in and were greeted by the rest of the family. Kamva came running and hugged her legs and so did all the other children.

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Ndoni: This is not the behavior of someone who has just fallen. What is going on? Why are we all assembled here? (she smiled)

Me: This is a little celebration in your honour



from us. (she started to cry)

Nobu: Do not cry, my Blossom. Your husband wished to celebrate you and so do we.

Me: I love you, my Queen.

Kamva: Love you, Mada (we all smiled)

Ndoni: And I love you. All of you. My thanks for this, my King.

Father: Come sit down and rest those feet. (we all sat)

Ndoni: Zipho, is this why you did not want me to come here earlier? (she laughed)

Zipho: The staff had already carried in some of the food and I could not risk having you see it.

Ncumi: We have been planning this right under your nose for days now (she laughed softly)

Me: This pregnancy has made me so tired that I no longer notice much.

Bukhosi: We are glad that you have not. We all

wished to thank you for being a positive part in our lives. My children have their mother back because of you and I have gotten a second chance to love Zinzi the right way. My thanks, sister.

Ndoni: Well I saw how miserable you are like an injured old animal (we laughed)

Ntando: I just want to thank you for always listening to me and keeping my secrets.

Nobu: You have secrets? What are they?

Ntando: I am a young man, mother not little boy. I can not reveal secrets to you.

Ndoni: But you told me.

Ntando: That is because you are no big mouth (we laughed)

Me: I would also like to give you my thanks for being a wonderful wife. My life is nothing without you. You have given me a strong son and you are about to give me another beautiful

child. My thanks, my Queen.

Ndoni: It is because you are such a wonderful man. Being a good wife to you is easy because you are the best husband and father ever.

Kamva: Kamva wants meat (we laughed)

Xolo: It seems we are boring the young prince and keeping him away from eating meat.

Me: Let us start eating before all goes cold.

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Everyone started to pick the food that they want to eat and laughter filled the chamber. Kamva loves his meat and ate mostly it. I saw Ndoni hold her belly and closed her eyes.

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Me: What is the matter? (I whispered)

Ndoni: A little cramp, that is all.

Me: Should I have the midwife called?

Ndoni: It does not feel like labour pains, my King.

I am fine. Let us enjoy the time with our family.

Me: Would you tell me if it got worse?

Ndoni: Yes, Ntsika (she said in annoyance m)

Me: I meant not to annoy you, Ndoni.

Ndoni: My apologies, it was a very rude reply. I am sure to tell you if it becomes worse.

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I smiled, nodded and kissed her hand. It felt a bit moist on the inside but I did not ask her more. Everyone stopped eating and we all just sat and relaxed. We danced and sang for hours until the children got tired and fell asleep. Ndoni held the lower part of her belly and leaned on her father who stood next to her.

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Xolo: What is wrong, dear daughter (he held her)

Ndoni: Pain, father.

Nobu: I think the child is on the way. Get her to

her private chamber.

Me: Come, let me take you there. All is going to be well, my Queen.

Nobu: Go get the midwife, Bukhosi. Just breath, my blossom. You have done this before.

Ndoni: But I am feeling too much pain. It is wor...worse than that of Kamva's labour (she let out a scream)

Me: Should we be worried about the intensity of the pain, mother? (I started to panic)

Mother: No two pregnancies are the same so the labour is not the same either.

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I could not stand to see my wife in such pain. I wish I could take the pain onto myself so she may not feel it. We finally arrived in our chamber after what felt like a lifetime. Zinzi and Zipho fixed the bed before I laid her down on it.

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Zipho: You must leave thr chamber now, my King.

Me: I am not going to leave her alone like before (Ndoni screamed and my jaw clenched)

Nobu: She is with women who know what they are doing. A man is not allowed in the chamber when his lady gives birth.

Father: Let us go, Ntsika. We wish not to anger the ancestors. We want the child to arrive safely.

Zinzi: We have to prepare her now and we can not if the men are here.

Xolo: We are leaving, daughter. We wish not to cause any delays.

Me: I am going to see you soon (I kissed her sweaty forehead)

Ndoni: We are going to meet our child soon (she smiled faintly)

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I stood and left her side with a heavy heart. Each scream she let out ripped my heart to pieces. Why is this child birth causing women such pain? Father and all the men directed me outside to get some fresh air and to be away from the screaming but it failed because I can hear them from here. They are truly worse than those of Kamva's birth. Could something be wrong?

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Bukhosi: Do not think much about it, brother. Ndoni, is a strong woman.

Me: How can I not think about it when her cries are all that fill my mind?

Bantu: What she is doing is no easy task, my King but it is the way of life.

Me: Father, what is to happen if I am by her side during this?

Father: I do not know because I have never seen

a man in a labour chamber before but we grew up knowing that it is not wise to be in there.

Xolo: Let us sit and wait. The midwife has just arrived and she is in great care. Soon we are going to hear the beautiful loud cries of a new born.

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I went back into the royal house and walked up and down in front of the chamber where my Queen is about to give life to our second child. It took all my resistance power to not go in there and hold her hand. Zipho came out and I thought she'd say that the baby finally came but she said it is not time yet. She tried to hide the look of concern in her face but I can see it. I peeked behind her as she opened and closed the chamber and Ndoni did not look good. My Queen looked pale and I panicked. Why is it not yet time? Hours and hours and hours passed and still no sign of the little one. I am going out



of my mind with worry so I decided to go in.

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Zinzi: King Ntsika, no men are to be here (she pushed me to the door)

Me: It has been hours. Why has the child not come?

Midwife: The Queen is having a difficult labour, my King.

Nobu: Go now, Ntsika. You have seen enough. (she shouted)

Father: Ntsika, do you wish to anger the ancestors. Come out of there at once (he shouted from outside and I left)

Xolo: What were you thinking, my King? What is happening in there is not the business of men. Do you wish to be labeled a weakling?

Me: I do not care what I am labeled as, Father. You should see how my wife looks. Do you think I like going against our beliefs? You all

might be able to have kept strong when your wives gave birth but I fail to. Hours and more hours have gone and all she has been feeling is agonising pain.

Bukhosi: All is to be well, my King.

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More and more hours passed and it was soon the next day. Concern written all over the faces of those before me but they tried not to show. Until finally we heard a newborn's cry from the chamber and I stood and ran to the entrance. They must have called me in by now to see the child but they have not. Why have they not? I could no longer just stand there so I went to see for myself. I opened the door and found Nobu crying and trying to wake Ndoni. My heart started to panic.

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Me: What is the matter?

Nobu: She refuses to open her eyes.

Ndoniyamanzi, do not do this to me. (she shook Ndoni while crying)

Me: My Queen, wake up. I beg of you.

Midwife: She had a difficult labour and it seems to have come with great complications to her body.

Nobu: My blossom, I beg of you (she let out a bitter)

Ncumi: What is the matter? (she walked in)

Zipho: The Queen refuses to wake up. (Ncumi came and put her finger under Ndoni's nose)

Ncumi: She fails to breath normally. My King take your child and put her on her mother's chest.

Zinzi: I can do it since I am holding her.

Ncumi: No, it must be done by the father. Take your daughter and put her on your wife's chest and speak to your Queen. Beg her to return to

us. I am going to get African incense.

Zipho: I am to go pick it.

Ncumi: I am going to have to do it myself because I am going to use it to communicate with the ancestors. If it is picked by someone else it is sure to be tainted. Do as I say I am going to be back.

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I froze as I looked at Ndoni who laid so still. She looked so beautiful one would think that she is in a normal slumber. Someone gave me the baby and I looked at my beautiful Princess. I remember the instructions Ncumi gave me and I followed it. I put our child on Ndoni's bare chest.

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Me: My Queen, I do not know what is going on but I do ask that you return to us. Feel the warmth of our child on your chest and return to

see her precious face. We need you, Ndoniyamanzi. You can not give me such a precious gift and just leave me. Do you not know that the end of you is sure to be the end of me? Come back to us, I beg you. I beg of you, my heart.

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I broke down and cried and I did not care who saw me. I kissed her lips and they did not have the same warmth as they usually do. Ncumisa returned out of breath. Clearly indicating that she was running like never before. She asked for the midwife, Zinzi and Zipho to leave the chamber. She started to light the incense and its scent filled the room. She then asked for Nobu to leave with the child. I do not know what she is doing but it seems she is calling upon the ancestor of both the royal family of Umhlaba Ochumileyo and Zwelihle. I held Ndoni's hand and kissed it multiple times. I have heard of stories where women die during

child birth but I never thought it could possibly be my wife. I know that the labour was too intense this time. I could see it in her eyes and hear it in her screams but she can not leave me right now. What am I to do without her? How I wish she could squeeze my hand back as I am doing with hers but there was no such luck. I know that at times old life has to give way to new life but I refuse to believe that the ancestors would bless me with her and take her back so soon. She has not even seen our Princess yet. How could her body fail her so much? I was in deep thought as I waited and hoped for Ncumi's plea to the ancestors to work. Come back to me, my Queen. I beg of you.

[03/02, 19:28] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

Insert 52 continues 

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#Queen Ndoni

The pain that my body just felt is one that I can not describe in words. I could hear mother call my name from afar and I could also hear the cries of a newborn. It is my child but where is she? Suddenly the pain and tiredness that once crippled my body is gone. My body has never felt so well before in all my life. I walked down a beautifully lit passage and I felt no fear. At the end of it I saw many people who did not look familiar to me. I tried to look for my family amongst them but no one is here. Where am I? A lady walked in, beautiful she is and next to her is a giant cheetah. On the other side a man walked in and I noticed that these people are more spirit than flesh. Have I died?

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Me: Where about am I and who are you all?  
(Ncumi appeared)

Ncumi: Greetings, guardians (she bowed)

Me: Ncumi, why are we here? (I whispered to her)

Ncumi: Shiba, guardian of Zwelihle and you Lisolabo guardian of Umhlaba Ochumileyo I have come to beg you to bring the Queen's spirit back to her flesh.

Me: Shiba? (I whispered to myself in shock)

Liso: The Queen's body has suffered too much during her task of bringing life into the world of the living. She has suffered so much agony that we thought it is best we free her.

Ncumi: I understand, guardian that you do what you know is best for them but I ask that you bring her back. Listen to the bitter cries of her husband. He is sure not to cope with the loss of his heart. Do you not wish to see Umhlaba Ochumileyo prosper more and more?

Liso: What are you saying, messenger?



Ncumi: I am saying that the Kingdom is sure to parish if it's leader grieves his Queen for all his life. His broken heart is not going to allow him to be King. All he is going to do is wish to join his Queen in the sacred land of the ancestors. The one to succeed him is still too young so we need the King and he needs his Queen.

Me: Am I truly dead?

Shiba: You are not dead, child. You are at the point between life and death. We do not wish to have you here but your flesh has failed you dismally.

Ncumi: Her flesh might have failed her, guardian Shiba but her spirit is still strong. We ask that you grant her flesh enough strength to be home to her spirit once again. She has just given birth and that child is to need her mother in order to grow stronger.

Liso: We as the guardians must first discuss this with the most high, the one who is guardian

to all.

Ncumi: As you wish, guardians. We are to wait and we are going to accept your final decision.

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All the Guardians stood with their eyes shut. Suddenly a beautiful clear light shown around them. Has the discussion about my fate started yet? I can not believe that I am between the land of the living and dead! I looked at Ncumi and I was even afraid to speak but I have to know why she is here. Has she also died?

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Me: Ncumisa, why are you also here?

Ncumi: I am a messenger, Ndoni. I am able to communicate with the ancestors. Call me a link between those who have gone and those who live.

Me: Why have you never told us?

Ncumi: My husband holds knowledge of this

but I asked him not to say anything to anyone. My mother had the same gift and people said it is witchcraft. I do not practice dark magic, my Queen. I give you my promise.

Me: If you did you would not have been here to try and take me back to my family. What is to happen now?

Ncumi: Guardians have a King too. This King is the King of all who live on this planet. No matter which Kingdom you hail from. The King of all is the protectors of all Kingdoms.

Me: I have always thought that the ancestors are main guardians.

Ncumi: Do not fear, my Queen. You are not the first to think so.

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A long while has passed and we still waited. Is my flesh not going to rot if we wait to long? I had so many questions but I never not once felt

any fear. Just a whole lot of confusion.

Suddenly the light around them faded a bit and they opened their eyes.

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Shiba: A decision has been reached about your fate. It was sure not easy to come to one

Liso: Once a normal being seen the faces of the guardians they are not to return to where she comes from.

Me: I beg of you to give me another chance at life, guardians. I do not wish to leave my family so soon. I do not want my child to be breastfed by a stranger. I know that I am not worthy but I ask that you spare my life so I can be a mother to my young once until they at least reach maturity.

Shiba: Are you to deal with the weakness of your flesh, Ndoni? Your body has taken much strain.

Me: I can deal with any pain, Shiba as long as I have those who I love with me.

Liso: The guardian of your people's soil fought for you in the discussion. (I smiled at Shiba)

Ncumi: We are to return to the world of flesh soon, guardians. I ask that you please give us your final answer.

Shiba: The Queen shall live. We can not deprive a child of the joys of feeling the warmth of her mother.

Liso: You are to name the child Likwezi. She is the reason why we decide to give you a chance at life again. She is the light that is to finally shine after both families have gone through darkness. You are to go and enjoy the blessing with your family, My Queen. You must thank your messenger. She has played a big role in pursuing us.

Shiba: Your destiny continues, my Queen.

Me: My thanks, guardian and give my thanks to the most high.

Shiba: He sees and hears all, child.

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Ncumi took my hand and we went back through the well lit passage once again. Suddenly my body felt heavier and in pain. I inhaled a strange scent and I realised it is African incense. I coughed uncontrollably and heard someone call my name. It sounds like Ntsika's voice. I opened my eyes and the room if filled with light smoke.

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Ntsika: Ndoni? I thought you had left me, my heart. My thanks for not going to the land of our ancestors. (he kissed my lips)

Me: Ncumi? Where is Ncumisa?

Ncumi: I am right here, dear daughter (she smiled)

Me: You were with me there.

Ntsika: Where?

Me: I saw our guardians and Ncumi was there to ask for them to have mercy on my life by sparring it.

Ntsika: Ncumi has been here all this time, Ndoni. It must all just have been a dream.

Ncumi: I am just happy to see you are awake, my Queen. How are you feeling?

Me: Weak and in pain.

Ntsika: I am going to make some remedies for you for the pain. Do not fear they are not going to harm Likwezi when she breastfeeds.

Ntsika: Likwezi?

Me: It is the name given to her by our ancestors, my King. I promise you it was no dream.

Ntsika: Likwezi? The brightest morning star. I love it so much.

Ncumi: Am I to proceed making the remedy?

Me: I trust you, Ncumi. It is because of you that I am here right now. No words are good enough to thank you.

Ncumi: It is because of you that my heart finally knows joy so you have saved my life too. You need not thank nor reward me.

Ntsika: I do not understand. What has Ncumi done?

Me: I am going to tell you some other time. All I wish now is to see our child (he smiled)

Ntsika: It is a Princess. She looks so beautiful just like you.

Ncumi: Let me go get Queen Nobu. We must prepare you to go to another chamber. The child can not come here because of the smoke that fills the chamber.

Ntsika: I am going to see you once they have made you decent.

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He left us and mother came in running to embrace me. I let out a soft groan of pain and she apologised. Zipho and Zinzi also came into the chamber.

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Mother: You are never to scare me like that again, Ndoniyamanzi. Are we clear? (she pointed her finger at me)

Me: I hear you. (I laughed softly)

Mother: You should see your little Princess. She is truly beautiful. Xhanti is so happy that he has a granddaughter that he even danced (we laughed)

Zinzi: I am sure the King of Zwelihle is to give the same dance when he gets a grandson from his sons.

Zipho: I do not think I want a second child. After all that I have just seen Ndoni go through.

Ndoni: It was terrible, Zipho. Ntsika had better

stay away from me because I also do not want another.

Mother: Did you not say that the first time? Now look you did it again (I laughed softly)

Me: My body failed me this time, Mother and maybe next time I am going to really die.

Ncumi: Let us not think about death when we have just welcomed new life. Let us celebrate the Princess's arrival.

Me: I just ask that you hurry so I can see my daughter. I am sure she is hungry.

Zinzi: She has not cried much. Such a sweet girl my niece is.

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They did what they did and finally got me decent. I asked Ncumi to quickly give me the remedy because this pain is not pleasant. I wish my body could feel no pain like a few minutes ago when I was with Shiba. I can not believe

that I have finally seen her. She is a true goddess. Ntsika came to carry me into another chamber and I finally saw my little girl. She is so beautiful and I could not help but cry. I am thankful that I am given another chance at life.

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Father: What are we to call her?

Ntsika: Likwezi because she is the beautiful light of happiness that we have all waited for. Princess Likwezi of Umhlaba Ochumileyo.

Khanti: May blessings and prosperity follow you for all your days in this life, Princess Kwezi. You truly are the light we sought for so long.

Blessed is the soil of your ancestors because you are now a part of it. My Queen, we know that you almost lost your life trying to give life to our gift but I am glad the ancestors had a change of heart. My thanks for the blessing.

Father: Truly this soil is blessed to have the Princess be born to it. May she show the

strength and grace like the princess that she is. You have come after a time of sadness but now you have come and we all look forward to the future because of the joy you have come with. We welcome you Princess Likwezi.

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They all kissed her little forehead and mother kissed those chubby cheeks as well. The men left the chamber but not Ntsika. Mother helped me position her properly so she could breastfeed. It caused more pain to my body but it is all worth it. She learned how it is done quickly and her father is so proud. Ntsika and I sat and just watched our child get the care that she deserves. Our Kwezi, the light that shines bright after all the darkness.

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#Ntsika

I do not understand what Ndoni meant by Ncumi was with her in the sacred land of the ancestors. Ncumi has been here speaking to the ancestors all this time.

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Me: Ndoni, what exactly did you see in your dream?

Ndoni: It was not a dream, Ntsika. I was in the land of the spirit guardians. There my fate was decided and they decided to give me another chance at life. I saw Shiba there too. Ncumi has a gift of communicating with the spirit guardians and she used it to convince them to help me live.

Me: Why has she never told us about it?

Ndoni: Because she inherited it from her mother and the villages accused her mother of witchcraft.

Me: So she fears that we are to do the same?

Ndoni: She told me that your father already knows. If her husband knows than the rest do not matter but I am truly grateful for this beautiful gift of hers.

Me: She needs to stop hiding it then. I must go and thank her for all she has done. (she looked at me and smiled)

Ndoni: She is beautiful. She looks like Kamvalesizwe.

Me: Let me go and get him so he can meet his little sister.

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I stood from the bed and walked out. I do not know how he is going to take the news of having a big sister but I hope that their relationship is going to be better than that of mine and my siblings. I found him sitting with the family and he ran to me and I picked him up.

He looked happy because he is speaking non stop. I went back to the chamber and put him on the bed next to Ndoni. He kept quiet and just looked at Kwezi.

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Ndoni: Greetings, my Prince. (she kissed his forehead)

Kamva: Greetings. (he finally said)

Me: Meet your little sister. This is little Likwezi.

Kamva: Kwezi? (he pointed at her)

Ndoni: Yes, Kwezi is Kamva's sister. Do you wish to give her a kiss?

Kamva: Kamva give baby a kiss (he kissed her cheek and giggled)

Me: You are her big brother and with that comes great responsibility. It is your duty to love her and protect her when we fail to.

Ndoni: I do not think he understands you (she

laughed softly)

Me: I am going to tell him all the time until he understands. I do not wish for hate to exist between them. They are both equally special and loved.

Ndoni: Spoken like a true father. They would have been in great care even if I did not make it.

Me: No, I do not think so. I would have been suffocated with grief too much. I am glad that you came back to us. Where do you think our daughter would have gotten milk if you met your end. I do not have any. (she laughed softly)

Ndoni: Let us now focus on the future. You are to never make me pregnant again (I laughed)

Me: We are going to discuss that some other time. I want the royal house filled with little ones but I do not like the pain they cause when they are born.

Ndoni: It is the way of life, my King.



Me: My thanks for all that you have done for me. You fill my life with much joy, Ndoni. I can not imagine having someone else as my wife and that is why you scared the hell out of me when you did not show any sign of life. Do not give me such a fright again.

Ndoni: My apologies for all the pain that I have caused you but I am here now and I am well.

Me: We have come a long way. Have we not? I still remember the first time I saw you (she smiled)

Ndoni: I was so scared when Jongi assigned me to your chamber. I thought that you would show the same ill manners as Lizwi. (I laughed softly)

Me: How could I have been ill mannered when I stood before the most beautiful maiden ever? You just stole my heart on that first day.

Ndoni: I was too afraid of you to think about love but as time went by I became more

comfortable and your kindness is what made me fall in love with you. We indeed have come a long way. We have been faced with too many obstacles.

Me: But we have survived them all and we are sure to survive those that lie ahead. Stronger united, my heart (I held her hand)

Ndoni: Stronger united, my pillar. I love you.

Me: And I love you.

Ndoni: My handsome, strong warrior (I smiled in delight)

Me: Enter. (Ncumi walked in)

Ncumi: I have just come to hear if the Queen wishes to have anything to eat.

Ndoni: You need not have come yourself, Ncumi. You are no servant in this house.

Ncumi: I know but I wanted to come myself.

Me: My Queen has told me about your gift, my

lady. We are grateful to have you here because you have returned her to us.

Ncumi: The guardians did most the work. I was just there to beg them.

Ndoni: Would you like to hold her?

Ncumi: Yes, please (she smiled, wiped her hands and took Kwezi)

Me: You now have two grandchildren (we laughed)

Ncumi: I have never thought that I would be a part of a family. It feels truly magical. I think she looks like Queen Nobu.

Ndoni: No, she is suppose to look like me because Kamva looks like his father (we laughed)

Me: We still have two more to go so there is still hope.

Ndoni: I am not going to reply to that (I laughed softly)

Ncumi: Kamva, do you love having a baby sister  
(he nodded)

Ndoni: I am feeling a bit hungry.

Nobu: I have been standing at the door hoping  
for you to finally say that. Here is your food (she  
walked in)

Ntando: I am also going to come eat here. I am  
an uncle once again. You and Bukhosi make me  
old. I can not wait to negotiate dowry for all my  
nieces someday. Those future suitors better  
have enough gold (we all laughed)

Xolo: Are men welcome or not?

Ndoni: You may come in, father. Ntando just  
came in without asking.

Ntando: I wanted to see little Kwezi once again.

Father: Are you all still leaving today?

Bukhosi: We have decided to stay for two days  
to spend time with Likwezi. It seems her  
cheetah has already welcomed her. Look how

she is licking those little feet.

Ndoni: I Just hope that it is not hurting her little feet. Their tongues are so rough

Xolo: She would have cried long ago if it was unpleasant..

Nobu: I am just so happy that all has gone well. Ndoni and her princess are both alive and well.

Me: I am also glad that you all are here to witness the birth of our second child as you did our first.

Ntando: Soon you are going to meet my children.

Nobu: I hope that you have not gotten any maiden pregnant, Ntandoyabantu. (we laughed)

Ntando: I am speaking about the future, my Queen. Fear not.

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Everyone was sitting and having much fun. The

chamber got filled with so much laughter. I looked and Kamva who is holding his sister's hand and I could see that he truly loves her. Ndoni and I are to try all in our power to make our children grow up loving and protecting each other. To think that we thought we have lost Ndoni not so long ago. It seems fate has finally smiled on father because Ncumi makes him happy. Bukhosi is happily reunited with his bride and it is all thanks to my Queen. She is the happiness and I think that even the guardians/ancestors saw that we would all be lost without her. What is a home without its light? She does not know it but she is an important part in each of our lives and I am glad that we have her back. I took my little Princess from Ncumi and she opened her eyes slightly. I smiled as she looked at me and closed them again. I kissed her little hand that is grasping my finger tightly. I then kissed her soft cheeks. It is true that a father feels something different

when he meets his Princess. I have hoped for her since I found out my Queen is pregnant and I am thankful that she is here and she is healthy. Welcome dear Princess. Princess Likwezi of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. May your light shine bright and bring positivity and goodness to all.

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Credit to Precious Gubesa for giving the Princess this beautiful name OBJ

[03/02, 19:30] Ron: More Than Just A Servant -  
By Nonkosi Makhosi

MINI SUMMARY OBJ

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Life has truly been good for the royal families of Umhlaba Ochumileyo and Zwelihle. Both Kingdoms have gained great strength together and individually. Making them two of the most powerful and wealthy Kingdoms on the African

soil. All else wishes to have some sort of tie to these dynasties. Xhanti and Ncumisa's marriage has flourished and they were blessed with a little boy. We were all shocked at first but happy. The name Smangaliso was given to him. King Xolo and Queen Nobu led the Kingdom until Xolo felt like it was time to retire.

Ntandoyabantu was sworn in as King of Umhlaba Ochumileyo and Bukhosi is helping the young King with plenty. No big conflict ever rose between the two brothers. Together they led Zwelihle well with the help of their father.

Ntando married Zinzi and they soon welcomed a boy child named Prince Nkosiyabo. A new law was passed in most Kingdoms. If a full blooded King weds a half blood then their male offsprings are deemed worthy to be heirs.

Bukhosi and Zinzi finally got the boy child that they wanted and he was named Prince Velile. King Ntsika and Queen Ndoni have remained together even after they were faced with more



trials. Their love seems to grow stronger with maturity. Their moto being "Stronger United". Prince Kamvalesizwe grew up to be a handsome and strong young man. With a sharp mind and natural leadership qualities. Much like his father. Princess Likwezi is one of the most beautiful maidens in all the Kingdoms combined. Having the same smooth skin that her mother has. She is much into weaponry and horse riding. She is not the typical maiden who only wishes to sit and be a soft princess. The King and Queen welcomed twins to the family later on. A boy named Prince Mcebisi and a girl named Princess Qhamani. As much as the belief of twins being a curse still stands they decided to keep both their children. Ntsika and Ndoni thought that they are done since they have the four children that they wanted but got beautiful surprise. A baby girl was born and they named her Princess Khanyisa. Bantu and Zipho also got blessed with two more children Similo,

a boy and Nolwazi, a girl. Thando has grown into a beautiful young maiden. She is best friends with Princess Likwezi but is just as close to Prince Kamvalesizwe.

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A glimpse of life with the grown royal children of Umhlaba Ochumileyo. Kamva (17), Likwezi (14), Mcebisi and Qhamani (10), Khanyisa (5) and Smanga (13).

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#Queen Ndoni

I sat around the table as the servants carried in the morning feast. We waited for the children to come and join us. Each is to come in following each other as usual. I looked at my King who's starting to show a bit of grey hair on the side of his head but not much. He is still the most handsome man that I have ever seen. I looked at King Xhanti and Ncumi as they held hands. They have matured a lot but it seems that they

age gracefully. Kamva walked in and greeted with his thick voice. Soon he is to take a wife and be a family man. He resembles his father in looks and character yet they are so different. The twins followed right after Mcebisi's eyes glued to a book as usual. Qhamani who sang so loud that one could see the annoyance on Mcebisi's face. Likwezi followed the two and I looked at my beautiful strong girl and smiled. Smanga joined us and he looks so much like his big brother, Ntsika. He loves his craft and makes beautiful pieces with those gifted hands. We waited for little Khanyi who did not seem to show and I got worried.

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Me: Children, where is Kha...

Khanyi: I am here, mother (she said in a sweet voice as she walked in before I could finish)

Ntsika: Greetings to all.

Khanyi: Greetings mada, fada, grandfada,

grandmada, Kamva...

Qhama: Khanyi, what you are doing is of great annoyance (she cut her short)

Khanyi: Fada, am I of annoyance? (Ntsika laughed softly)

Ntsika: You are not, last born. (she stuck her tongue out at Qhama)

Ncumi: Did you all have a sweet slumber?

Khanyi: I had a sweet slumber. Like this (she rested her head on her face hands and snored, we all laughed)

Smanga: I have not had enough rest because I was busy with my new wood crafts.

Khanti: We are to sell and make you a little fortune with those pieces.

Kwezi: Smanga refuses to have his work be seen by outsiders, grandfather. He wishes not to gain rewards from his pieces.

Ncumi: You can not fill the entire royal house with your creations, Smanga.

Me: I think we must give him time to be comfortable and confident enough to show the world his gift.

Smanga: I knew you would understand, my Queen.

Kamva: Just do not forget that we are to join the other young men in the stick fighting event.

Kwezi: I wish to go too, father. Permission to join.

Kamva: It is not an event for maidens , Kwezi. Go sing at the river like all other maidens do.

Ntsika: It is truly not an event for maidens, dear Princess.

Kwezi: It is not fair (she sulked)

Me: Go to the dance event the young maidens have at the river.

Khanyi: Am I to go too, mada?

Me: Ask Kwezi and Qhami if you are to go with them.

Kwezi: I am not going with Khanyi. She throws the other children with stones.

Ntsika: You are not to throw stones at others, Khanyisa. It is not a nice behavior.

Khanyi: I only throw them at naughty boys. (her father smiled)

Khanti: I see no problem in it then. You both are to take your sister with you and you are not to go without guards.

Me: Mcebisi, are you to go to the stick fighting with Kamva and Smanga? (he kept quiet looking at his book)

Ntsika: Mcebisi (he shouted in a stern voice)

Mcebi: Yes, father (he answered quickly)

Ntsika: Your mother is not to ask again.

Mcebi: My apologies, my Queen. I heard not what you asked.

Me: Are you to go with your brother and uncle to the stick fighting?

Mcebi: I am to remain and work on my poetry please. (Ntsika looked at me)

Me: You need not go if you do not wish to.

Ntsika: Let us eat before the food goes cold. The Queen and I have duties that are sure to keep us away all day.

Khanyi: Mother, you are of true beauty today (she smiled)

Me: My thanks, dear Princess.

Qhama: I ask for the yellow beads for the maiden's event, my Queen.

Me: No, use your own because you lose my special beads whenever I lend them to you.

Qhama: But...

Kamva: The Queen has spoken, Qhamani (he said in his stern big voice and she sulked.

Me: You are all to take your cheetah's and guards with to your daily activities.

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They all nodded even Smanga who does not have one and everyone laughed. Mbaleki is still going strong and all the cheetah's of my children are her young. Laughter soon filled the chamber and I still can not believe how much they have grown. It seems like just yesterday that I gave birth to Kamva but now he is so grown. Mcebisi is such a gentle child. He cares not about stick fights and all else. They all get long so well with each other even if they do get into disagreements sometimes. Fate has truly favoured us and happiness has been following us all these years. I am happy, my King is happy and my children are happy and for that I am grateful.



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This is just a little dialogue to give you a glimpse of the "current" life of the Umhlaba Ochumilyo. It was just to give a picture of the characters of the royal children. Kamva the strong leader, Likwezi the not so typical maiden, Mcebisi the nerdy introvert, Qhama the lover of all things beautiful, Khanyi the happy, joyous child and Smanga the future warrior. Ndoni and her family may have had their ups and downs but they truly did live happily ever after OBJ .

THE END!