

## Chapter 1.

Being a wife at the age of 18 - you expect nothing but happiness in your marriage. I was young and inexperienced, my husband was the only guy that I've ever slept with. I considered him as my soulmate, my love and my best friend. I have always had a few friends, 3 was the most I had. I was not much of a talker, even at school. I was considered as one of those quiet pretty girls - I wouldn't say shy, but I was not much of a talker.

As I said in the intro.. My name is Noxolo but better known as Noxy. I'm short in height. I'm light in complexion and have long dark brown hair. As a result of being pregnant while still in matric, I had to drop out of school and continue with my studies the following year. I raised my son, living with my husband's parents because my husband's job was out of town. I won't lie and say it was fun, because it was not. My mother-in-law was nothing but a pain- everything I did was never good enough. It felt like she was not happy that I married her son. I had always counted the days until I finally move out of my husband's home and finally live in my own house.

2 years later.....

I had just finished doing my 3rd year at a University studying towards a Law degree. Now, I was left to apply at a Law Firm for my Articles. I come from a small town with one local University, in which I studied in. So while I was busy cleaning the house, I got a call from my husband. I got that mini excitement and quickly picked up.

Me: "myeni wam"

Bulelani: "sthandwa sam, how are you?"

Me: "I'm good, except for being frustrated and bored doing the same thing over and over again. I miss you Buja"

Bulelani: "hahaha wow babe, I can sense the frustration as we speak. Guess what? I've decided that next week you should move in with me. You're finally done with your studies now, its only fair that you start looking for a job this side"

Me: "oh Buja wam, I've been waiting for months to hear those words"

Bulelani: "I can't wait to sleep next to you every day my love. Like husband and wife"

I couldn't help but smile. My mother-in-law walked in carrying shopping bags while I was still on the phone with my husband. "Noxolo! Khayo thatha eza shopping bags emotweni please!"

Me: "okay mama. Buja, I have to go vha"

Mama: "ngu nyana wam lowo? Please give me the phone, there's something urgent that I want to speak to him about"

Me: "oka-"

She took my phone before I could finish the sentence and went to her bedroom. I turned around and went to her car to take the shopping bags. The boot was already opened so I took them and closed it. When I entered the kitchen my son was awake rubbing his eyes. I put the bags on top of the kitchen counter and went over to him. He had a flu and was still recuperating from it.

Me: "Nana uziva njani ngoku?"

Luthando: "ndi betere mama"

I picked him up and hugged him. "Kule veki izayo sizohamba siyohlala no tata wakho, uyeva Lutha wam?"

He nodded. uMaka Buja uye waphuma eroomini wazondinika iphone "kuphekwe ntoni apha makoti?" She said engena ekitchini.

Me: " beef stew ne rice, Mama"

Mama: " okay, khandenzele itea. Andidinwe. Andiyazi why ulinda ndide nditsho"

Me: " bendisayo thathe igrocery Mama"

Mama: " ubungenoyithatha after ubilise amanzi? Ucinga kade umthetho lo wakho ne? Here's your phone"

She put it on top of the kitchen counter and left the kitchen. Tears threatened my eyes. I missed my home so much, at Bulelani's home it felt like I was hired as a domestic worker than being a wife. Her mother insulted me every chance she got. I always phoned my mother when it was all starting until she said " mntanam kuyanyamezelwa emzini. Very few women get along with their mother-in-laws. Nyamezela ke mntanam, uBulelani uzoyifumana indawu eright uyohlala naye"

I went to put my child on the couch and made some food for him while I made tea for Buja's mom. My father- in-law walked in around 7pm, and by then, I had already finished warming up the food for supper. I dished up for everyone and we gathered around the table.

Tata: " Noxolo, Bulelani has told me that uzoyohlala naye"

Me: " ewe Tata, he phoned today and told me the news"

Mama: " I'll miss Luthando kodwa, uboy-boy ka Makhulu"

She said smiling at him. Luthando concentrated on his food.

Tata: " hayi noko Makoti kudala uhleli nathi. I wish you all the best mntanam. Lifikile ixesha loba uyohlala kwakho ngoku. Remember, you are always welcomed here anytime and any day. This is your home"

I smiled and say " thank you Tata, I'll remember that"

Mama: " look after my son ke Noxolo. Angabhityi umntanam ukhona. Be a good wife to him and always respect him as your husband. Kamnandi sikuyalile, nje uzoya kwi big city kufuneka uziphathe kakuhle nje ngomfazi lho unguye"

Me: " I will Mama"

Tata: " she will, uyabona nawe mfazi wam she is a very humble makoti"

They carried on talking until I was done with supper. After we were done, I went to wash the dishes then got my son ready for bed. I also took a shower then wore my night dress. I called my husband before going to bed to say goodnight but the phone rang to no response. I gave up and prayed then fell asleep.

Finally, the following week on a Wednesday was the day my husband was coming to fetch us to stay with him in the big city. I changed about 5 times because I was undecided on what to wear. I finally decided to wear my long white dress and beige head scarf. I wore my beige pumps and put on my pink lipstick. I sprayed my perfume and made my son ready so long. My phone rang and it was him. " Give me 15minutes sthandwa sam, sendifikile " he said.

Me: " I can't wait to finally see you, its been months"

Buja" I can't wait nam mfaz'wam"

We finally hung up and I waited for him with anticipation. It wasn't long before I heard a car driving in. He was driving a black Jeep Grand Cherokee. He parked the car and stepped out. My man was wearing a black sleeveless shirt, blue denim jeans and Timberland boots. He took off his sunglasses and came over to me. We hugged. A warm hug, and I couldn't help but drool because of the smell of his cologne. He has always been eye candy. He is dark in complexion. He has smokey brown eyes and has a sexy muscular body. Lutha came running when he saw his daddy. Bulelani picked him up and said " boy!! unjani mntanam?"

Me: "he's flu is much better now, the medicines from the doctor helped him a lot"  
Buja" that's good my love."

He put Lutha down and gave him a toy car. Lutha was so excited, he started playing with it on the grass. Bulelani held both of my hands and stared into my eyes then came close to kiss me. We kissed, a passionate, seductive kiss. I broke the kiss and looked down shyly " ha a Taka Lutha, not in front of our son"

Lutha wasn't even paying much attention to us. He smiled and said " babe, you can be so innocent. Uyandichaza yazi" I smiled still looked down. He lifted my chin with his index finger then planted a kiss on my lips.

" Let me fetch your luggage inside" he said. "Okay" I responded.

He went inside the house while I asked Luthando to get in the car. Bulelani was now putting the luggage in the boot. The parents were both at work. He's father owned a construction company while his mother was a senior nurse at a public hospital. We locked the doors and gates and left my parents-in-laws place. On the way I asked " so Taka Lutha, how's the big city? I hope I'll adjust quickly. I've lived in this small town all my life"

Buja: " you'll adjust babe, don't worry. Maybe in 2 months time, you will have already found a job for your Articles"

Me: " let's hope"

I looked through the window, excited and nervous at the same time. His phone rang interrupting my thoughts. "Hello?" He said. " Yes....., why?....well...my wife and son are coming to stay with me" I looked at him, curious of this conversation he was having. " I haven't got the time for this nonsense" he hung up. I stared at him waiting for him to say something.

Bulelani: " just an annoying colleague babe, don't mind this call"

Me: " okay"

I tried my absolute best to brush it off. In 4 hours we finally arrived in the big city. Everything was so different to where I stayed. After about 45minutes drive we entered in the drive way of a beautiful house with 2 garages. We parked then he said " welcome home, my love"

Me: " wow, its so beautiful"

Bulelani: " I'm glad you love the house I've bought for us"

We stepped out. He gave me the keys to open and the alarm code. Luthando was walking behind me. We unlocked and inside everything looked like paradise. Bulelani went to put the luggage in our bedroom and showed me the room Luthando would be sleeping in.

Bulelani: " I've been staying here for 2 months now. I was just waiting for the renovations to be done."

I looked around impressed with everything. There were plenty of toys chilling in the living room for our son. He was so excited that he ran over to play with them. Bulelani came close and held my waist.

Buja: " did I tell you how beautiful you look?"

Me: " who me? Thanx, I feel so simple though."

Buja: " you are simple yet so beautiful. You beautiful inside and out, sthandwa sam. You humble, you respectful. I'm proud of having you as a wife. Thanks for waiting for me and taking care of our son. I love you so much, Mrs Giba"

I smiled and said " I love you too, Mr Giba" We started kissing while holding each other. I felt so safe in his strong arms. We were interrupted by a hard knock on the door. We broke the kiss. I

could see his facial expression changing to intensity. He said " I wonder who the hell is this" and approached the door. When he opened. A woman wearing a red hugging dress, black stilettos and had a long peruvian weave on stood in door way. Tears trickled from her eyes. She seemed so broken and hurt.

She asked: " is that her? Bulelani uyenza njani into enjena kum?? She's so young. Bulelani, please tell me you are joking about this"

Tears streamed down her face. I stood there dumb struck wondering what on earth is going on.

## Chapter 2

I stood there like a statue confused at what was happening. Who is she? And why is she talking like that to my husband, I thought. Bulelani coldly said " Zizipho, I've just welcomed my wife in her house for heavens sake! Can you not see that you are disturbing us?"

I went closer to the door, because I was eager to know what was going on.

Me: " Taka Lutha, what is going on here?"

He cleared his throat and rubbed his neck. He then looked at me calmly and said " my love, this is Zizipho. And she was just leaving."

I looked at this woman. She looked like a model, highly sophisticated and elegant. She wiped her tears and said " sorry sisi, uhm...." She glanced at Bulelani and quickly looked at me then said " I'm sorry, I shouldn't have come here" she turned around and rushed off to her car.

I might be coming from a small town, but I'm definitely not stupid. It couldn't even take an intelligent person to read between the lines.

Me: " kwenzeka ntoni?( What is going on)

Buja: " babe, let's go and sit down. I need to explain what is going on"

He held my hand and we went over to the bedroom because Luthando was still playing in the lounge.

Buja: " that is Zizipho. I met her at a work function a few months back. She seemed nice and had a pleasant personality, I didn't think anything negative about her or she could ever be causing trouble for me. Sthandwa sam, she has been after me for a very long time now. I told her I was married and that she should back off, but she didn't. I even told my colleagues to not let her in my office at work because I didn't want her causing any trouble for me. She must have heard from an unknown source that I'm going to stay with my wife, because her coming here unannounced took me by total surprise."

Me: " was it her that phoned you earlier on, in the car?"

Buja: " No, as I said, it is my colleague"

He cupped my cheek and said " let's not let her spoil your first day at our new home, my love"

I reluctantly smiled and said " I better go and prepare supper"

Buja: " okay"

I got up and went to the kitchen. I started preparing a delicious meal for my family while my husband was bonding with his son in the living room. After about an hour and a half I was finally done. We gathered around the dinning room table and I blessed the food.

Buja: " this weekend, I'll show you around this town and introduce you to my friends, my love"

Me: " I can't wait. Oh, and I need to do a lot of shopping for new clothes"

Buja: " that is not a problem"

Lutha: " Mama, ndicela ubukela oPopeye" (mom, can I go watch cartoons?)

Me: " not now boy, uzoyovasa ngoku and go straight to bed. Tomorrow, okay?"

Lutha: " okay"

Shame, my son seemed so bored. I suggested the following day we should look for a good pre-school for him, so that he can play with other kids during the day. Back at home he had lots of friends at creche and in the area we stayed in. Buja advised that he already did look for a creche for him, and that ,we will go and check it out.

It wasn't long before we went to bed. The following day, I woke up early in the morning and made breakfast for my family. I was in such a good mood. While humming a song in the kitchen dishing up, Buja held me from behind and kissed my cheek. " Good morning, my love" he said. I smiled and turned around to face him then said " Good morning to you too, Mr Giba" he kissed my forehead then said " I'm going to enjoy getting used to this new lifestyle" I gave him the food then went to wake up my son. I entered his room and said " its time for breakfast nana wam" we went to the bathroom and I washed his face then brushed his small little teeth then after we were done, I gave him his food.

Around 11am we left the house and started off at the creche my son would be going to. I loved it. It was a multi racial pre-school and the teachers were all whites.

Me: " Buja, I love it, but I think there's going to be a problem. Our son only knows Xhosa. How will he communicate with the teachers?"

Buja: " some of them know and understand Xhosa. I want him to learn to speak english at a young age. He's only 4 years old so he'll adapt to this change very quickly"

I nodded and said "okay" I trusted my husband's judgment, a lot. And I trusted he's suggestions. We signed all the necessary papers, so the following week on monday Luthando would be starting pre-school. I was excited for him, and of course, that would work to my advantage because I needed to get used to the town and apply to as many Law Firms as possible. We went to eat out for lunch and bonded as a family for the rest of the day. He was showing me a few places around the city, and we also did alittle bit of shopping at the Mall, for myself and Luthando. Later on we went back home. I didn't hear from the woman who came over the previous day nor were there any dodgy phone calls from my husband's phone. I started believing Buja's explanation and decided I won't let what happened get to me or make me uneasy. My parents-in-law checked up on me, or should I say, Buja's father did. I told him I loved the house and that its very beautiful. He was glad that I seemed happy, I decided not to touch the subject of the woman who rocked up looking devastated because of my presents. I did not want to worry my father- in-law unnecessarily.

Friday came and ended and saturday arrived. Bulelani had planned for us to go to a small braai to his friend's place. He wanted me to meet some people and hopefully get to know her friend's fiance and also become " friends" as he puts it. So now it was around midday, and we would be leaving for the braai at 5pm. While I was getting ready to take a shower my phone rang. It was my tertiary friend Anathi. I picked up immediately.

Me: " my friend"

Anathi: " my F, oko bendilindele iphone call yakho sana caba undithe forget womka kule ndawu yethu!" ( my friend, I have been waiting for your call. I see that you have forgotten about me!)"

Me: " hahaha I'd never. Sorry love, I've been very busy trying to settle in this new place and new environment"

Anathi: " okay dear, how are things going that side? I'm sure Buja is very happy now that you staying with him full time"

Me:" he's more than happy chomy. I'm just glad our son will be raised by both parents"

Anathi: " I'm happy for you chomy yam. I'm also leaving. I finally got a job as an Article Clerk but its a 6 hour drive to get to the town I'll be working in. I think we'll see each other after a long time"

Me: " we'll make a plan, not to worry. And anyway, we can always keep in touch over the phone"

Anathi: " that's true. Keep well, Noxy. Don't let the big city change you. Ndikuthanda unjalo"

Me: " haha, no I won't my friend. Even my hubby loves me just the way I am."

Anathi: " hahaha sho ke sana, bye"

Me: " byieeee"

I hung up smiling from ear to ear. It was good hearing from her. I went to take a shower in the ensuite bathroom while Bulelani was making some business calls. After I was done I wrapped a towel around my body and walked out. Bulelani was half naked sitting on top of the bed.

Me: " uphi uboy?" (Where's boy?)

Buja: " he's playing games on my phone"

Me: "mmmh ok"

Buja: " come here, babe"

I went over to him. He unwrapped my towel carefully and it fell on the floor then he gently kissed my belly button.

Buja: " we should start trying for a 2nd child, my love"

Me: " you know we can't, babe. Not while I have to do my Articles. We'll start trying after 2 years."

He got up and lifted my chin then we kissed, he broke the kiss and said " I want you so much right now. I can't control the urge in my body to be inside you" He kissed the side of my neck slowly going to my twins. I couldn't help but close my eyes enjoying the sensational feeling I was having. He unexpectedly picked me up and pressed my body against the wall and rubbed two fingers on my clit. I moaned softly...

"Mama!" Luthanda shouted in the passage. We immediately got back to reality , he said " shit" then he put me down. I quickly went for my gown while he said " I need a cold shower." Luthando tried opening the door but it was locked. I breathed a sigh of relief, atleast Buja was responsible enough to lock the door. I quickly opened the door and said " what nana?"

Lutha: " funa amanzi" (I want water)

Me: " okay boy"

I went to the kitchen and gave him water. He had already bathed. So I dressed him up and got him ready, after he was done I opened the tv and he watched Tom&Jerry, it was his favourite cartoons. While he was now concentrating on the TV I quickly went to my room and looked for something to wear. Most of my clothes were dresses and skirts because I lived with my inlaws. My mother in law was very strict when it comes to what I wear. I always had to wear a dress or a skirt as well as a head scarf, I even got used to it. My friend Anathi wore shorts and jeans all the time, but I always wore the opposite. I decided on wearing a powder blue dress, white pearl earrings and white casual sandals. I tied up my hair and wore a nude pink matt lipstick. My hubby walked in after his bath and dressed in front of me. I always admired his sexy muscular body. He wore a navy muscle top, black Hugo Boss jeans, Hugo Boss wrist watch and black sneakers. After about an hour we were done and ready to go. We locked the house and left going to this house where the meet up would be held. We arrived at a house which looked like a mansion. He

pressed the intercom and alerted his friend that we were outside and the gate slid open. I suddenly got insecure on whether I was dressed appropriately or not. I started having a mini anxiety attack. I mean, I felt like just an ordinary woman, a 22 year old who comes from a small town. Were these people going to like me? All these thoughts were running through my mind. My Buja took my hand and kissed the back of it. "Are you okay?" He asked, with a concerned expression. "Yes, I'm fine." I murmured. I faked a smile. I didn't want to show him how nervous I am. We all got out of the car as soon as he parked and he carried Luthando while we made our way to the door. I browsed around the yard and all the cars looked expensive, it seemed like Buja and his friends had most definitely made it in life. I couldn't wait until I could be a qualified Attorney, and hopefully a few years later, own my own Law Firm. But at that moment, I was depended on my husband to provide for me and our son. A door opened as soon as we stood there about to knock.

"Hey!! Come on in" said a lady, she looked like she's in her late 20's. We got in and 3 of the guys came over to us. Everyone was chilling in the living room laughing at a somewhat funny joke that must have been shared.

"Hey buja! Finally, we get to see your son, and your lovely wife, of course. You must be Mrs Giba", said another lady wearing close to nothing carrying a glass of champagne. One of the guys said "Wooah! Amanda, can't you keep quiet for just one second!" She responded by saying "psssh!! What ever, dude!" there was a chuckle after.

Guy 1: "Buja, ugrand Mjita?" (Greeting each other)

They shoulder bumped.

"Molo nawe Sisi, my name is Sibusiso, I'm one of Buja's closest friends" he said looking at me.

Me: "I'm Noxolo, Buja's wife"

Buja: "meet my lovely wife every one. This is my better half Noxolo, she's my Mrs, the woman who owns my heart."

The girls went "ncoooooh! How sweet" I smiled shyly. I felt like I was in a hot spot. The lady that opened the door said "hi, I'm Wendy. I'm so pleased to meet you!"

Me: "like wise"

She gave me a warm hug and smiled at me. Amanda said "Noxy, come over to the pool area. We need to have some girl talks and leave the guys to braai the vleis!"

I saw Luthando running up and down with the little kids, there were about 5 of them. I didn't even notice when he went to them, I was concentrating on this people who looked and sounded friendly. Buja said "you'll get used to them my love." I said "sure". Wendy quickly held my hand and we went outside. There were 4 more girls sitting on the chairs sipping some cocktails. Amanda was already there taking off her white top and now wearing a bikini top and bum shorts. We sat down and I introduced myself to them. They also introduced themselves to me.

Wendy: "you look so young, you look more like you 20"

Me: "I'm actually 22"

Wendy: "wow you look younger than your age. I'm 26 and engaged to Sibusiso. Amanda is my cousin and we live together."

A woman, her name is Bomikazi said "do you have your bikini suite with you?"

Me: "no, I won't be going for a swim."

Bomi: "oh, okay."

Amanda: "its a good thing you have come to stay with Buja-ja, so that you can keep a watch on

him. I mean, your husband is sizzling hot. I'm sure women all over the city have been throwing themselves at him. But hey, he loves his wife"

She sipped on her champagne glass.

Wendy: " oh Amanda uyayithetha i2cents kanene" ( you speak a whole lot of rubbish)

Amanda: " I'm just saying!"

Bomikazi: " we all know mos ladies the way to keep a man is to seduce him and keep things hot under the bed covers! I make sure my man is satisfied and never has to look at any skirt passing. "

We all started giggling. Bomikazi continued" So Noxy, buy some sexy lingerie, wear clothes that will make him afraid to ever lose you. Satisfy him in every way you know how."

Wendy: " I don't remember Noxy asking for any tips, ladies"

She glanced at each and every one of them.

Another lady took her glass, she introduced her as Nolitha. She said " kaloku we just giving her advice from woman to woman. Noxy is so young and innocent. I can see even by the way she dresses."

Me: " what's wrong with the way I've dressed?"

They were all wearing short dresses, and some wearing bikini tops, they had tattoos in some areas of their bodies.

Nolitha: " nothing, but somehow, you and Buja seem like the total opposite"

I got annoyed because I was drawing my own conclusions at what she was trying to imply.

Bomikazi cleared her throat and said " what Nolitha is trying to say is, you look so humble and down to earth. We've known Buja for about 4 years now and he tends to be abit....what's the right word...wild, I mean, more like a charmer, he's talkative and a party freak. But opposites attract, right?"

Wendy stood up with an uncomfortable expression on her face and said " Noxy, can you please help me with a few things in the kitchen."

Me: " sure"

I got up and walked with Wendy leaving the other ladies behind. The conversation got stuck to my head.

Amanda shouted "Noxy!" I turned, " don't take too long! We still want to get to know you more , Mrs Giba" she smiled and I smiled back, feeling uneasy because of the false pretense I felt from some of them.

### Chapter 3

Wendy and I entered the kitchen. "There's just a few salads I need to finish preparing" she said. " Okay. Just give me everything I'll be needing and I'll be on it" I responded.

Wena: "thanx"

She smiled and we began making the salads.

Wendy: " uhm..love"

Me: "yes"

Wendy: " please don't mind the ladies outside. Sometimes they tend to be too personal."

Me: " no its okay, I understand."



Wendy: " you so sweet"

Me: " haha thanx for the compliment"

Wendy: " no really, you so calm and understanding. I wish I had this kind of personality"

I just let out a slight smile , because I wasn't sure how to respond.

Wendy: " Buja told me you need to apply for your Articles."

Me:" yes, that's true. Hopefully, I can get a place soon."

Wendy: " I know a few Law Firms around town. You should e-mail me your CV. I have a few connections"

Me: " okay. no problem."

We made small talk until we were done. Wendy seemed like a nice woman. I felt comfortable talking to her more than the others. After about an hour, the meat was ready and we dished up for everyone and went outside. The guys were now chilling with the ladies. Buja was standing right next to Amanda while drinking a cold beer.

Amanda: " so Buja, I still think having a house warming party will be a great idea. What do you think, Noxy?"

Me: " I don't mind. As long as it will be something small"

Amanda: " well duh....we're the only friends you have. Of course it will be something small"

Me: " actually, I was referring to my husband who has plenty of friends around town"

Amanda: " oh!"

She faked a smile. My blood was starting to boil. I couldn't help but notice the sarcasm she had on everything that came out of her mouth.

Me: " I should go and check up on Luthando."

Buja: " I'll come with you"

He held my waist and we made our way into the house. "Are you enjoying yourself?" Buja asked.

Me: " well yes, sort of"

He opened the play room and the kids were having the time of their lives. Lutha was enjoying himself and that made me more than happy. We closed the door and stood in the passage.

Buja: " what's wrong? It seems like something or someone is bothering you"

Me: " well to be honest - there's just something about Amanda that I don't like. "

Buja: " something like what?"

Me: " I can't help but feel she has a problem with me."

Buja:" Maybe you just imagining things."

He put his hands on my shoulders " she's talkative, and most of the time she doesn't think before she speaks" he added.

Me: " okay, maybe its me."

Buja: " as I said, you'll get used to them. I hang out with these people. They can be very friendly"

He's put his hands around my waist and pulled me closer. " I love you, okay?" He assured me. " I love you too" I responded.

Buja: " come close and kiss your man."

We kissed, a slow yet passionate kiss. I felt so in love with him. We broke the kiss and stared at each other. Sbu walked in and shouted across the passage " sorry for disturbing, love bits!"

Buja: " then make a U-turn and leave us in peace!"

Sbu: " hahaha, actually, I've come to steal your wife. We haven't chatted since she arrived. "

He put his arm around my shoulder and said " Buja! Go to your friends. Bye-bye."

Buja laughed and said " mxim" then said " babe, I'll be outside if you need me"

Me: " sure"

He walked out. Sbu and I went over to the bar area and he asked " want anything to drink?"

Me: " no thanx. I don't drink"

Sbu: " sure then, I'll get you some juice, is it fine?"

Me: " yes, please"

He went to get some juice and got beer for himself then we sat down on the high chairs.

Sbu: " you don't know how happy Buja is now that you've moved in. uMjita has always told us how much he missed you. I mean, seeing each other for about 3 or 4 times a year is not ideal when you married. But atleast now he will be more focused on what matters most in his life."

Me: " what was he focused on at first?"

Sbu: " nothing much..."

I looked at him and sipped the juice. " Well, Amanda and the rest of the ladies did mention that he is a party freak" I said. Sbu chuckled and said " not really, haha Amanda is crazy. We usually go and have a guys night out, and usually take some of the ladies of course with us, sometimes. We are more like family. Some of our friends are out of town on business meetings but you'll get to meet them as time goes by."

I so badly wanted to ask him about Buja being wild and thought, no, I won't. Infact, I won't even ask Buja about it. I smiled and said " oh well, now I understand what they mean.

Buja: " you don't party, do you?"

Me: " no, I've stayed with my inlaws since I was 18 so there hasn't been exactly time to party."

Sbu: " damn, you've missed so much of the good life at such a young age"

Me: " I know, but I don't mind"

Sbu: " Buja is lucky to have you"

Me: " thanx. So when are you and Wendy getting married?"

Sbu: " we haven't set the date yet. But I'm thinking sometime next year, or round about November/Dec"

Me: " I see..."

Sbu: " look Noxy, I want you to feel comfortable around me, infact all of us. So if you ever need someone to talk to, I'm always around to listen."

Me: " I'll keep that in mind..."

Sbu: " let's go and have some fun"

Me: " okay,sure"

We got up and walked out. Music was playing outside and some of the ladies and guys were dancing. I could see that they were tipsy. Bomikazi was busy kissing some other guy so I reckoned its the man she was talking about. Wendy waved at me and called me over. I went over to her. She asked " do you wanna dance?"

Me: " hahaha uhm...no. I'll pass"

She got up and pulled me over then danced forcing me to do the same. Okay, now she gave me no choice but to dance. Luckily, back at home, I've always practiced some Ciara dance moves and we always pumped up some music at Anathi's crib and danced so I did have some few moves. In no time I was in with the vibe and enjoying myself, moving my hips side ways. Wendy said " wow! You a good dancer. I see you a girl full of surprised" I laughed and continued dancing

with her. To be honest, I liked Wendy, and felt she was being her normal self. I did not feel any false pretense with her, I cannot say the same with the other ladies. I turned around still dancing and my eyes met with Buja's. He had a serious look, a more upset and intimidating look. I thought "oh snap" and turned to look at Wendy "love, I'll be right back" I advised. "Sure" she said. I went over to Buja who was chilling with his friends and asked "is something wrong?"

He held my hand and we walked to the side.

Buja: "Noxy..." He rubbed his chin then glared at me "suzilibala uba ungu mfazi."(Don't forget that you are a wife)

Me: "I was just dancing, I didn't -"

Buja: "I'm still talking, now listen"

I looked at him extremely puzzled by his command.

Buja: "you cannot be dancing like that in front of other men. I'm sure my friends were busy checking you out. I'm the jealous type, babe. I don't want you to do things that will make men start having dirty thoughts about you"

Me: "oh, I'm sorry. I guess I shouldn't have danced with Wendy. She just wanted me to have fun"

Buja: "well, I saw them looking at you, like, they were somehow undressing you with their eyes."

Me: "wow, that's abit extreme. Don't you trust your friends?"

Buja: "I do, in some things. I'm just over protective when it comes to you, babe"

I put my arms around his neck. Buja is tall, so I was looking up while he was looking down, facing each other.

Me: "well, from now on I'll dance for you only. In our bedroom of course. Maybe, dance while I'm naked. How's that?" I winked.

I felt his shaft hardening. I giggled and said "control yourself"

Buja: "stop putting ideas in my head" he smiled and kissed my forehead.

Me: "let me go back to the ladies"

Buja: "sure my love"

I went back to where Wendy was chilling. We started eating. There was a nanny staying there so she was looking after the kids, that's why I wasn't worrying much. Amanda was not with us. I asked "where's Amanda?"

Bomikazi "somewhere around the house. That one never stays in one place for more than an hour"

Me: "oh, okay"

We had a random chat. Atleast now the topic was not about me and how to keep my husband happy, even though I never asked for advice.

After about 3 hours, I felt we needed to call it a night. And it was way past Luthando's bed time. I said "I need to check on Lutha, he might be tired". The ladies chanted "okay dear". I walked in the house. The house was huge, I walked up the stairs and went to the play room. The Nanny was walking out carrying another kid.

Me: "hey, I've just came to fetch my son. Its time we went home now."

Nanny: "he's in the room next door, asleep. He became sleepy after he ate"

Me: "haha that's my son, after supper he always becomes sleepy. Okay thanx, I'll check up on

him"

Nanny: " okay, Ma'am"

She walked the other way while I went down the stairs to tell Buja we should get going. When I went outside he wasn't there. I went back inside and went to the Bar, still there was no sign of him. The house had 3 living rooms, I checked each and every one. I didn't see the point of phoning him because I was also busy checking out this beautiful house. I heard his voice from the other room. He was having an intense conversation, more like he was arguing. I walked closer and the more closer I got the more I could hear what he was saying. I walked in but they didn't see me. It was him and Amanda.

Amanda: " well its hard, Buja! I'm trying but its hard."

Buja: " stop being so dramatic, Amanda. I won't have you disrespecting my wife, uyandiva??"  
(Am I clear??)

Amanda: " I'm sorry, I'll try my best to be nice"

Buja: " you better be nice if you know what's good for you. You know how dangerous I can be, so don't try to be on my bad side. Stay in your lane."

Amanda turned her head and looked at the direction I was standing in, she was surprised and flushed at the same time. Buja looked at the same direction and said " Noxy, how long have you been standing there?"

Me: " I've just entered. I was going to tell you that we should get going. Its way past Luthando's bed time"

Buja: " yes, that's not a problem, sthandwa sam"

Amanda said " excuse me..." And walked out still flushed. Buja said " we should tell the others we leaving" then he walked out. I followed behind him. Outside, we told everyone we are leaving and Buja went to take Lutha who was fast asleep. Sbu said " don't be too scarce, Noxy"

Me: " no I won't, promise"

Sbu: " ayt then."

We went to the car and Buja drove out. Silence loomed in the car. I couldn't help it, I had to ask.

Me: " Buja, why were you talking to Amanda like that"

Buja: " so you heard everything?"

Me: " No, but I did hear you threatening her. I don't feel comfortable about the way you talked to her"

Buja: " I just want her to respect you"

Me: " but, I think you were extremely harsh towards her. Has she got a reason to be sarcastic towards me?"

Buja: " what are you talking about?"

Me: " you tell me.."

Buja: " Noxy, are you trying to cause a fight between us?"

Me: " no, of course not."

Buja: " then let's not let ooAmanda ruin our night. Andisifuni isgezo ku Amanda( I hate sarcasm), especially when it comes to my wife."

Me: " okay"

I looked away. Something was just not adding up. We drove in silence again until we arrived at home. After he parked I took my son who was sleeping at the back seat and woke him up for a bath. After he was done, I tucked him in and he slept within minutes. I got out of his room and went to my bedroom. Buja was waiting for me. I walked passed him and took off my dress.

Buja: "Noxy, you being unfair now"

Me: " about?"

Buja: " am I wrong for wanting my wife to be happy?"

Me: " I can't help but feel there's more to what you told me"

He got closer to me and said " there's nothing, I swear babe. I love you, I love you so much that if anyone tries to hurt you, I deal with them accordingly. Infact, I'll eliminate them from this earth should they try to hurt you in any way."

Me: " hahahaha, hehake Buja. Please, you don't have to go that far."

Buja: " haha I'm serious babe. Now let's go and take a shower together"

Me:" yeah why not, let's go my love"

We made out way to the bathroom. He's phone rang. " You should get that" I said.

Buja: "it can wait. "

We ignored it. He spank my butt and I giggled as we entered the shower together.

#### Chapter 4

We washed each others backs and kissed while the water was running down our bodies. After we were done we went straight to bed and made love almost the whole night. You'd swear my husband was making up for all those months we weren't seeing each other, but I wasn't complaining. I was enjoying every moment of the passionate love making we were having. We eventually drifted to sleep in each others arms.

The following morning was sunday. I woke up first. When I looked at Buja, he seemed to be fast asleep. I opened the bed covers but when I was about to get up he held my arm " not now" he said, pulling me over and making my head lie on top of his chest.

Me: " good morning, my love. I thought you were asleep."

Buja: " morning to you too, babe. So I was thinking..."

Me: " you mean you were dreaming right? Because you just woke up"

He laughed and said " I woke up 30 minutes ago, I just didn't get out of bed."

Me: " hahaha oh. Anyway, you were saying?"

Buja: " I'd like for us to go on some romantic getaway out of town. Maybe in three weeks time. We can go on friday and come back on sunday. Wendy and Sbu won't mind looking after Luthando."

Me: " I'd love a getaway hun, but Lutha is so used to seeing me every day. What if he won't agree to stay with them."

Buja: " it will only be just 2 days"

Me: " I know, but I just don't feel comfortable leaving him behind"

Buja: " hahaha babe, uLuthando uzomenza athambe. He's too much of a mama's boy because of you. You'll be working soon so he needs to get used to not having you around. "

Me: " oh well, you have a point. It will only be 2 days anyways"

Buja: " yes, you a great mom babe. You just need a break and 2 days won't hurt"

Me: " yeah, I guess so. Did you get to check who was phoning last night? It might have been important"

Buja: " yes, that was Luzuko. Some boy I'm mentoring"

Me: " you also a mentor?"

Buja: " haha yeah, business stuff. Anyway, let me check up on him."

He took his phone and made a call. "Luzz, ugrand ntwana yam?"(Greeting him)

Luzuko was talking on the other side but I couldn't hear what he was saying. Buja said " ndi grand nam ntwana. So have you got any good news for me?.....yes.....great, well done boys. Yes, come by my house around midday. We can't have that kind of discussion over the phone. Sure, see you then." He hung up.

I got up and went to the bathroom. After I was done cleaning myself I went to make breakfast. Buja was now busy doing something important on his laptop. I heard the tv playing in the living room. It was Luthando watching music videos.

Me: " hey young man"

He turned and said " molo mama wam"(hello mom)

Me: " kudala uvukile?"

He nodded. " Let's go and brush your teeth ke nana uzotya"

Lutha: " okay" he ran of to the bathroom and I followed him. I helped him brush his teeth then called Buja because breakfast was ready. While eating, I asked about nearby churches that we can attend to.

Buja: " there is a church I go to once in a while with my boy Sbu. We can attend that one."

Me: " that's great. The sooner my son starts sunday school in the new church the better."

Buja: " true..."

He started making a conversation with Lutha, in no time they were chatting and laughing. I also joined in the convo. Around midday we were chilling in the living room watching a movie and eating pop corns. Luthando was sitting next to his dad and kept teasing him. Buja kept saying " yima kaloku boy" because he was concentrating on the movie, but Lutha was enjoying teasing and distracting him. There was a knock on the door. I said " I'll get that" and went to open. When I opened, there were 2 guys standing there, 1 had afro dreads and the other had a brush cut. They looked like they were in their early 20s.

Guy 1: " hey suster, ukhona uTar Buja?"( Is Buja around?)

Me: " uhm...yeah sure, come in"

They entered and made their way to the living room. These guys looked abit ghetto but they were not shady at all.

Me: " babe, you have some visitors"

I went to sit next to him again while the guys went to sit on the other couch.

Buja: " boyz..."

They chanted " ola..Tar Buja"

Buja: " babe, meet Luzuko and Jabu"

Me: " hi there, please to meet you"

Them: " pleased to meet you too, suster."

Buja looked at me and said " you can finish watching the movie so long. I just need to have a few discussions with these gents"

Me: " sure, no problem"

They walked away to the study room and closed the door. I took a hand of popcorns from the bowl and started eating. They took the whole hour in the study before they finally came out. I could see their little discussion went well because they came out laughing then Buja walked the 2 guys out. Later on in the evening, Buja asked if I have driven any car after passing my driving

test. My response was "no, my love". I passed my license the previous year and my mother in law didn't want to borrow me her car, she told me that she didn't fully trust my driving. My father in law was too busy with his construction company and he used his car almost all the time. And well, I saw my parents once in a while. I told myself I'll just buy my own car when I find a job. I didn't really want to be a nuisance by borrowing people's car all the time. But I knew that having a driving license is part of the job requirements in order to be accepted as an Article clerk. Most of the time I would be attending Court. That is why we were advised by our lecture to start driving school as soon as possible.

The Alarm went off on monday for my hubby to get ready for work. He went to take a bath while I opened the closet to look for something he would wear to work. I picked his red shirt, black formal pants and a black tie. I went to wake up my son and bathed him then ironed the clothes he would be wearing for his first day at school. After that I prepared lunch for both of them. They got ready. Buja said he will send him to pre-school before going to work everyday.

Me: " Don't be too hard on him. If he cries, please soften him up"

Buja: " haha I won't babe, enjoy your day"

Me: " you too, sthandwa sam"

He planted a kiss on my cheek. Lutha waved at me while he went with his daddy to the car and they drove out. After they left I cleaned the house, took a bath and wore my comfy trackpants, slippers and a white vest then took out my laptop. I plugged in the modem and usb then browsed through the internet for Law Firms that were around town. I started making phone calls to check if there were any openings available.

Me: " Hi there. You speaking to Noxolo Giba. I would like to know if there's any openings for Candidate Attorneys available in your Firm?"

Receptionist: " sorry, we don't have any openings. But, you can e-mail your CV to our e-mail address. The Attorneys will contact you once there's an opening available."

Me: " okay, will do. Thanx.

Well, it was the same thing for the rest of the day. But I e-mailed my C.V and prayed to get a call sooner than later. During the week, Wendy sms'd me her e-mail address so I also forwarded my CV to her. I was honestly getting bored sitting at home while my husband went to work and my child went to pre-school. As days passed, Buja gave me about R2000 to go and do some shopping. So I did some shopping and also handed my CV by hand to every Law Firm I came across. I felt I shouldn't depend on Wendy to get a job, I also somehow wanted to know if I could get the job on my own merit.

After 2 weeks I had come familiar with the town. After I cleaned and did some browsing over the internet job hunting, I went to town just to become familiar with some of the shopping malls. I didn't have a car so I didn't mind taking a taxi.

So now I was chatting with my friend Anathi over WhatsApp around lunch time during the day to ask how she was settling in on her job. She told me she was happy and loving the Firm.

Anathi: " any luck from you?"

Me: " Nope."

Anathi: " keep positive my friend, you will find something"

Me: " argh, let's hope"

Anathi: " have you got any friends now?"

Me: " I wouldn't consider them as my friends. But, yah, I guess they are."

Anathi: " hahaha, I know you Noxy, is there something you want to tell me?"

Noxy: " they're my husband's friends. Its just that I don't connect with them"

Anathi: " oh, I understand you now. And chomy, akunyanzelekanga uba utshomane nabo mos" (you don't have to be friends with them)

Me: " yeah..."

I was interrupted by an incoming call.

Me: " hello, Noxolo speaking"

Caller: " hello, how are you?"

Me: " I'm fine thanx, and yourself?"

Caller: " I'm good too, thanx. Mrs Giba, you speaking to Rulene from LL Coester Attorneys. Would it be possible for you to come to a job interview tomorrow at 9am? We apologise for the short notice but that's the only time the Attorney will be available"

Me: " yes, that is not a problem. Thank you."

We said our goodbyes and hung up. I told Anathi I've been called for an interview and she phoned immediately.

Anathi: " aaaah! I know you'll Ace the interview"

Me: " I hope so my F. I need to call my hubby"

Anathi: " sure love, bye"

Me: " bye...."

I hung up and called Buja. He sounded happy for me. He said" Goodluck my love, you can prepare yourself in the meantime. I'll see you later. I'll be going to a meeting in a few seconds"

Me: " sure, bye then"

Buja: " bye babe."

I searched all the questions and answers to pass my interview and started practicing , around 3pm I went to fetch my child. The teacher told me he's a quick learner and he's getting along very well with the other kids. I was glad to hear about the good progress report regarding Lutha, the last thing I wanted to hear was him being bullied or bullying other kids. Around 5pm I prepared for supper and my hubby came back from work. He gave me a kiss and said " are you ready for the interview?"

Me: " yes hun, I'm more than ready"

Buja: " that's great. If you pass it then we have an even better reason to go on a getaway and celebrate. "

Me: " hahaha true!"

I couldn't contain my excitement and couldn't wait for the day to end.

Buja: " uhm...babe, I apologised to Amanda about being so hard on her that other day"

Me: " oh okay, well its a good thing you did, sthandwa sam. I don't want her to look at me in a funny way"

Buja: " no she won't..."

Me: " hey, uhm, the woman that came here.....what's her name again, Zizipho, did you ever see her again?"

He frowned and said " no babe, I didn't see her again. I think she got the message loud and clear. I better go and change"

Me: " okay"

**He walked away.** I noticed the subject was just uncomfortable for him, or maybe it was because the incident happened at a very wrong time. Later on we went to bed. The following morning I



prepared for everyone and went to take a bath after. I decided on wearing a white blouse, black high waist pencil skirt and black stilettos. I let my hair loose and took my CV and supporting doc's. I got a lift in my husband's car then we went to drop off our child first then he went to drop me off at LL Coetser Attorneys. " Goodluck, babe." he said.

Me: " thanx. I'll stop by at your workplace when I'm done"

Buja: " sure, love"

We kissed then I stepped out. On the way I took a deep breath just to calm myself down. I went to the Receptionist and she told me to take a seat so long. After about 10 minutes I was called in. The interview took about 45 minutes, and all the time I was asked about many things in respect of Law. The Head Director was impressed with the good report I had. They advised me that I should receive an e-mail from them during the week. I said okay, shook hands with the Attorney and left the building. I went to my husband's workplace, and told the Receptionist who I am. I then went to his office. He was busy typing something. I closed the door and said " hey you..." With a big smile on my face. He stood up and came over to me. "So....how did it go?"

Me: " I tried my best. Now its all up to God"

Buja: " that's great babe, all the best"

Me: " thanx!"

Buja: " so, do you think we should go on a vacation this coming weekend?"

He said wrapping his arms around me.

Me: " sure, why not"

Buja: " good, because I've already booked a place for us just outside of town."

Me: " mmmmh. Okay....so where are we going?"

Buja: " its a surprise, my love"

Me: " mmmh, okay"

I left his office after about an hour and went straight home. After 2 days I received an e-mail stating that I've been accepted at the Law Firm, and that I'd be starting the following week on monday. I replied thanking them then immediately phoned Buja to let him know. After phoning him I phoned Anathi. We both screamed in excitement, my friend was also excited for me.

So later on, Buja came back from work earlier than expected. He told me Sbu, Wendy, Amanda, Noliitha and he's friend Joseph will be coming over for supper, I said okay. Around 7pm, everyone arrived. Wendy came with her 2 kids so Lutha went to to play with them. Bomikazi also arrived even though she wasn't mentioned. Everything was ready on the dinning room table. I blessed the food and we dug in.

Wendy: " so how's the job hunting going, Noxy?"

Me: " I got accepted at a Law Firm today, actually"

Wendy: " wow! Congratz, I'm happy for you. Well I'll have to inform my friend's husband that you got a job then"

Me: " yes you can, thanx for the help though."

Wendy: " its a pleasure"

Sbu: " so after 2 years you'll be an Attorney. All the best love"

Me: " thanx"

I smiled.

Joseph: "all the best, Noxy. I've heard that Lawyers tend to be very grumpy people, so I hope you'll stay as nice and humble as you are"

Me: " well, only time will tell!"

We all laughed, well....some of us laughed.

Amanda: " you've been here for over a month now, have you decided when you're doing the house warming party?"

Me: " no, actually, its been the last thing on my mind"

Amanda: " why? Are you not used to house warmings? Or are you not sure what you'll be doing? Maybe you've never been to one before"

Buja cleared his throat.

Me: " well..uh..no. I've been busy looking for a Firm to practice my Articles. Believe me, house warmings have been the last thing on my mind."

Amanda: " okay, I see..."

Me: " its not something urgent.."

Amanda: " I know..."

She reluctantly smiled...." I was just saying" she added.

I looked at her trying to figure out why she wanted this house warming party so much. I'm mean, instead of congratulating me she's talking about a house warming, which is totally off topic.

Buja: " Wendy, remember I asked you if Lutha can sleep over this weekend"

Wendy: " yes, I don't have a problem. The nanny will look after them. There's plenty of toys, I'll even take them out during the day. So don't worry he'll have fun"

Bomikazi: " niyaphi na Buja?"(Where are you guys going, Buja?)

Buja: " I'm taking my wife to a romantic getaway"

He held my hand and kissed the back of it." I want us to have some quality time together, just the 2 of us" he said.

Wendy: " I wish I could go on a romantic getaway! Hint-hint, Sbu."

We laughed. Bomikazi said " Amanda, are you okay? You look like you not feeling too good"

Amanda: " no, I'm fine. Actually, I think I'm coming down with something. I feel sick"

Bomikazi: " shame mani, my friend. Uzoba right vha. Uzoba strong lolo" ( you'll be fine, you'll be strong Lolo)

Amanda concentrated on the food and didn't responded.

## Chapter 5

Amanda was described as a talkative, and loud character. But at that moment she was silent like she wasn't even amongst us. I noticed that she was playing with the food in her plate, she wasn't even eating it.

Me: " Amanda, should I get you anything?"

Amanda: " I'm fine.."

Me: " you just said you feel sick, and I've noticed you've been very quiet"

Amanda: " no, don't get me anything. "

Me: " okay, as long as you sure"

Amanda: " I am."

She said looking down still playing with the food.

Sbu: " Noxy, you such a good cook. I'm enjoying the food.

Me: " thanx"

Joseph: " I'm enjoying it too. Actually, I wouldn't mind a second plate"

Buja: " hahaha yho kewena Jozaza une appetite ndiyakwazi"

Joseph: " hahaha that's me"

Me: " hahaha feel free, dear"

We had random chats, after we were done eating. I served dessert then Bomikazi and Wendy helped me put the dishes in the sink. Amanda sat down and made a conversation with Sbu. Bomikazi shouted" Amanda! Come help us in the kitchen, yintoni wahlala namadoda"

Amanda got up without saying anything then went to sit in the high chair. " Can I have some cold water, please" she said looking at me.

Me: " its in the fridge"

Amanda: " no, I want you to get it for me"

I looked at her surprised by her demand. Bomikazi started humming a song but Wendy said " Amanda, don't start"

Amanda: " with what? I did mention that I'm not feeling well."

Me: " No, its fine dear. I'll get it for you"

I went to open the fridge and gave her the bottled water. She took it without even saying thank you. I kept quiet and went to wash the dishes again. Wendy helped me wipe them.

Amanda: " so Noxy, when will you be visiting your family again?"

Me: " I'm not sure, but I'll visit after a very long time now. My work will keep me busy"

Amanda: " you come from a farm right? Or is it a small village"

Me: " actually, its just a small town"

Amanda: " oh shame nyani? You strike me as the type that comes from a farm. I actually thought you are a farm girl when I first saw you. Haha I wanted to ask who feeds the sheeps and the goats while you here. "

"Amanda, I'm sick and tired of your rubbish! Why I you acting like a bitch?!" Wendy snapped at her. I was still trying to digest the rudeness and sarcasm this girl had towards me.

Amanda: " what's your problem?"

She took a sip from the bottled water.

Bomikazi was smiling like she wanted to laugh, she took a dish and another cloth then started helping out with the wiping and putting the dishes in the cupboard.

Wendy: " what exactly is your problem with Noxy? You might be my cousin, but I have to admit it, you annoy the living daylight out of me "

Amanda: " excuse me but you the one that insisted that I come over for this little supper, I wasn't even keen on coming."

Bomikazi: " girls, please calm yourselves down."

Amanda: " I'll get the car keys and wait in the car. Goodnight mfazi ka Bulelani"

She jumped off the high chair and walked out of the kitchen. Wendy took a deep sigh and said " I'm sorry, I don't know what's her problem"

Me: " what ever her problem is, she needs to fix it. I will not be her victim when ever she's having her mood swings."

Bomikazi: " ignore her, she's like that. Let me go and check up on her"

Bomikazi walked out too.

Wendy: " Bomi and Amanda are pretty close."

Me: " I see..."

We cleaned the kitchen and tried changing the subject. This time I decided not to report this to Buja, not after he threatened her the last time I did. I didn't want to come across as a cry baby. We went to the living room. The guys were drinking a cold beer standing up, it looked like they were about to leave. The kids were in the living room as well, but they had music playing so I doubted they heard the argument.

Sbu: " haike Noxy, let us love and leave you."

Me: " night guys"

Joseph: " night, dear"

We shared a hug, Wendy hugged me too then they all left. The following day was friday, and my hubby and I would be leaving later on that day. He went to work but promised to come back around 2pm. I said okay and waited for him while packing a few clothes for myself and for him. I packed a small suitcase for my son then around 1pm I went to fetch him at school. Buja came back and changed to casual wear. We left going to Sbu's apartment. On the way, I asked Buja if Wendy is living with Sbu full time. He said " No babe, but most of the time she's there. She actually has her own apartment and she's leaving with Amanda. But as I said, most of the time she's at Sbu's house"

Me: " oh okay, now I see"

We arrived at Sbu's place and went to drop of Luthando. Honestly, he didn't even seem bothered that we were leaving. I promised to come back with lots of toys and goodies for him and he seemed very excited, he even waved at us as we left.

After a 2 hour drive we arrived in a beautiful town which looked like it was made specially for vacations and getaways. We checked in a BnB and went to our room.

Me: " wow, I love this place"

Buja: " I knew you would, sthandwa sam"

I smiled and opened the sliding door to check the beautiful view outside. Buja followed me and said "do you know how special you are to me?"

Me: " yes I do...."

Buja: " sometimes I feel I don't deserve you"

Me: " why? You're a great husband. I feel I'm the lucky one to have you as a partner"

Buja: " really, babe?"

Me: " Yes. You my first love, you my first everything"

Buja: " do you know how happy I am to know that no man has ever dipped into my honey pot? That I'm the only one that has tasted the honey"

Me: " hahahaha...eshe hayi Buja"

Buja: " I'm being honest nje, Noxy wam"

I could help but blush. We kissed, he picked me up and took me to the bedroom. We started stripping each other and made love. He was hitting every corner that made me moan in absolute pleasure. Later on we went to eat out at a fancy restaurant, there was fancy candles on top of our table and one red rose. He took out a small box and said " open it" I opened the box, it was a white gold bracelet which had diamonds. I couldn't make out how many carats there were in those diamonds, I got teary and said " thanx Buja, it looks so beautiful" he wiped my tears and said " let me help you put it on."

I couldn't get my eyes off it. The night seemed so perfect, we went back to the BnB later on. The following day we went on a boat cruise and did other activities. I must admit, my husband planned the weekend very well because I was having the time of my life. Sunday around 4pm we

checked out and went back home. We stopped by to fetch our child. Lutha told me how much he missed me although he had fun. Wendy and Sbu asked how the vacation was, I told them about the good time I had and they seemed happy for us. We went to our house later in the evening.

It was now Monday morning and it was going to be my first day at work. I wore my formal clothing and made lunch for the 3 of us. We left the house and did the usual of dropping Lutha at creche then he dropped me off at work. On arrival, the Attorney hadn't arrived yet, but a lady called Linda introduced herself and showed me around the work place. She even said "awusemhle" (you look so beautiful)

Me: "thank you"

I smiled. Who wouldn't look beautiful and glowing after a fantastic weekend. I was happy and it showed on the outside. I didn't even care about people who were trying to ruin my mood. The Attorney arrived moments later and we signed the employment contract. Her name was Karen Coetser, her father Lourens Coetser was the owner of the Firm. She started by telling me to draft the Particulars of Claim. I was shown the office I'd be working in and given a laptop. There was another Article Clerk working there so we were told that we're going to share the company car. The staff members seemed very nice, they even told me on pay day they have a tradition of going to a restaurant and eating out lunch time, just to get away from the office. Home time arrived and I took a taxi and went home. When I arrived, a white Yaris was parked in the yard. Buja was outside playing with Lutha, when I entered the gate my son came running to me. I picked him up and gave him a lollipop.

Me: "have we got a visitor?"

Buja laughed and took out car keys from his pocket "this is your car, my love"

Me: "mine?"

Buja: "yes, I bought it for you"

Me: "haibo Buja..."

I put Lutha down. "You shouldn't have. I mean, I was still saving to buy one for myself"

Buja: "when? Next year?... Babe, take it as a gift. You don't get paid much as an Article Clerk, you'll change it and buy the one of your choice once you're done with your practice."

I gave him a tight hug and said "thank you"

Buja: "anything for you, babe"

My 1st day at work went pretty well, and coming at home to find out I own a new car made it even better. I told my husband all about my 1st day at work, he was interested in everything I had to say. When I said he was my love and best friend, I meant it. I shared everything with him. I felt he was my soulmate. Weeks went by and things were going good for me, at work and at home. We met Buja's friends once in a while, but Amanda wasn't around sometimes. Wendy was still friendly towards me and we were now even starting to phone and check up on each other.

It was now a month later. The day was on a Monday in the evening. I was watching Isidingo in the living room. Buja came to join me and said "babe, Thursday I'll be attending a business meeting I'll be back on Saturday"

Me: "oh...okay. So I'll be all alone in this house with Luthando?"

Buja: "do you want me to ask someone to sleep over?"

Me: "no it's fine, I think I'll manage. The security around the house is tight anyways."

Buja: "sorry babe, it's just that there's an important deal we need to sign up, I've been appointed to do the presentation and impress the potential investors to invest in our company. This is a big

deal that we cannot afford to lose."

Me: " no akho ngxaki, sthandwa sam. I'll wait for you" ( I don't have a problem, my love)

Buja: " enkosi baby"

I continued watching tv while he stood up and left the living room. Around 9pm I went to bed and joined him. Lutha was fast asleep by then. Days went by and thursday Buja left for the business meeting. My man wore smart casual and his sunglasses. I had packed all the outfits I loved and that suited him well for him. He promised to keep in touch and left. I drove my son to creche and dropped him off then went to work. Work was good, I enjoyed learning new things and I was told in 2 weeks time I'd start attending court and was advised to wear only black and white when I come to work. The Court did not want any bright colours. So after work I went to take my son then decided to visit Wendy. I gave her a call, she said " I'm at my apartment love, I'll go to Sbu nge weekend" I said okay and went to her place. I arrived and knocked on the door, she came to open and welcomed me in. Amanda walked in, she was wearing tight shorts, and a black crop top. She had a belly ring, a tattoo on her chest and left arm, and a nose ring.

Amanda: " hey Noxy"

Me: "hey" I sat down.

She laid on the couch chewing a bubble gum and kept making bubbles then she took the remote and channel hopped checking anything interesting on tv.

I chatted with Wendy in the mean time, Amanda excluded herself from the conversation and we let her be. I didn't stay for long though. I told her I'll see her again on the weekend and left with Lutha. Later on in the night, I got a phone call from Buja, we spoke for about an hour over the phone then I dozed off immediately after he hung up.

On friday, the day went on pretty quickly and before I knew it, it was home town. I wondered what I'll be doing for the weekend. Buja and I usually made plans, I missed him a lot. I decided maybe I'll go and visit Wendy at Sbu's house. But then I remembered Amanda might be there, and I decided maybe its best I stay indoors. After I picked up my son we arrived at home and I went to change my formal clothing. My phone rang while I was checking something comfy to wear. It was Wendy. I smiled and pick up.

Me: " hey there"

Wendy: " hey lovey, so what will you be doing for the weekend?"

Me: " I don't really have much plans, and Buja will be coming back later on saturday"

Wendy: " then how about I sleep over, then the following day you can spend the day with me at Sbu's place. I'll bring the kids, so Lutha will have fun too."

Me: " you can come love, I don't mind. Will Amanda be joining us as well tomorrow?"

Wendy: " Nope! She's left, uthe she's going to visit her long lost high school friend out of town. I think she'll be back on sunday. "

Me: " oh? Ok." I giggled in between my words.

Wendy: " sana, I don't even know this long lost friend she's talking about. But ke, I guess we just need to give each other some space. Simane sibhidana lately"( we don't get along lately)

Me: " okay then. Yes, maybe when she gets back noba right and settle your differences. Don't take too long, I'm bored here"

Wendy: " hahaha I won't, lovey"

Me: " sure"

We hung up then I went to make Lutha something to eat while I waited for Wendy to arrive.

## Chapter 6

Wendy arrived at around 8:30pm. I had decided to order in pizza and chill with my son in the mean time. She arrived with both of her kids. I showed her the room she would be sleeping in then we changed the kids to their pyjamas, after that they went to their room. She changed into her pyjamas as well then took a slice of pizza.

We changed the channel to Trace music on tv then started catching up.

Wendy: " I'm so nervous about getting married, Noxy."

Me: " you should actually be excited." Soon Sbu will be your life partner"

Wendy: " I know, we have two children together already. Sometimes I feel he'll just change his mind and call off everything"

Me: " haibo...."

Wendy: " I'm serious. To be honest Noxy, I don't understand why we're taking so long to get married. We have been engaged since last year. I've asked for us to atleast be married this year but he's talking about not being in a hurry.

Me: " haike, I don't know girlfriend. Maybe he wants the wedding day to be perfect. Maybe that's why he's not in a hurry."

Wendy: " we have money for a wedding planner. He just keeps postponing and postponing, I'm getting very impatient"

Me: " woooh! Ok, you two need to have a chat about this."

Wendy: " yes we do. I hope he's not having an affair"

Me: " what? You guys seem so in love"

Wendy: " ha ha, yes we are, but I once caught him red handed with another woman. I decided to beat the living daylights out of that bitch"

My eyes widened. Now that was very unlike her.

Me: " and what did you do to him?"

Wendy " I broke it off with him, but he begged me for a 2nd chance. Nam ke ndamnika." ( I gave him one)

Me: " we should get the kids ready for bed."

Wendy: " yeah, there's a lot I need to tell you about my life"

We got up and went to the room to tuck in the kids. We chatted with them until they drifted to sleep. We then went to take a tub of ice cream from the fridge then went back to the living room.

Me: " gosh, we're definitely eating a lot of junk"

Wendy: " hahaha haiwethu love, we'll go for a jog in the morning. Your body looks fine"

Me: " ewe nhe. Anyway.. You were still telling me about your life."

Wendy talked for about an hour telling me how she and Sbu met, and some ups and downs of their relationships. My phone rang interrupting us. It was Buja.

Me: " Hello, my love."

Buja: " Noxy wam, uright?"

Me: " I'm good, unjani wena?"

Buja: " I'm okay too. Listen, my love. I think I'll be coming back on sunday"

Me: " what?? But you promised you'd come back tomorrow. "

Buja: " I know, but something unexpected came up"

Me: " is it work related?"

Buja: " sort of, let's just say my work partner and I will be attending an invent that will be good for networking. The initial plan was to come here on thursday and leave on saturday, though."

Me: " okay..."

Buja: " don't sound so down, I'll make it up to you mfaz'wam vha?"

Me: " okay, enjoy babe"

I heard some men talking and laughing in the back ground. I reckoned it might be his work partner. We said our goodbyes and hung up.

Wendy and I slept around midnight, and the whole time we were chatting and enjoying ourselves. We woke up the following day and made breakfast. I reminded her about jogging but she said " next time, I was too lazy to wake up" I laughed and said " that makes the 2 of us. " Her phone rang while we were chatting in the kitchen feeding the kids. She spoke for a few minutes and hung up. She said it is Sbu checking if I'm still coming over, I said okay. We took a bath, she wore black shorts, a white top that showed her cleavage and black heel sandals. She came to my bedroom while I looked inside the closet undecided of what to wear.

Wendy: " we'll be having a swim as well, so bring your swim wear along with you"

Me: " Buja doesn't want me to show off my body, especially when other men are around."

She rolled her eyes and said " uBuja should stop acting like your father. He should just chill." I laughed and took my pink bikini suite, my towel and white flip flops.

Wendy: " and anyway, he's not even around. Makabe busy ne networking le ayenzayo. You 22, have fun! You still young and your body is sexy sana" she added.

Me: " hahaha, let me dress then."

She helped me look for something to wear. I ended up wearing my patched hole blue denim jeans, a white summer top and my open toe black and white heels. After we got ready we locked the house then left. Wendy drove out first while I drove out behind her. We left then drove off to Sbu's place. We arrived a while later.

We entered the house and the helper took the kids as soon as we arrived. We went to greet the people who were inside. It was Sbu, Joseph and some 3 extra guys who introduced themselves as Vusi, Khaya and Lwando. It was the first time meeting Lwando and khaya, but Sbu said it's because they just got back in town, Khaya even mentioned that he's been longing to meet me. I said " really?"

Khaya: " yes, I've been meaning to meet umfazi walanja ingu Buja"

Me: " uhm....why are you calling my husband a dog?"

Khaya: " haha, its a guy thing.."

Me: " is that so.."

Khaya: " yah. but ke yinja umfowethu" ( our friend is a dog though)

The guys laughed, except for Sbu. I didn't respond to that. I just didn't know whether to take that as a joke or a hidden message being sent across. After about an hour, Nolitha and Bomikazi arrived. They greeted and took off their sunglasses. The weather was lovely and it was a good day for a swim. Wendy said we should change to our swim wear then chill outside on the vintage chairs. I agreed then we went to one of the rooms to change. I wore my bikini suite and white flops then wrapped a towel around my waist. Bomikazi kept looking at me.

Me: " what's up?"

I asked looking at her back.

Bomikazi: " have you been working out?"

Me: " no. Its been a while since I've went to gym."

Bomikazi: " you have a nice body"



Me: " thanx"

Wendy: " that's what I was saying to her earlier on, nothing says that she has a child"

Nolitha: " you should show off your body more often"

Me: " nah I wont. I don't see the point of showing my body to the world."

Wendy: " I need some cold ones, let's go to the bar. "

We walked out and they took out some ciders from the fridge. I was offered an apple juice since I didn't drink then we laid on the vintage chairs outside. The guys came to join us. Lwando and Sbu were already having a swim wearing some black shorts. Wendy went to join them and so did I. After a while I got out of the swimming pool and wiped myself, when I was about to sit down I couldn't help but notice Khaya staring at my body. I quickly wrapped my body with the towel and sat down. I got worried wondering if Sbu will not give Buja a call and tell him I've been showing off my body to his friends. Buja was upset the last time because of an innocent dance, now I was busy walking around half naked in front of his friends. Sbu got out of the pool and advised us to go clubbing later on in the evening. I told them I'll be leaving at around 9pm since I don't do clubbing. He said " as long as you having a good time with us that's what matters"

Wendy: " I wonder what Amanda is up too with her long lost friend"

Nolitha: " when did she leave?"

Wendy: " late on friday"

Khaya: " ubuya nini uBuja?"(When is Buja coming back?)

Bomikazi: " we're talking about Amanda, I don't know why you bringing Buja's name in this topic"

Khaya: " I'm just asking uba iphi idog. Why are you panicking, Bomikazi?"

Sbu: " khaya, can you help me with something inside the house"

Khaya: " what's that na Sbu? I'm still chatting with the ladies"

Nolitha: " Khaya, I think Sbu really needs your help. You should go."

Wendy: " while ya'll are at it, please turn up the volume so we can twerk!"

They laughed and made their way inside the house. While the others changed the subject, my 6th sense told me there's something going on. I felt uneasy and refused to believe that my husband could be cheating on me. My Buja loved me, I told myself he wouldn't break the trust I had for him. He just couldn't.

Time passed. Around 6pm Buja called. I told him I'm at Sbu's place chilling with the girls and his friends. He told me about his day and that he'll call me again later on. He asked me to tell Sbu to pick up his phone because he's been trying to call him. After I hung up I went to tell Sbu the message. He said " yho, oko ibiku silent yazi. Thanx I'll phone him back right now."

Me: " sure"

I turned around and went back to the others. We later on ordered in some snacks and chilled together inside the house. I changed and wore my clothes again after lotioning myself then chilled in the living room. The guys were talking about leaving after an hour to go and party. I had this urge to call Buja because he promised to phone back later and I missed him dearly. I got up and went to one of the rooms then closed the door. I sat on top of the bed and called him. He's phone rang to no response. I dialled his number again but still there was nothing. He finally answered before I could hang up, but didn't say hello.

Me: " Buja?"

I heard heavy breathing, I didn't understand whether his phone was pressed by mistake or what. "Hello?" I repeated more louder. I heard a female voice moaning in pleasure. " Aaah fuck....Buja you doing me so damn good, baby.." the woman said. Tears trickled down my face. I could hear

that my husband was busy having sex with another woman over the phone. She kept calling his name and he kept responding. Tears streamed down my face and I dropped my phone to the floor. My whole heart felt like it was literally breaking into pieces.

## Chapter 7

**This felt like** a nightmare; a nightmare that can make you wake up sweating and thanking God for about a thousand times to discover that it wasn't true. But it wasn't a dream, it was real. I couldn't control my tears, I was even shaking because I was traumatized by what I heard. It felt like Buja took a knife and cut it through my heart repeatedly. My phone was on the floor. I took it and immediately cut the call because he still hadn't hung up. I kept having images of him being on top of some woman. Everything I heard over the phone played in my mind like they were giving me a clear vision of the sex they were busy doing. I stood up and went to look at myself in the mirror. I wiped my cheeks using my hands - my eyes were blood red. My face was pink. I didn't know how I was going to go back to the lounge and face the others. What lie was I going to come up with to them? I couldn't exactly go to them and say I over heard my husband having sex when I was busy phoning him. I didn't want to be the laughing stock to Buja's friends, especially the girls because it seemed like they didn't really like me very much.

And then.....everything came flooding back. Khaya kept repeating that Buja is a dog, it was like he was trying to tell me something. And why was Bomikazi so defensive when Khaya asked about Buja while we were busy talking about Amanda? Why did Sbu call Khaya to the house like he was trying to get him away from us, like Khaya was going to give away some information that us....or should I say I wasn't suppose to hear. I realized that I was the fool in all of this, Amanda went to Buja, I realized that Amanda had been acting bitchy towards me because she had something going on with my husband. When I thought about that phone call again and that it **might be Amanda** " No...." I exhaled, it cannot be her that is busy having sex with Buja, and everyone knows about this...everyone that I was busy chilling with here in this house knew that my husband is busy with Amanda out of town while they were baby sitting me. I had to get out of the house, I had to take my child and leave these frenemies.

I got out of the room with my hand bag and went to wash my face in the bathroom. After I wiped myself I took out my cosmetic bag and applied some powder on my face and my lipstick. I tried my best to disguise the heart break I felt at that moment, but my eyes told a whole different story. I had no choice but to act strong in front of them and put in a front. I exited the bathroom and went to take my child in the play room. I told the Nanny we're leaving.

Nanny: " Ma'am, are you okay?"

" I'm fine, I just have a splitting headache" I explained.

I rushed out with Luthando before she could respond to what I said. Now I had to face Buja's friends and tell them I'm leaving. It was the hardest thing I had to do. They were chilling chatting, the girls looked tipsy. They were enjoying themselves.

Me: " guys, I have to go"

Luthando was rubbing his eyes, he was sleepy and I had to also make him an excuse for leaving. They all looked at me. Some of them suddenly looked concerned.

Wendy: " are you okay, Noxy?"

Nolitha: " it's like you've been crying"

Me: " no, I just have a splitting headache and my son is sleepy. I had fun, thanx guys. Enjoy the

rest of the night"

Wendy: " wait..."

I turned around still holding my son's hand and approached the door. They kept quiet, only the music was playing. I got out of the house. I breathed out loud - at last, I was out of the house. I put my son at the back seat and buckled him up. Wendy, Khaya and Sbu walked out. I couldn't hide the irritation on my face. I quickly went to the drivers seat and started the car.

They knocked on the window, I slid it down.

Khaya: " Noxy, we can see you're not okay. We're worried about you"

Me: " I'm fine! How many times do I have to explain in to you guys that I'm okay! Please open up the gate for me."

Wendy: " can I call you in the morning?"

I didn't respond. Sbu took out the gate remote. I reversed and left his place. On the way back home, I tried my absolute best not to think about this. I arrived and unlocked the house. My son kept looking at me. I didn't want to break down in front of him. I changed him to his sleep wear then tucked him in. I also changed and wore my gown then went to my son's room and cuddled with him. Tears rolled down my face, my son was fast asleep now. I just didn't want to be alone. The pain that I felt inside at that moment was unbearable. I just couldn't understand why the love of my life, my life partner would betray me like this. I realized that my son's head was starting to be wet because of my tears. I took a cloth and wiped him then planted a kiss on his forehead. I switched off the lights then went to my bedroom and took a fleece blanket then tried to sleep. My phone rang inside my bag. I got up and took it out. It was Buja calling. I got disgusted and ignored the call. It finally stopped ringing. I had 10 missed calls from him. I couldn't control myself I broke down and cried hard. I didn't feel the urge to call and confront him over the phone, but I wasn't coping. I put my phone on silent then closed my eyes and wept. That night, I couldn't sleep a wink. All I did was cry the whole night. I kept wondering what he could be doing with her now. I had a big lump in my throat. I took my phone and called Anathi. I didn't even check the time because it was still in the middle of the night. She picked up after a while and said " hello.." In a sleepy voice.

Me: " chomy, I'm hurting"

My voice was breaking. I took a tissue and sniffed.

Anathi: " chomy, utheni??"

I cried hard.

Anathi: " what happened?"

Me: " its Buja, he's cheating on me, I heard him....I heard..."

I couldn't finish my sentence. I wasn't ready to open up to anyone about this.

Anathi: " oh my gosh, my friend. I'm so sorry. I wish I wasn't so far from you. heard him? Where? Doing what?"

Me: " I have to go vha.."

Anathi: " no wait-.."

I hung up and switched off my phone. I covered myself with the fleece blanket and looked into space. I found myself wishing I didn't get pregnant at a young age, I wished I never met him. I tried my best to fall asleep but I just couldn't. I kept checking the time and finally it was in the morning. I got up and opened the curtains then went to the en-suite bathroom to wash my face. I looked terrible. My eyes looked swollen and heavy. I looked like a zombie. I went to take a

shower then wore my gown again and made my way to the kitchen. I heard a knock on the door. I realized that I forgot to lock the gate last night.

"Who is it?" I shouted. "It's Khaya," He shouted back "please. open up" he continued. I was surprised, I wasn't his friend, why on earth did he come to my house.

I went to open up.

Khaya: "hey"

Me: "hey, can I help you?"

Khaya: "I needed to know if you okay"

Me: "I am, you can leave now"

Khaya: "can I come in?"

Me: "No! Can you, and the rest of Bulelani's friends leave me alone."

Khaya: "you know the truth, don't you?"

Me: "what truth?"

Khaya: "that your husband is a heartless cheating bastard"

Me: "can you please leave?"

Khaya: "Noxy, you don't deserve him. Buja is a womaniser. You deserve much better. I know I'm not a saint either, but if you were my wife, I would definitely be treating you the way you deserve to be treated. If you need someone to talk to, I'm hear for you."

Tears rolled down my face. I closed the door, I just couldn't listen to him any longer. I looked through the window, he got into his car and drove off. When I turned around, my son was looking at me smiling "mama" he said. I smiled, for the first time after what happened and said "hey nana" I made cereal for him and then I poured myself some milk. I didn't have any appetite to eat. Time passed by and Buja still hadn't come back. It was now late in the evening. I told myself I'm leaving, I wasn't sure where I was going but what I was sure about is; I couldn't sleep in the same bed as him, nor did I want to look at his face. I took my jacket and wore it, then wore my black jean and black sneakers. I took out warm clothes for my son then made him wear them then I packed a few clothes in his suitcase. He asked where we are going, I said "to visit someone" I had to go to work the following day, so I couldn't go back home which was out of town. He sat in the living room playing with his teddy and some other toys. I took out my traveling bag and packed my clothes in them. I heard Lutha talking to someone in the living room. When I checked, it was Buja, he had just arrived. Anger started building up, I rushed to the room and took my bag and car keys. He entered and said "where are you going?"

Me: "leaving"

Buja: "to where?"

I ignored him. He pulled my arm, I yanked his hand.

Buja: "what did you hear last night?"

I looked at him. What on earth was he asking me?

Buja: "Noxy, sthandwa sam, please let me explain what happened"

Me: "explain what? You were having sex with another woman and I heard everything, Bulelani. Is it Amanda? Was it her that you were busy with last night?"

I could see panic on his face, he said "mfaz'wam....I'm sorry"

Tears rolled down my face. I said "I couldn't sleep last night, you don't understand the pain that you've caused me. You'll never understand it. You introduced me to your friends, you made me sit in the same table with your side chick, you heard her going all sarcastic towards me, you

made a complete fool out of me in front of your friends because they all knew what was going on. I trusted you so much, Bulelani. I don't think our marriage is ever going to work again, not after this."

I tried walking out but he took my bag and pulled me over to him. "Leave me alone!" I shouted.

Buja: "I can't lose you, Noxy. You not going anywhere, we going to talk about this"

Me: "its too late. I hate you! I hate you so much!"

Buja: "I know sthandwa sam, I'm so sorry. I hate myself for doing this to you"

I tried pulling away from him but he was too strong. I felt like I was suffocating.

Me: "you lied to me. What was I doing wrong? Where have I failed as a wife? Why did you leave me and our son to go and sleep with her?"

Buja: "I really did go to a business meeting, sthandwa sam. She came the following day to talk. One thing led to another, it wasn't planned, I swear"

Me: "please let go of me!"

Buja: "I won't, you not going anywhere Noxy. "

Me: "I'm going! And I'm taking my son with me"

Buja: "no, you not. We going to sit the fuck down and talk about this. I'm not going to lose you because of that cheap slut."

Me: "you have no right to do this to me! you have no right to hurt me like this! You disgust me!"

I tried fighting him off but he was still holding me. I screamed. We heard a small voice shouting "Mama, Tata! stop fighting..."

We both stopped and looked, it was Luthando carrying his teddy bear. He was crying and looked terrified at what he was seeing. I wondered how long he was standing there watching us.

## Chapter 8

Buja let go of me and I rushed to Lutha. I picked him up and wiped his tears. He had most definitely picked it up that mommy and daddy were not in good terms. I sat on top of the bed and said "we won't fight again nana wam vha?" He nodded. Buja sat next to me and said "Luthando needs me, you can't walk out of this marriage, its not good for him. "

Me: "this is not about him and you know it. I'm still leaving. I don't care about where I'm going but what I'm sure of is, I will not be sleeping in this house with you tonight."

He bit his lower lip and stood up then walked out of the room. I rocked my child to sleep. He slept moments later. I took my phone and browsed through the internet to check available BnB's around town. I decided I'll make the calls when I'm out of the house. I didn't want Buja to know where I'm going. I placed my son on top of the bed then took my bag and his small suitcase. I passed Buja who was sitting in the living room drinking a shot of whiskey. When I opened the door, it was locked. I went to the kitchen door, but it was also locked. And the keys were nowhere to be found.

I put the bags down and said "Buja, you cannot stop me from leaving"

Buja: "I just did"

He said calmly then downed his shot.

Me: "please let me go."

Buja: "I won't, babe. You're not going anywhere."

He got up and went to take the bags back to the bedroom. I felt defeated. I sat on top of the couch not knowing what to do next. Tears flew down because of frustration and anger. I stayed in the same position for about 30 minutes before deciding to go and put my son in his room then going and sleeping in the spare room, because it was clear that I'm not going anywhere tonight. I went back to the bedroom, Luthando wasn't there anymore. I went to check in his room, Buja was kissing his forehead and had already tucked him in. I went to change what I was wearing and wore my night dress. He walked in and took off his top.

" We always sleep naked, I don't think there is a need for change. Take that off" he demanded. I ignored him. He came over to me and wrapped his arms around me from behind.

Buja: " Noxy, I married you because I love you. That has never changed. I got easily tempted, babe. It was lust and it meant absolutely nothing. What happened was a moment of weakness. Please forgive me"

Me: " get your filthy hands off me"

Buja: " what do I have to do to show you how sorry I am? I'll do anything."

His phone rang. He took it out of his pocket and checked. He was now holding my wrist tight so that I couldn't walk out of the room.

Buja: " what Luzuko?"

It was that Luzz guy again. I wondered why he was calling at night most of the time. What was Buja mentoring him on that couldn't wait until the morning?

He listened then said " jonga apha Luzz. I do not deal with amateurs, I thought I taught you and the rest how to do the job, and do it correctly. Don't phone me and tell me crap. You better come with good news in the morning."

He hung up and put the phone back in his pocket then glared at me. I could see he was a bit distracted by this phone call. I glanced at him and suddenly feared him, he had a cold look on his face. I realized he was holding my wrist too tight and said " you hurting me" he quickly let go and said " I'm sorry..." I rubbed my wrist and said " okay"

Buja: " come to bed with me"

I didn't argue. I knew I wasn't going to win. I got inside the covers. He took off the rest of his clothes and was only left with his boxers then got in. He turned off the side lamp. I faced the other way and there was a huge gap between us.

Buja: " can I hold you?"

Me: " please don't"

He didn't respond.

Me: " did you use protection with her?"

I became teary again. This topic was still very sensitive to me. " Yes, I promise you I did"

I didn't respond. All I did was sniff and wipe my nose and cheeks.

Buja: " please allow me to hold you"

Me: " why did you want me to marry you when you knew that you weren't ready for commitment? Why didn't you let me stay at home with my parents. I was only 18. I stayed faithful to you until now, why couldn't you just do the same."

My voice was breaking. I was mad at myself for crying every time I expressed my feelings. He held me from behind, I didn't fight him this time. I just didn't have the energy. He said " Noxy, look at me" I turned and looked at him. He turned on the side lamp light again and said " I know I've

hurt you in more than words can say. But I love you mfaz'wam. Lust got the better of me and I gave in. Please don't leave me." He had tears rolling down his face. He came close and kissed me passionately. I gave in, after a while I broke the kiss and said " I can't..." I turned around and looked the other way again. I ended up falling asleep because the alarm woke me up in the morning. When I woke up he wasn't in bed. I went to take a bath then took out my clothes for work. I also took out what he'll be wearing for work. Then made lunch for the 3 of us. He came out of the room that he uses as his own gyming space then went to take a shower. He had been busy lifting some weights..

I got my son ready for school then poured some cereal for him. Buja came in the kitchen all dressed up and said " Good morning, my wife"

Me: " hi."

I concentrated on feeding my son. He ate then said " can I take him to school?"

Me: " its fine, I'll take him."

I went to take my bag and said " your lunch is on top of the counter"

Buja: " thanx, babe"

I didn't respond. He got up and came over to give me a kiss but I backed away. He stopped and said " enjoy your day, I'll see you later." I held my son's hand and we walked out to the car. I drove off to drop him 1st then went to work.

The whole day I was quiet. My colleagues asked if I'm okay, I said "yes, I just had a bad weekend that's all." The 2nd Article Clerk, her name was Bongie said " did you here about the Article Clerks function coming next month? I can't wait"

Me: " no I didn't. That sounds exciting"

Bongie: " you don't seem excited. Had a fight with hubby?"

Me: " sort of, I'm not ready to talk about it"

Bongie: " its fine love"

She was 23 years old, almost my age.

Bongie: " We should go out on the weekend, maybe during the day to watch a movie. Do you have any friends around? You can also ask them to come along"

Me: " no, I don't have any friends. But that sounds like a great idea"

Bongie: " its a date then, a girls day out"

Me: " I guess it is"

She laughed and I forced a smile. I was in such a dull mood. The Attorney gave me a Estate Late file I'd be working on to read through. I kept myself busy with that. Buja phoned during lunch time but I cut the call. He didn't give up. I ignored the calls. After a while of sitting in the lunch room keeping myself busy with a novel, the Receptionist called me and said I have a visitor. I walked out to the Reception area. It was Buja with some flowers and a box of chocolates. Bongie walked in and greeted us then passed. Everyone pretended to be minding their own business.

Buja: " this is for you, babe. I hope you'll forgive me soon."

I cleared my throat and took the flowers and the box of chocolates. "Thanx " I said.

He came close and kissed my cheek. " How's work?" He asked. I wanted him to leave, I said " its fine" he nodded and said " see you later then, I'll go and fetch Lutha after work. " I nodded again.. He said bye to the Receptionist and everyone else who was around. After I closed the door

everyone came to me. "Wow! The flowers are so beautiful! You're one lucky woman" they admired.

Bongie: "you have a handsome husband, Noxy. You one lucky lady sana. I wish I can get married too."

Rulene( the Receptionist): "he's a hottie indeed."

Linda, who was much older than us said "hee nina! You don't talk like that about someone's husband. Noxy, you must clap them."

They laughed. Bongie said "let me go and get a vase for those beautiful flowers" and walked away.

I went to put the box of chocolates away and went back to work because lunch time was over. Time passed, and finally it was home time. My phone rang while I was on my way to my car, it was Wendy. I answered.

Me: "hello"

Wendy: "Noxy, how are you?"

Me: "what do you want?"

Wendy: "can I talk to you, please."

Me: "there's nothing you and I can talk about. Please don't call me again"

Wendy: "I need to see you. Not at your house. Can't we meet some where?"

Me: "where then?"

Wendy: "I'm at the shopping mall now. You can come here"

She told me which one and I drove off to there. I arrived right where she parked. She got out of the car and came to mine.

Wendy: "Noxy, first of all I'm so sorry about everything. I swear to you I didn't know about this"

I looked at her in disbelief. Amanda is her cousin for heaven sake. How on earth can she not know. I laughed in disbelief and said "is that the reason why you've called me over?"

Wendy: "I know you don't believe me, Noxy. But I'm telling you the honest truth. I would never support this, you know that I'm engaged to Sbu, so how could I possibly support this when I'll be getting married soon? They kept it from me, I confronted Sbu and he admitted that he knew about it"

Me: "why would everyone know about this except for you? I'm not stupid Wendy! Don't confuse being nice to being brainless"

Wendy: "the only thing I know is that I saw them kissing at a club when we went out together, but when I reminded Buja that his married he said he was drunk and would not do it again. I thought they stopped the affair"

Me: "oh? So you knew about the affair, but you thought they had stopped. And now the story changes..."

She breathed out loud looking defeated.

Me: "how did you find out then? How did you know that I had discovered what was going on? Since you were in the dark, as you put it"

Wendy: "I got a call from Amanda. She was at the hospital and got discharged today. She confessed everything to me"



She looked at me and said " she is bruised, badly. I asked her what happened and she said it was a robbery. She does not want to admit it, but I think Buja is responsible for her bruises. I think he did that to her"

I looked at her blankly

## Chapter 9

Wendy: " did you hear me?"

I stared at her without responding. I suddenly felt numb.

Wendy: " Noxy?"

I got the courage to regain my equilibrium and said " uhm yes.....okay. But why would he beat her up?"

I felt hot and slid down the window for some cool air.

Wendy: " she does not want to open up to me. Maybe she will in time"

Me: " look, I have to go"

Wendy: " Noxy, your husband hates it when people mess around with him. I wouldn't say his short tempered, but what I know is, he doesn't let anything slide. There's something that Amanda did that made him tick off that's for sure"

Me: " thanx for the info, but I think I've heard enough."

Wendy: " I apologize once again about this. I still want us to be friends."

I looked away, I wasn't sure that I still wanted the same.

Wendy: " anyway, I better get going"

Me: " bye then."

Wendy: " bye"

She got out of the car and I drove off as soon as she closed the door. I drove around in circles because I didn't want to go back home. I didn't want to face Buja. I was panicking for some reason. I decided to go park near the beach and think. I drove off to there and parked, there were a few cars parked there as well. I watched the sea and thought deeply. I realized that I didn't know the man I was married to, and the more I discovered the truth, the more I feared for myself and my son. The fact that he might have beaten up Amanda scared me, a lot. I made a final decision of going back to his parents house and reporting this matter. I told myself that I wanted a divorce and my in-laws had every right to know what has been going on, they had to know how their son has been treating me, and lastly, they had to know what he has been doing behind my back. I started the car and drove back home. I finally arrived and parked the car into the garage. When I entered the house, I was welcomed by a mouth watering aroma, my stomach even started growling. My son came to me running, and Buja walked in as well.

Buja: " sthandwa sam..."

Me: " hey"

He came over to me and held my hands " you must be hungry, go and change your clothes and I'll dish up"

Me: " this is a nice surprise"

He smiled and winked then walked away.

Lutha: " I went to play some games with dad today, then he bought me lots of sweets"

Me: " Nyani? Wow, bekumnandi ne?" (You had fun, right?)

Lutha: " eh-eh"

He had excitement written all over his face. I went to the room while he told me about the fun he had with his father. I changed then went over to the dining room table. Buja opened the chair for me then I sat down.

Me: " so what made you decide to cook today?"

I looked at him wondering if this wasn't because of his guilty conscience.

Buja: " I'm sucking up to my beautiful wife"

Me: " I see..."

He let out a slight laughter. I took a spoon and tasted the food. It was delicious.

Me: " you're not a bad cook"

Buja: " I learned from the best. Remember how bad I was at cooking when I was still a tertiary student and you taught me how to cook?"

Me: " haha yes, and I kept teasing you about being schooled by a high school kid"

Buja: "haha oh well, you were my high school kid. Wawungu baby ka Buja, and you still are"

I looked at my plate and carried on eating. Lutha was eating all by himself now, he was insisting even though he was messing up his top.

" Did you beat up Amanda?" I blurted out before I could control my mouth. I wanted to ask him this after I was done with eating but I just couldn't wait any longer.

" No, where did you hear that from?" He asked anxiously.

Me: " so you're going to deny it?"

Buja: " I didn't. Who told you that rubbish? Is it her?"

Me: "No, Bulelani. So you're going to lie to me even though we both know it's the truth?"

Buja: " whoever told you that is obviously putting more fuel to the fire. "

Me: " the fire that was created by you, right?"

Buja: " damn it, Noxy. why can't you just believe what I'm saying?"

Me: " please don't use that kind of language in front of our child"

He put his fork down and rubbed his face then looked at me " I know I've messed up, and it will take time for you to trust me again, but I'll fight for us Noxy. I will not let anyone destroy what we have"

Me: " you destroyed it by cheating, and to be honest, what I've heard about you beating up Amanda scares me. I don't know you, Buja. I don't know the man I've married"

I could feel tears filling up my eyes. I got up and left the dining room table.

I went to take out a file I was working on and went to the study then kept myself busy with it. I needed some time to myself. I kept myself busy for about 2 hours before deciding to go and wash the dishes and get ready for bed. I cleaned the kitchen and bathed my kid then tucked him in. When I went to the bedroom Buja had just taken a shower, he had a towel wrapped around his waist. I went to take my night dress again and wore it. He said " how long are you going to stay mad at me?"

Me: " I want a family meeting"

Buja: " what?? Oh come on, Noxy! Now you want to involve the whole family into our matters?"

Me: " they need to know what's going on"

Buja: " they don't need to know anything"

Me: " you cheated on me, disrespected and humiliated me in front of your friends. I'm not willing to get another heartache from you again."

I got into the bed covers. After about 5 minutes he joined me. I could feel his body touching mine and I was facing the other way, again.

Buja: " ufuna uthini kengoku?" (What do you want to do?)

Me: " I want a divorce"

He laughed, he laughed like I had made a really funny joke. Then he said " babe, its your emotions speaking. I know you don't mean it. I'll wait for you sthandwa sam to calm down. I know we'll get through this. " He kissed my cheek and said " uyathandwa ngu Buja wakho, vha?"

I remained silent. I was still trying to digest the fact that he laughed about the divorce matter. We ended up falling asleep. In the morning we did the usual routine of getting ready for work. I had planned to fake a sickness at work and go to his parents house, I couldn't wait any longer. I was still going ahead with my plan of reporting him to his parents, especially his father because I got along very well with him, and I knew he'd call a family meeting. I knew he'd be sad to know that I want a divorce, but it was a decision I had taken. We both went to work, he took Luthando to creche and we agreed I'd be the one taking him after work.

Around 11am I started my act. Every 15minutes I went to the loo and kept holding my stomach.

Bongie: " are you okay?"

Me: " not quite. I have a stomach bug. It must be something I ate.

The Attorney came to my office and also asked if I was okay, I said no I'm not. She said I can take the day off. I thanked her and took my stuff then said my goodbyes and left. I started at my son's creche to fetch him then we went home. As soon as I arrived, I didn't wasted time. I took out my long red dress and head scarf then wore it. After I was done with changing, I took some fruit and yoghurt for the road then we got in the car and left. I drove for a while, since I wasn't a very experienced driver. So I took my time on the road. We arrived at Buja's home at around 4pm. Buja's mom had parked outside, so she was home, but I could see his father was not around. I took a deep sigh and got out with Lutha then we made our way to the door. She was in the kitchen cooking something. I entered the door and Lutha went over to her.

Buja's mother: " haibo, this is a surprise"

She picked up Luthando and kissed his cheek. I greeted and asked how she was doing, she said " I'm good, unjani wena?"

Me: " I'm okay. Mama, there is a reason for my visit"

Buja's mom: " is it the new job?"

Me: " No, Mama. Its actually regarding my marriage. Something happened, I want to talk to both you and Tata about this."

Buja's mom: " oh, let me pour us some juice."

She went to the fridge while I went to take the glasses. We went to the living room.

" So what is going on?" She asked curiously.

Me: " Mama, Bulelani has been cheating on me for a while now..."

She looked at me with a concerned expression " thiza wam, how did you find out?"

I took a deep sigh and said " I found out by accident" I paused for a few seconds then said " he told me he's going to a business meeting kanti he will be meeting with the woman his having an affair with. It seems like it has been going on for a while now, even before I went to stay with him.

I'm also told he's a womaniser. Mama, that woman came to our house with Buja's friends and ate supper with us. The same woman he's sleeping with. " Tears rolled down my face. I continued " I want out of the marriage, he's hurt me so badly. I heard the moaning on the phone while they were sleeping together. I heard everything"

She got up and came back with a box of tissues. " Thank you" I said and sniffed then said " I want a divorce.."

Buja's mom: " do you still love him?"

Me: " with all my heart, Mama"

Buja's mom: " then why are you not fighting for your marriage?"

Me: " he'll do it again"

Buja's mom: " how do you know?"

Me: " I'm afraid. If it happens again it will kill me. He says he's sorry, but I don't know whether he really is, or he's sorry he got caught."

Buja's mom: " mamela apha ke Noxolo ( listen here Noxolo), the Giba wives are not soft hearted. We are strong women that fight for our marriage. You are not going to let that loose slut who sleeps around with married men steal your husband away from you."

Me: " but Mama-"

Buja's mom: " no, listen to me mntanam. Umncinci and nje umncinci you are also too soft. Why do you think I was so hard on you? I was training you to be strong. No one said marriage is a romantic fairytale. There will always be ups and downs, stand your ground and fight for your marriage"

Me: " he's a cheater Mama, and some of the things he does makes me uneasy around him."

Buja's mom: " you have been staying with him for how many months now, kodwa sewoyisiwe? Do you even satisfy he's desires?"

Me: " yes, Mama."

I looked down with frustration.

Buja's mom: " indoda ayilanjiswa ke nontombi or izoyokhangela estratweni (satisfy your husband's needs, or he will look for satisfaction in the streets). You are the only one that can sort this out. There will not be any divorce here, and there will not be any family meeting regarding this. I will have a word with my son. But, you, you will be going back to your house with my grandson and you are going to forgive him. "

Me: " but Mama....Atleast Tata should also know about this."

Buja's mom: " no he doesn't. This has to stay between us, listen and trust me my child. Go back and fix your marriage"

She said holding my hand. I didn't know whether to trust what she was saying or go against her will.

## Chapter 10

The talk I had with my mother-in-law was not what I expected at all. I couldn't believe she was declining my request of having a family meeting. I was even surprised that she wanted this to stay between us. I had so many questions in my mind. I concluded that maybe she was right - Buja hated the fact that I would be involving his whole family into this which included his uncles. He was surely going to get an earful from them. Buja's mother interrupted my thoughts " does he know that you're here?" She asked.

Me: " No, Mama. He's not aware that I'm here."

Buja's mom: " then you should let him know. I'm sure he's worried sick about you. Let me check on the pots, give him a call in the mean time"

She smiled at me then walked away to the kitchen. All these years I thought she didn't like me, or hated that I got married to her son. Now she was supporting our marriage and did not want me to call it quits with her son. I really thought she had a problem with me, I was so confused by her unexpected reaction to all of this. I took out my phone and called Buja. He answered immediately and said "where are you?"

Me: " at your parent's place"

Buja: " so you decided to go against my wishes, Noxy"

Me: " they were the only people I could open up too"

Buja: " when are you coming home?"

Me: " I'll be leaving soon"

Buja: " come back as soon as possible. The roads are not very safe at night"

Me: " okay"

Buja: " I'll be waiting for you"

Me: " okay, bye"

Buja: " bye, babe"

I hung up. I checked the time and it was half past 6. Buja's father usually came back at past 7pm. Buja's mom walked in and said " what did he say?"

Me: " he said I should drive back soon, its not safe to drive at night. Maybe I should get going"

Buja's mom: " yes love, I'll tell uTaka Bulelani ubufikile. As I said, he doesn't need to know, sort things out with your husband"

Me: " I'll try..."

Buja's mom: " you making the right decision by giving him a 2nd chance"

Me: " I wish I was sure about this"

Buja's mom: " you will be in time. I didn't spend 40 years with Bulelani's father with no ups and downs. We have our own story to tell"

Me: "please send my greetings to him. I'll visit again some other time, maybe stay for the weekend"

Buja's mom: " you welcomed"

Moments later I left with Luthando and drove back to my place. It was dark outside. I finally arrived and drove in, by then Lutha was fast asleep because of the traveling. I was nervous to face Buja. I wondered if he wasn't angry with me. I got out of the car and went inside the house carrying my son. He was sitting in the living room watching rugby. " Hey," I said greeting him. He got up and helped me with Luthando and went to put him in his room. I sat down on the couch, he came in and sat next to me then held my left hand.

Buja: " I was worried sick about you. How can you leave without telling me where you're going?"

Me: " I needed to see your parents"

Buja: " I hope you've changed your mind about this. We made a vow that death will do us apart. I'm willing to keep that promise to God, are you?"

I looked at him but words couldn't come out. He stroked my cheek and said " let's keep that promise, my love." I reluctantly nodded. He came closer and pressed his lips on mine. He started kissing me slowly, but the kiss got more intense. He pulled up my dress and stroked my thigh while kissing me from my lips going down to my neck " I want you so badly" he whispered. " Not

here" I whispered back. " He's fast asleep, he won't hear anything," he said laying me on top of the couch. He pulled down my underwear while kissing me in between my thighs. I wanted him just as much as he wanted me. He slid two fingers and worked them inside my honey pot. It was a little uncomfortable but nothing I couldn't handle. I moaned softly enjoying what he was doing to me. His mouth met mine. I felt his hard rod entering me. We moved slowly in the same motion, he started thrusting deeper and deeper, I bit my lip as I felt my orgasm building up. We both reached our destination at the same time. He laid on top of me in silence. I brushed his back. " I missed this, sthandwa sam," he said.

Me: " I need you to promise me that you'll never hurt me like you did again."

Buja: " I promise. I have cut all ties with her. I won't put our marriage in jeopardy again."

He gazed at me then said " please tell me you believe me, Noxy wam"

Me: " it will take time, I'm still trying to heal. Please be patient. "

He said " okay, babe"

We went to take a shower together then slept in each others arms.

I was still not completely okay, but we were both trying to make things work.

On thursday I had to attend Court for a criminal matter which took place at 9am. The matter was postponed for the following month. I went back to work and made a file note for the Attorney. I had to sit in with her during a consultation regarding a Estate matter and take as many notes as possible on how she was addressing the issue. On friday Bongie reminded me about our girl's day out and said she would be going with her 2 extra friends, I didn't have a problem with that. I was actually keen on meeting them. Going with a different crowd that was more of my age was exactly what needed. After work I went home and cooked a lovely meal. Buja arrived from work and we kissed. I said " babe, Bongie would like for us to have a girl's day out tomorrow"

Buja: " okay....who else is going?"

Me: " just her, me and her 2 extra friends."

Buja: " its okay babe, you can go. I don't mind looking after uboy"

Me: " thanx love....I'm actually excited yazi."

Buja: " you could use a breather, right?"

Me: " yess..."

Buja: " hehehe, I want you home by 6"

Me: " hahaha excuse me, who died and made you my father?"

Buja: " you've got a husband and a child to think about"

Me: " I'll be back quickly don't worry"

Buja: " that's my girl"

He kissed my forehead and said " I might send Luthando to Sbu's place and chill with him as well...atleast there's kids there that he can play with "

My mood changed. I didn't like them, I didn't even want my child to go there anymore. Buja saw this and said " Babe, Amanda won't be there. As I said before, I've cut all ties with her."

Me: " if you say so..."

Buja: " she's knows that she has to stay away from me"

Me: " you guys have the same friends, this is going to be extremely hard for me."

Buja: " Sbu has cut all ties with her, too. He's my boy, we like brothers. My enemy is his enemy"

I gave him a stare. He let out a slight smile and said " I'm serious" I just responded by saying " oh..."

I later on dished up, Buja was making jokes while we were eating. My son was also chatting about his friends at creche. Everything seemed to be going good at home, back to normal. I had decided to pray for my marriage and ask God to give me strength, I had also decided to pray for my husband.

I was back to sleeping in my birthday suite. Buja was more than happy about that, in the middle of the night he started touching my honey pot and nibbling on my earlobe, I got wet instantly. He separated my legs and went down on me, we ended up making love. In the morning it was the same story. We both woke up in a very good mood. After breakfast I was wearing my gown chilling in the living room while chatting with Bongie in WhatsApp about what time we'll meet up. She offered to come and fetch me because she wanted us to go in one car. Buja was busy tickling our son and playing with him, Lutha was laughing so hard so much that I said "hayi Buja myeke ngoku tshini" we heard a knock on the door. I said "let me get it" then stood up and went to open. It was Khaya. He said "hi there..."

Me: "hey"

Khaya: "sorry, I forgot to take your number that other day. I just came to check if you're okay. How silly of me to say I'm here if you need someone to talk to yet I didn't even leave my number, you don't even know where I stay"

"Why would she take your number, Khaya?" Buja asked standing behind me. I turned around, he came closer and said "so you're trying to be best buds with my wife now?"

Khaya: "I was just checking up on her."

Buja: "what did you expect to see? Huh?"

Khaya: "I haven't got time for your nonsense..."

Buja: "you obviously have time for my nonsense when you want to be a shoulder to cry on to my wife."

Me: "woah guys, Buja he was just checking up on me. And Khaya, I'm fine as you can see... Thanx, though."

Khaya: "you know Buja, I'm trying to make our friendship work"

Buja: "Trying? You think I don't see what you trying to do? Get the fuck out of my yard, and don't you dare come near my wife."

They stared at each other like enemies. I thought they were friends. I stood there wondering what on earth is going on.

## Chapter 11

They were still staring at each other, with coldness and hatred in their eyes. Khaya then glanced at me and said "Noxy, I'm glad you're okay. I guess I'll see you some other time then. And you Buja, I'll see you around mfethu"

Buja glared at him without responding. Khaya went to his car and drove off while Buja closed the door.

"What was that all about?" I asked, and I told myself that I'm not going to let this go until I get an answer.

Buja: "he's playing some sort of game that he's not going to win"

Me: "well I think he's the only honest guy compared to your other friends."

Buja: "he's not, trust me. Khaya is just an opportunist"

Me: "aren't you guys friends na kanti?"

Buja: " not quite"

Me: " what do you mean? Can you not see that I'm lost and I'm looking for answers. Can you just be honest with me about what's going on?"

He breathed out loud and said " okay, I'll be honest"

I looked at him, waiting. He said " we had a misunderstanding that turned into a terrible argument. I'll admit that I was in the wrong, but I apologized. I can see that he's still on some revenge trip and you might be his target. So babe, please be careful"

Me: " can you please tell me what the argument was about?"

Buja: " its a guy thing, you won't understand"

Me: " is it dangerous?"

Buja: " no, its not. "

I sighed and said " okay..."

I checked my phone and it had tons of WhatsApp messages from Bongie. She said " Noxy\*\*\*, we'll be using my friend's car. Her name is Nelisa, you'll love her. We'll pick you up at 1pm okay? \*mcwah\*\*"

I laughed and text back " sure, mcwah\* smile emoticon"

Me: " let me go and take a bath"

Buja: " sho, babe"

I went to the bathroom and took a long shower then went to check out what to wear. I decided on wearing my baby blue tight pants, my white Guess top and white sneaker wedges. I tied my hair into a bun then applied my red matt lipstick. I sms'd Bongie the directions so long while I sprayed my perfume. She said she's on her way. I walked out of the room and met Buja in the passage. " I'll call you every 5 minutes" he said. I laughed and said " hayi uzobe uyi baxa tshi."

He laughed too. My phone rang, it was Bongie saying she's outside. Buja walked me out.

Me: "I'll see you guys later. I'll be back round about 6pm"

Buja: " its cool babe, I think the pants you are wearing are too tight kodwa sthandwa sam."

Me: " come on, love. They're just fine"

Buja: " mmmh okay, I don't want any bustard checking out my wife's ass"

Me: " hahahaha! Bye babe"

Buja: " bye. "

I kissed my kid and him as well then went over to the car. I greeted the 3 girls then closed the door.

Bongie: " my friend, meet Nelisa and Sandi. Guys this is my friend and colleague, Noxy"

Me: " hey girls, pleased to meet you"

Nelisa: " pleased to meet you too love"

We had a random chat until we arrived at the shopping mall. We started at the cinemas and watched a chick flick movie. I was having such a great time with my new friends. The movie took about 2 hours to watch, it was funny so most of the time we were laughing. When we walked out we were in stitches with laughter. Bongie suggested we go and do a little shopping, I had done a lot of shopping already when I was still looking for work so I wasn't going to buy much. So we decided to start at Foschini, I bought some sexy lingerie for myself and that was about it. While I was paying in the till, I couldn't help but notice this familiar lady standing in the next till. I glanced at her wondering where I know her from. We finished paying and walked out of the shop. It finally came back to me that it was the woman that knocked on our door, the one that was an emotional



wreck when my husband welcomed me in our house on the first day. I remembered her name was Zizopho. She was walking alone doing some shopping. She spoke on the phone then stood next to Mugg n Bean.

Sandi said " why are you staring at that woman? Does she look familiar?"

Me: " I think I know her"

I said still looking at her, my heart started escalating. I needed to know why she was an emotional wreck and whether my husband's story was true. We passed her and went to Ocean Basket then ordered our meal. It arrived shortly.

Nelisa: " So Noxy, kunjani emtshatweni ntombi? How old are you?"

Me: " I'm 22"

Nelisa: " I'm 23 but I still feel I'm not ready for marriage. I mean, I still wanna party! I'm too wild to be someone's wife"

We laughed, I said " I'm enjoying being a wife. I love my husband. He's supportive, sweet, he's everything I need in a husband"

They all went " ncooh.."

Sandi: " ndisa funa ugroova sana, but I'm in a stable relationship and I'm hoping one day my man will pop the question"

Me: " let's hope..."

I was not going to tell them about the negatives of my marriage. I didn't want them to know about the downs I've gone through, I was very secretive when it came to my private life.

Bongie said " I'm happy as long as you're happy. You deserve only the best, Noxy"

Me: " thanx love"

We chatted, after we were done eating we paid the bill. I said " guys, after an hour I'll be heading back home. I promised my hubby I'll be back by 6.

Nelisa: "haibo, atleast u7 ke?"

Bongie: " haiwethu, your husband is very sweet, I don't think he will mind"

Me: " you don't know him very well"

Bongie: " please maan, that guy wouldn't even hurt a fly"

I looked at her then we both laughed. " I'm serious ke yazi" she added.

Me: " mmmh if you say so"

Nelisa: " let's go to the Casino so long, in the bar area. I need some cold ones."

Sandi: " do you drink, Noxy?"

Me: " no dear"

Nelisa: " okay its cool then. We were actually planning to show you around these vibey places ke Noxy. But ke, there's always a next time"

Me: " yes, next time. But for now, let's hang out at the Casino"

We went inside the Casino going straight to the bar area.

Bongie said " don't look now, but here is that lady that you were staring at. She's the one staring at you now"

I waited for about a minute then turned to look at her. Our eyes met.

Bongie looked inside her hand bag then said " I told you not to look now, Noxy"

Zizipho quickly looked away and made a conversation with the girl she was chilling with. I ordered an Appetizer while my friends ordered a hunters dry. Sandi: " after drinking these ciders we should order a tequila shot. Ndifuna uya emjaive(weni) sendi tipsy kamnandi.

I looked at Zizipho with the corner of my eye, she glanced at my direction again then took her glass and sipped. What we were doing felt ridiculous. I finally got the courage to stand up then said " I'll be back girls..."

They said "sure"

I went over to the table she was sitting in. I was expecting her to bite my head off but I was willing to take the chance. I arrived to them then said " molweni..."

They both looked at me and greeted back. I looked at Zizipho and said " may I please have a word with you"

Zizipho: " why?"

Me: " I just want to have a chat with you"

She looked down like she was debating whether to agree or not. " Sure" she said then got up. " I'll be right back, okay?" Her friend said " sharp Zee"

We walked away. She said " we can go this side" pointing at a more quiet area. We went to that side.

Zizipho: " if this is about that other day, I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have come to your house. It was so disrespectful of me"

Wow, okay, now that was not what I expected from her. I asked " why did you do it?"

Zizipho: " if Buja would see me talking to you, he'd lose it. "

Me: " why? Is it because you were stalking him?"

Zizipho: " What? No! He was the one that approached me and not the other way around. I'm sorry but I have to go back to my friend. Take care..."

She was about to walk away when I said " stop!.. Please be honest with me. What's going on? Were you having an affair with him?"

She suddenly became teary.

Zizipho: " yes, I didn't know he was married. He only became honest with me after weeks, and by then I had already fallen in love with him"

Me: " did you not see the ring on his left finger?"

Zizipho: " when we first met he did not have it. Even after we started the relationship he still didn't have the ring. When he had bought that house I went to visit him, he became honest with me and told me he had a wife. That was all new to me. That is why I was so devastated when I came to your house. He broke up with me, and I needed to see if its true to find closure."

I tried my best to act strong and calm about this whole thing. I expected it, but it hurt knowing that my husband had an affair with yet another woman.

Me: " okay..."

Zizipho: " I was such an emotional wreck, Mrs Giba. I loved him, I still do. This was all so sudden to me. That is why I decided to move on and try to forget about him. There is no use loving someone else's husband. He was never mine."

I took out tissues from my bag and gave it to her.

Me: " look, I don't know the truth in this story, but I just want to tell you that I forgive you. I don't hate you, I can see you sorry. I just hope it is not all an act."

Zizipho: " its not an act. I don't want to cause trouble. "

She sniffed. " I was pregnant with his child, I terminated the pregnancy a week before you arrived. I couldn't carry a married man's child."

She started crying harder. Tears escaped my eyes. She wiped her cheeks and said " please don't tell him about this, he'll be angry at me and I'm not ready to face him. "

Me: " I won't"

Zizipho: " thanx for being so kind. Some women wouldn't have been this nice to me."

Me: " let me go back to my friends"

Zizipho: " okay"

She took out her mirror and looked at herself then went back to her friend. I went to the girls and said " where is the ladies room?"

Bongie: " on your left love, let me go with you"

I nodded. I couldn't wait to arrive. I just wanted to burst out into tears. We walked over to the ladies room. I rushed to the toilet room. She said " Noxy, what's wrong?"

I started crying. I just wanted to let it all out. She hugged me tightly and I cried on her shoulders.

Bongie: " what did that woman say to you?"

I continued crying and didn't respond.

Bongie: " chomy, I'm your friend. Please talk to me. You don't have to suffer alone"

I broke the hug and said " I'll be fine"

She took out a whole lot of tissues and gave them to me.

Bongie: " where do you know her from?"

Me: " she had an affair with my husband"

I could see the shocked look on her face.

Bongie: " I'm so sorry, Noxy. I can only imagine the pain you're feeling."

Me: "he's not all what he seems. I don't know how many women he has had an affair with while I was staying at his home raising our son. Some of them didn't even know he is married"

She helped me wipe my cheeks.

Bongie: " you know what you need? You need to have fun in your life. Before you go back to your house, there's a place I want to take you too"

Me: " yeah, no problem"

I washed my face then applied some make up. It helped opening up to someone even though I wasn't ready to tell her everything.

We went back to the bar.

Sandi said " girls, are you ready for the tequila shot?"

Nelisa: " I am. Whoop-whoop! Let's get the party started!"

Bongie: " Noxy, is another Appletizer okay for you?"

Me: " you know what, I'd like a tequila shot as well"

Sandi: " coming right up!"

She ordered four tequila shots. They arrived shortly and they showed me how I'll take it.

Bongie said " here's to strong friendship between us."

Me: " here's to new friends!"

Sandi: " here's to new beginnings!"

Nelisa: " here's to being tipsy!"

We laughed then licked the salt and took a bite from the sliced lemon then downed the tequila at the same time.

I called the bar tender and said " can I have another shot please"

Bongie: " chomy, are you sure? Its your first time drinking."

I ignored her. The bar tender came with another shot. I downed it as well. I said "so where is this vibey place you guys are planning to go too? Count me in!"

Nelisa: " haike, kuzobamnandi. It will be a night you'll never forget!"

Bongie: " what about going home, Noxy? I don't want you to be too drunk. Its your first time."

Me: " Bulelani will look after his son. I'm giving them time to bond. Its time I had some fun in my life. I'd like to have a taste of this hunters dry as well."

I called the bar tender again. Bongie looked at me concerned, I didn't care. I just wanted the pain and heartache to go away, even if will be a short period of time.

## Chapter 12

The bartender gave me the hunters dry and I drank it like I have been thirsty for days. Sandi suggested we go, when I got up I felt dizzy.

Nelisa: " 1st time drinkers tend to be drunk very quickly. We should keep an eye on you"

Me: " oh please. I'm still sober!"

Sandi: " you could have fooled us"

They giggled. Bongie said " chomy, can I speak to you on the side, please"

Me: " as long as you won't tell me any dirty lil secrets like sleeping with someone's husband."

I laughed at my own lame joke. Bongie pulled my arm then said " Noxy, I don't want to be in your husband's bad books. He knows that you went out with me, what if he thinks I'm the bad influence in all of this?"

Me: " what are we now? Teenagers? He's my husband and not my father. Now let's get going"

Bongie: " yho haisana..."

Me: " if I go back home I might do something stupid. I just need to stop being serious and live alittle. Is that too much to ask? I don't want to think too much. I don't want to think about him."

I was starting to get emotional. I tried blocking what I had hear from Zizipho. Bongie said " okay my F. You can drink, I'll keep an eye on you"

Sandi: " hesana, makuyiwe kaloku!"(Let's get going!)

Bongie: " I'll be driving."

Nelisa: " thanx Bongie! At least I can drink nicely now"

She gave Bongie the car keys then we walked out. We started at Tops then bought 4 carry packs of Hunters Dry, Nelisa bought a bottle of sky Vodka and a dash. We went to the car got in, Bongie turned on some Bignuz and banged the music. We all started dancing in the car. I was having a lot of fun. I felt my phone vibrating, when I checked Buja was phoning. The time was around 18:30. I cut the call and put the phone on silent then slid it in my handbag. Sandi and I

were dancing at the back seat. We finally arrived in this nice chillaz place. It looked very vibey. There were lots of cars parked, music was playing very loud, it was packed. We found a nice parking spot then got out. We went to check out what was going on inside. Bongie and her friends greeted the people she knew, they introduced me to some of them. I looked around, I just wasn't used to this life. I had left my phone in the car so I wasn't sure whether Buja was still calling or not. Sandi said its better we chill outside. We went out again and then opened the car boot, they took out some camp chairs then we sat down. They gave me one cider while they also drank. 2 guys came over to us. They introduced themselves as Luntu and Loyiso, it turned out they knew Nelisa. While they were chatting to them I asked Bongie: " why do you guys know so many people here? Where do you know them from?"

She laughed and said " well, people who party a lot end up knowing each other. We even have some partying friends. "

We got interrupted by this guy named Loyiso. " Hey, its the first time I'm seeing this face" he said looking at me. I sipped my cider and didn't respond. Bongie quickly said " she's new in town and she doesn't party much so you won't know her"

Loyiso: " I'm pleased to meet you"

Me: " same here"

He looked at my left hand then said " you married?"

Me: " yes I am"

I drank the cider again. I actually wanted something strong. Everytime I thought of Buja, my stress levels rose. Sandi was drink a dashed sky Vodka. I said " can I have some of that?"

Luntu: " can we chill with you guys if you don't mind?"

Bongie: " actually, we were planning to have a girls night out. So next time fellas"

Nelisa: " hayi sanuba rongo guys"

Sandi poured the sky vodka and the dash in the glass. She took some ice blocks from the cooler box then gave it to me. I drank the vodka. It tasted horrible but somehow it was helping me stress less. I continued drinking. My face felt numb and my head was starting to spin.

Bongie:" I think that's enough chomy, I'll get you some water, okay?"

Me: " ha a, don't my friendooo"

I said putting my hand in the air. "I'm enjoying this feeling that I'm having" I continued.

Loyiso: " is it your first time drinking?"

Me: "It is none of your business!"

Sandi and Nelisa stood up and started dancing. I actually wanted to dance to but I didn't have the energy to stand up.

Sandi: " haiboo eyyyy, kumanzi pantsi" she said dancing carrying her glass. I think an hour passed. I was in my senses, because I could remember what was happening but my body was just failing me. I stood up and almost missed a step. Loyiso and Luntu were chilling with us, and shame they were just chilled. We had a random conversation. Nelisa said " Noxy my friend, we sending you back home at 9pm, okay? "

Me: " yeah what ever"

She laughed. She could see I was highly intoxicated.

Loyiso: " I think you've had enough now."

Me: " I think I need the loo! Anyone care to show me where is the ladies room around here?"

Sandi: " I'll go with you"

I got up and Sandi held my hand. The DJ started playing commercial house music. I danced and my friends followed. Loyiso got up and danced too, and he was a good dancer. I was having the time of my life. I said " you only live once!"

Bongie: " hee uBuja will not be happy about this"

Me: " he can go to hell! And stay there! Men are dogs, all of them! "

I realized I was babbling too much. I burped and said " the toilet my friend, I need the toilet" then pulled Sandi. We went to go and pee. She said " I won't ask what's going on, you will tell me when you're sober. I'm just glad you're having fun that's all"

I fixed myself and didn't respond. After we washed our hands we walked out. She held my hand again because she could see that I couldn't walk straight. When we were making our way back to the car, someone shouted "Noxy!"

I turned and looked around. It was some guy standing in front of a navy city golf. The boot was open and they were banging their own music on the side. I said "let's go to them. I want to know who's calling me."

Sandi and I went over, as I came closer I realized it was Luzuko calling me. The guy Buja is mentoring. I said " Luzz?"

Luzuko: " ugrand lovey?"

He was cutting an apple with a pocket knife. He took a bite from it then said " I've been watching you"

I rubbed my face. I actually wanted to act sober but somehow I was failing. I heard one of his friends saying " la kaka indiqhela amasimba, ndibawela uyidubula inye mfethu." while talking to his other friend. I looked at this guy shocked and afraid at the same time. Sandi whispered. "Ubazelaphi ooLuzuko chomy?"(Where do you know Luzuko from?)

Luzuko interrupted " so Noxy, does Tar Buja know where you are?"

Me: " uhm wait, how do you know my name?"

Luzuko: " you're his wife, its my duty to know your name"

Me: " what are you to him?"

Luzuko: "he's friend, and business partner. "

Me: " does he mentor you?"

Luzuko: " of course"

He winked and took a bite from his apple again.. I suddenly felt uneasy and said " I better get going"

I turned around and missed a step. I balanced on the car. Sandi said " chomy, you're kak drunk" then laughed.

Luzuko: " Sandi, I think you should take her home, she's married, she shouldn't be here..."

Me: " what??? Is marriage a prison now? Look here, I'm young and I'm free to have fun!"

Sandi: " Luzz, khayeke uba serious maan!"

We both laughed and did the same dance. We were both drunk, but I was worse. I said " byieeeee!" Then left him going back to our car. When we arrived Bongie was busy have a chat

with some girls. The guys were still there and Nelisa was also having a convo with the girls that were there. I took another cider and started drinking. I wasn't even aware that I needed to stop.

Bongie: " love, its almost 10 o'clock now."

Me: " ooooh! Buja won't be happy"

I laughed. " He must just chill" I continued.

Bongie: " has he phoned?"

Me: " I don't know. My phone is in my bag inside the car. "

I felt someone holding my arm, I turned my head and blinked rapidly thinking my eyes were deceiving me. I wondered how he could have found me.

Buja: " let's go home, Noxy"

He said still touching my arm. I realized Luzz might have told him.

Me: " do not touch me!"

The guys said " bruh, can we help you?"

Buja: " I've come to take my drunk wife home. Who the fuck has been giving her alcohol?"

No one responded. Bongie broke the silence and said " She's stressed. She's not a drinker so I'm sure she hasn't been coping with whatever has been stressing her. "

Me: " Bongie, don't ever get married vha? People change !"

I looked at Buja, I couldn't read his face. He pulled my hand, I said " my bag, I need to get my bag"

Bongie quickly went to the car and gave it to me, she said " I'll give you the rest of your stuff tomorrow. " Buja and I left going to his car. I opened the backseat. When I got in I saw that Sbu was sitting at the front. Buja got into his car and drove off. Sbu turned to look at me. He stared at me without saying anything.

Me: " I hate you Buja, I hate you so much. I wish you weren't my husband."

Sbu: " ignore her, its the alcohol talking. "

Buja was just looking ahead, he wasn't saying anything.

Me: " you know Sbu, he goes around sleeping with other women, he impregnates them. Don't mind the good wife, she'll understand!"

Sbu: " where did you hear that info?"

Me: " you bloody hypocrite! You'll take his side of course because he's your bestie! You know I'm telling the truth. Where's my son??"

Sbu looked at Buja and said " we'll drop him off tomorrow morning."

Buja: " sho"

He went to drop Sbu over at his place. I shouted " where's my son? I want my son! Uphi uLutha wam?"

Buja drove off, he ignored me the whole way back to our house. He drove in and parked. I fell as soon as I got out of the car. I took off my shoes and tried walking. The walk was zic zac. Buja passed me and went to open the door. We went to the bedroom. He went to the en-suite bathroom and opened the shower. "Come here" he shouted. I went over to him.

Buja: " uyanxila ngoku Noxy?"(Are you a drunkard now?)

Me: " what do you think?"

Buja: " do you know how hard I'm trying to calm myself down right now? "

Me: " that makes the 2 of us. "

Buja: " take your clothes off and get into the shower"

Me: " No!"

He lifted his hand and stopped before he could do anything. He said " Noxy, since when do you drink alcohol??"

Me: " your side chick was pregnant with your child, Bulelani. You weren't even using protection. Really? Have you thought about diseases and your wife that you might infect?"

Buja: " get into the fuck'n shower!"

The water was running. I took off my clothes and got in. The water was so cold, I was shivering. He said " I want you to sober up."

I opened the hot water tap but he closed it.

Me: " Buja, I'm feeling cold"

He watched me shivering and didn't say or do anything. He's hands were in his pocket glaring at me. He finally pulled me out and closed the tap. He pulled me to the bedroom. I was shivering. I took a towel and wiped myself then took out my warm gown. Tears rolled down my face.

Me: " uphi uLuthando?"

Buja: " he's with Wendy"

Me: " phi? Let's go and fetch him"

He came closer and aggressively lifted my chin up" Jonga apha Noxy. Andizoba nomfazi olinxila uyandiva? Do not test my patience, and do not provoke me." He warned

I didn't say anything. He said " sleep" then walked out of the room and banged the door. I shook in fear and tried sleeping. After 30 minutes I drifted to sleep.

I woke up the next morning. I had a splitting headache and my mouth was dry. Buja was not next to me. I decided to get out of bed. As I was reaching for my slippers I saw Buja sitting on the bedroom couch across the room. I got a mini shock and said " you gave me a fright."

Buja: " Noxy, who were those guys that you were chilling with there?"

Me: " I don't know them, I was...-"

Buja: " I agreed on a girl's day out. What the hell were you doing last night?you busy dancing with men you don't even know. You're acting like a whore now."

Me: " I didn't want to face you. You disgusted me. "

He got up and came closer " Noxy" he said still coming close. " I love you, babe. But what I won't stand is this nonsense"

He stood in front of me and unexpectedly gave me a hard smack across my face. I fell on the floor. He glared at me then said " act like a good wife that you are and we won't have this sort of argument again."

He pulled me up and gave me a hug " I hate fighting with you yazi..." he said still hugging me. I couldn't hug him back, I was terrified of him

## Chapter 13

Buja was still hugging me, and the whole time I was trembling in fear. I had never thought in my wildest dreams that I would develop fear for my husband. He ran his hands through my hair and



said " I'm sorry. I'm so sorry, Noxy. I never thought I'd ever lift my hand on you." I kept quiet. He continued " please don't be scared of me. I can feel you shaking. I hate what's going on here." He broke the hug and looked at me.

Buja: " do you know the danger that you put yourself in last night? You were drunk Noxy. You could have been kidnapped or even raped. What if those guys you were with took you while your friends weren't paying attention? Do you even remember some of the things that happened?"

Me: " yes I do...some of them..."

Buja: " don't ever do that to me again. Uyeva sthandwa sam? "

Me: " you had no right to smack me, no right. Bulelani why are you behaving like this?"

Buja: "I'll make breakfast for us. I've told Sbu that we'll go and fetch Luthando, he doesn't have to bring him over"

Me: " why are you not answering me."

Buja: " you cannot ask me that, Noxy. You were the one that got very drunk and acted like a loose woman last night. Do not ask me why I'm behaving like this when you were provoking me."

I went back to bed and hugged one of the pillows. He said " I'll make you something to eat" then walked out. I wept silently. It felt like I was in some kind of nightmare. My marriage was going horribly wrong. The pillow cover was now very wet with my tears, even my nose was running. Buja walked in and said " breakfast is ready"

Me: " I'm not hungry"

My voice was breaking, I couldn't even talk properly. He took a clean towel and came over to bed then laid next to me.

Buja: " Baby, don't cry like this, please. I'm really sorry about everything. I was wrong for hitting you, I know"

Me: " I'm afraid of you"

He wiped my cheeks and said " you don't have to be. I let anger get the better of me. I know I keep apologizing to you but baby, I'll never accept that kind behaviour, never. Did you think about Lutha when you were busy drinking with some men? Did you think about him?"

Me: " I was hurt. She told me that she was carrying your child. Why did you marry me? Why when you keep hurting me like this."

Buja: "who's this woman that's been lying to you? I have not made anyone pregnant"

Me: " she was, and she terminated"

Buja: " tell me who's been feeding you lies babe"

Me: " you know exactly who I'm talking about"

Buja: " is it Amanda that's been talking bullshit to you?"

Me: " No..."

Buja: " did you run into Zizipho? Because if its her, she's been talking a whole lot of crap. She was never pregnant. She was obsessed with me. I don't know why you're listening to some woman who obviously hates the fact that I have a wife. I didn't deny having an affair with Amanda, but I'm telling you the honest truth that I didn't have any kind of affair with Zizipho. Please believe what I'm saying babe. Don't work yourself up over unnecessary things."

He came closer then comforted me. We stayed in the same position for about an hour. He finally broke the silence and said " are you sure that you don't want anything to eat?"

Me: " I'm sure. I miss my son"

Buja: " let's take a bath and get ready. We'll go and fetch him."

We got up and I made the bed. I went to the kitchen and drank cold water then went over to the bathroom. I washed my face. I looked like an absolute mess. I felt Buja was just taking all of my energy. I couldn't even recognize myself anymore. I couldn't believe that it was me that got so drunk, I was never like that. I never thought I would resort to alcohol to solve my problems. I took off my gown and got into the shower, a while later Buja walked in and said " may I wash your back?" I looked away. He closed the shower door then we showered together. After we were done we went to the room. I stood in front of the mirror while I lotioned myself. I noticed that I had a minor bruise on my face. Buja came over to me while wrapped in a towel and said " we should get you something for your face"

Me: " you mean I should hide the bruise?"

Buja: " you don't have to hide it, I want us to work on fading it."

Me: " are we going to carry on like this? You don't only emotionally abuse me, but now you starting to physically abuse me, too."

Buja: " I will not lift my hand on you again, I promise you Noxy. I'm beating myself up about what I did to you. I tried my best to control my anger, I just lost control"

I walked away and took out something to wear. We dressed up. I took out make up and tried covering the bruise. It wasn't bad so nothing showed when I was done. We walked out of the house and locked the door. I got into his car then we drove out. Buja took out his phone and called Sbu. He said " mfethu, we're on our way to fetch uboy ngoku.....oh? Nah akho smoko. Sure. Bye" then hung up.

Buja: " he's at Wendy's place. "

Me: " what is he doing there? Didn't you say he slept over ku Sbu and Wendy was there as well?"

Buja: " they had a bit of an argument, so she left with the kids. She's safe babe, don't stress"

I looked through the window. If he was at Wendy place, it meant Amanda was there too. And at that point I did not want my son to be anywhere near Buja's side chick. Buja turned on the radio and we listened to the news while he drove off. We arrived moments later at Wendy's place. We got out and went to knock. Wendy opened for us and said " "hey, come on in" with a pleasant smile. We walked in and went over to the living room. The kids were making a noise in the kitchen. They came over running to the living room but Lutha was not with them.

Me: " where is Lutha?"

Amanda walked in carrying him, she had a bowl on her other hand.

Amanda: " molweni"

I lost it, I completely lost my composure. I got up and went straight to her and said " get your filthy hands off my son!" I grabbed my son from her. I started thinking that she might have put poison on his food. Buja was a suspect in the beating she got, what if she was also on some kind of revenge trip?

Amanda said " I was just feeding her, Noxy"

Wendy: " I'm sorry Noxy, but she was just helping me with the kids"

Me: " I don't care, I don't want her near my son!"

Buja: " babe, calm down"

Me: " I'll wait for you in the car"

I walked out with Lutha and waited for Buja in his car.

Lutha looked at me and said " Mama, where were you yesterday? I was waiting for you to come and fetch me"

I felt so ashamed when he said that. I was busy partying while my son was waiting for me to come back. I was always with him so he was really used to me tucking him in bed at night. I said " sorry Nana wam vha, I'll make it up to you" he smiled at me then nodded.

Lutha: " I played with my friends Mama. When are we coming here again?"

Me: " I don't know, Nana."

I was getting impatient because Buja wasn't coming out. I grabbed my phone and gave him a call. He answered and said " I'm coming out now, babe"

I cut the call and waited again. He came out carrying Lutha's bag and got in the car. I put Lutha in the back seat and gave him a toy then Buja drove off.

Buja: " sthandwa sam, I understand why you acted that way. I understand your anger."

Me: " no you don't understand. I don't trust them, including Wendy. I don't want my son going to that house again."

Buja: " I trust them with him. I just didn't think Amanda would be there to baby sit as well. I thought she wasn't around"

Me: " she stays there, of course she'll be there. Bulelani, now you letting your side chicks baby sit my son? You are going too far now. "

Buja: " can you just stop saying that. She is not my side chick. How many times do I have to ask for you to forgive me, maka Lutha?"

I decided not to talk any further. I maintained my silence with so much anger inside. We arrived at home, I got out and opened the door for Lutha. Buja carried his bag and we got inside the house. We spent the whole day together acting like everything was fine for the sake of our son. Around 5pm Sbu came over. He shoulder bumped with Buja then said " Noxy, how are you feeling?"

Me: " fine"

Sbu: " I was worried about you"

Me: " you don't have to be"

Buja: " she's fine mfethu"

Me: " actually, I'm not fine. Your friend smacked me this morning. And then his side chick was busy feeding my son at Wendy's place. So right now, I'm the opposite of fine."

Sbu: " Noxy, you were not in a good state last night. Buja had every right to be angry."

Buja walked out of the living room with Luthando.

Sbu continued " maybe its best you become friends with married women. Those friends of yours are clearly a bad influence."

What did I expect from Sbu, though? I didn't know what I was thinking because he was clearly taking Buja's side.

Sbu: " I will have a word with him regarding smacking you, don't worry."

He came over to give me a warm hug. I gave him a cold hug back. Moments later he said he had to go. Buja said "I'll be back in an hour babe"

Me: " okay"

He came over and gave me a kiss on the cheek then said " despite of everything that has happened between us, never doubt the love I have for you" I didn't have the energy to respond to that at all.

He walked out with Sbu and they left. I went to the kitchen to prepare for supper. I thought about my mother, my whole family, I had an older sister that I missed so much. I wondered what they were doing back at home. Sometimes Buja's mother didn't allow me to go and visit them. I took my phone and paged to my mother's number. It rang 4 times then she said "Mntanam! I was just thinking about you"

Tears rolled down my face. I just wanted my mother to hug me, I had to be responsible and act like an adult at such a young age. Buja's mother didn't give me much tender love and care like my mother used to.

Me: " I miss you, Mama"

I said trying my absolute best not to break down. " I'm not enjoying being married. I just want to come back home"

Mom: " haibo Noxy, what happened? Tell me everything"

Me: " he's been cheating on me, and then he denies some of the things he does. This morning he smacked me. He's starting to become violent towards me. I'm scared Mama,I really am."

I told her everything that has been happening since I came here. My mother in law has always told me to report my marriage problems to them and not my family back at home. But this time I had to go against her wishes, I needed my mother to know how I'm coping. I am her child after all, and she is my biological mother. She listened attentively then said " is Bulelani out of his mind? He had no right to lay his hand on you! Did he apologize?"

Me: " yes he did, but what if he does it again? I fear him now."

She took a deep breath then said " sthandwa sam, don't take this the wrong way uyeva nono? But I think coming back home will be a bad idea. Your father will be highly disappointed in you"

Me: " Mama, I want to leave him"

Mom: " Noxy ufuna uba ngumabuya ekwendeni? Do you want our family to be the laughing stock in this neighborhood? First you were complaining about your mother-in-law to me. Now you are complaining about your husband. Don't you think maybe he was cheating because of the long distance? Maybe he never meant to cheat. Men have needs, Noxolo. Atleast now you are staying with him full time, you have the opportunity to fix your marriage. Lungisa umzi wakho mntanam. You have the power to change your husband."

You would swear that my own mother had a conversation with my mother-in-law. She suddenly came up with excuses for him. She then said " focus on your career and your marriage. You have made your father so proud. And Bulelani did what many men have failed to do, he married you when you got pregnant, he did not leave you. Don't be like that no good sister of yours who has 3 choice assorted kids. She is such a disappointment. Sithembele kuwe Noxy. We even brag about you to our church friends. We don't want to be an embarrassment."

Me: " Mama, I have to go. Thanx for the advice"

Mom: " its a pleasure. Stay strong my child, I love you"

Me: " I love you too. Send my greetings to dad and my sister."

Mom: " will do."

I hung up and decided to sms my father in-law. At this point I did not care what my mother in law had to say. I wanted a family meeting with them. I began typing a long message telling him

exactly everything that I've gone through. He has always been fond of me. And he was my only hope now, because everyone else took Buja's side and blamed me for his actions.

## Chapter 14

I pressed 'send' then I put the phone on top of the kitchen counter. I felt better after sending Tata the message. I cooked a full Sunday dish, after an hour I was done. Buja was still not back. So I went to check on Luthando so long, he was getting sleepy in the living room but I distracted him by putting on his favourite cartoons. My phone rang, when I checked it was Buja's father calling. He said "Makoti, molo mntanam"

Me: "Mholo Tata, how are you?"

Buja's father: "I'm okay, except for the shocking sms that you have just sent me. All along I thought you were happy there, I'm very upset about this"

Me: "I didn't want it to come to this Tata, I knew the truth would upset you. I love him, a lot. But I cannot stay in this marriage if he's going to treat me like this"

Buja's father: "I'll sort this out, don't worry my child, okay? I'll organize a family meeting. If all goes well we will be coming over next week on Saturday. I want to have a word with Bulelani face to face as soon as possible."

Me: "Thanx this means a lot to me"

Buja's father: "I wish you could have reported this earlier. Yini mntanam ude uhlale kab'hlungu kangaka, ayikho lento eyenzwa ngu Bulelani"

We carried on talking until we said our goodbyes. Buja walked in and said "hey babe"

Me: "hey. I should go and dish up"

Buja: "sure"

I walked away. While I was busy putting plates in the dining room table, I debated on whether to tell him that I spoke to his father or not. I decided not to tell him, I was afraid of his reaction. We gathered around the table and ate after I blessed the food.

Buja: "I was thinking, how about we go out the following weekend? Just me, you and Luthando. We can have our own family time"

Me: "we won't be able to."

Buja: "why not?"

I kept quiet for about a minute then said "your father might be coming over." I was afraid to look at him.

Buja: "for what?"

Me: "I told him about what has been happening between us"

Buja: "for fuck sakes!"

I looked at Luthando, I didn't understand why Buja was swearing in front of him. My boy looked scared too, he was staring at Buja.

Buja: "so they coming over for a family meeting?"

Me: "yes"

He took the table napkin and wiped his mouth. I stared at my plate, I was afraid of what he'll do next but tried by all means not to show him I was scared. He said "okay then, I'll wait for his call"

I carried on eating. We all ate in silence. After a while Luthando asked " Tata, why are you shouting?" With his little cute voice. Buja smiled and said " I wasn't shouting boy, don't mind me okay?"

Lutha: " okay, I thought you were shouting mommy"

I was surprised how quickly he had adapted to his pre-school and how his english had improved. I said " he's very good at speaking english now"

Buja: " yes, I told you the pre-school is good for him"

Me: " your father might not be happy. He might say we going to confuse him"

Buja: " Luthando is my son, not his. He's opinion doesn't count"

Me: "okay.."

I could see he was upset about this family meeting, but I didn't regret my decision of smsing his father. We finished eating, he walked out of the dinning room table and went outside. I heard the door closing and wondered where on earth he was going.

I tidied up and went to wash the dishes. After a while Lutha came running with my phone and said " Mama its ringing!"

Me: " thanx, Nana"

My heart started beating fast when I saw that it was Buja's mother calling. I swallowed hard and said " hello"

Buja's mom: " you naïve girl. Did I not say to you this should stay between us? Why did you have to go running to Bulelani's father about this?"

Me: " he was starting to become violent that's why"

Buja's mom: " hayi inene, awungo Noxolo ungu Nonkathazo!" ( You are not a peacemaker you're a trouble maker)

I held my breath for a few seconds shocked at this woman. She hung up before I could respond to anything. "Uthini?" Lutha asked looking me. I smiled at him almost wanting to laugh about how curious he could be. I said " nothing Nana" he said " okay, bye-bye" he then ran out of the kitchen. I carried on cleaning. Around 08:30 I went to iron our clothes for tomorrow then I got Luthando ready for bed. He was chatting to me about everything, he helped though because I got my mind off things. I later on took a bath then applied night cream on my face. The bruise was still a little visible. I put on my night dress then went to bed. I kept tossing and turning because I didn't understand why Buja wasn't coming back. I was getting frustrated by the minute. I tried closing my eyes but still I just couldn't sleep. I took my phone and decided to call him. He answered after a while and said " I'm driving in, Noxy"

Me: " where were you?"

Buja: "I just needed to take a breather"

Me: " sure"

I hung up. After a few minutes he came in the bedroom then said " I'll join you in a few minutes, I just need to take a shower" he went to the en-suite bathroom. I waited for him until he was done. He came out and said " I just needed to go and think properly"

Me: " where did you go?"

Buja: " To one of my friends, Vusi. Do you still remember him?"

Me: " I think so.."

He got in bed and gently pulled me closer to him and said " I got a call from my mother. She said dad is very upset with me."

Me: "yeah, she phoned me too. She wasn't very happy"

Buja: " do you blame her?"

I didn't respond. He gently lifted my chin and kissed me, I kissed him back. I could feel his manhood was very hard. The kiss was getting more intense. He slid his hands under my night dress. I broke the kiss and said " we'll have to use protection"

Buja: " since when do we ever use protection? Come on Noxy, why do you always have to make things difficult for us?"

I gave him a look and said " what's so difficult about us using a condom? I obviously don't trust you anymore, so -"

Buja: " then we can go and test again. I know that I'm still clean. I might have cheated on you Noxy, but I've always used a condom. "

Me: " but Zizipho said.."

I bit my lower lip and thought shit, what have I done.

Buja: " oh, so it was her that lied to you about the pregnancy?"

Me: " let's just leave this topic"

He stroked my cheek and said " we'll go and test babe if that's the only way you can trust me"

He kissed my lips. I found myself nodding. The kiss got intense again, one thing led to another and we got intimate.

We woke up the next morning. He asked " are you going to court today?"

Me: " nope, I'll be going on Wednesday and Thursday."

Buja: " may I take you to work then?"

Me: " sure"

I don't know whether he was trying to soften my heart because it was damn well working. After the intimacy we had last night, I fell in love with him all over again. The love making was too passionate. I had told myself that I'm mad at Buja and the next thing I was busy having sex with him. After we all got ready he took me to work and dropped our son off at school. I greeted everyone and went to my office.

Moments later when I was opening my files the door opened and Bongie walked in.

Bongie: " chomy, how are you? Ndiqond'ba I won't even phone, I was so afraid of Buja saturday night. I hope he didn't say anything bad about us"

Me: " I'll tell you all about it lunch time. Right now I need coffee"

I got up and went to the kitchen. Rulene was busy making herself coffee as well. We had a random chat in the kitchen then we all went to our desks and continued working.

Lunch time Bongie and I went across the road to order something to eat and sat down.

Me: " I had a fight with Buja, I was drunk and he was very upset with me"

Bongie: " I knew he'd be angry, that's why I was trying to stop you. What is that dark mark you have on your left cheek?"

Me: " uhm this? Oh uhm..."

Our order arrived and we thanked the waitress.

Bongie: " we both going to be Attorneys soon, so you better tell me the truth before I debate your statement"

We both laughed. " He hit me" I said.

Bongie: " yho, my friend. Did he have to go to that extreme??"

Me: " I wanted to divorce him"

Bongie: " do you still want to?"

Me: " I love him...I've reported the matter to his family. So a family meeting will be held. I'll decide after."

Bongie: " all the best my friend"

Me: " Thanx. His mother wasn't to happy. She even said my name should be Nonkathazo and not Noxolo because I'm a trouble maker."

Bongie: " yhu"

She looked away and burst out into laughter.

Me: " it is not funny"

I said trying my best not to laugh too.

Bongie: " yhoooo my friend, usile umazala wakho shame! I wish I could see her"

Me: " I lived with her for 4 years. So yah..."

Bongie: " yhu chomy, ade athi ungu Nonkathazo? Hahaha"

We ended up laughing together. Lunch time was over so we went back to work. Home time Buja came to fetch me. Days passed and Buja and I were trying to be okay, we didn't talk about the family meeting at all. On Thursday his father phoned him and advised that he'll be coming on saturday together with his 2 uncles. He said okay, I could see he was starting to stress about this. One thing I picked up from him was that he was afraid of his father.

Saturday finally arrived. Around 2pm his father phoned and said they are on their way. I baked in the mean time and prepared a meal for them. I wore my long skirt and my head scarf. Around 5pm they finally arrived. Buja was in the living room waiting for them. I went over to greet them and offered all of them tea and home baked scones. After all the greetings we were asked to sit down on the opposite couch.

Buja's father: " Bulelani, what is this I hear about you cheating and beating up Noxolo? This child has been living with us for 4 years and she has been nothing but obedient. You promised to take care of her here, and what do you do? You treat her like rubbish. Explain yourself."

His uncle said " yes, you need to explain. The Salmani family gave us their child and trusted us to take care of her. I'm very disappointed in you Bulelani, and I also demand an explanation as to why you cannot treat your wife and the mother of your child with respect."

Buja cleared his throat and said " it was a mistake..."

Buja's father: " a mistake? Did you ever see me beating up your mother before?"

Buja: " I never did, but I had my reasons."

His other uncle: " Noxolo, please tell us the reason why he decided to beat you up"

Buja quickly said: " it was just a misunderstand between us. "

His father: " are you Noxolo?"

Buja kept quiet.

Me:" I found out that he cheated and got a woman pregnant, but she told me that she terminated the pregnancy. I then got so stressed that I..."

Buja: " look, I take full responsibility about everything that I've done. I treated my wife badly. I messed up and I treated her in a way that a husband is not suppose to treat his wife. Noxy is my



life partner, I love her and I fear losing her. I'm not perfect I know, but what I'm asking now is a 2nd chance to prove that I can be good husband to her"

There was a moment of silence in the living room. Buja's father said " I like the fact that you acknowledge that you were wrong. This woman is a good wife to you, she encouraged you to work hard when you were busy doing drugs in tertiary. I want you two to grow old together, Bulelani. Noxy mntanam, are you willing to give your husband another chance?"

I looked down for a while then said " Yes, I'm willing to give him another chance"

Buja held my hand and said " thank you, mfaz'wam." He kissed my cheek with a huge smile on her face.

He's father and uncles were all happy about my decision. Later on I dished up for them and they dug in. They were all complimenting Luthando saying his growing very fast. They left at around 7pm going back to their place. We said our goodbyes and they drove off. Buja came over to me and said " thank you, my love." He held my waist and kissed my lips. I smiled at him and said " why did you cut me off when I was about to confess to your father and uncles about me drinking?"

Buja: " you're already in his good books, I didn't want to change that. And hey, you owe me big time"

He winked at me and I laughed. I loved him so much, and I hoped I wasn't going to regret my decision in the long run.

## Chapter 15

Buja and I kissed in the living room, I think we had both got lost in the moment because we completely forgot Lutha was around in the house. We heard him say " sies mani!" We broke the kiss and laughed. When we looked at his face, he looked so disgusted. Buja whispered " if only he knew how he came into this world" I playfully hit his chest then said " sssh suthetha ezonto apha." He laughed and picked Lutha up. He started playing with him and I watched them. He was so good with him, and I really hoped we could stay as happy as we are. I was deep in thoughts when I heard him said " how about we tickle mommy? She looks so serious"

Lutha said " yessss!!"

Me: " hayi guys I'm not in the mood"

They came over to me and both tickled me. I laughed so hard then said " okay, okay I'm sorry for being so serious"

We bonded for about 2hours having a great time together. Later on we went to bed.

Buja: " Babe, I thought you were ready to leave me. Thank you so much for giving me another chance"

Me: " its okay my love. I just hope things will be okay now"

Buja: " they will"

He kissed my forehead. We had out chat until we finally drifted to sleep. While sleeping I felt Buja touching me, I got turned on within seconds. He started doing the finger playing and kissing me on my neck going to my boobs. We got down to business after a few minutes. After we were done I slept in his arms. We were woken up by his phone ringing, I woke up still sleepy and said " who's phoning at this time of the night?" He checked his phone then answered.

Buja: " Luzz"

I wasn't even surprised. I was even starting to get used to the fact that Luzz was a night caller. I wondered why Buja has always taken his calls. Even if it was in the middle of the night he never rejected Luzuko's calls. He said " smoko?.....shit, this one needs me. I'm on my way give me 30 minutes" then hung up and got out of bed.

Buja: " Babe, Luzz needs me. I need to go and help him"

Me: " what?"

I put on the side lamp and checked the time. It was 03:45.

Me: " babe, did you check the time?"

Buja: " yes babe, look I'll explain when I get back."

He wore his sneakers, black jean, black top and his biker jacket. He fiddled something inside the closet and walked out with a small black bag. I was so confused considering that I was half asleep half awake. He came back to the room and said. "Look babe, I've put the keys on top of the coffee table. I'll lock up." He gave me a kiss then walked out. I stood up and peeped through the window. He drove his Jeep out and sped off, his car even made a small scritch. I rubbed my eyes and went to bed again then tried to sleep. It was a struggle going back to dreamland but after a while I eventually slept. I woke up in the morning and Buja wasn't back. I had woken up before 7am so I decided to let Lutha sleep. I took my phone and called Buja but the phone went straight to voicemail. I started getting worried, I went to wash my face then checked Luthando. He was fast asleep- his little mouth was wide open. I smiled and closed his room door again. I tried calling Buja again but still his phone was not going through.

I walked up and down the house in total panic. I hoped and prayed Buja was not involved in some illegal things or in trouble of some sort. I heard a car driving in, then quickly opened up. He was with someone in the car. He parked then Luzz got out of the passengers seat. They were laughing and having a nice chat like nothing was wrong. I decided to just go and make breakfast. I was even upset with myself for getting worried over nothing. They got in the house. Buja came over to the kitchen and Luzz followed.

"Suster!" Luzz said as he sat on the high chair.

Me: " Morning" I looked at Buja then said " to the both of you" I gave him a "I want an explanation" look.

Buja: " Morning, my love"

He wrapped his arms around me and kissed my lips.

Me: " so where did you rush off to Mr?"

Luzz interrupted " awu Tar Buja, niyandichaza yazi. Ndifuna ubanje ngani xa ndimdala! Ha ha ha..." ( Awu Buja, I like you guys, I want to be just like you when I grow up)

Buja: " fokoff maan Luzz"

Luzz: " so suster, what are we having for breakfast? I'm so hungry maan yho!! "

I gave him a stare then said " the food will be ready in a few minutes"

Luzz: " uphake kakhulu kum suster, I have a big appetite. I get full after 3 plates, send'tsho....think about me, you know, your 2nd born"

He winked and reached for a banana. Buja laughed and said " Luzz, stop talking bullshit to my wife"

Luzz: " bullshit is my middle name nje Tar. "

I dished up for them and decided to go wake up my son. Buja was so fond of Luzz. I was still thinking of questioning him about where he went. After I woke up my son, he washed his face then he ate some cereal.

Luzz said " you can cook sis'Noxy, damn. I really enjoyed this breakfast. I wouldn't mind another plate. Ndilambe nyani maan yeses."

Me: " uh...okay"

I took his plate and dished up for him again. He ate and said " so bruh....I was still saying..." He then had a fat conversation with Buja. I think they had even forgotten I was in the room. He left later on. After he left I said " what's up with you and this guy? You guys seem so close"

Buja: " we go way back"

Me: " how old is he?"

Buja: " 23, babe"

Me: " and you guys are friends? What was he phoning about earlier?"

Buja: " he needed my help. Look sthandwa sam, Luzz is like my little brother"

Me: " sweet..."

Buja: " I know, but I'll tell you everything some other time"

Me: " okay, no problem. Look love, there's a church around here. The service starts at 9am and I think we should go and visit"

Buja: " next weekend"

Me: " ha a baby! We have been postponing for such a long time. Let's get ready."

Buja: " eish okay..."

We quickly got ready. Buja was so lazy but I didn't take no for an answer. I got myself and my son ready so long. I decided on wearing my blue hugging dress and black heels. I wore my black pearl earrings as well and took out my bible and black purse. My son was wearing a blue shirt with white stripes, and Buja wore his formal pants, he's hugo boss boots, and a blue shirt matching with my dress and a black tie. We got into his car and drove off. We arrived at 10 minutes past 9. We were late but it definitely was better than not attending at all. Visitors were asked to stand up and we were welcomed. I enjoyed the rest of the church service. It was over at 2pm. I went to introduce myself to the members of the church and also introduced my husband to them. I went to fetch Lutha who was in sunday school then we went back home.

When we got home I made sunday lunch for the family humming one of the songs we sang at church. My phone rang while I was still busy. It was Sandi. I smiled and picked up.

Me: " hey you!"

Sandi: " my mpintshi-mpontsho. How are you?"

Me: " I'm good thanx, and you?"

Sandi: " the hang over is killing me, I'm busy drinking hunters gold this very minute"

Me: " hahaha ustout yazi wena."

Sandi: " later on we going to the sunday chillaz with my girls. Do to want to tag along?"

Me: " no my friend. I'm done with all of that. It was only a one time thing"

Sandi: " mmmh kanene you are a wifey dearest. Okay ke sana, I was just thinking if you. You so scarce, Nelisa and I miss you. At least you see Bongie at work"

Me: " I know hey, I miss you girls too. Look I'll make a plan so that we can meet up, alright?"

Sandi: " perfect! Bye love"

Me: " bye my sweets."

We had our sunday lunch and dessert, then later on we went to bed. Luthando slept early..

I was busy checking myself out in the mirror while Buja was laying in bed checking his e-mails on the laptop. He closed his lap top and came over to me. He knelt in front of me and said " Babe, look at me, please. I need to tell you something. I think its time I confessed the truth to you"

Me: " what truth?"

I faced him, I got abit distracted by his smokey brown eyes. My husband was such a charmer though. I said " you can be so sexy..."

He smiled and said " Babe, I need you to focus on what I'm about to tell you. Its important"

Me: "okay, okay I'm focused. What is this about?"

Buja: " I know this will shock you, but I need for you to trust and support me. You are my wife, meaning you are my partner and my better half. I'm counting on you to support me in everything I do."

Me: " you starting to worry me"

Buja: " look babe, I'm really mentoring Luzuko. But, this business is not legal"

I swallowed hard. He then said " when I met him he lived in a shack with his 3 siblings. He dropped out of tertiary because he was struggling with fees. I wanted to help him so I made him an offer"

Me: " what kind of offer?"

He took a deep sigh then said " let's just say, when I was still at school I was involved in a lot of illegal stuff. Remember you discovered that I do drugs, and I managed to stop. Babe, you encouraged me to stop and because of you I wanted to become a better person. I was involved with the wrong crowd, we did corruption. So when I arrived in this city, I ran into Luzz, he was doing drugs, there was no hope for him babe. I introduced myself to him then he told me how his struggling and how his parents died and left him with 3 of his siblings. I took him and trained him, I formed a group, and they are card and ATM cloning syndicates, these are 3 guys. Its him, Jabu and Lucky. I also taught them how to hijack and rob Armored Trucks and some other things. Luzz is my right hand man. I trust him to do the job well because I taught him the most on how to master the jobs. He reports to me if the job went well or not, he enjoys it babe. I also gave him a legal job but he does it part time as a front, because he's more focused on the one that brings him more money.

He paused then said " sthandwa sam, I'm telling you this because I love you. I'm counting on you to keep this a secret and not tell a soul. I need for you to support me and not judge me. Are you willing to stand by my side no matter what?"

I looked at him flushed at this shocking confession he just gave me.

## Chapter 16

Me: " you're kidding right?"

He had to say he's joking. I wasn't ready for what he was telling me. I knew very well that he wasn't but somehow I was hoping he would say he was. He said " no, Noxy. I'm dead serious"

Me: " do you realize that what you've just told me puts me at risk of not getting my license as an Attorney? You need to stop what you're doing before its too late. You have to, Buja. I can't study Law for 3 years then not even get my license because of you! Or what if its taken away from me when I'm a qualified Attorney after they discover that my husband is some gangster"

Even the word gangster terrified me.

He stood up and said "babe, can you just calm down. You're panicking too much" he was so chilled like nothing was at stake.

Buja: " please don't say I'm a gangster, I hate that word."

Me: " but what you've just told me makes you one"

Buja: " I'm too successful to be called a gangster. You know that I'm a Business Executive, babe. I have a degree, I worked hard to get it.

Me: " but why are you doing this when you have a good and legit job? Who else knows about this?"

Buja: " Sbu is also involved"

Me: " what??"

Buja: " yeah"

Me: " does Wendy and the other girls know about it?"

Buja: " only Wendy knows..."

Frustration was starting to creep in again. He came closer and massaged my shoulders. " You will get your license. As I said, don't tell a soul about this and you should be fine. I'm not an amateur, we always do a clean job. The only thing you suspected about this is the dodgy phone calls I got from Luzz, right?"

I nodded then said " I knew something was not right, but I didn't want to believe that it could be illegal stuff. Do you have a gun? Where do you keep it?"

Buja" I don't want you to know where I keep it. Its still early"

Me: "what do you mean its still early?"

Buja: " you'll know soon enough. Babe, I don't keep anything that links me to what I do. Even if the police would come to this house to search, they wouldn't find anything. "

Me: " then where do you keep your stuff? I mean those illegal stuff"

He let out a chuckle then said " you're even scared to say it, babe"

Me: " do you blame me?"

Buja: " you'll get used to it."

He kissed my cheek then said " there's a small house that I own somewhere around town. We keep all the money and weapons in the basement underground which is in that house. No one knows about the basement except for me and my boyz. I have a licensed gun, I must have it, there are guys like Khaya who are starting to annoy me. I don't know what he might do next. So I have to be cautious"

Me: " so he's your enemy? And it is serious?"

Buja: " yes, but he can't act on it because he knows what I'm capable of"

I kept quiet, this topic was really scaring me. He said " I have my own personal Lawyer. His name is Craig Bester. He knows I do illegal business on the side"

I widened my eyes very surprised about this. I turned to look at him then said "what? But he's a Lawyer, how can he agree on this and-"

Buja: " yes, he's a Lawyer, a Lawyer is capable of twisting the truth. Love, its part of your job. He's a very good Lawyer at that. Its just a good thing that I always cover my tracks because I've been doing this for years and have never been caught. Act like you don't know anything, and you'll be fine"

I nervously said " okay"

Buja: "come here, my love"

He gave me a warm hug. I hugged him back. " Okay, I'll stand by you no matter what" I said.

Buja: " thanx Noxy wam. I knew I could count on you. Your man loves and adores you vha?"

Me: " I love you more"

Buja: " no babe, I love you more and more"

Me: " no I love you more, and more, and more"

Buja: " but I love you 1000, infact a million times more"

Me: "hahaha okay I get it!"

We both laughed and kissed passionately. He gently took off what I was wearing and we started with the foreplay. We went to the bedroom couch, he sat down then we continued kissing. We ended up being intimate, this time I was in charge, I rode my man like there was no tomorrow. After we were done he said " I'm a good teacher neh?" I blushed and said " stop it, please"

We ended up going to bed and calling it a night. The next morning we got ready to work. I got into my car while Buja left first. I was the one dropping off Lutha to school, but Buja decided he'll fetch him after work. I wanted to do a little bit of grocery shopping for the house anyway. I arrived at work. The Attorney phoned and said she'll come in at 10am. So that was our chance to catch up on what we did for the weekend. My colleagues and I got along very well with each other. We worked later on. I went to court around 12pm then came back at 2pm. I decided to take some criminal matter files and read through them. Buja was putting me in a very awkward position, and I vowed to him that I would keep this a secret. But it was such a big secret.

The time went by very fast, then it was finally home time. I said goodbye to the others then went to the shopping mall to buy some grocery.

As I entered Checkers, I heard a male voice calling my name. I turned and saw this guy that looked very familiar but I couldn't recall where I know him from. He came over to me and gave me a hug " Noxy, how are you?" He asked.

I smiled and said "I'm good and yourself?"

Him: " I'm good too. Do you still remember me?"

Me: " uhm..I'm not sure where I know you from"

Him: " I'm Loyiso, remember we were partying together that other weekend"

Me: " oh! Sorry, now I remember you"

Loyiso: " yeah! You were really out of it. No wonder you don't remember"

Me: " hahaha please don't remind me. I'm embarrassed as it is"

Loyiso: " I hope your husband wasn't too hard on you. He looked really pissed"

Me: " he was upset, but we fine now"

Loyiso: " that's good. Can I get your digits? That's if you don't mind"

Me: " uhm....let me take yours"

Loyiso: " you're scared of your husband?"

Me: " its not that I'm scared, I just don't feel comfortable getting phone calls from other men. And he will also not be happy about it"

Loyiso: " I have your other friends numbers. I just want to be your friend nothing more, and I understand you have a husband, so I won't call when ever I want."

Me: " let me be the one getting your number"

He laughed and said " okay sure"

I took out my phone and dialed his numbered then saved it.

Loyiso: " haike Noxy, I'll see you around. Its good to see you. By the way, you are very beautiful. I hope your husband tells you that every day."

I smiled and said " well, thank you for the compliment"

Loyiso: " sure"

We said our goodbyes and went inside the shop. After I was done with the shopping I went to pay at the till then I drove the trolley to my car. I opened the car boot to put in the shopping bags. When I was almost done I heard someone say " Noxy" I was getting famous by the minute now in this town. I turned my head slowly curious about who's this woman calling me. It was Amanda. My blood boiled, I didn't like her at all. She didn't have bruises on her face, maybe they had healed. She stood in front of me and crossed her arms.

Amanda: " how are you dear?"

Me: " I'm good. Can I help you? I'm in a hurry"

She laughed and said " oh, now you're in a hurry? You weren't in a hurry when you were busy exchanging phone numbers with other men."

Me: " so now you're spying on me?"

Amanda: " Buja will definitely not be happy about this"

Me: " why are you so concerned?just leave me alone, Amanda"

I closed my car boot. She said " you know Bulelani was planning to divorce you for me. He loves me. He actually feels trapped in this marriage"

I looked at my wedding ring then said " I wonder why we're still married then..." Sarcastically.

Amanda: "he's just fooling you! He even called me when he went to that business trip. I was with him while you were baby sitting his child. He can't get enough of me"

I tried my best to stay calm and said " Amanda, you were just he's side chick, umakhwapheni in other words. I'm his wife, I'm Mrs Giba and I'm not going anywhere love, I'm here to stay." I flashed my wedding ring to her then said " he married me, now stop being so bitter about this because you knew he has a wife" before I opened the drivers seat door I said " you know, I should be reporting this to him...but shame, you're not even worth it. "

I got into my car and reversed out of the parking lot. She walked to the front of my car and took out something from her hand bag, when I checked what she was doing, I saw that it was a brick. The next thing she threw the brick on the wind screen of my car with so much force. It made a loud bang and my whole wind screen cracked. I bent down covering my face in total fear and panic. I couldn't believe she had just damaged my car.

\*happy sunday my lovies, God bless you all\* *kiss emoticon*

## Chapter 17

My car was busy making a loud beeping noise alerting me that something wrong. I didn't think Amanda would actually go that far and damage my car. Its like she planned it. I mean, what on earth was she doing with a brick in her handbag? I pulled up the hand brake and stepped out of the car. She said " I hate the sight of your face, Noxolo!" Two security guards came to us running, and a few people gathered around my car shocked at what just happened.

I couldn't even think straight. I didn't know who to call first between the police, the car insurance or Buja.

Security guard : " Ma'am are you alright?"

A white old lady asked the same thing. I looked at my car and still couldn't believe what had just happened. I saw one of the security guards hand cuffing Amanda. My senses came back, I went to the car and grabbed my hand bag. Amanda was now shouting " Noxy, it was a mistake. I don't know what came over me. Please don't lay any charges!"

I ignored her and called Buja. It rang for a while then finally he answered " Hello, Babe"

Me: " Buja, my wind screen is damaged. I'm at the shopping Mall"

I told him which one. He said " what the hell, Babe. Were you in a car accident?"

Me: " No! Amanda threw a brick on it"

There was silence for a few seconds, then he said " I'm on my way. I'll call the insurance company in the mean time. The car will probably be towed away."

Me: " okay, I need to go to the police station"

Buja: " I'll go with you babe"

Me: " okay, uhm. I have to go"

I hung up. It felt like I was in a dream. The security guards said they have called the police and that Amanda will be arrested. She was still hand cuffed. Within 15 minutes a police car and a police van arrived. They took pictures. One police man asked " is this your car ma'am?"

Me: " yes, it is."

Police man : " do you know this woman?"

Me: " yes I do. And I want to lay a charge for intentional car damage and assault"

Amanda was put at the back of the police van. Buja arrived. He parked and came over to me carrying Luthando. The car insurance people also arrived. It was getting so packed at the parking lot, and I hated the fact that we were the centre of attention. Buja gave me a hug and asked " are you okay?"

Me: " no I'm not okay. Amanda is a psycho, Buja. I don't know what she will do next. To carry a brick in her handbag like that makes me fear for my life now."

Buja: " we should go to the police station as soon as possible."

Me: "Yeah, wait, I need to take the grocery out of the car boot."

Buja: " I'll do it. You still in shock, so you can go to the car with Lutha. I'll handle the insurance people for now."

Me: " okay"

I took my son and went to Buja's car. He helped with putting the grocery bags in his boot then had a chat with both the policemen and the insurance people. My car was then towed away and we followed the police car to the police station. I reported everything that happened and opened a case, I was given a case number at the same time. My son kept asking " Mama, who did that to your car?" All I could say was " I'll tell you at home, nana" I couldn't exactly say its your dad's side chick, the one that you know that was feeding you that other day.

We went back home later on. I think we arrived at around 8pm. We had bought take aways. I dished up for Luthando. Buja said he's not hungry. I said "okay, let me go and change. "

I put the food in the fridge. Buja said " wait, Noxy"

I waited and looked at him.

Buja: " I'm deeply sorry about what happened"

Me: " No its okay.."



Buja: " I'll deal with this, in my own way and time."

Me: " let's just let the police handle this. "

He didn't respond. I went to take off my formal wear and wore comfy track pants and a top. I wasn't in a hurry to go to bed because I knew it would be a struggling to sleep after what had happened. Luthando was already getting sleepy. He went to bath then I got him ready for bed. Buja was talking on the phone with Sbu. He hung up and said " Sbu and Wendy are coming over."

Me: " okay"

I turned off the lights in Lutha's room when he slept then both Buja and I went to the living room. I laid my head on top of his lap and he played with my hair. I said " why are they coming now though? At least they should come tomorrow"

Buja: " Wendy wants to speak to you. They coming from the police station. Amanda gave them a call"

Me: " Oh. If she thinks I'm going to drop the chargers against her cousin she's got another thing coming"

Buja: " nah don't babe. "

Me: " I wonder how many women see me as an enemy now. Do you see that your cheating is now putting my life in danger? Do you now realize the damage you have done"

Buja: "I know my love, and I'm deeply sorry. I regret cheating on you with her. And I promise you, on my grandfather's grave I'll make her pay for this"

Me: " I thought we agreed that we'll let the police handle it"

Buja: " well they better do a good job, or else..."

Me: " if anything happens to her we might be the first suspects. Maybe she did all of this on purpose because she knew you would react."

Buja: " that's why I'm not willing to do anything now. I'm gonna lay low. I'm not in a hurry"

Buja's phone rang, it was Sbu asking him to open the gate. He said okay and hung up. " I shouldn't have locked the gate so early" he said as he went to the door. Moments later he came in with Sbu, Wendy and Bomikazi. Bomikazi is the one that is close friends with Amanda. I wondered what on earth did she want in my house. I wasn't exactly fond of her either.

Wendy said " hey Noxy"

I greeted her back as I stood up. She came over to me and gave me a hug " I'm so sorry about what happened to your car. I don't know what came over Amanda. I know she is my cousin but she had absolutely no right to do what she did." she said.

Me: " it will get fixed. Its just a good thing I'm fine"

Sbu: " damn, I didn't think she would go to that extreme"

Bomikazi: " she was hurt, so I'm sure she wasn't in her senses"

Me: " that doesn't mean she must attack me. Why am I the enemy and not Buja?"

Buja: "look, Amanda knew I have a wife. I don't understand why she's hurting when she knew the truth"

Wendy: " uhm...Noxy, I know what I'm asking is a huge thing. But please, may you drop the chargers against her. I'm willing to pay for your car damages. Just give me the quote and I'll pay for everything. "

Me: " No, I'm not going to drop the chargers. I can give you the quote, but its the chargers that I'm not going to drop"

Bomikazi: " please Noxy, she is sorry for what she did"

Me: "listen here. I'm not going to drop any chargers. I don't care even if she's sorry. She will think twice before she attacks me ever again!"

Wendy: "what will I say to her parents about this?"

Me: "she should have thought about that before she took a brick and put it in her hand bag to attack me. She knew exactly what she was doing"

Buja: "there are no chargers that are going to be dropped here. If she had a problem, she should have attacked my car and not my wife's."

Bomikazi: "Buja, please don't do anything to her..."

There was a knock on the door while we were still discussing this. Buja went to open. Khaya and Vusi walked in. Buja said "what the hell are you doing in my house, Khaya??"

Khaya came straight to me and said "are you okay, Noxy?"

Sbu interrupted and said "Khaya, I told you there is no need for you to come here"

Buja: "I'm asking again, and I'm asking this for the last time. What is this mother fucker doing in my house?!"

He said pointing at Khaya. Vusi said "I've been trying to stop him all the way here. Khaya is too stubborn"

Khaya turned to Buja and went closer to him then said "I knew Amanda couldn't get enough of you, but I didn't think your dick could make her go this crazy"

Buja: "what the hell did you just say?"

Sbu: "Khaya, you should know better than provoking Buja. Just leave mfethu"

Khaya: "not until I've told him what I think about this whole thing. I feel sorry for Noxy, now she has to deal with your side chicks. I wish she could have married someone more better"

Buja: "someone like you right? When are you ever going to forget what happened? Its not my fault your chick came after me, I told her I was married but she didn't stop. Don't come and blame me for what ever you're lacking"

What, what.....I mean, what? Who's this chick?

Me: "who are talking about Buja? Is it Amanda?"

Khaya and him both said "NO" looking at each other straight in the face.

Buja said "I'm getting impatient Khaya. Get the hell out of my house."

Wendy: "guys please..."

Khaya: "I won't do that shit. I'm still checking if your wife is fine after being attacked by your ex side chick. Which makes me wonder, which other side chick is next on the line"

Buja slid his hand behind his waist. After just one blink I saw Buja and Khaya pointing their guns at each other. I almost screamed. I was about to ask Sbu to stop them when I saw that he was also pointing his gun at Khaya. Now it was 2 against one. Buja said "Now get out of my house, before I blow your brains out. And you know I'm capable of doing it."

Sbu: "and it will be my pleasure to help you bury him, where he'll never be discovered"

Him and Buja both shared a chuckle. I backed away. At that moment, the only person I was thinking about is my son, who was sleeping in the other room.

I slowly backed away from the others. The last thing I wanted was to witness murder in my own house. Wendy said " guys, it doesn't have to go this far. Please, I'm begging you, put the guns away."

No one backed down. I swallowed hard. I had to say something, this madness had to stop. I said " Buja...."

He responded "uthini, sthandwa sam..."(Yes, my love) But his concentration was still on Khaya. When I glanced at those guns again my whole body started trembling.

Me: " please put the guns away. I don't want any trouble. Khaya, please just leave. The last thing I want is to witness murder"

Khaya: " okay, Noxy. I'm doing this for you babe"

Sbu: " babe??? Hehehe...."

Khaya slowly removed the gun from Buja's face and returned it behind his waist. Buja and Sbu did the same.

Khaya: " Vusi, you're coming with me?"

Vusi: " nah go. I need to say a few words to Sbu and Buja"

Khaya: " shot, bye ladies"

Wendy and Bomikazi chanted " bye.."

I kept quiet. I actually wanted all of them to leave. Khaya looked at me and said " Noxy, I'm sorry about what just happened, but I had to protect myself"

I looked at him blankly. He turned around and left. Bomikazi shouted " heee! So khaya has got the hots for Noxy, he can't even hide it!" she clapped once then continued " Buja, you better pull up your socks, someone wants your wife. I think you've got some competition" Buja glared at her, I could see her swallowing hard then she said " I was just kidding, lighten up." Buja continued glaring at her. The stare even started intimidating me.

Bomikazi: " uh..uhm...Wendy, I'll wait in the car my friend"

She took the car keys and rushed out of the house.

Buja: " nxa.." He clicked his tongue, then Vusi said " this beef that you and Khaya have is putting all of us in an awkward position"

Sbu: " Khaya wants to be the enemy, can't you see this? He's on his own mission."

Buja: " its the 2nd time now that he budes in here and demands to talk to my wife. Khaya is challenging me, and he's gonna get it. "

Me: " Can you all please leave"

The room went silent then they all looked at me. I was standing far from them.

Me: " I don't mean to be rude, but I need to talk to my husband. Alone. It has been a hectic day for me as it is, and what just happened made it worse. "

Wendy: " you're right. We'll check up on you some other time"

Buja cleared his throat and said " she's right. Noxy had a bad day, and she needs me right now.

Sbu, we'll talk on the phone"

Sbu: " sharp mfethu"

They said their goodbyes and left. Buja went to lock the gate then came back in the house.

Me: " Buja, did you think about Luthando just for one second when you were busy pulling out guns on Khaya?"

Buja: " I wasn't going to shoot. I just wanted him to leave"

Me: " you know that I'm afraid of guns. How can you do this to me, Buja? I'm still traumatized about Amanda throwing a brick on my car, now you busy doing the worst thing."

Buja: " I had too. uKhaya is an enemy, and I did mention to you before that he's on some revenge trip. Noxy, promise me that you will tell me everything if he ever tries to make a move on you"

Me: " first tell me, who's.."

Buja: " Noxy, I said promise me"

He said placing his hand on my right waist. " I promise.."

Buja: " thanx my love"

He tried kissing my cheek but I backed away. " Tell me who's this chick you and Khaya were arguing about" I said.

He looked down and rubbed his chin " yazi baby, she's in my past. And its the past that I'm not proud of. We've already talked about this and involved the family. Let's not go back to the past and my mistakes, please"

Me: " you slept with his girlfriend?"

Buja: " Noxy, please don't push this."

Me: " okay, let's just leave it"

I left him in the living room and went to lock myself in the en-suite bathroom. I didn't want him to join me. I ran myself a bubble bath and soaked myself in it. I closed my eyes and decided not to think too much about everything that has been happening since I arrived in this town. Somehow I missed my old life, where everything was simple and peaceful. There was absolutely no drama where I stayed. I missed the small town and my ordinary life. I drifted to sleep while in the bath. I was woken up by a knock on the door " Babe!" Buja was shouting from the other side. The water was now cold. I got out of the bath and wrapped a towel around myself. " I'm coming." I shouted back. I unlocked the door, he was standing waiting for me.

Buja: " I was starting to get worried"

Me: " I fell asleep inside the bath tub"

Buja: " are you okay though?"

Me: " No I'm not! I'm sick and tired of everything that is going on. I'm starting not to cope, Bulelani. I had a choice to pack my bags and leave you but I chose to stay! I chose to stay because I love you. You are my husband, that I vowed to love until death do us apart. But now I'm fearing for my life, and my son's life. I pray to God that I made the right decision by staying with you....because if its not, then I'm afraid I might have made a fatal mistake"

Buja: " Babe, why are you talking like this? You haven't made a fatal mistake by choosing to give our marriage another chance. Noxolo, I loved you the 1st time I laid my eyes on you, and my love for you has gone stronger ever since. I'll never love any other woman the way I love you. I've done things that I'm not proud of, but I love you sthandwa sam and that's the honest truth."

One tear escaped my eye. He came closer to me and we hugged, we hugged for a while then we went to bed and drifted to sleep. I was jumpy the whole night. Every time when I closed my eyes I kept dreaming about Khaya and Buja shooting each other, this one dream it was like Buja had been shot by Khaya, I saw blood everywhere, it was like I was screaming my lungs out. Then out of the blue Amanda appeared with a brick in her hand. I heard from a distance someone shouting " Noxy, babe, wake up" I woke up breathing heavily. It was Buja. I hugged him tightly and cried on his chest. I came to realize that losing him was my biggest fear. He said " ssssh it was just a

dream babe. I'm here" he said still hugging me and stroking my hair. "Where's your gun?" I asked.

Buja: "it's in a safe place"

I closed my eyes hoping I wouldn't get another nightmare. I eventually drifted to sleep. The next morning the alarm made an annoying sound. I realized I didn't get much sleep at all. I got up and went to take a shower, Buja joined me. We ended up having a quickie, then re-showered again. We both got ready for work then I woke up my son and got him ready as well. We got into Buja's car and he dropped him off at school. On the way to my workplace he said "I'll come and fetch you for lunch"

Me: "sure"

Buja: "what were you dreaming about last night?"

Me: "the guns and the bricks."

Buja: "that wasn't suppose to happen in front of you. Its just that Khaya kept pushing my buttons."

I looked through the window at the buildings we were passing. We arrived at my place of work. He parked and said "have a good day at work babe"

Me: "you too..."

Buja: "suqumba kaloku baby ka Buja, please maka Lutha.."

Me: "I'll see you at lunch time."

Buja: "sure"

He came close and we kissed, then I stepped out of the car. When I arrived inside the office, Bongie asked "left your car at home again?"

Me: "no, some psycho threw a brick on it"

Bongie: "where??"

Me: "at the parking lot outside the shopping mall"

Bongie: "oh my gosh, atleast you fine"

Me: "yeah, she's been arrested though. I'll be alerted on when she'll be appearing in court."

Bongie: "it's a she?"

Me: "yes....let me make coffee for myself. I've got so much to do, I don't know where to start"

I went to my office hoping she would not ask me any further questions. I put my hand bag down then went to make myself some morning coffee. After that I drowned myself in work. At 1pm Buja phoned and said he's outside, so I walked out of the office and went to his car. He drove off to a restaurant near the beach front. He had already ordered our meal, so it took only 15 minutes for it to arrive.

Buja: "how are you feeling now?"

Me: "well, I'm fine."

I started eating. He watched me until I got uncomfortable and asked "what?"

Buja: "I've always loved watching you chewing. I know its weird..."

Me: "its more than weird"

He chuckled then took a fork and knife and started eating as well.

Me: "so have you spoken to Khaya?"

Buja: "No I haven't. I have no interest in speaking to him about anything"

Me: "you should just settle your differences with him"

Buja: "I tried, what I won't do is beg him. I haven't got time for that nonsense."

We carried on eating and chatting. After we were done he paid the bill then we walked out and took a walk outside. Later on he dropped me off at work. I missed my car a lot, I was not used to not having it. After work he came to fetch me then we went to fetch our son together.

Days passed and on Wednesday we had to go to court for Amanda's bail hearing. She was granted bail. Her next court appearance was going to be after a month. Wendy offered to pay the total amount for damages. I told her the car is insured but she insisted, she advised me that it was her way to show her sincere apologies about what her cousin did. I agreed because I could see she was sorry, even though she wasn't the one who did anything wrong. On Thursday around 3pm I got a call advising me that I can fetch my car, they had replaced the wind screen and it was ready to go. I was so happy, I phoned Buja and told him. He was happy for me, even though he wasn't as excited as I was.

Finally it was Friday. While we were getting ready for work, he said " I'll go and fetch your car babe around tea time. There's someone coming over for the weekend."

Me: " who?"

Buja: " its a surprised. You should work on your lunch hour, I want you to knock off early"

Me: " oh.."

I wasn't really in the mood for any surprises. We went to work and I knocked off at 3pm. Buja came to fetch me.

Me: " so who's this person I'm gonna see?"

He kissed my cheek then said " you'll know soon enough, Noxy wam. I just want to lift up your spirit"

Me: " I see.."

He laughed and started the car. We drove off until we arrived at the bus station. We stepped out and made our way to the entrance. Buja even knew which side to go. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw my one and only sister Phozisa standing there waiting for us. She looked like an absolute diva. We both screamed in excited and hugged each other tightly. She said " My little sister!!"

Me: " ooooh my gosh!!! I haven't seen you in years!"

Phozi: " sana!! We have a lot to chat about. Thanx sbari wam for organizing this weekend trip. I hope you've been treating my nono good, you know I don't play when it comes to her"

Buja laughed and helped her with the traveling bag. I smiled at him and said " thanx..."

Buja: " anything for you babe"

We kissed then we went over to the car. " So what's new? How's everything going? I can't wait for us to catch up!" My sister started chatting non-stop, she was the total opposite of me, and after everything that had happened, she was exactly what I needed to lift up my spirit again.

## Chapter 19

Phozisa was 25 years old, so she was 3 years older than me. We fought like any other siblings sometimes, but we loved each other dearly.

So we all got into the car and drove off. On the way to fetch Lutha at his pre-school my sister said " uBoy must be so grown up now. The last time I saw him was when he had his 1st birthday"

Me: " he is, but you'll see for yourself"

Phozi: " ewe nhe? I can't wait to see my nephew!"

Me: " when last did you see your kids?"

Phozi: " A month back, its your mother that I'm avoiding. I cannot stand that woman."

Me: " oh no, don't start please! In case you've forgotten, she's the one looking after them"

Phozi: " you know what, we'll have a proper chat when we're alone"

Me: " haha good idea!"

Buja laughed slightly and said " why am I excluded from this convo?"

Phozi: " hayi kabi sbari, but this convo... Is just too personal"

Buja: " mmmh...."

We arrived at Lutha's school, Phozi and I stepped out and made our way to the entrance. When we arrived he was in the after care playing with the other kids. He saw us and then ran to me. My kid was in such a happy mood. The teacher came with his school bag and we said our goodbyes. Phozi said " Boy- boy ka Makazi! Izapha kaloku ndiphuze"

She said opening her arms then picked him up and gave him a kiss. He looked so confused.

Me: " you see, he doesn't even remember you anymore. Kaloku wena you just disappear and travel the whole of South Africa"

Phozi: " hahaha! Haisuka Noxy, I've been more serious about life lately, and I've been a very good mom to my kids"

Me: " hahaha, I hope so.."

She entered the car and sat with Lutha in the back seat while I entered the front. We arrived at our house then I showed her the room she would be sleeping in. She put her bag down then went to the kitchen to join me while I prepared a quick meal for us. Buja walked in now wearing black Adidas shorts and a white golf shirt. He wrapped his arms around me from behind then said " I might be gone for about 2 hours, I think you and Phozi need to have your girl talks in peace"

Me: " where will you be going?"

Buja: " Sbu and I are going out for a few drinks and watching the match at the Pub"

Me: " atleast go after you've eaten"

Buja: " nakanjani kaloku sthandwa sam."

He gently lifted up my chin then we kissed. Phozi said " haibo! I'm still in the kitchen. Oh ke bethuna, ilove birds madoda ncooh!"

We laughed then he walked out of the kitchen. The food was now ready to be served so we gathered around the table, I blessed the food then we all started digging in.

Buja: " so Phozi, how has life been?"

Phozi: " hehe! Hee sbari, awuna picture wena. Things have been hectic left, right and centre sana. Guys, you do know very well that I do not get along with my mother. I even told her where to get off this other time"

Me: " haibo Phozi, when?"

Phozi: " I think it was 2 months back over the phone. So what if I only have matric and have 3 kids at the age of 25 even though I'm not married? She keeps reminding me about that every time. And as per usual, she keeps making examples about you ke Noxy, like how you've been such a good child. Hesana, that woman needs to chill. Buja, please pass me that Barbaque sauce"

Buja gave her the sauce. She said" Thanx. so as I was saying, your mother is the devil's sister. I have no idea what our father saw in her"

My mother has always shown favoritism between Phozisa and I . I always hated that especially when I was younger because it almost strained the strong bond and relationship between us. Nothing Phози did was ever good enough for her, and she always pointed out her mistakes more than her achievements.

I said: " hayi Phози mani, she is also your mother. Don't talk about her like that."

Phози: " she keeps saying my kids are choice assorted! Excuse me, but my my 1st and 2nd have the same father, then my 3rd...well the child belongs to the bastard I'm with now. We had a fight, so I'm hating him right now"

Buja burst out in laughter then said " you should start settling down now, Phози."

Phози: " I'll get married at 30, if I ever will. Because I can't deal with nonsense. I'm not a very patient person. In fact, I have zero chill."

Buja and I both said " true!" Then laughed.

Phози: " so Buja do you still go clubbing? Noxy, your man was a party animal. I used to bump into him in parties all the time."

Buja: " I've grown out of many things sbari. I'm a husband and a father now so, I don't party hard like I used to"

Phози: " oh haike, kuhle sbari..."

After we were done I went to put the dishes in the sink while Buja and Phозиisa were chatting. Lutha went to his room, he said he wanted to play some games. I went back to them moments later, Buja stayed for a few minutes then he left. Phозиisa said " let's go outside, I need a smoke" She went to the spare room and came back with a cigarette and a lighter.

Me: "I can't believe you still smoking after promising me that you'll quit 3 years ago."

Phози: " it just helps me to relax, so its quite hard to quit"

We went outside then stood in the verander. She smoked and blew a puff.

Phози: "so when are you and Buja trying for a 2nd kid? Shame Lutha seems to be so bored. He's even playing alone now"

Me: " we will, after I'm done with my Articles. In the mean time, he can play with the kids from school."

Phози: " but still.."

Me: " my mind is made up, and my hubby understands"

Phози: " okay..."

She smoked again and blew a puff.

Phози" Noxy, our father is not in good health. He was admitted in hospital last week"

Me: " what? And no one cared to tell me?"

Phози: " he said he's fine now, and he didn't want us to worry you, so that's why we didn't call."

Me: " what was wrong with him?"

Phози: " he seems to be having heart problems, but the doctor ran more tests so we'll get them probably next week."

Me: " okay, I think I will pay him a visit next weekend with my hubby and son"

Phози: " okay love"

After she was done we went back inside. We decided to go to Lutha's room, in no time he was already used to her. She played with him while also chatting to me. I suggested the following day we go out for a picnic and she loved the idea. Buja came back at around 9pm and we all went to bed.



In the morning I woke up and prepared breakfast for everyone. Phozi walked in and said " morning!"

Me: " morning love"

Buja also walked in with Lutha.

Me: " Buja, Phozi and I will be going to the beach today, sifuna uyophola and have our own lil picnic"

Buja: " okay babe, I guess I'll be seeing you later on then. Nam nzokhe ndiyophola namajita"

Me: " okay my love"

Around 2pm Phozi, Lutha and I got ready to go. Phozi wore a short beige dress with red sandals and a summer hat. I wore my black shorts, a blue summer top and matching sandals. After we put all the food will be needing in the picnic basket. We said our goodbyes to Buja. He said he'll leave later on so we got into my car and drove off.

We stopped by at the shop for some chips and biscuits for Lutha, a while later we arrived at the beach. After laying the towels on the sand we sat down and decided to take a selfie first while Lutha was in the middle. My son was posing like no ones business and making funny faces. My sister and I were laughing so hard, then finally we decided to take a fruit salad and eat while he was making drawings in the sand.

Phozi: " so Noxy, how's Buja been treating you? I hope he has been very faithful. I know him kaloku"

Me: " he has..."

I looked at the sea avoiding eye contact. " Look at me" Phozi said. I turned and looked at her. She raised an eyebrow and said " I know you too, very well. Remember we grew up together. So I know when you're lying"

Me: " I'm not lying. Its just that when I arrived I found out some things..."

Phozi: " like what?"

Me: " Phozi, let's just leave it"

Phozi: " er....you know very well that I'm not. You know you can confide in me. "

Me: " okay! I'll tell you ke. He said he's going to a business trip kanti he'll also be meeting up with his mistress there. Guess how I found out?"

Phozi: " how?"

Me: " I called him, his mistress answered the phone and I heard all the moaning"

Phozi covered her mouth in absolute shock then said " Rha Yinjakazi!" (What a bitch!)

I told her everything that Amanda was doing, as well as the insults she was throwing at me calling me a farm girl and all that, and I was so blind and trusting I just didn't want to think that Buja was cheating on me with her.

Me: " you can only imagine how I felt. It even took me a while to forgive him"

Phozi: " now do you see why I didn't fully support you marrying him. I was scared for you mntase. I know him mos, he was a ladies man back in the days. You're so soft ke wena mntase, I'm sure you were crying your eyes out."

Me: " you know me too well. imaster piece kengoku yile yoba abethe iwindscreen ye motor yam nge stena"( and then she had the guts to throw a brick on my car windsreen)

Phozi: " haike ngoku! She went too far. I want to see this Amanda, you have to show me"

Me: " no I won't. I know how you are, and anyway she was arrested but now she's out on bail"

Phozi: " I really want to see her. This is all Buja's doing. How can she attack you like that?"

Knowing your husband, he will deal with her"

Me: " I've asked him to let the police handle everything"

She laughed and took out a milk tart. I called my son to come and eat as well. We stayed there for about 3 hours before deciding to go.

Phozi: " mntase, I will not be happy until I see this Amanda"

Me: " promise me you won't do anything"

Phozi: " I'll see..."

She took out a cigarette from her hand bag. " Okay, I'll call Wendy and ask if I can take the kids to come and play with Lutha. Maybe she's with her"

I took out my phone and called her. She said she's at the shopping mall with the kids. But I can come and join them. I asked " who you're with?"

Wendy: " its just me and the kids."

Me: " okay, I'll pop in, you can also meet my sister"

Wendy: " wow that's great. Okay love, call me when you arrive"

Me: " will do"

I hung up and said " she's not with her"

Phozi: " isindile la lanjakazi"

Me: " oh hayi Phozi, its a good thing you won't get to see her"

Phozi: " yeah, she must count her lucky stars"

We went back to the car and packed the picnic basket in the boot and towels. Someone said " Noxy, what a surprise!" When I turned it was Bomikazi walking with Amanda and Nolitha. I thought " oh Lawd, no...!"

Amanda said " nisazikhuphile na sana"

The 3 of them were wearing shorts and bikini tops.

Phozi: " Noxy, who are these ladies?"

They came over to my car. I put Lutha in the back seat then continued with packing in his toys as well.

Nolitha: " you're so scarce, Noxy."

Amanda: " I hope you have forgiven me."

She said with a sarcastic smile on her face. I got so annoyed and said " you know what Amanda, you shouldn't even be near me right now. Don't make me file a protection order and sue you while I'm at it"

Phozi: " wooah! Noxy, is this Amanda? The slut who's Buja's side chick?"

Amanda: " excuse me, but who the fuck are you? And how dare you call me a slut. Buja is the one that decided to sleep with me. If she doesn't satisfy her husband, I will."

Bomikazi and Nolitha giggled behind her. Phozi bitch slapped Amanda across the face 2 times and ripped her bikini top off. She was so fast, by the time I said " mntase no!" It was too late. Amanda was now covering her breasts in embarrassment. Her 2 friends backed away looking shocked and frightened. Phozi said " bitch I will whip your ass! no one messes with my sister and gets away with it. If you think everything is chilled 'cause Noxy is too soft to handle you, think again, because I'm not. I deal with bitches like you accordingly"

Amanda: " can you please give me back my bikini top?!"

Phozi: " come and get it. "

She said putting it inside her handbag. Bomikazi and Nolitha were dead quiet. Amanda said " please, I need it. Our car is too far"

Me: " just give it back, and anyway we should get going"

Phozi: " oh well, then let's see how fast she can run."

She shouted " Go Snoopy go!"

And threw the bikini top across the road. It landed at a distanced. I closed my car boot and went over to the drivers seat and got in. Phozi got in as well laughing so hard, she was almost in tears. I drove off and said " I cannot believe what you just did"

Phozi: " and that's....how you need to handle that bitch! I hope you've learned something today"

Me: " what if she lays a charge of assault Phozisa! She might do that for revenge since I laid a charge against her"

Phozi: " Then she can, you're all about the Law, Noxy. But I'm not. I'm not afraid of jail, and anyway I needed to give her a few smacks, it was a must. Now let's see if she will run to Buja and tell him. I want to see his reaction in all of this, and I actually want to deal with him too"

Me: " I don't want any more trouble ke yazi"

Phozi : " sweetie, you let trouble into your life the minute you said " I do" to Bulelani. Now let's pass at the liquor store, I need to get myself a bottle of expensive red wine, and some dark chocolate at the shop while we at it."

I glanced at her then looked at the road ahead again. She didn't even have the slightest concern about what she just did.

## Chapter 20

So I asked " are we still going to meet up with Wendy now that you've seen Amanda?"

Phozi: " No, there's no need too. I'm not interested in seeing her"

Me: " sure. I'll just sms her and let her know that we're not coming then"

Phozi: " Alright. So how do you know this Wendy?"

Me: " she's the fiance of Buja's best friend"

Phozi: " and how is she related to Amanda?"

Me: " they're cousin's. They actually live together"

Phozi: " what! And you're friends with her?"

Me: "No! I don't trust her at all, especially after I found out the truth. But I have to get along with her for the sake of Lutha, he plays with her kids, and sometimes we ask her to baby sit him for us"

Phozi: " hayi Noxy, she's her cousin, you cannot trust her. What is Buja doing na? You might be his wife but you're not an idiot. I cannot believe he slept with her cousin then expects you to get along with them. Yhu haisana your situation is giving me headaches.

Me: " I'm trying to cope Phozi, I really am."

Phozi: " if you ask me, that Wendy might be a snake under a beautiful flower. "

Me: " that's what I think too. I don't know how many times I've told Bulelani I don't want Lutha going there anymore but he doesn't wanna hear about it. "

We stopped by at Checkers liquor, we bought the red wine she wanted then we went inside the grocery shop and we bought a few things for the house. After that we returned back home. My phone rang while I was still driving. It was Buja, I picked up.

Me: " hi there"

Buja: " mfaz'wam, are you enjoying yourself with Phozi and Lutha?"

Me: " yes, a lot. However, we need to talk when I get home."

Buja: " I'm still with the gents. I'll come back in a few hours, though."

Me: " okay sure"

Buja: " I miss you..."

Me: " you just saw me this morning"

Buja: " you know that I can't get enough of your beautiful face. Infact, I think I'll be coming back in just an hour. "

Me: " okay then"

Buja: " I love you"

Me: "bye"

I quickly hung up. We arrived at home shortly. We unpacked all the goodies that we bought. I gave Lutha some ice cream while Phozi poured her wine in the wine glass.

Phozi: " I wish I could stay a bit longer here, but duty calls"

She took a sip on her glass and unsealed her chocolate and took a bite

Phozi " mmmh now this is heaven"

She said closing her eyes. I was quiet the whole time. I was piling up everything that had been happening and somehow anger and resentment was building up. " Are you okay?" Phozi asked concerned. I said " yes" staring at the TV even though I wasn't even watching.

Phozi: " do you want me to finish up that bitch for you? Because I can"

Me: " I will handle it, in my own way thanx"

Phozi: "mmh Amanda, Amanda, Amanda. You haven't seen the last of me"

She said talking to herself then took a bite from the chocolate again. " want some?" She asked. "No" I murmured.

Phozi: " you're so not fine."

Me: " I said I'm fine!"

Phozi: " yhu...someone has a bit of a temper"

Me: " I hate her..."

Phozi: " I don't blame you, she's so rude."

Me: " I need some cold water"

Phozi: " or a glass of wine"

Me: " no thanx. I need to be in sober senses right now"

I got up and went to the kitchen then downed the refrigerated water. I took my phone and decided to order in a Nandos meal. I didn't have the energy to cook at all.

It was now around 8pm. The order arrived so I dished up for everyone. Buja only arrived 15 minutes later. He came to join us in the dinning room table. " How was your day, ladies?" He asked.

Me: " it was good until we ran into Amanda."

He looked at me, and I could tell he wasn't expecting that answer. " She was sarcastic once again" I added. " But I'm not surprised. She is constantly in my face, throwing insults every time. I

run into her every were I go" I aggressively played with my food, the plate was making an annoying loud sound.

Phozi: " Noxy, calm down"

Me: " I am calm!"

Phozi: " nope, you're the opposite of calm right now. Hee Bulelani, do you even realize that you creating enemies for Noxy? I smacked that bitch because she was throwing one insult after another to her. Why are your bitches disrespecting your wife or are you allowing that to happen? Uyamdelelisa uNoxolo man I ngaba nopatazana bakho"

Buja: " Phozi, with all due respect, don't get involved"

Phozi: " I am already involved."

Buja: " Noxy, can I talk to you in our room, please"

Me: " why? Mmh? Phozisa needs to hear about this too since now she also knows what's going on. The next thing Amanda will be humiliating me in front of my colleagues. Do you think I felt proud when my sister was busy smacking my husband's girlfriend??!"

Bulelani got up and stormed out of the house. Phozi cleared her throat and said " but ke, I really didn't mind smacking her mntase, it was my pleasure you know.."

Me: " that is not the point, please excuse me"

Phozi: " I'll clean up and get Lutha ready for bed. You can go and rest"

Me: " Thanx. I'm starting to get a splitting headache."

Phozi: " then its a good idea to just call it a night."

Me: " goodnight"

Phozi: " night love "

I got up and went to the bedroom. I wondered where Bulelani went to. I took my phone not knowing whether to call and ask him where he is or not. At the same time I was still very angry. I decided to just put it down. I changed and got into bed then tossed and turned for about an hour struggling to sleep. The headache was still there. I decided to get up and go to the medicine cabinet then took some pain killers. I went to the kitchen and got myself water then downed it. The tv was still playing in the living room, Phozi was watching TV finishing her bottle of red wine. " Hey" I said. She turned and said " sister-sister, how are you feeling now?"

Me: " I'm okay. I'm just wondering where Buja could be"

Phozi: " stop worrying too much about everything. You'll die young"

Me: " what if he's with her? What if he's with some woman while I'm waiting here worried sick about him"

Phozi: "he's not, don't be so negative"

Me: " let me try and get some sleep again"

Phozi: " sure"

I went back to the bedroom then decided to take a novel and read it on top of the couch. After about 30 minutes the bedroom door opened then he came in. He looked at me then said " I thought you were sleeping"

Me: " no, I'm still up waiting for you. Where were you, Bulelani?"

Buja: " I went out for a drive, I needed some time to calm myself down and think"

Me: " how do I know you're telling me the truth? How do I know you didn't go to Amanda?"

Buja: "Come here babe"

I got up and went over to him. He wrapped his arms around my waist then said " first things first, I didn't go to Amanda, I went out for a drive. Believe what I'm saying because its the truth. 2ndly,

I hate what you did earlier on. Don't you ever raise your voice when you're talking to me again, and I mean never. Do you hear me?"

I looked at him, we stared at each other without even blinking. My blood was boiling. He stroked my cheek and said " you better answer me"

Me: " or what?"

Buja: " Noxy, don't be cheeky"

Me: " you made me this way"

Buja: " Noxy..."

Me: " Buja..."

He looked at me like he wanted to say something, then let go of me. " I don't know why she's just not moving on." He explained.

Me: " how will she move on when you promised her that you'll divorce me"

Buja: " I never said that."

Me: " that's what she said"

Buja laughed slightly and said " why do you believe every lie this woman feeds you"

Me: " Do not ask me that. I don't know what you were saying to her when you were busy cheating on me. "

I got under the bed covers and closed my eyes. He took off his clothes and got in as well. " Mam'Giba..."

Me: " I want to sleep."

He kissed my forehead then said " goodnight" I didn't respond. I drifted to sleep moments later. The following morning I woke up in his arms. I don't even know how I ended up in his arms when there was such a huge gap between us before I slept. I cuddled with him, somehow I didn't have the urge to back away. He woke up moments later and said " morning, Noxy wam"

Me: "morning"

My body wanted him, I couldn't even hide it. I stroked my foot on his right leg, he smiled knowing very well what I wanted from him. The next thing we were busy doing the morning glory. After we were done we cuddled. He said " mfaz'wam, I wish you could start trusting me again. Every single night I sleep next to you. I don't just disappear, Noxy. Please stop doubting me."

Me: " its gonna be very hard trusting you again. It will take time"

Buja: "I understand...I'll try to be patient"

We later on got up to clean ourselves then I went to make breakfast. Phozi and Lutha were already up, Phozi dished up for us and said " oko nizivalele kula room, I figured let me do breakfast so long since you guys were busy making funny noises"

She giggled and said " Now I had to explain to uBoy what mommy and daddy were doing. Guess what I said? I told him you two were busy playing cat and mouse."

I looked at her in total embarrassment. Buja sat on the chair smiling shyly. I gave her a stare then said " stop it" she laughed so hard and said " I'm kidding guys, I'm just pulling your leg. hahahaha!"

Me: " mxim"

We all ate breakfast together. Around 3pm Phozi was ready to go. I had made a meal for the road for her. We then went to drop her off at bus station. She said " guys, thanx for allowing me

to visit. Despite the Amanda issue, I had a great time with you. Noxy, I hope we'll keep in touch sis'wam omncinci"

Me: " we will. I'll miss you so much"

Phozi: "me too sana"

We hugged. " I might see you next week. Will you be home?"

Phozi: " No dear, I'm staying in my own flat. But, you guys can come and visit"

Me: " sure"

Phozi: " sbari, it was good seeing you too"

Buja: " like wise. Stop being so scarce"

Phozi: " I won't guys, I promise. And please take care of my sister. Make her happy like you promised you would"

Me: " oh haike wena"

Buja: " I will sbari"

She kissed Lutha then we said our goodbyes and left. I already missed her presents all the way back to our place. We arrived and decided to have our own sunday chill at the back yard of our house. Buja made braai vleis while I turned on some music and made some salads in the kitchen. We chilled outside with our son and chatted randomly about the good old times and the funny things my sister used to do. Buja drank a few beers while I drank grape juice. Our son was busy concentrating on his bicycle, he was still not perfect in riding it but Buja kept teaching him. I went back inside to take some ice blocks from the fridge. I heard a hard knock on the door and reckoned the person had been knocking for a while now. I looked through the window before opening and saw Wendy's car parked outside. I went over to the door and opened. Amanda was standing there tapping her foot. I couldn't believe this, she was once again in my face. Luckily the burglar gate was locked.

Amanda: " this is no friendly visit sisi. Don't think I'll let what your sister did to me go. You better drop the chargers you have against me or else I'll lay a charge of assault against both you"

I laughed, I laughed so hard that she looked at me with confusion on her face.

Me: " You pathetic little skunk. Is that really a threat?" I laughed again then said " I won't back down. My case is much stronger than yours. The security guards are willing to even testify in Court about what happened. The police were there, oh...and how can I forget the evidence that was taken. And what have you got? Bomikazi and Nolitha?"

She said " Mxim, you.."

She stopped mid sentence and looked behind me. Buja came closer and said" sthandwa sam, what's going on here?" He wrapped his arms around me and kissed my cheek, which I found very awkward at that present moment.

Amanda said " did your love tell you how she was busy exchanging phone numbers with other men at the shopping mall that other day? Yeah, I caught her."

She said with a big smile on her face looking at me. Buja said " get the hell out of my yard. Now. "

I could see the shocked and disappointed look on her face. " Haibo Buja..." She said looking at him in disbelief. " You're still here?" He asked. She looked more disappointed than she was before. She turned around and walked to the car. I closed the door and unwrapped myself from Buja's arms then went back to where we were chilling. Buja followed behind me then said " what is she talking about?"

Me: " I don't know what she's talking about"

Yeah, I lied. I wasn't planning to give Amanda the satisfaction and confess about Loyiso wanting my number. Buja said " can I have your phone please"

I took it out of my pocket and gave it to him then went outside. I had deleted Loyiso's number and I thanked my lucky stars I did not give him mine. Buja sat next to me and browsed through my phone. I said " I've never gone through your phone, I wonder what I would find"

He didn't respond. After a while he gave me back my phone and said "I'm sorry, I don't know what came over me listening to her"

Me: " Bulelani. That girl is now coming to my house and has the guts to threaten me, in my house. She has no respect whatsoever for me. Wenza unothanda endlini yam ngoku. And you're doing absolutely nothing about it"

Buja:" Allow me to deal with her in my own way."

Me: " Deal with her then. You created this mess, now fix it. If she pulls another stunt on me again- "

Buja: " she won't, I promise you. Not after what I have in store for her"

Me: " care to tell me?"

Buja: " you'll find out soon enough"

He kissed my hand and said " you're my queen, Noxy. I'll do anything for you, and I mean anything."

I looked at him more curious about his plan.

## Chapter 21

We were distracted by Lutha falling off the bicycle. I got up and quickly rushed over to him. I could see tears filling up in his eyes. Buja also went over to him and said " I'll teach him again next time"

Me: " he's still young, though. Atleast teach him next year."

Buja: " the sooner he knows how to ride a bicycle, the better"

Me: " stop putting pressure on our son"

Buja: " I'm not. The next thing should be swimming lessons"

Me: " you don't play ne?"

Buja: " you know I don't. Iza boy"

He said picking him. Lutha was holding back his tears. I could see he wanted to cry but somehow he was acting strong. Buja went to the first aid kit while I went to put the bicycle back to the play room. Time passed and Phози phoned and said she arrived safely. We finally called it a night.

The next morning was Monday. I woke up feeling so lazy. Weekends come and go so quickly. We did our usual routine then I arrived at work in a good mood. I think part of my good mood was because of my sister. As per usual we talked about the weekend before starting with work. Monday went great, I was doing research most of the time about a matter I would be attending to Court on Thursday. The Attorney called me to her office and told me I'll be attending a seminar on her behalf on Wednesday. I said okay, I was looking forward to learning new things. The week was very busy for me. I attended the seminar in which I learned a lot from. Then finally I went to Court for a criminal matter on Thursday which went well for my client, I reported everything to the Attorney and she was impressed on how I handled things. On Friday evening I made a call to my



mother and alerted her that I'll be coming over with my family on Saturday. She was looking forward to our visit. I decided not to tell them that I'm coming to check if dad was alright. I didn't understand why my father was hiding his sickness from me. He said to them he doesn't want me to worry, but how could I not worry when he was sick.

Saturday arrived and we packed a few things for the road. We got in Buja's car and left the town. On the way we stopped by to do a little shopping for them. After a while of driving we finally arrived at my home town. I looked around at the place I grew up in, we even passed my old high school. I laughed and said "remember when you used to pick me up at school especially on Fridays? The girls used to call your car a panty dropper. I suddenly became so popular when I dated you" Buja laughed and said "I made you a celebrity"

I hit his arm and he laughed even more then said "jokes babe, Lutha are you still fine there?" He asked looking at the rearview mirror. "Yes, dad" he responded playing with his toy car. My kid had enough toys to last him a lifetime. Buja said "when are you finishing your Articles?"

Me: "next year"

Buja: "are you still on contraceptives?"

Me: "yes, and I'm due for my next injection next month"

He didn't respond. We both looked at the road ahead. After a while I asked "why?"

Buja: "why what?"

Me: "why are you asking?"

Buja: "nah, I'm just checking"

Me: "okay"

We finally arrived at my home then Buja parked and we stepped out of the car. As soon as we stepped out Phozzi's kids came running to us. Buja laughed and said "all 3 of them are her kids? Damn Phozzi was on a mission"

I couldn't help but laugh then said "don't start with that"

They all came over to hug me, they were saying "uMakazi! uMakazi!!". I opened the boot and took out lots of toys for them as well as the grocery. The oldest kid helped me with the shopping bags. Lutha was now in the middle of them excited about playing. They didn't even get in the house, they were already playing with the toys outside. My mother came outside and said "thyini! What a nice surprise. Molweni bantwana bam!" She came over to hug me then hugged Buja.

"Come inside" she said.

We went in, dad came over to the living room walking slowly. I got so worried. I went over to hug him. He said "Nono, I've missed you so much my angel" I felt like his little girl again. I broke the hug and said "I've missed you too, dad"

Buja shook hands with him then we helped him sit on the couch.

Mom came in with drinks and home baked scones. We thanked her.

Dad: "so, what brings you here my children. This is a nice surprise"

He started coughing badly, so much that I rushed to the kitchen to get him water then helped him drink it. My mother said "you father is not well, Nono"

Nono is what my father used to call me, everyone in the family started adapting to the nickname. I said "when did his sickness start?"

Mom: " I think two months back. Sometimes he even gets forgetful"

Buja: " do you know what could be causing this?"

Mom: " no mntanam, the doctors are not sure what could be happening with him. They suspected a heart problem but more problems kept rising. More tests are being done"

Me:" he's not even that old to be forgetful. He's only 51 years old. Something is definitely wrong"

Dad: " I'm not forgetful. I still remember my princess"

I smiled, he said "come and sit next to me"

I went over to sit next to him. Then he said " even if I pass away at a later stage. I'll die a happy man, you are married now, to a good man. You are all grown up, Noxolo. I wish Phozisa would also get married." He coughed again then said " Bulelani, I trust you with my daughter. I trust you a lot. So I know she's happy with you. Remember, make God the 3rd party in your marriage. Do not forget to pray."

Me: " you right, dad. I'm been lacking a lot in prayer lately."

Buja's phone rang, he checked and said. " Sorry, I really need to get this."

Dad: " no problem, son."

Buja walked out of the house while dad and I continued chatting.

My mother was smiling looking down. I figured she didn't tell dad about the emotional phone call I had with her. She got up and went to the kitchen. Buja must have been on the phone for close to 30 minutes before coming back inside. He had a chat with dad, they got along very well together. My mother called me to the kitchen so I left them and went to join her. She said " help me cut these veggies."

I took an apron and some carrots and began helping her.

Mom: " so did you work things out with my son-in-law?"

Me: " yes mom. We're okay now..."

Mom: " you see, divorce is not the answer. That man loves you with all his heart"

Me: " yes, he does, and I love him too."

Mom: " fight for your marriage ke nono wam. Don't give up so easily"

Me: " yeah, I guess. Phози came to see me last weekend"

Mom: " oh, uthini?"

Me: " Mom, you two need to start getting along now"

Mom: " ustout uPhozisa, and I doubt she'll ever change."

Me: " she's your child, mama"

Mom: " yes, and I know her better than anyone. Let's talk about you. I'm very fond of my son-in-law, he's the perfect husband for you"

My mother went on and on about how good of a man Buja is. You'd swear she lived with him. We stayed the whole day at home then later on in the evening we announced that we had to go.

Lutha was sad to go, but I promised him that we'll be back so that he can play with his cousins again. I hugged dad, a long warm hug then promised to come and visit again. Buja also said his goodbyes then Lutha went to hug his grandparents and we left.

We arrived later on after a long drive so we decided to just take a shower and go straight to bed. Somehow I felt good and at peace when I saw my family, especially my dad. He encouraged me so much to stay strong about life's obstacles, and reminded me to stay humble.

2 days later....

Buja and I had just gotten back from work. We both wore some comfy clothing, he was busy rubbing my feet in the living room and Lutha was laying on the other couch. Buja got a call from Sbu. He picked up and said "mfethu..."

I concentrated on the programme on TV. After a while he hung up then said "babe, we should go to Wendy's place. Something has happened"

Me: "to who?"

Buja: "we'll found out when we get there"

He took his car keys then he drove out his car while I locked the house. I helped my son get in the car then we drove off to Wendy's apartment. We finally arrived. 3 cars were parked outside. We went to go and knock on the door. Sbu let us in. Wendy was sitting on top of the couch, her eyes were red and puffy. Nolitha, Bomikazi and Vusi were there too.

Buja: "so what exactly happened to Amanda?"

Vusi: "We're not really sure what could have caused this or where exactly she was going. Her car was found in the freeway burnt beyond recognition. Everything she had including her phone and I.D book were inside. She was found laying outside of her car, unconscious."

Sbu: "she's in ICU in a critical condition. The doctors are not sure when she'll be out, it might take weeks, months or maybe years."

Me: "when did this happen?"

Sbu: "on sunday, round about 2am"

Wendy: "I don't know why she was in such a rush to go, I tried stopping her but she said she'll be back quickly."

I thought deeply about this. Buja was with me sunday night. I tried to make sense of what they were telling us.

Buja: "Wendy, I'm sorry about what happened to your cousin."

Me: "uhm...yeah. We're sorry"

Bomikazi: "she didn't deserve this"

I looked at her. Honestly, I wasn't even feeling sorry. That was so unlike me, I didn't know why I wasn't catching any feelings in all of this.

Buja: "we need to get going, Lutha is getting sleepy."

Wendy: "bye guys, thanx for coming"

I went over to hug her then we left. Lutha was now sleeping at the back. Buja said "shame yazi... Nc nc nc..."

I looked at him and said "Buja, what happened?"

He smiled and said "I'll confess my sins when we get home, sthandwa sam"

I swallowed hard. Somehow I wasn't even sure I was ready to hear this, but I was certain that he was involved. We arrived and he drove the car in the garage. I took out Lutha then went to tuck him in his bed. Buja went to the kitchen and took out a cold beer. I went over to him.

Me: "what happened, Buja? Is this your doing?"

He looked at me and said "Yes, she must count her lucky stars she's not dead" then he downed his beer. My eyes widened then I said "you can't be serious"

Buja: "I'm serious, Noxy. I could have burnt her inside that car if I wanted to, but I thought no...let me give her a 2nd chance. "

Me: "I didn't think you would go that far, I mean she's in ICU, what if..."

Buja: " what if she doesn't make it? Then good riddance. I warned her but she just didn't listen. She must rip what she sowed. My boys did the job very perfectly. I should actually give them a good reward. "

He put the half empty beer down then came closer. " I trust you Noxy, and I asked you to support me. You promised me you would be by my side no matter what. We must be a team babe."

Me: " but..."

I looked away not knowing what to do with myself. I sighed nervously and said " okay..what happens next?"

Buja: " we'll go and see how she's doing with Wendy and Sbu. We'll put on our concerned faces."

Me: " but why did you burn the car? Iworse uba all her items were inside"

Buja: " Noxy, she threw a brick on your car wind screen and damaged it. I had to do something on her car too, I mean its only fair. Its just that, my revenge was too extreme.."

He laughed, he was really amused by all of this.. He took the beer bottle and said "come join me in the living room, my love" and walked out of the kitchen. I stood there for a while thinking about this horrible situation that I found myself involved in.

## Chapter 22

I followed him to the living room. He was chilling on top of the couch channel hopping. I sat next to him and crossed my legs. He put his arm around me and made my head lie on top of his shoulder.

Me: " why are you doing this?"

He said " doing what, babe"

Me: " nevermind"

Buja: " you will get used to this, it's only a matter of time"

I swallowed a lump in my throat. It felt like I didn't really have a choice in the matter. I said " I think I'm going to call it a night"

Buja: " I'll join you just now"

Me: " okay"

When I was about to get up, he said " I think you've forgotten something"

I looked at him. He said " a goodnight kiss.."

I reluctantly smiled and came close. We kissed, passionately. I broke the kiss and said " uhm...I better get going" then left him there. I took off my clothes and got into bed. Guilt washed over me. How was I going to get used to this life? I closed my eyes and tried to get some sleep. After about 30 minutes Buja came into the room and got into bed. He said " babe?" I pretended to be sleeping.

Buja: " Noxy, I know you're awake"

I maintained my silence and closed my eyes. He wrapped his arms around me and said " I know you too well, you can't even fake sleeping. But I'll chat to you anyway" he kissed my forehead then went " I know you're scared, but this is the life I'm living Noxy. Its part of me. The sooner you get used to this life, the better. I know and understand where you're coming from. But once you get used to everything and the change in your life, you won't be this scared. "

I didn't open my eyes. He kissed my lips and said " night babe" I drifted to sleep an hour later.

The next morning we went to work. Around tea time I got a call from my mother. I answered. She said " Noxy, your father has been admitted at hospital"

Me: " again? What happened?"

Mom: " he couldn't breath properly."

Me: " I think its best we transfer him to a private hospital in this town. He needs good care and I feel the doctors there are not doing a good job. The mere fact that they can't fully determine what's wrong says it all"

Mom: " your father has medical aid Noxy, and this is also a private hospital. They are trying their best. The results will be ready tomorrow."

Me: " but still mama, I can't stand to see him suffering like this"

Mom: " I can't stand this too. I want him to be closer to me. I won't be able to travel everyday to see him when he is 2-3 hours away from me"

She started getting teary. " I'm scared mntanam. "

Me: " he'll pull through. I'll book a day off and drive home tomorrow. I need to see him."

Mom: " please do."

Me: " I will. Try to be strong mom okay"

Mom: " thanx my child"

Me: " bye then"

We hung up. I immediately went to book the day off. I needed to see my father, his health was becoming worse by the day. Time passed then we finally knocked off. I went to fetch Lutha then drove back home. After I changed, I wore my apron and cooked supper. Buja arrived wearing his formal wear and came over to the kitchen. He greeted and said " mmmh the aroma is mouth watering. The perks of having a wife" he kissed my cheek. I said " I'll dish up in a few minutes"

Buja: " okay babe, after an hour we're going to drop Lutha off at Sbu's place then we'll all go to the hospital to see Amanda"

Me: " do I have any say in this?"

Buja: " Noxy, we spoke about this. "

I kept myself busy and didn't say anything. He walked out of the kitchen. I dished up then called them over to eat. After we were done with supper, we all got ready to go to Sbu's place to drop off Lutha. When we arrived, Sbu's car was already parked outside. I went to the play room where Wendy's kids were and the nanny agreed to look after them. Buja suggested we go in one car so we got into Sbu's car then left going to the hospital. Wendy said "thanx guys for the support"

Me: " how are you feeling now?"

Wendy: " I'm stronger now."

Me: " okay, that's good"

Buja: " so is there any suspects?"

Wendy: " the car was taken to the forensics. They going to determine what caused the fire. For now, they're still investigating"

Buja: " oh sho...."

He put his arm around me, I glanced and him. He smiled and said " what my love?"

Me: " I'm just wondering what Lutha is doing"

Buja: " he's having a good time, trust me"

We arrived at the hospital and we entered Amanda's ward. She was laying in bed looking lifeless. Wendy said " I hope she'll get out of here soon" and held her hand. I checked the time, then said " yeah, let's hope" we stayed there for the whole hour, which was the longest hour of

my life. We finally left. I couldn't wait to go home. We didn't stay for long at Sbu's place, Lutha got in the car and we're drove off back home.

Me: " does Sbu know about what you did?"

Buja: " I didn't tell him"

Me: " oh, he's your best friend so I thought you tell him everything"

Buja: " he might be my best friend, but that doesn't mean I tell him every little thing. Babe, I trust you more than them."

He held my hand. We arrived at home. Once we got inside I said " I've booked the day off, my father has been admitted in hospital, again."

Buja: " I'm sorry to hear that, sthandwa sam. Do you want me to come with you?"

Me: " No its fine. And anyway, I'll be back the same day"

He came over and gave me a warm hug. " I know this is hard on you, I'm here to support you okay? Stay strong mfaz'wam"

Me: " I'm trying"

We broke the hug then he asked " will you be back the same day?"

Me: "yes, will you go with me over the weekend?"

Buja: " yes my love, that's not a problem"

Moments later we went to bed. The next morning I prepared lunch for my husband and son and also got him ready for school. I said goodbye to them then went to bed. Around 9am I got ready to go. Once I drove out I gave my mother a call. We agreed to meet at the hospital. I finally arrived and gave her a call. We met by the entrance. I gave her a hug, I asked where Phози is, she said she's not sure whether Phози is coming or not. I said okay and we went in to see dad. He was sleeping so peacefully. The doctor walked in to check up on him then asked me and mom to go to his office. We made out way there and sat down.

Doctor: " Mrs Salman, your husband has a heart disease. All of these symptoms his been having link to same. He has suffered a minor heart attack but we've manage to stabilize him. The symptoms his been having, which is squeezing, or burning pain, pressure, or fullness in the center of the chest; the pain may radiate to the neck, one or both arms, the shoulders, or the jaw. It is because the blood is not circulating properly in his heart. That is why he has been having chest discomfort which has been causing him to have the bad cough. It can diminish in intensity and return."

Mom: " how are you guys going to help him? I just want him to get better."

Doctor: " we'll need to do a bypass surgery"

Me: " what kind of surgery is that?"

Doctor: "it is a surgery performed to restore the heart muscle's supply of blood. "

There was a knock on the door. Phозisa walked in and took off her sunglasses. She greeted and said "Doc, I'm Phозisa Salman. Mr Salman's daughter. I've also come for the results."

The doctor explained everything to her then said " the bypass surgery is the only option we have at the moment, his heart is in a very bad condition."

The doctor explained everything to us and how it will be done in detail. We all agreed on the surgery option. We finally walked out. Phози gave me a hug then said " mntase, I'll come again later to see dad. You know I don't get along with mom"

Me: " its okay. We'll see each other over the weekend. "

Phози: " sure"

She said her goodbyes then mom and I went to see dad again. She got teary and said " its so painful seeing him like this"

I went over to hug her. I wanted to cry to but I had to be strong, at least for her. After about 30 minutes she left, and I was alone with him. " Tata..." I said. " They going to do a heart surgery on you. Please fight, we still need you. Phozisa needs you. Our mother needs you. Please fight for us.." I kissed his hand and stared at him for a while. I then got up and left. On the way back to my place I said a small prayer asking God to protect him. I arrived at around 4pm. Buja arrived later on with Lutha. I updated him about everything, he's response was " its for the best babe"

Me: " but a heart surgery is scary, what if he doesn't - "

Buja: " don't be negative my love, he'll make it"

He said he'll prepare a meal and that I can go and rest. I said okay and went to bed. I slept as soon as my head hit the pillow. I guess all that driving made me tired.

It was now the following day and I had just gotten back from work. Buja's car was parked outside so I reckoned he had just gotten back from work, and a navy city golf was there too. I walked in and could hear people talking in one of the rooms. I went to check what was going on. When I got in, there were 5 different guns in shapes and sizes placed on top of the table. I almost ran out of the room. Buja turned to look at me then said " come here, my love."

It was him, Luzz and 2 extra guys. They greeted and I greeted back.

I went over to Buja. He said " these 5 guns are the samples of guns we're using on our missions. We've added to extra once. You see this one." He pointed a much bigger one" he took it and said " it's a Bren light machine gun. It most likely kills on the first shot."

Me: " uhm...okay. Now I'm fearing for my life"

They laughed. I said " I'm serious ke yazi"

Luzz: " don't worry, soon you'll get used to having guns around."

Buja: " hahaha you don't have to fear for your life, babe. In fact, I'm thinking of giving you shooting lessons. You need a gun for your safety"

Me: " I don't need a gun Buja."

Buja: " there is one that I'm going to keep in the safe here in the house for you. You might need it one day"

Me: " okay what ever you want, Buja. Please excuse me."

I walked out of that room and went to my bedroom. Buja followed me and held my arm " I'm doing this for a reason, and I know one day, you'll thank me for introducing you to this life" he said with a slight smile on his face.

## Chapter 23

I stared at him for a few seconds. I couldn't believe what he had just said. How could I possibly thank him one day? Did he even hear what he was saying.

Me: " Buja, stop giving me pressure. I'm dealing with a lot as it is. My father is seriously sick, he will have a heart surgery soon. I'm not ready because surgery is a 50/50 chance of survival. So please..."

Tears rolled down my face. I left him where he was standing and went to wash my face. I didn't want to break down. Somehow I was proud of myself because I wasn't crying as much as I used

too. I felt I was much stronger now. After a while of thinking about this whole thing I heard a voice saying "Maka Lutha" it was Buja standing by the door.

Me: "where is he?"

Buja: "he's at Sbu's place. He gets lonely here so I figured its best he plays with the other kids"

Me: "okay"

I went to take a towel and wiped my face. Buja came over to me and said "I've told Luzz and the rest of the boyz to go with the weapons. I imported those guns so they only came to collect them."

Me: "as long as Lutha wasn't here to see them"

Buja: "I'm careful around him, you know that"

Me: "has Luzz and his friends left already?"

Buja: "yes"

Me: "okay.."

I walked out of the bathroom and went to change. I kicked off my heels and unbuttoned my shirt. Buja sat on top of the couch and watched me. "Stop staring at me" I said looking at him. He let out a slight laughter then said "make me" I asked "is that a challenge?"

Buja: "mmmh let me think.."

He said with a serious face on. I took off the rest of my clothes and walked to the closet naked. He said "nc..nc....nc, I looked at him again, he bit his lower lip giving me a sexy look. I blushed and walked in the closet checking what I'm going to wear. After just a few seconds, I felt his warm hands touching my body. He whispered "I want you so much right now, Mrs Giba". He gently bit the side of my ear and started stroking my clit. I turned around to face him and we kissed. One thing led to another and we did the deeds. After we were done. I went to take a quick shower then decided to cook pasta and grilled some chicken. The food got ready moments later then I switched off the stove and asked for us to go and fetch Lutha.

We went into my car but Buja was the one driving. When we arrived, Lutha was busy playing outside. I told him we had to go but I could see he wanted to stay abit longer. I even promised him that he'll come and play the next day, that's when he agreed on us going home. Wendy even said "haisana, he should come here everyday"

Buja: "or we can give him a sister or a brother"

Sbu: "that's a good idea, at least he won't be lonely"

Me: "not now..."

I said that while I took his school bag and then I said my goodbyes to them. Buja helped Lutha to the car then got in and drove off.

Lutha: "mama, will I really go and play with my friends tomorrow?"

Me: "yes Nana"

Lutha: "and sleep over too?"

Me: "no."

He sulked, I said "maybe next time, va" he said "yesss!!!" Throwing his hands in the air. Buja laughed and said "but sthandwa sam, I want us to try for another kid. I don't think I'll be able to wait that long."

Me: "I thought you understood nje. We've had this chat before"

Buja: "I do, but I think next year maybe in the middle of the year we can start trying. "



Me: " we'll see..I still have to think about it"

Buja: " I'll give you the time."

We arrived at our house. I warmed up the food then I dished up. While we were chilling in the dinning room. We listened to Lutha chatting about his day. Some how we weren't even getting bored. Even Buja kept asking him questions. Lutha said " I have cool friends!"

Buja: " what do you know about cool? You only 4 years old boy."

I couldn't help but laugh. My son was growing up so fast. My phone interrupted me. It was my mother. I picked up and said " hi mom"

Mom: " hey, how are you?"

Me:" I'm coping mom but its not easy. How are you?"

Mom: " I'm okay too. Your father is getting operated tomorrow"

Me: " I'll pray hard mom. He'll pull through"

Mom: " he will, I'm trying to have faith as much as possible. I called Phozisa as well."

Me: " okay, we'll talk tomorrow then"

Mom: " can I please talk to my son-in-law. Is he there?"

Me: " yes, he's right here."

I gave Buja the phone. He had a long chat with my mother while I cleared up the table. I went to wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. When I was done Buja was talking on his phone and mine was on top of the coffee table. I sat next to him. He finally hung up and said " that was Sbu, he wants us to have a meeting tomorrow?"

Me: " meeting? Where?"

Buja: " at his office, there is something serious he wants us to discuss"

Me: " maybe he wants to let you know that you the suspect. Maybe he knows you the one that tried to kill Amanda"

Buja: " babe, relax."

Me: " how am I suppose to relax? That is attempted murder."

Buja: " I'm innocent until proven guilty. We should go to bed"

Me: " yeah. Let's go."

I switched off the tv. We went to bed, we both couldn't sleep that night. We chatted about almost everything including my father. Buja tried his best to make me stay positive and it did help.

The next morning was friday. We went to work. As soon as I entered my workplace Bongie said " don't forget the Article Clerk function which is next week on Wednesday"

Me: " I wonder why they're making it on Wednesday and not friday"

Bongie: " they don't want us to drink hard that's why"

We both shared a chuckle. I went to my office and started my day. The time was going very slowly, I even felt like sleeping. Luckily I drove around dropping some documents for my Attorney in other Law Firms. At least I got a breath of fresh air. I patiently waited for my mother's call. My dad was getting operated that day. Phozisa sent a message which said " I can't even concentrate at work. I'm so scared and worried mntase. " I sent a message back which said " let's try to be strong big sis. I love you"

Finally it was time to go home. I didn't understand why my mother wasn't phoning and I didn't have the guts to phone and ask how the operation went. I finally got home and started cooking supper. Buja phoned and said " I'm on my way home sthandwa sam. Lutha is with Wendy, he wanted to play with her kids."

Me: " okay then. As long as we'll fetch him in the next hour"

Buja: " okay babe, see you in a few minutes"

Me: " sure"

We hung up. Buja arrived while I was still cutting the veggies and defrosting the meat. He entered the kitchen and gave me a hug.

Me: " and now?"

Buja: " stop everything you're doing I need to have a little chat with you"

Me: " oh, sure."

I went to wash my hands then we went to the living room.

Me: " so what's this about?which reminds me, tomorrow we must leave early. My mother is not giving me any update, I need to find out if my father is okay after the operation he had today"

Buja cleared his throat and held my hand. " Sthandwa sam, that's what I want to talk to you about. Its regarding your father's heart surgery"

Me: " did it go well?"

Buja: " there's no easy way to say this, mfaz'wam. I've been racking my brain trying to figure out the right words to say this to you. Sthandwa sam, your father didn't make it. He passed away at 12:15pm"

I suddenly felt numb.

Me: " You're lying. Who told you those lies?"

Buja: " I got a call from your uncle. Its the truth babe. I'm so sorry"

I broke down and cried so hard. Buja held me and tried his best to comfort me but it didn't take away the pain I felt at that moment. I took my phone and called Phozisa but she wasn't picking up. Buja said " I'll get you some water. Go and lie down babe"

I went to the bed room and sobbed on top of the pillow. I paged my father's number, it all felt like a nightmare. Buja came with water. I tried drinking it but I just couldn't.

Me: " but they promised us they would help him"

I said with a breaking voice. Buja made me lie on top of his chest. " Surgery is not always successful babe. I want you to know that I love you, and I'll be here for you in this darkest moment. We'll get through this together"

Me: " thanx"

He wiped my tears and kissed my forehead. We laid in bed in silence. All I could here was my sniffing. I needed to know how my sister is holding up, because my father was the only one who reached up to her and showed her love more than my mother.

## Chapter 24

Losing a parent is the most painful experience that anyone can ever come across. No matter how old you are you can never be ready for that experience. I was always daddy's little girl. I was not ready at all to lose him. I didn't even know how I was going to get over this. I kept putting my blame on the doctors forgetting that it was his date and time to pass on - I just needed someone to blame. Buja came with pain killer tablets and asked me to take 2 pills. I couldn't stop crying, I kept having images of him and thinking about the memories I've had with him. I took the pills and laid in bed again. Moments later I drifted to dream land.

I woke up around 10pm and the first person I thought about was Luthando. I got out of bed. My head was feeling so heavy. I walked out of the bedroom. When I went to check his room he was there sleeping peacefully. I breathed a sigh of relief and closed his room door.

" Hey" Buja said. He came close then asked " how are you feeling?"

Me: " it still hurts."

Buja: " time heals my love"

Me: " when did you fetch Lutha? Did he eat anything?"

Buja: " I went to fetch him after you slept. And yes, I made him something to eat. Should I get you anything?"

Me: " no thanx, I don't have any appetite."

Buja:" your mother phoned. But I told her you're sleeping. We should get going tomorrow"

Me: " uhm, yes. I need 2 take 2 weeks leave from work, and help with the funeral arrangements"

I broke down after saying that and cried again, he hugged me. " I can't believe his gone" I said. " It feels like a bad dream. I wish I can just wake up from this nightmare."

Buja: " its not a dream, its real. It'll pass maka Lutha. Try to be strong"

Me: " thanx, myen'wam. Your love and support means a lot to me"

Buja: " that's what I'm here for, babe"

We were standing in the passage. We finally broke the hug and I decided to take some more headache tablets then go to bed. They were making me drowsy so it didn't take long before I drifted to sleep again.

The next morning my husband and I got ready to go to my hometown. I tried to eat cereal, I needed the energy even though nothing was going in. My son was in a joyful mood, he didn't even know his grandfather had passed on. I packed a bag for myself then said " maybe Lutha should come with me, he'll go back to school after 2 weeks"

Buja: " you'll be too busy babe, you might not pay much attention to him. How about I stay with him here, I don't want him to miss out a lot in school. He's learning new things everyday there. "

Me: " do you promise you won't bring any guns in the house and endanger our son?"

Buja: " I promise. I love him Noxy, and as I said, I'm very careful around him. I'll also go to your workplace and inform your boss about what happened"

Me: "I've even forgotten about that. I won't even make it to the Article Clerk function"

Buja: " don't stress about that, I'll handle everything. "

Moments later we were ready to go. We stopped by at the garage and got some water and snacks for the road then Buja drove off. We finally arrived in the afternoon. I could see cars were already parked outside my home. We parked as well and got out then I helped my son out of the car. Buja helped with carrying the bags then we got inside. We greeted, my aunt and uncles were there and my cousins. I went over to the room that used to be mine and went to put the bags down, then I went to check on my mother. She was in her room with her 2 sisters crying. Her face looked so pink, my heart broke even more for her. I went to sit next to her and gave her a hug. We cried together. I asked where Phozisa was, she came in just when I asked and said " I'm here" her eyes looked red and puffy but she wasn't as broken as mom was, she has always been the strong and tough one. I got up and went to hug her too. She started crying on my shoulders. People came in to offer their condolences to us. They tried to console us as much as possible. There was prayer and singing. Buja was with my uncles and my son was busy playing with the other kids.

Later on most people left except for some of the family members. Phozisa went to her room with her kids and said she wanted to be alone with them. We decided to give her the space that she needs because people do grieve differently. Buja had decided to go the next day so he slept over. On Sunday afternoon he decided to leave, with Lutha. He said his goodbyes to the family and I walked him out. When we got to his car he said " I'll be back again on Friday. We'll keep in touch over the phone, sthandwa sam. If there's anything you need I'm just a phone call away."

Me: " I might be back on Wednesday to check up on Lutha then come back the following day"

Buja: " don't you trust me with him?"

Me: " I do, but you know he can't stay for long without me. "

Buja: " I'll take good care of him don't worry"

Me: " I can't help it, I'm his mom. Its my job to worry about him"

Buja laughed and said " and I'm his father, its my job to protect him"

I smiled and said " fine then"

I gave my son a hug and helped him get in the front seat then buckled him up. I said" Be a good boy for your mommy, okay?"

He smiled and said " I will, promise-promise" I kissed his forehead then closed the door. Buja kissed me then said " bye babe, my parents will be coming in later today. They phoned, sorry, I forgot to tell you. They did try phoning you though."

Me: " its okay, my phone has been in my room I completely forgot about it. I'll wait for their arrival"

Buja: " sure babe"

He got in the car, hooted and left. I suddenly got emotional while watching the car driving off. I turned around and went back inside.

Later on in the evening. Buja had phoned and alerted me that they had arrived safely. I asked what Lutha was doing. He said " well, he's eating chips watching cartoons. And uh...we went to McDonald for supper" I smiled and said " mmmh, please ningaphili nge take aways apho."

Buja laughed and said " we won't my love. Its just that I was too lazy to cook"

Me: " I'll be back after the funeral then. He's too young to live on take away kaloku lovie"

Buja: " I promise you,he won't"

Me: " mmh, okay"

Buja: " you man loves you va..."

Me: " I love you too Buja wam"

Buja: " bye, my love"

Me: " byee"

We hung up. Phozisa was still inside her room, but this time her kids were in the kitchen eating. I decided to go and check up on her. I knocked once and entered. She was laying in bed covered in a blanket, I could hear her sniffing. I went to lie next to her and said " you need to be around people mntase. Please don't isolate yourself. Let's go and sit in the mattress with our mother"

Phozi: " no Noxy. I just want to be alone right now. No one understands the pain I'm feeling right now."

Me: " believe me we do. No one will ever take his place in our hearts"

Phozi: " without him I don't have any parent. Noxy, I don't count that woman as my mother"

Me: " she's your mother Phozi, you two just need to sit down and -"

Phozi: " she has never showed me love. She treats me like I'm not even her child. Ndilahlekelwe"

Noxy. I'm even thinking of taking my children and just leaving with them ndiyohlala nabo eflatini yam. There's nothing that's left for me here"

Me: " its just the emotions talking. We'll have this chat after the funeral. For now, let's go to mom. We need to be together right now. Please Phози"

My aunt walked in to check up on us. I told her we're coming just now. Phози and I got up and went to the other room where mom was. We all sat together in the mattress. Buja's parents arrived and offered their condolences.

Days passed and everyday it was the same thing at home. My father was going to be buried on saturday. So during the week we were all busy with the funeral arrangements. The pastor and everyone that came to my home strengthened us a lot quoting from the bible and giving us words of encouragement and wisdom. I spoke to Buja and Lutha over the phone checking up on them. They seemed to be okay, he also asked how are things going on our side and I updated him. On friday it was my father's memorial service. He's colleagues spoke about him, all the funny things were said, and how much of the good things he did for others. It was held in the afternoon.

Saturday arrived, the day of the funeral. My husband and I were wearing matching colours which were black and red. I saw Bongie, Sandi and Nelisa. I was surprised to see them but also appreciated their support. Wendy and Sbu were also there. And so were the family members from my husband's side. Phози's friends were there. The funeral was packed. We went to the graveyard where I said my final goodbyes to my father. I was much stronger than I was before, I knew he was with me in spirit and I thanked him for raising me to be the woman that I am today.

I only got to speak to everyone after the funeral. I thanked them for coming. Bongie said " when will you be coming back to work?"

Me: " probably next week. But I'll let Karen know"

Bongie: " okay, we'll keep in touch over the phone."

Me: " sure love"

I went to Sbu and Wendy. They both gave me a hug. Sbu asked " how are you holding up?"

Me: " it still hurts, but I feel very strong now."

Phozisa came over to us. She was wearing a short black hugging dress and black stilettos and applied a red lipstick. She said " Noxy, I'll be back in a few hours. I'm going somewhere with my friend."

Me: " where are you going? Oh by the way guys, meet my sister Phozisa. Phози, this is Wendy and Sbu"

Phози said " Wendy? Oh hi...and hello to you too Sbu"

Sbu: " hi there, Phози"

Wendy: " hello"

Buja came over while I was still doing the introduction, I knew Phози remembered that Wendy is Amanda's cousin. I was just happy she didn't bring that up. Phози said " Tar Buja, ugrand sbari?"

Buja: " ndi grand, zthini kuwe Phози?"

Phози: " I'm good too. So guys should I organize the after tears?"

Sbu: " yes, why not?"

Wendy: " we came with the kids so we can't..."

She looked at Sbu, then said " we in a hurry hun"

Sbu looked annoyed then he said " uh, okay...sorry we won't be able to make it."

Buja cleared his throat then said " yeah, uhm..thanx for the offer sbari"

Phozi: " alright then. Let me go back to my friends, they're about to leave. "

Me: " remember we must help out where we can, come back quickly"

Phozi: " will do my lovey. Bye guys"

They all chanted "bye"

She cat walked in confidence going to her friends leaving us in an awkward silence. Buja said " so babe, when are you coming home? Its cold there without you"

Me: " soon, I just need to make sure my mom is okay before I leave"

Buja: " okay, should I leave with Lutha?"

Me: " no, you don't have too. He can stay here this week"

Buja: " sure babe"

Later on people left. Bongie and her friends left and so did Wendy and Sbu. Buja only left later on, and so did his parents and family members.

It was now on a monday afternoon. Phozi was still at home. My aunts and uncles had left and it was just mom, Phozi, me and the kids. Mom called us over and said " I need to speak to you and Phozi while the children are playing outside."

Me: " should we be worried?"

Mom: " no, I just think its time I opened up to both of you"

Phozi and I looked at each other then went over to sit in the living room. She closed the door then sat down on the opposite couch.

Mom: " I have been wanting to say what I'm about to confess to you all these years but your father has been stopping me. I feel maybe this is the right time I opened up to you"

Phozi: " can you please just say it"

Mom: " can you first take out that chewing gum. Its irritating me"

Phozi: " is this about the chewing gum or your little confession?"

Mom: " are you going to take it out or not?"

Phozi: " it calms my nerves and its better than smoking so no I won't"

Mom: " you bloody hood rat!"

Me: "guys, please stop it! Why do you have to fight about every little thing."

Phozi looked away still chewing her bubble gum. Mom said " now where was I before I got interrupted?"

Phozi: " you were about to confess"

Mom gave her an ugly look then said " Bantwana bam. Many, many years ago.

Phozi: " oh come on! Are you going to tell us the Cinderella story now?"

Mom decided to ignore her.

Mom: " there was a woman who dated your father.."

She sighed then said " they had a relationship and she later on got pregnant with his child. Unfortunately, she died in a car accident after she had given birth, the child was about 6 months old at that time. After about 2 years when that happened, your father and I got married, and I later on gave birth to a baby girl."

Her hands were shaking then she said " what I'm trying to tell you is, Phozisa, you are not my daughter, but I raised you as my own all these years. Your father asked for me to take you in and

treat you as my child. Your mother's family insisted that we take you and raise you even though my husband wasn't married to your mother. "

Me: " what?"

Phozi: " wa-wa-what??"

Mom: " yes, I feel I needed to confess this to both of you. You deserve to know the truth.

Phozisa, I'm not your biological mother."

I glanced at Phozisa wondering how she was taking this. But the look on her face surprised me, she had anger and rage written all over her face while staring at her.

## Chapter 25

I didn't know why mother couldn't just wait for at least a few more weeks before breaking the news to us. We were not ready at all. I mean, we had just buried our father!

Phozisa went straight to her and strangled her. I screamed and tried pulling her away. She shouted " how dare you!!! Do you hate me that much, how dare you tell me this when I've just buried my father"

Me: " please stop, please!!!"

I said still pulling her away from my mother. She finally let go and said " I always knew you never loved me. I felt it even as a little child. You took me in just to please my father. Now that his gone you want to get rid of me. Well guess what? You're not going to get rid of me that easily. In fact, I'll be the one getting rid of you"

She walked away to the room. I stood there not knowing whether to run after her or stay with my mother and ask her why she wanted to confess so early. Yes, we deserved to know the truth, but at that moment everyone was still emotional. She was coughing since she had been strangled. I quickly went to get her some water then gave it to her, she said " thank you" rubbing her neck. I went to Phozisa's room to check up on her. She was busy packing up her children's stuff in her bag.

Me: " where are you going with them?"

Phozi: " my children are not going to stay with that witch"

Me: " don't say that please, Phozi. She's my mother"

Phozi: " yours not mine"

She stopped and looked at me. " My father loved me, Noxy. And I'm damn sure my mother would have loved me too, the way I deserved to be loved by both parents. She never accepted me. What if she was sharing a man with my mother and decided to kill her? I'm going to make sure I find out the truth about this sugar coated story she's telling me"

I stood there and listened. I didn't know how to respond to this, I was stuck in the middle and couldn't even choose any sides because I loved both of them dearly. She packed the rest of her clothes and took out her phone and made a call.

Phozi: " I'm calling my man to come and fetch us"

Me: " what about Lutha? He's still bonding with his cousins. Please Phozi let's sit down and talk about this"

Phozi: " there's nothing to talk about Noxolo"

She paused then said " baby? Please come and fetch us here at home. Yes, I'm coming with all my children..."

After a while she hung up.

She took her suitcase and walked out. Mom stood in the living room then said "yazi Phozisa, I might not have given birth to you but I do love you as my own"

Phozisa said "mxim"

Mom: "I wasn't going to clap hands knowing that you were a rebellious child. That's why I was so hard on you. You have 3 kids, you were bunking school and I was called in by the principal almost every month because of your behaviour"

Phozi: "did you know my mother? Did you guys know each other?"

Mom paused for a moment then said "yes"

Phozi: "that's all I wanted to know"

A car hooted outside. I took one of Phozi's bags while she walked out. The kids came over to her and asked "mama siyaphi?"

Phozi: "to my flat"

Me: "when will you be back?"

Phozi: "when I'm strong enough to deal with this."

Me: "can I come with you? I can't leave you alone"

Phozi: "no, stay with your mother. Yazi she always wanted me to go, she might think she's won but I won't make her life that easy. This house might be even under my name."

One tear escaped her eye. "If only my real mother was still alive, I wish I had gotten to know her" She said.

I hugged her and said "I'm here for you Phozi, I'm going with you, okay?"

She nodded. Her man got out of his car and helped her with the bags. He greeted and I greeted back. His name was Athenkosi. I said "let me pack a few things, I'll be back in a few minutes."

Phozi: "sho mntase"

I went inside the house. My mother was still in the living room.

Mom: "Noxy, can we talk, please."

Me: "no, I don't have time. I'm leaving with Phozi"

Mom: "why? Am I wrong for wanting to be honest"

I walked to my room and packed my clothes and Lutha's stuff. She walked in and said "I'm talking to you, Noxolo"

I turned to look at her then said "you don't care about Phozi do you? Why would you say something like that at the worst time? We're both still trying to heal from our father's passing, she's obviously still emotional. You saw an opportunity to finally get rid of her and couldn't wait any longer"

Mom: "it is not like that my child. Please don't go"

Me: "I'm going. Phozi needs me more right now. I just want to let you know that, if you're trying to push her away, you are also pushing me away too."

I zipped my bags and walked out of the house. The kids were already inside the car. I put my bags in the boot and we drove off and left. Moments later we arrived at Phozi's place.

Athi: "are you okay?"

He asked looking at Phozi while parked outside the block of flats.



Phozi: " I'll tell you some other time, or maybe I will later on."

Athi: " okay. Noxy, I didn't get to speak to you at the funeral. How are you doing? Apart from your dad's passing of course"

Me: " I'm okay thanx, how are you?"

Athi: " I'm okay. I got a chance to speak to Buja, hahaha he still hasn't changed yazi."

Me: " oh yah, you guys know each other"

Athi: " your husband is well known, Noxy"

Me: " yeah Athi, I know that very well"

Phozi: " we should actually continue with this chat inside"

Athi: " sho-sho, let's go in."

We got out of the car then went to take the bags out. Athi took his child and one suitcase while I held Lutha's hand and my bag on the other side. The other kids were old enough. We got inside Phozi's flat. I wasn't sure how we were going to sleep because it was a bachelor flat. Athi went to the fridge and grabbed a beer then went to the living room.

We put the bags in the room then Phozi said " Athi mntuwam, it turns out that woman is not my real mother. My mom died in a car accident when I was 6 months old"

Athi: " Yho! hardie Phozi baby, are you serious?"

Phozi: " dead serious. Right now I need a smoke. "

Athi: " so grand-grand ubukhuliswa si step mom. Yho yi evil step mom mos because ebenu lwatha lawei kuwe" ( so this means you were raised by a step mom, no wonder she has so much nonsense towards you)

I cleared my throat then said " guys, she's my mother. Please don't talk about her like that"

Athi: " sorry man Noxy-Nox. Its just that unamasimba la wei la nozala"

Me: " mmmh...."

Phozi: " evil step mom from hell.."

She took out a cigarette and I looked at her . She said " she's evil nje. Its just a good thing you took your humbleness from our father Noxy. "

She went to the balcony to have a smoke.

Athi said " Phozi, I think my kid should go and stay with my mother. You cannot stay with all of these kids here."

Phozi: " I still have to think about that, but it does sound like a good idea. And then maybe I can send my other 2 kids to their father. Right now I need to sort out this big change in my life."

Me: " but they're not used to their father"

Phozi: " he left me with 2 kids. He needs to man up and be a father to them. Maybe its time I reminded him of that. I'm in a crisis right now, but what I know is my children will not stay with your mother. My father is not around anymore, who of course she was trying to please."

Athi: " or you can come and stay with me.."

Phozi: " we've had this talk before Athi, I need my own space"

Athi: " whatever you want ke baby.."

It got late, I checked my phone and saw missed calls from mom and 2 missed calls from Buja. I decided I'll tell him the news I discovered when I see him. Athi decided to order in pizza and we chilled in the living room while the kids were in her bedroom playing.

Athi: " you know Noxy, I want to spend the rest of my life with your sister. But, you just need to tell her to back down when we're arguing. She doesn't know how to humble herself"

Phozi: " mxim"

Athi: " see what I'm saying?"

Noxy: " Phozi, don't say that to your man haibo.."

Phozi: " I'm stressed mani, otherwise sorry mntuwam."

Noxy: " we'll find a way to get over this."

There was a door bell. Phozi got up and went to fetch the pizza and drinks then dished up for everyone. I decided to take my phone and call Buja. I tried for about 4 times but the phone was ringing to no response. I decided to stop trying and put the phone down because I just couldn't reach him. Phozi wasn't talking much. She ate one slice of pizza then just stared at the tv.

My phone rang after about an hour, it was Buja. I picked up and said " yes?"

Buja: " hey babe, sorry I couldn't hear my phone"

Me: " okay, are you at home?"

Buja: " actually, I'm not at home right now and my phone battery is running low. I'll call you again after 2 hours"

Me: " where are you? its past 7pm now and you're usually at home at this time"

Buja: " yes babe, but I'll be lonely because you and my son are not around. I know its a monday, but I've just entered a restaurant now for supper and a few drinks. Got to go babe, love you"

Me: " uhm..love you too"

He hung up. 2 hours later I decided to call him but his phone went straight to voicemail. Athi and Phozi were chatting. I was tapping my foot and somehow I needed to have a chat with him to check if his home. I convinced myself that I should trust him but I have the what if's in my mind. I decided I'll try again after 30 minutes. Around 9pm I phoned but still it was on voicemail. I called Sbu, he answered" hey Noxy"

Me: " hey, is Buja closer to you by any chance? I can't reach him"

Sbu: " nah dear, I'm at my place at the moment."

Me: " I need to know if he's home safely."

Sbu: " I can go and check up on him"

Me: " no, its fine"

Sbu: " it's not a problem. I'll go..."

Me: " thanx."

We said our goodbyes and hung up. Somehow the Amanda incident came across my mind. I didn't know whether to wait for his call and trust him, or assume the worst by thinking he's doing something wrong at that very moment.

## Chapter 26

I paced up and down the living room and kept checking my phone every 5 minutes. Athi interrupted me by say " Noxy, I have to go. I guess I'll see you some other time"

Me: " sure, have a good night"

Athi: " thanx, you too.."

Phozi: "I'll be back now va"

Me: " sure"

They walked out. After about 5 minutes my phone rang. It was Buja. I picked up and said " why was the phone off for such a long time?"

Buja: " hello to you too babe. I told you earlier that my battery was low. I did say I'll phone again after about 2 hours."

Me: " oh? How am I suppose to believe that Bulelani? Are you cheating on me again"

Buja: " baby, calm down. Sbu is right next to me. I'm charging my phone in his car as we speak. I'm telling you the honest truth."

Me: " where are you?"

Buja: "I'm outside his place, I'm only going home now. He says he was about to go and check if I have arrived. Sthandwa sam, why am I busy explaining myself to you. I thought you trusted me. Do you want to talk to Sbu? Maybe that will convince you that I'm really with him."

I sighed and said " no, its okay. I think I might have overreacted"

Buja: " its cool babe. How are things back at home?"

Me: " not very good. I'll tell you all about it when I come back"

Buja: " I hope they work out well. I miss you.."

Me: " I miss you too. "

Phozisa walked in and went to her room.

Me: " I have to go my love. Take care.."

Buja: " I will, you too..."

We hung up. I went to the bedroom too. Phozi was busy making the kids ready for bed.

Phozi: " your mother has left about 5 missed calls on my phone."

Me: " I think we should hear what she has to say. She's also hurting you know."

Phozi: " oh haike Noxy. When will you ever stop being a softie? You can hear what she has to say, but count me out"

Me: " she just lost her husband, too. Things are hard for her as well"

Phozi: " for now, I want absolutely nothing to do with her"

I decided to just let her be. We didn't speak much after, then we decided to call it a night. The following day I decided I should go back home and have a word with mom. We made breakfast for the kids then cleaned the flat, just when I was about to go and take a bath there was a knock on the door. I went to open. It was my mother. I locked for a moment then said " hello"

Mom: " may I come in..."

Phozi shouted " who is it?"

Me: " yes, come in"

She walked in. She seemed calm but her face looked a bit pale.

Me: " can I get you anything?"

I said while we made our way to the living room. Lutha saw her and shouted " nanku uMakhulu!"(Here's grandma)

He ran over to her, Phozi's kids also followed and gave her a hug. Phozi walked in and said "what are you doing here? Noxy, why did you let her in my flat?"

Mom: " I need to talk to you. I couldn't sleep last night knowing that I'm not talking to both my children. Phozisa please come back home with the kids."

Phozi: " no I won't"

Mom: " I will take good care of them. You always go partying, how will you take care of them?tell me."

Phozi: " I will find a way. Maybe I could even send them to their families. I'll make a plan"

Mom: " you will do no such thing"

Phozi: " these are my children you will not tell me what to do with them, they're not yours"

Mom breathed out loud and said " Phozi I raised you, I'm still your mother and you will talk to me with respect uyandiva?"

Phozisa kept quiet.

Mom: " these kids need to go back to school next week. Next week on saturday we will be doing a family ceremony, and all of you must be there. I know I was wrong for telling you this at the wrong time but I felt I needed to let it out. Phozi, I love you, and I love my grandchildren. If you feel I'm not going to take care of them you can always visit them at home and check if they are still fine. But, I cannot let you take them. Your father would not have wanted that."

Phozisa kept quiet for a while then said " okay"

Mom: " thank you"

Me: " you don't look well, mom"

Mom: "its nothing my child. Its just that I did not sleep well and I have a lot to deal with as it is"

Me: " we just need to find a way to deal with this and try to move on"

Phozi: " but first I need to know where my real mother's family lives, and I would also like to pay them a visit"

Mom: " I'll give you all the information you need"

Phozi: " I want to know how she was like, I want to see her picture. I cannot believe I've now lost both my parents. "

She started getting teary. My mother got up and went over to hug her. " Phozi, I'm still your parent." Phozi wasn't even hugging her back but she didn't back away either. She wasn't as upset as she was the previous day.

Mom stayed over with us, she was reaching out to us and I tried my best as well to reach out to her too. Phozi said she'll send the kids back home the next day. Later on I called Buja and asked him to come and fetch me tomorrow. It was time I finally went back to my place. He said okay and that he'll take the day off at work.

The next day my son and I got ready to go. Buja called and said he's on his way. So we all went back at home, Phozi dropped the kids off but didn't stay for long. She said " take care my little sis, I might visit you again after 2 months. For the time being I'm going to pay my biological mom's family a visit"

Me: " please keep me updated"

Phozi: " I will"

We hugged. I went over to mom and said " we'll keep in touch over the phone."

Mom: " okay mntanam. I love you okay"

Me: " I love you too mom. I hope you and Phozi will try to work things out, at least for the children's sake"

Mom: " I'm willing too, I hope its the same with her"

We heard a knock on the door. Buja came in and greeted. He looked at me then gave me a charming smile. I got up and went over to him then said " I've missed you"

Buja: " awufiki kum, maka Lutha"

He kissed my lips then said " let me go and have a lil chat with my mother-in-law"

Me: " sure"

He went over to mom and they had a long conversation. We stayed for about an hour then he helped me put the bags in the boot. We said our goodbyes to everyone then left.

On the way I said " it still feels like a dream, but ke everything happens for a reason."

Buja: " sorry sthandwa sam. But atleast now I can see you much stronger"

Me: " I am... So what have I missed while I was away?"

Buja: " nothing much. I've just been missing your cooking. You said you were going to tell me something"

Me: " yes, it turns out Phozisa is not my mother's biological child."

I told him everything my mother told us. He said " yho.....now that's shocking. I hope they do settle their difference though. Those two just don't click."

Lutha said " dad, am I going to play with my friends today"

Buja: " no boy, you will this weekend va"

Lutha: " okay, I played and played with abantwana basekhaya. Bekumnandi tata"

He said with a huge smile on his face. Lutha took over the conversation until we finally arrived at our house. I had joy in my heart, I did miss spending time with my husband after all, and I was now so used to staying with him. We unpacked all the clothes and I rested before deciding to go and cook a healthy, delicious meal for my husband. I then went to the kitchen and took out some pots. I started cooking while Buja was outside with Lutha. I remembered to send an sms to Phoziso and mom that I have arrived safely. Later on we ate supper. Buja said " mmmh sthandwa sam, I've missed your cooking so much these past few days. I think I've even lost a bit of weight"

Me: " hahaha I'm back my love"

He held my hand and kissed it.

Me: " so where were you ngokuyana bendingakufumani efownini? (When I couldn't reach you over the phone)

He looked at me then said " I was eating supper"

Me: " were you alone?"

Buja: " yes"

Me: " its just that it was more than 2 hours"

He glanced at me then said " Noxy, don't start"

Me: " well, sorry for asking"

Buja: " I don't want to argue about unnecessary things"

Me: " yah I know, I should stop questioning you"

Buja: " nah its okay..."

We got done with eating supper then we chilled in the living room while eating dessert. I then went to wash the dishes while he helped me wipe them. Well, he only did that when he felt like it. We finally went to bed, but before we slept we got intimate. We kept waking up and making love almost the whole night until we finally drifted to sleep while we cuddled.

The next day I woke up to get my son ready for school and his father ready for work. I chose the outfit he was going to wear, this time it was a blue shirt and a navy tie. I decided I'll surprise him at his work place by bringing him lunch. I was only going back to work next week on monday. Moments later my son and his father left. I cleaned the house then took a bath after. Around 12pm I decided to make some food for my hubby then dressed up and wore my beige pants, white top and my open toe heels. I tied my hair to the side then packed my husband's lunch box.

I locked the house and got into my car then left. Moments later I walked into his work place and went to the reception.

Me: " hey, I'm here to see my husband, Mr Giba"

I said to the Receptionist.

Receptionist: " hello Mrs Giba. He's still in a meeting at the moment. "

Me: " do you know how long it will take?"

She said " no ma'am, but its been an hour now since it started. I think he's almost done. Can I get you anything so long while you wait?"

Me: " no thanx love. Let me wait for him then"

I went to sit on top of the couch and checked what's new on the social networks while I waited. After about 30 minutes, which seemed like forever, he walked out with a woman who was wearing a very short dress. The dress was indeed revealing her body, I suddenly got so disgusted by her because it wasn't very professional. She was carrying 2 files in her other arm. Buja saw me and came over while I stood up. He kissed my cheek then said " Miss Solombela, please meet my lovely wife, Noxy."

Miss Solombela.: "I'm so pleased to meet you, Mrs Giba"

Me: " likewise"

We shook hands and smiled at each other.

Miss Solombela: " we'll schedule another meeting then to finalize what we talked about. I'll await for a call from your secretary"

She said looking at Buja. He said " no problem, have a great day."

He walked her out then came back" let's go my love" he said to me, then we made out away to his office. We got in and closed the door.

" I've brought you lunch" I said to him.

Buja: " thank you, mfaz'wam." He took it then said " let me eat now, I'm starving"

He cleared his desk then started digging in.

Me: " where is she from?"

Buja: " Miss Solombela? She's from Outsourcing Solutions. She came with a business proposal"

Me: " why was she wearing such a short dress, though. If she bent down I'm sure you were going to see her whole butt"

Buja: " hahahaha....I guess its her own style"

Me: " maybe she was trying to seduce you to accept her business proposal.."

Buja: " babe, why are you always reading into things, relax.."

Me: " it's just my instincts, its a woman thing, especially when it comes to our husbands"

He smiled and wiped his hands. "Come here...." He said

I got up and went over to him. He made me sit on top of him then stroked my chin with the back of his index finger.

Buja: " You know my wife, your happiness matters a lot to me, when you are happy, I'm also happy. You are my better half. I love you more than I love myself. You complete me Mrs Giba. So trust me babe, I'm not going anywhere. No one will take me away from you. I am forever yours."

I was staring at him, listening to his every word. He came close, I could feel the warm of his breath. A rush of heat started in my chest and slowly spread throughout my body. His lips found mine and he gently sucked my lower lip. The kiss deepened as his tongue played with mine. My heart was beating so fast, its like we were having our first kiss all over again. After what seemed like forever we pulled away from each other. " I love you" I said softly leaning my forehead against his. " Not as much as I love you" he responded. I felt his tongue swiping at my bottom lip, savouring the taste of the passionate, filled with love kiss, we had just shared

## Chapter 27

After a while of bonding with Buja, I decided to get going so that he can get back to work.

Me: " I'll see you later"

Buja: " thanx for the visit babe, you should come here more often"

Me: " well, I tend to get busy at work, but I'll come when I get the chance again"

Buja: " I'll see you later then. Where are you going now?"

Me: " I'm thinking of visiting my friends at work then go back home"

Buja: " which friends?"

Me: " the ones that came to the funeral. Sandi and maybe Bongie"

Buja: " Sandi? Isn't she the one that influenced you to drink alcohol that other day"

Me: " no one influenced me to drink"

Buja: " mmmh...I'm not sure about that. Zange baby ubuphathe utywala until that day"

Me: " I was stressed okay"

Buja: " I'll phone and check up on you later on then. There's still a board meeting at 3pm that I have to attend"

Me: " you're such a busy man"

Buja: " I'm making a living for us and our future kids kaloku."

I smiled at him then said " bye, babe"

We got up and went to the door. Just when I was about to open the door he grabbed my butt then said " your ass looks so fine in what you're wearing."

Me: " why thank you, Mr"

I looked at him then winked. We opened the door then he walked me out. I said bye to the Receptionist then said " enjoy the rest of the day my love."

Buja: " you too, babe"

I went to my car then drove off. I paged my phone while driving and called Sandi. She picked up on the 2nd ring and said " wow! This is a surprise"

Me: " hey there. I hope you're not too busy at work. I'm thinking of paying you a visit"

Sandi: " not at all love. Do you know which African Bank I work in?"

Me: " I'm not sure, please direct me"

She directed me and I arrived within 30 minutes. Luckily she was free because she was busy chatting with her colleague. As soon as she saw me she said " hayi lona! Awusemhle sana!"

Me: " thanx love, molweni"

They both greeted then her colleague left us to chat.

Sandi: " how are you now my friend? I know things have been very tough these past few days. I'm sorry about your father"

Me: " I'm okay, time heals hey"

Sandi: " it does indeed."

Me: " how have you been though? I miss you and Nelisa. It was so fun the last time we went out, although I got into trouble"

Sandi: " hahaha we really did have fun. Things have been okay. By the way Loyiso has been asking about you. I even told him you're coming on whatsapp"

Me: "why did you do that? Haimani I don't wanna see him"

Sandi: " he's one chilled guy, akhonto mani. "

Me: " mmh okay then. I'll see Bongie at work nextweek."

Sandi: " she told me about the fun she had in the Article Clerks function. Uthi they were drinking shooters like there was no tomorrow"

Me: " I missed out, but ke I had a good reason too. "

" hello beautiful babes!" A guy shouted from behind me. When I checked it was Loyiso. Sandi said " hey Loyz, here's Noxy ke lo kudala umbuza"

He was wearing formal clothing as well. I got up then we shared a hug.

Loyiso: " how are you doing? I heard about your father's passing. I'm sorry for your loss"

Me: "thanx, it will take time to get used to the fact that he's not around anymore. But ke sinikele ku Thixo, He's the one giving us strength to move on.."

Loyiso: " that's good, I waited for your call ke yazi so that I can save your number but you never phoned."

Me: " I deleted your number, I didn't want to get into trouble with my husband"

Loyiso: " how about you save my name as Noloyiso then?"

I laughed so hard, Sandi even said " hehake! Subane tricks apha. Now you want to have a woman's name"

Loyiso: " I don't want to get her into trouble kaloku"

Sandi: "hehehe,uthini na Loyz. I'll be back now, I just need to help this client"

She walked away. Loyiso and I decided to sit on the chairs by the door while we waited for Sandi.

Loyiso: "uhm.... Noxy, I've been meaning to tell you, its just I didn't have your number. I'll be having a party, its actually my birthday celebration. So I've invited my friends and the girls, ooBongie kanje, I would also like for you to join us. It will be a weekend thing, its starting from friday night up to sunday, we'll then have a chillaz and braai. Its in 2 weeks time."

Me: " mmmh, it sounds very interesting, I'd love to come but I would rather not. "

Loyiso: " why?"

Me: " there's so many things I have to do in my house, uhm...I have to clean. And honestly, I'm still mourning my father's passing. It wouldn't be a good idea to go out partying, it would feel wrong..."

Loyiso: " okay, I fully understand."

Me: thanx.."

Loyiso: " so you not willing to give me your number? "

Me: " gosh, you really want my number ne? Uzobethwa ke ngu myeni wam. "

Loyiso: " I promise I won't even call.."

Me: " fine, let's exchange numbers"

I took out my phone and we exchanged phone numbers. I saved his name as " loyz" and he also saved my digits.



Loyiso: " at last, I finally have your number!"

I laughed and said " you're so excited, ingathi you've just won the lotto. "

Loyiso: " it feels like I've won it"

We laughed again. " Anyway, so how old will you be turning?" I asked.

Loyiso: " take a wild guess..."

Me: " 25?"

Loyiso: " haha! No..."

Me: " uh....27"

Loyiso: " that's correct...you a good guesser"

Me: " I know..."

Loyiso: " hahaha well yeah. I'm getting old."

Me: " my husband is turning a year older than you"

Loyiso: " nah, we the same age"

Me: " uh..no you not"

Loyiso: " I should actually be working but here I am catching up with you. Awu Noxy.."

Me: " you should get back to work, I don't want you to be in trouble because of me"

Loyiso: " nah, I'm still chatting"

I laughed, this Loyiso guy was quite funny. Sandi came over to us and said " sorry guys for keeping you waiting, duty calls you know..."

Me: " its fine, I should get going anyway"

Loyiso: " then I should also get back to work.."

Me: " its good seeing you guys"

Sandi: " thanx for coming to see me"

Me: " its a pleasure.."

We shared a hug, I said to Loyiso " I'll see you around"

Loyiso: " can I walk you to your car?"

Me: " no thank you, I'll be doing some shopping anyways"

Loyiso: " okay bye then"

Me: " bye"

We went our separate ways. I wasn't willing to be seen by anyone walking with Loyiso even though it was all innocent. Buja knew a lot of people in this town, who knows, maybe someone was going to report that to him. I did some shopping, and also bought a new cooking book. I wanted to try new meals and new ideas. I went back to the car then drove to Luthando's pre-school then went back to my house.

Days passed and it was the weekend on a saturday. Buja said he wanted to take me somewhere but first we should drop Lutha off at Wendy's place.

Me: "I think we should start looking for a nanny for him. He needs one"

Buja: " yeah, maybe later on in the year. Do you think it should be a sleep in?"

Me: " yes, because he goes to pre-school and comes back when we get back from work. Maybe she can take day a day off in the weekend"

Buja: " I don't think its a good idea letting a stranger into our house though. You're doing just fine with him."

Me: " but I could use a helping hand. "

Buja: " how about we pay the nanny who looks after Wendy's kids? She can also look after him, and he won't be bored because he's so used to being around them anyways. She only goes

home after her pay day and she's good with kids. "

Me: " I would like to have my own nanny, but your idea also sounds good. At least they'll be other kids to play with. I'll have a word with Wendy. But anyway we're not in a hurry, it was just a thought."

Buja: " yeah. We should get ready to go"

We left the house and went to drop off Lutha at Wendy's place, and it wasn't really a problem with him. He waved to us as we left and ran to the other kids to play. Once we got into the car I asked " so where are we going?"

Buja: " to my 2nd house"

Me: " what?"

He let out a smile then drove off. Moments later we arrived at a township. He drove until we arrived at a certain house. It looked like 5 room house and there was one garage next to it. He parked outside then we stepped out.

Me: " why would you have a 2nd house?"

Someone opened the door. It was Luzz. I raised my eye brow then said " hey Luzz!"

Luzz: " ola suster!"

I laughed and said " how are you?"

Luzz: " moja sis'Noxy zthini kuwe?"

Me: " I'm good"

We went inside. It looked like a normal family house.

Buja: " this is the house I was telling you about the other day sthandwa sam. My boys stay here"

Me: " its not what I imagined."

Buja: " it looks like a good and innocent family house, right?"

Me: " yes"

Buja: " that's what I want to hear. Come, let's go to Luzz's room"

Luzz: " haibo bruh, what if I've got a chick naked inside my room"

Buja: " then she should get the hell out or start dressing up"

Luzz: " hehehe hayi I'm joking bruh"

He followed behind us. We got in his room. It looked abit untidy but other than that it was good, he had a plasma TV attached on his wall, home theatre system, laptop - everything he could possibly want even though there was all of that in the living room as well. Buja looked down at the carpet then said " there's a secret door here"

When I looked, absolutely nothing seemed suspicious. He bent down and gently opened the carpet. He took out a key in his pocket and opened what looked like the secret door he was talking about. He unlocked the door then typed in a password after. The door opened. He pulled it up, I looked and saw stairs going down. I couldn't believe this. He turned to look at me then said " this is the basement, our own secret basement that no one knows about except for us"

I swallowed hard. Luzz said " let me lock the house doors so long"

Buja said " sharp sani..."

He walked down the stairs and I walked behind him. We finally arrived at the bottom. He turned on the lights then said " so what do you think?"

There was stacks of money places neatly in shelves, and there were different weapons on the other side. Big guns to small guns, chains, big and small. Knives, and something that looked like bombs. There were so many weapons and some looked even more dangerous."

I swallowed hard then said " this is a bit scary"

He took out one gun then opened it. He said " you see, there's no bullets in this gun?"

I nodded. He came behind then reached for my hand, he made me take the gun then we aimed at the wall. He said " when you shoot, your body must be in a certain position"

He placed my finger and made me pull the trigger. I closed my eyes even though he told me there was no bullets. " Spread your legs" I did what I was told then he made me pull the trigger again. Nothing came out. He said " when it has bullets, it will have abit of weight, that is why you must always position yourself for shooting so that you don't fall over or shoot at the wrong side. When you aim for the head, you must shoot the head and not the chest. Fix your eyes on what you are aiming for" he kissed my neck then said " we're going with this gun. This is the one I said should stay in the house. Its a silent gun. Stop shaking babe"

I didn't realize my whole body was shaking. I cleared my throat then said " uhm..okay". He took the gun with him as we walked up the stairs again. Once we got out he entered the password then locked the door again. I said " why did you decide to have a secret place in this house?"

Buja: " this house has zero suspicion. Even if the police come and search, they won't find anything"

Me: " then what if one of your boys decides to snitch?"

Buja: " they know the rules. I will kill them, myself"

He said looking at me straight in the eye. He saw me swallowing hard, again. I had a lump in my throat that just didn't want to go away. He came close then said " but hey, let's not talk about that now. Come baby wam"

He held my hand and we walked out of the room. Luzz was busy opening the front door, then Jabu and Lucky came in. Buja said " my boyz..."

They greeted back and sat down. Luzz took out a bottle of Ciroc and poured them a shot. I sat down next to Buja while he put his arm around me.

Buja: " my wife knows about what I do on the side now, and she's fully alerted about everything. "

Lucky: " that's great, at least now we don't have to hide our missions to her.."

I reluctantly smiled. They started having a fat conversation and also asked me a few questions. In no time I joined in the conversation. They seemed to be chilled, I was getting used to Buja's "boyz". I never thought nor had any wildest dream that I'd be chilling with gangsters. The whole time we were chatting, the gun that Buja was teaching me how to aim with was on top of the coffee table. It even looked like a normal thing. Later on we had to go. Luzz, Jabu and Lucky also said they're going out to have a few drinks. I got into Buja's car while the others got into their cars then Buja drove off. We went to pick up Luthando, it was now around 4pm. Buja took us out to eat in one of his favourite restaurants then we went to watch an HD movie, for Luthando. Buja wasn't even concentrating, he kept whispering sweet nothings in my ear. We later on went back home.

The following week I went back to work. On monday morning everyone gave me a hug and asked how I was doing. It was the same old story. They even bought me a bunch of beautiful flowers. I appreciated their support. I later on went back home and put them in my bedroom in a silver vase. On the weekend there was a ceremony at home to welcome my dad to his

ancestors. Mom was also now wearing her black clothing which symbolized her mourning for my late father.

Weeks went by, and it was now a month later....

Loyiso had his party, Bongie told me that it was off the hook. I had definitely missed out but I wasn't even bothered. Phoziso told me that she went to visit her mother's family, but she advised me that she'll tell me all about it face to face because it was a long story. I said okay and will patiently wait for her visit.

So now it was on a Saturday morning. Buja was all dressed up saying his going somewhere with Sbu and Vusi, he said " I'll be back later on in the afternoon then we'll have a get2gether. It has been a while since we had a meet up with all of my friends. I said " okay, I just want to do some washing first. You can drop of Luthando at Sbu's place, Wendy said they'll be there for the rest of the day. And please don't be too long because I'll be bored here."

Buja: " I won't babe.."

We kissed then he took Lutha's small bag and walked out with him. I took all the laundry and went to the washing machine. I decided to pocket all his shirts first and his pants because he usually had money inside his pockets. While I was busy pocketing his pants, a little note fell out. I picked it up, and decided I'll throw it away. I opened it first to check if it wasn't anything important. I read through it and suddenly couldn't breath properly, my heart sank because of what was written. The note read " I can't even concentrate right now, B. How about we meet at our usual place, I'll suck your dick, just the way you like it. I'll go first....I'll be waiting."

## Chapter 28

I started doing a breathing exercise, I wasn't sure whether I was having an anxiety attack or a panic attack. What I saw in that note was definitely not what I had expected, it knocked me hard. I felt faint and weak like my whole energy was taken away from me. I stopped what I was doing and sat down on the floor. How could Buja do this to me, again. I thought long and hard about everything we've been through to finally be happy and work things out again. I decided to close my eyes and think about something else just for a few seconds because my heart was accelerating, I wasn't sure what exactly was happening to me. I opened my eyes after a while then felt much better than I was before. I slowly got up then went to drink some tap water. There was refrigerated bottled water but at that moment, I wasn't really thinking straight. I took that note and just when I was about to tear it up, I decided not too. Even touching it with my bare hands disgusted me. Whoever wrote that note made it very clear that this sneaking around has happened more than once. The thought of that pained me, it pained my heart so much. Bulelani was indeed killing me inside. His unfaithfulness was killing my soul, he was crushing my heart to bits and pieces. I went to put it on top of the dressing table in our bedroom.

No tears escaped my eyes. I took the rest of the clothes and put them in the washing machine. I had to finish off what I was doing because even my son's clothes had to be washed. I forced myself to do every chore I thought of doing that day. I went to the leaving room and put on Nicki Minaj's CD. I needed anything that was going to distract me from thinking about this. After I was done with everything, the house looked very clean. I went to take a bath then went to the kitchen and made myself a fruit salad. I went to the living room after, then sat down on the couch. I suddenly had a picture portrayed in my mind of some woman busy having sex with my husband. I struggled breathing again. I got up then went outside to get some air then closed my eyes again trying to avoid this image in my mind. The woman that got out of his office crossed my mind. But,

if that is so, the note stated that she cannot even concentrate, and they should meet in their usual place. Did that mean it was one of his workers? Or was he in a meeting with this certain woman and they sneaked out? I had so many questions in my mind! But I refused to cry about it. My heart was feeling heavy and I wanted to break down and cry, but I thought no, I won't let him make me feel weak and helpless again.

I went back inside the house and opened the ironing basket. Then I went outside to take off the washing of the line. I sorted out the clothes and carried on like nothing was wrong. Wendy called me around 3pm. I answered the phone.

Wendy: "love, the kids are having such a great time here. Can Lutha come back around 6pm? I'll bring him"

Me: "where's his father?"

Wendy: "he went out with Sbu and Vusi, but they're on their way back. I'll leave the kids with the nanny because Sbu is going to pick me up, we coming over to your place for the G2G."

Me: "oh, really?? Bulelani did not state that the venue will be at my house! There will be no get together here, I didn't clean this house today only to have hundreds of people walking up and down the house and making unnecessary dishes. And then me, the good wife will be busy cleaning up after them."

Wendy: "woah, calm down. I'll help you with everything Noxy. Why are you so grumpy?"

I cut the call right after she asked me that. I had so much rage, my blood was boiling. I went to the bedroom and walked up and down like a mad woman. Tears were feeling up my eyes but I quickly wiped them. I was trying so hard to convince myself that this won't get me down. But it seemed like I was only deceiving myself.

Moments later I heard cars coming into the yard. I went to the window and looked through the lace curtain. 4 cars drove in. Another 2 parked outside. I was so not in the mood for company. And the fact that I would forcefully put a smile on my face for him and his friends hurt even more. I didn't want to ask questions in front of his friends. I went out of the room and went to the living room. I took the fruit salad which was now on top of the coffee table and went to put it in the fridge. The front door opened and there was laughter from men. I heard some women chatting as well. I went to the living room to check who and who was there. I saw Noliitha, Bomikazi, Wendy and some woman I didn't recognize. There were about 8 guys in the living room. They had brought some beer and some meat. The ladies came over to me and gave me a hug. Bare in mind Noliitha and Bomikazi are Amanda's friends, the ex side chick that is still in ICU. Yet, they also came over for this G2G. They introduced this woman I didn't know as Vusi's girlfriend.

Wendy said "what happened earlier love?it was so unlike you to speak to me like that"

Me: "I have a splitting headache, and to be honest I'm not in the mood for company."

Buja came over to me and kissed my lips then said "has Wendy mentioned that she'll be picking up Lutha later on?"

Me: "yes"

He smiled and said "we decided to change venues babe, ayikho lento ya caba every meet up is at Sbu's place"

This one guy said "awu Buja skhokho, This has been a good day. I'm so happy to be back in town, at least now I get to chill with my true niggas"

Buja said "sho mfethu, by the way, here's my beautiful wife I was telling you about, uNoxy wam. Babe, meet my friend...."

I forgot his name the second he said it. I wasn't really concentrating, all I wanted was to be alone and isolate myself from the rest of them. I said " I have a splitting headache, I think I need to lie down"

Sbu turned on the music while he was chatting and having the time of his life.

Buja said "its okay babe, lie down. I'll kept checking up on you."

Me: " you don't have too. Just let me know when everyone is gone"

Buja: " sho love wam."

I turned around and walked away. When I got to my room I locked the door because I didn't want anyone to disturb me. I decided to lie down on top of the bed and looked into space. It was a sure case that I wouldn't be sleeping. Buja and his friends were having the time of their lives. I took out my phone and decided to call my sister. I phoned her but it rang to no answer. I gave up and closed my eyes.

After about 10 minutes, my phone rang. It was her. I picked up and said "hey"

I could hear that she was outside in a noisy place. She said " Noxy-nox, ubuzothini lovey?"

Me: " I just miss you..."

Phozi: " I'll call you some other time va, I'm sorry I can't even hear you properly. I'm in an event hosted by my friend. I have to go, love you. Mcwah-mcwah!"

Me: "bye"

I hung up. I kept checking the time every 5 minutes hoping that Buja's friends would leave soon. It got late and I was starting to give up. I heard a knock on the door " Noxy! Its me Wendy, we're leaving now. I'll be back with Lutha in a few minutes"

I shouted " okay"

I got up and went to open the door. The ladies had left and it was now the guys there. I saw that they cleaned up like they said they would. Buja saw me and said " hey, you're awake, how's the headache?"

Me: " I need to talk to you"

Buja: " they'll be leaving in a few minutes babe. My friends that had come to visit are leaving tonight. "

Me: " okay"

Buja: " give us an hour then I'll be all yours"

I nodded and turned around going back to the bedroom. He held me from behind and asked " babe, what's wrong?"

Me: " please don't touch me"

He slowly let go then said "is it that time of the month?"

Me: " what time?"

Buja: " are you on your monthly periods"

Me: " no"

Buja: " I don't understand why you don't want me to touch you. You know I love touching you"

I left him there after he said that. I went to the bedroom and phoned Wendy. I didn't know what was taking her so long to get back with my son. I was very, very edgy. She answered and said " I'm outside"

I said " okay" and hung up then went to the front door. I saw Lutha entering the door and went over to pick him up and hug him. " Molo mama" he said. I didn't respond, instead I was hugging him tight. Buja said " they're leaving now I want to hear what's bothering you"

He's friends got up and said " Buja, my nigga. We'll be taking the last flight so I'm going to quickly take a bath and get ready."

Buja: " it was good seeing you gents. I hope you won't be too scarce"

His friend " no I won't. Mrs Giba, I'm pleased to meet you sisi."

Me: " like wise. Have a safe trip"

Him: " thank you.."

His friends left, Sbu said his going back to his crib. They all started leaving. Once they left I tidied up then went to dish up for Luthando. Buja said " your food is in the microwave babe"

Me: " thanx, but I don't have any appetite"

I fed my son then went to give him a bath. He dressed up on his own because he saw himself as a big boy now. I went to his room and tucked him in. I said " I'll be back now-now, okay?"

He nodded and said " okay mama" Lutha was such an angel, I wished he could stay like that forever.

I went to the bedroom. When I arrived Buja was busy taking off his top. " It was a good day today, my love. I had a great time" he said.

Me: " I had the worst day"

Buja: " why?"

I went over to the dressing table and took the note then gave it to him. He took it and read it through. He frowned then said " this is not what you think." He looked at me and said " I can explain this"

Me: " explain then"

Buja: " where did you find it?"

Me: " it does not matter, explain Bulelani. So you are cheating on me, again?!"

Buja: " where did you find it?"

Me: " inside your pocket while I was about to do the washing"

He tore it up then said " its in the past. Amanda wrote this, and you know there is absolutely nothing happening between us"

Me: " you wore those pants last week Bulelani. Why are you lying to me?? Amanda has been lying in the ICU bed for 2 months now. Why are you doing this to me?"

Buja: " you were not suppose to see this. I saw it inside my office drawer. I was going to throw it away but something distracted me. It happened long time ago."

Me: " you are lying! You're cheating on me. Is it that woman with the short dress? Or is it your secretary? Who is it?"

He rubbed his chin with his index finger then said " how many times must I explain myself to you, Noxy? Believe what I'm saying"

Me: " Bulelani! Stop making me your idiot. Don't confuse being kind hearted to being dumb. Let me tell you something, God reveals things to me. You cannot hide things from me forever because uThixo ondimthandazayo uyandithanda, Bulelani! ( The God that I pray to loves me) you are busy being sucked by some whore in secret places, have you no shame?! You are married for heaven sake!"

He was looking at me but I just couldn't read his face. He was silent the whole time while I was shouting expressing myself to him. One tear escaped my eye because I was beyond angry.

Bulelani: " if you are not asking me a million questions, you are complaining."

He said looking at me. " Why are you becoming a nagging wife now? Do you know how annoying a nagging wife is?"

He said staring at me. I couldn't believe my ears. He continued " you want to know everywhere I am. You're counting the minutes if I'm not back here in time. You're busy searching my stuff now, then I get interrogated because of notes from my past. Every time Noxy, I explain and explain and explain to you, and I swear to you, its fucking irritating me."

He went to the closet and took out his red muscle top then wore it.

Me: " Bulelani, I love you, but what you are doing to me is painful. You said you want to see me happy, do I look happy to you right now? You are doing the opposite of everything you promised me."

Buja: " if you just believe what I'm saying, you wouldn't be frustrating yourself over nothing"

Me: " you are having an affair, stop denying it. I know the truth, it is out"

He glanced at me then said " I don't know what you're talking about"

Tears rolled down my face because I could see he was lying.

Buja: "do you believe me now?"

Me: " No! Damn it, why do you have to go and sleep around all over again. Why?? We were so happy, why do you have to spoil everything"

He took his car keys and walked out of the room. I rushed behind him and said " where are you going?!" I was beyond frustrated. He said " to take a breather, I'll be back when you've calmed down"

Me: " you are not leaving. We need to talk about this"

He stopped then said " we'll talk when you stop your constant nagging. Stop being so insecure, Noxolo. You know that you're the queen of my heart. Now stop this whining, it doesn't suite you."

He left me standing there and banged the door as he walked out. I heard his car driving out. I opened the door and watched him as he left. Tears flew down my face. I slowly closed the door and locked it, then wiped my face with my hands. I went to the bathroom and washed my face then took a face cloth. While I was about to go out, I saw Luthando passing going to my bedroom. I walked out and said " Nana" he turned around rubbing his eyes then said " Mommy, I can't sleep"

I held his little hand then we went to his bedroom. I tucked him in again then said " let's chat then"

Lutha: " why are your eyes red"

I smiled then said " I have something in my eye"

Lutha: " uphi utatam?"

I looked away and wiped a tear that escaped my eye then said " he's gone out, he'll be back soon"

Lutha: " please read me a bed time story. Please, please please!!"

Me: " okay nana"



I got up and went to look for a book in his shelf. I decided to take "Peter and the wolf" I read it and tried my best not to show him how much I was hurting inside. When I looked at him I could see he was getting sleepy. He finally slept then I kissed his forehead and turned off the lights. I went to my room and changed then got into bed. I took my phone, I wanted to call him and apologize. I just wanted him to come back. I got in between my covers and waited for him. Time went by, when I checked it was 00:16. I got out of bed and knelt down to pray. I asked God to give me strength. I cried while praying and let it all out. I got inside the covers again then tried to sleep. At least I was feeling a bit better after praying.

I woke up and my eyes felt swollen and heavy. I didn't even know when I drifted to sleep. I checked the time and it was in the middle of the night around 3am. I checked the side of the bed where Buja sleeps in but he was still not back. It hurt, a lot. Because what I was thinking at that very moment is that, he's in this unknown woman's arms while me and my son are waiting for him to come back home to us.

## Chapter 29

I closed my eyes and tried to sleep again, sleeping tends to be hard when you have a broken heart, and it was a real struggle for me, but I slept moments later.

I woke up again and it felt like I didn't sleep a wink. It was now the morning, the sun had risen. I checked the time and it was close to 8am. I got up and made my way to the en-suite bathroom to clean myself up before making breakfast for myself and my son. I didn't even bother looking at my face because I knew I looked terrible. I went to make breakfast for Lutha then just took out weetbix for myself. I still didn't have any appetite to eat. I heard one of the doors opening and knew it was Lutha, he had just woken up. I went to the bathroom with him and washed his face then brushed his little teeth. He said "mommy, I dream about you and daddy. We were running and playing together"

Me: "nyani? That's a nice dream"

I said that trying to sound convincing that I was happy, even though I wasn't at all. He nodded and said "eh-eh mama. "

We went to the kitchen and I gave him his food. I said "guess what.."

Lutha: "mmh..."

He was concentrating on his plate and chewing.

Me: "we're going to church today. Yeppie..."

My yeppie was ridiculously dull. I couldn't even pretend to be happy even if I tried." He said "nyani? And there's lots and lots of kids there, and I will play?"

Me: "yes, Nana wam"

Lutha: "okay mama"

He took a big bite then chewed again with a mouth full. I ate my cereal until I was done, then I went to open the tv for him. I said "I'll be back now va, mommy is going to take a quick bath"

Lutha: "okay"

I went to the bedroom and took off my night wear then wrapped a towel around my body. I went to check my phone but there was not even a missed call from Buja. I went to take a shower, after a while I was done then I got out and sat in front of the mirror. I took the body lotion then lotioned myself. My sadness showed so much in my eyes that I decided to stop observing my face in the

mirror. I went to take Lutha and got him ready as well. He wore his church clothes then I said " play with your toys, I won't be long Nana" I then went to the closet to look for something to wear. I decided on wearing my above the knee black dress with poker dots, I wore my cut out black heels then put on a little bit of make up. I applied my pink nude lipstick and covered my puffy eyes with an eye liner and a dark eye shadow. I straightened my hair with a hair iron. I sprayed my perfume then walked out of the room and went to get Lutha. I switched then tv off then we left going to church. We arrived just in time, Lutha went to sunday school while I listened to the pastor preaching and I singing to every song that was sang. The service was great. I prayed so much that I found peace inside, it was like a heavy weight was lifted off my shoulders. The service was now over so I went to get my son and we left going to the car. I didn't really want to socialize with anyone this time. I drove off and left going back to my house.

When we arrived I saw Buja's car parked inside the yard, but not in the garage. It looked like he had just arrived. I was reluctant to go in because I didn't want to face him. I opened the gate then drove in my car, I entered it in the garage then stepped out with my son. We got inside the house, Lutha went to the tv and took the remote while I made my way to the bedroom. I arrived and put my hand bag on top of the bed. Buja got out of the en-suite bathroom with a towel wrapped around his waist. He had just taken a shower. He said " hey..."

I said " hi" without even looking at him. He came close and said. " You look so beautiful"

I ignored him and kicked of the heels then wore my push-ons. He looked inside the closet and took out his white vest and his dark blue 3/4 shorts then placed them on top of the bed.

Buja: " babe, we should talk about what happened last night."

I got out and left him in the bedroom without responding then went to the kitchen. I wore my apron and started cooking sunday lunch. Moments later he entered the kitchen and sat on the high chair. He said " you must be wondering where I was last night"

I kept quiet. I wanted to ask but I thought I should rather not because I didn't want to come across as the nagging wife - as he puts it.

Buja: " I went to hang out with my friend, I drank a lot babe because I was stressed about our fight. I went out clubbing. Noxy, sthandwa sam, please look at me"

I continued doing what I was doing. He got up from high chair and came over to me " please say something" he wrapped his arms around me. I said " don't....just don't."

He didn't let go of me. He said " let's try to forget about this stupid fight we had."

Me:"get your filthy hands of me"

Buja: " do you enjoy fighting with me na sthandwa sam? I'm trying to sort things out between us but you not willing to cooperate."

I pulled away from him and switched off the stove, I then glared at him " you called me a nagging wife, and now when it suites you we must work things out. Where did you sleep last night while I was waiting for you? Where?"

Buja: " I crashed at a friends place"

I had a huge lump in my throat. I stopped everything I was doing and went to the room. I hoped he wouldn't follow me. I laid in bed and stared at the curtain that was facing me. It got late, Buja came in and said " the food is ready, I finished everything for you"

I looked at him without saying anything. Our eyes met, he looked down then walked out of the room again. It was time for Lutha to go to sleep. I got up to check up on him, Buja was busy tucking him in. Lutha said " is it your turn to read the bed time story, daddy?"

Dad : " yes boy, which one do you want me to read?"

I walked out of Lutha's room and went back to my room. I took a quick shower then got into bed. Buja came in moments later. I was facing the other way. He also got into bed and said " babe, are you asleep?"

I ignored him. " Goodnight va" he said, he kissed my cheek. After about 10 minutes I could hear that he's fast asleep. I was so surprised that he slept so quickly. I turned to look at him, he was indeed sleeping. I closed my eyes then tried to sleep as well.

The following morning I got up and got ready for work. I didn't even bother making lunch for him. I made lunch for my son and myself then said " I'll take him after work"

Buja: " let me drop him off"

Me: " no, I'll do it"

I took my handbag and walked out of the room. I went to take Lutha and held his hand then went to my car. I drove off and went to drop my kid off then went to work. It was indeed a blue monday for me because I was in a dull mood. Bongie came over to me and said " hey you"

Me: " hey.."

Bongie: " what's wrong?"

Me: " nothing, why?"

Bongie: " you look like you're going to burst into tears"

Me: " no akhonto"

Bongie: " I know you Noxy by now. I hate seeing you like this."

Me: " I should go to court"

Bongie: " I'll go in the next hour, which matters will you be attending to on thursday?"

Me: " Eviction. I hope that man does get evicted because he's a pain"

Bongie: " haha mine is more interesting because we'll be selling that woman's property"

Me: " we sound so evil"

Bongie: " well if they don't pay they must suffer the consequences. At the end of the day we must lawfully punish them for making our clients unhappy."

We laughed then walked out " I'll see you in the next hour" I said.

Bongie: " sure love"

I left the office and attended court. After 3 hours I came back to the office. Time passed and it was finally home time. Bongie said " can I get a lift in your car? I won't be having a car for the whole week sana"

Me: " sure, no problem"

We got in car and I said I'll fetch my son first. On the way she said " I've met a new guy my friend and I think I like him"

Me: " mmmh, what's his name?"

Bongie: " Xolisa, maybe its time for new love."

Me: " all the best"

Bongie: " he's asked for us to go on a date tomorrow night"

Me: " and did you say yes?"

Bongie: " I said I'll think about it"

Me: " playing hard to get are we?"

Bongie: " maybe, maybe not"

She laughed. I smiled and parked in front of Lutha's play school. " I'll be back" I said. I went to fetch Lutha then came back and said " how about we go to your place? I don't feel like going home so soon"

Bongie: " sure"

I drove off to Bongie's place. We arrived and stepped out. We got into her flat then she said " Lutha can come to my room, I'll give him my play station"

Me: " does he even know how to play it.."

Lutha: " the sports cars are the easiest. He'll enjoy it even though he doesn't even know what he's doing"

Me: " haha okay"

She went with him to her room then gave him the game. She came back shortly then gave me some juice and sat down.

Bongie: " tell me what's wrong, Noxy"

Me: " I had a big fight with my husband"

Bongie: " are you guys okay now?"

Me: " no, and I doubt we'll ever be okay"

Bongie: " don't be so negative, Noxy. There's always ups and downs in a relationship"

Me: " he's having an affair"

Bongie put the glass down and said " again??"

Me: " yes, and when I confronted him he said I'm a nagging wife then left the house"

She covered her mouth in shock. " He came back the next day in the afternoon." I added.

Bongie: " but why enjena uBulelani, why does he have to cause trouble every time."

Me: " I've loved him since I was a teenager. There is no other man that I have loved and been intimate with except for him. I've given him everything. I'm living my life for my family - him and my son. Yet he goes and does this to me. Me, Bongie."

One tear rolled down my face. She got up and went to close her room door slowly so that Lutha wouldn't hear our conversation then came with a tissue. I said " thanx" then wiped my cheek.

Bongie: " I'm so sorry, my friend."

Me: " then he calls me a nagging wife. I'm not allowed to ask him anything. He does what ever he wants and expects me to support him. I'm putting up with a lot of things in this marriage, yet he leaves me and sneaks out with other women."

I sniffed and wiped my nose.

Bongie gave me a warm hug and said " I wish I could take the pain you're feeling away chomy, I really do. I hate seeing you like this"

Me: " I love him, I was even tempted to apologize to him even though I wasn't the wrong one. Its so hard to walk away"

Bongie: " you deserve only the best, Noxy. I wish you didn't get married at such a young age. You're only 22 yet you putting up with so much. You'll die of stress because of this man. Tell me, what is your hobby?"

Me: " I don't really have one except for cooking"

Bongie: "I mean fun stuff"

Me: " I don't even know. Most of the time I'm always indoors. Even when I was staying with my

in-laws I only had one friend, and most of the time I was studying and hanging out with her. Here, in this town, Buja is the one I usually hang out with the most."

Bongie: "you're not much of a socialite are you?"

Me: "its so obvious. Buja and I are the exact opposites."

Bongie: "yazi Noxy, I'm not married and I've never been married, so I cannot give you marriage advise. What I can tell you right now is that you need spark and some fun in your life. You need to do something adventurous. You're too young to be stressing so much. I'm so angry at your husband I wish I could kill him right now. I'm going to plan a weekend get-away for us. I need to spoil and pamper you"

Me: "you don't have too..."

Bongie: "I want too."

Me: "you so sweet, Bongie"

Bongie: "of course I am"

She winked and I laughed. I decided to go and check up on my son, he was enjoying himself. I told Bongie I had to go. I checked my phone because I felt it vibrating and it had 5 missed calls from Buja. The time was past 7pm. I put it back in my handbag then Bongie walked us out. I said "thanx for listening"

Bongie: "anytime, my friend"

I got in the car with Lutha then we drove off. I arrived and drove in then we went inside the house. The living room lights were off, but Buja was sitting on the couch staring at the blank tv screen.

Buja: "uvelaphi maka Lutha?"

I turned on the lights then closed the curtains. He got up and said "Lutha, go to your room my boy"

Lutha walked away to his room.

Buja: "its dark outside, where were you with my son?"

Me: "I didn't want to come back quickly and face you. I went to my friend Bongie's place."

He took out his phone and said "what's her number?"

Me: "excuse me?"

Buja: "give me her number. "

Me: "I will not do that"

Buja: "Noxy, don't test my patience"

He glared at me. I took out my phone and paged it and gave it to him. He dialed Bongie's number then gave her a call putting the phone on loud speaker. Bongie said "hello?"

Buja: "hi, how are you?"

Bongie: "I'm good and yourself?"

The whole time he was staring at me. Buja said "I'm good. Its Bulelani, Noxy's husband. I just want to know when last did you see her, because I can't reach her over the phone"

Bongie: "she's on her way back to your house now, she was with me. I'm sure she'll arrive any minute"

Buja: "thanx, Bongie. Bye"

Bongie: "sho"

She hung up. He breathed out loud and said "I just needed to be sure"

I walked away and went to the bedroom to change. I wore my slippers then went to the kitchen. I somehow felt like cooking, something which I enjoy and would maybe lift up my spirit. I decided to cook a grilled steak with garlic chive butter and french-style potatoes. I dished up then called my son and Buja to the dining room table. I blessed the food then we ate in silence.

Buja: " this tastes divine, mfaz'wam."

I concentrated on my food and didn't respond. I helped my son with cutting the meat then he fed himself. After we were done I went to wash the dishes. I didn't even bother watching any soapies, I went to shower then wore my short pj's then got into bed. Buja got in and said " I've tucked Lutha in. He's asleep"

Me: " thanx."

His phone rang just when he was about to take off his top. He looked at the screen then answered it.

Buja: " yah...."

He said coldly " Lucky, I'm not impressed with you right now. Tomorrow, I want a meeting with the 3 of you. I told you I don't want any blood in this mission but you did the exact opposite" I looked away pretending to be minding my own business. He listened then said" Its either you go to jail or finish him off. You started this mess by not following my instruction. You are going to clean it up, on your own"

He cut the call and took off his clothes.

" Lucky does he's own damn thing then when things don't go right he runs to Tar Buja." He said putting his clothes away.

Buja: "yah neh.... this laatie just does not listen"

I was dead silent. He got into bed then said " maka Lutha, baby wam. Let's talk and open up to each other. Come closer"

Me: " I want to sleep"

Buja: " not until we sort things out"

Me: " you didn't want to talk saturday night, what's with the change now"

Buja: " I was angry and I feel we both said things we shouldn't have said. You had every right to be angry about that note, it was a misunderstanding my love. I just wish you could believe me."

Me: " there's a quote written by Sir Athur Pinero, that quote says ' those who love deeply never grow old; but they die of old age, they die young.' That quote is applying to my life right now. My love for you is killing me, not physically, but spiritually and emotionally.."

Buja: "it doesn't have to be that way, babe. Zithembe kum, sthandwa sam. Losing you would destroy me, I don't see myself living without you. You make this house turn into a home, this place is so warm with your presence. You know, its amazing how two words that mean so much can seem so little. I remember when you said 'I do' to me on the alter, you changed my whole life around, my future seemed brighter. If I could show you how much your presence in my life mean to me, thank you would diminish the gratitude that I owe. I might not be the perfect husband, but in what ever downs we encounter in this marriage, I want you to know that uyathandwa ndim, Noxolo Simthandile Giba. Ndiyohlala ndingu Buja wakho, baby wam "( you are loved by me, and I will always be yours babe) He snuggled me into his strong arms and gently kissed my lips. We stayed in the same position until I drifted to sleep.

## Chapter 30

I woke up in the middle of the night and had this sudden thirst for water. Buja still had his arms locked around me. I felt so warm and so comforted in his arms. I wished we could stay like that forever. I wished I could just escape reality and be in a fairy tale story with my man where we could live happily ever after. But the reality was, he wronged me. I was still mad at him, and it was going to take time to ever forget. I knew deep down that Buja did sneak and mess around with that woman no matter how hard he tried to convince me that he didn't.

I gently removed myself from his arms. When I was about to get up he said in a hoarse voice " where are you going, my love?"

Me: " to drink some water"

Buja: " okay"

I could see he had just woken up. He has never been a deep sleeper. Little things wake him up, its like he's always ready for the unknown. I got up and wore my silky gown then went to the kitchen. I took bottled water and drank it until it was half empty then came back to bed. As soon as I got into the bed covers he came close and said " babe, don't sleep so far"

Me: " I'm right next to you"

Buja: " I want to feel your touch"

uBuja ebefeketa kodwa sometimes. I came close and placed my arms around his warm muscular body. He ran his fingers through my hair, his lips met mine, he started kissing me, and I just didn't back away. He gave me a breath taking kiss, I could feel his shaft hard as a rock against my body. He gently removed his lips from mine, I breathed heavily, his hand went to my behind and moved down to my butt, he gently tried to separate my legs but I stopped his hand " no, I don't want too, I'm not ready, not after our fight."I said.

Buja:" you don't trust me..."

Me: " I was beginning to trust you, but you destroyed the trust all over again"

Buja: " please don't do this to me"

Me: " I can't, I don't want to be intimate with you. "

He continued stroking my butt, he was breathing heavily, I could feel that he wanted me badly, but I just couldn't. The fact that he might be cheating on me with some woman ruined the moment. I always willingly gave him all of me, but this time I backed away.

He kissed my neck, I said " Buja, ha ana mani"

Buja: " babe, I can't control my urge right now. Your body is so soft, please let me eat my cookie, don't torture me sthandwa sam."

I looked away and almost giggled at what he said. He went down on me and left traces of kisses starting from my belly button. He slowly spread my legs kissing my thighs. I closed my eyes in absolute pleasure. My mind and heart said no, but my body failed me. It wanted him just as bad. He dived his tongue inside me. I moaned softly and grabbed one of the pillows. After a while of muffing, he got on top of me, our eyes met. He rubbed his shaft on my punani. I said " not without.." I couldn't finish my sentence, he entered me and paced up and down in no hurry at all. My body accepted him. We both muffled moans as we enjoyed the absolute pleasure we were feeling. He murmured " oh Noxy, this is so damn good.." After a while we finally came together. He then laid on top of me, I could feel his weight but I wasn't complaining. I brushed his head then we laid in silence. Reality came back to me, we didn't use protection yet I don't even know if he's using a condom when he's busy cheating on me.

" Buja.." I said. He responded " baby.."

His voice sounded like he was half asleep, half awake.

"Do you use protection when you..."

I wished I could say it, but I couldn't. It hurt every time I thought about it. I continued " when you're busy cheating on me" I realized my voice was breaking. He looked at me then said "I used it, I swear I would never endanger your health babe."

Me: " when are we going to test?"

Buja: " anytime you want, my love. I know we're still clean."

Me: " okay"

He got up and took a towel. He wiped me then said " I enjoy doing this." I smiled. He wiped himself then we cuddled.

Buja: " did you go for the contraceptive injection?"

I swallowed hard. I totally forgot about it exactly after I heard about my father's passing. I didn't even think about it again.

Me: " I'll go tomorrow, thanx for reminding me"

Buja: " when were you suppose to go again?"

Me: " this month"

I lied. I made a silent pray that I wasn't pregnant. Not while everything was such a mess. Buja was a Business Executive, but also a gangster on the side. He was possibly cheating on me again, and then it was the Articles that I was busy doing. I just wasn't ready to have another child with him again. I wasn't at all. I was disappointed in myself for being so careless. Buja interrupted my thoughts by kissing my cheek. I said " goodnight"

Buja: " night babe, I love you."

Me: " me too"

I closed my eyes and tried to sleep while we cuddled.

We woke up the next morning and got ready for work. Buja said " I'll send you to work, babe."

Me: " uhm..no, I'm actually giving Bongie a lift to her place this week. Her car has a problem"

Buja: " are you her taxi driver now?"

I stared at him and said " I wouldn't call myself that"

Buja: " I'm just asking..."

I applied my lipstick and decided on wearing my white ankle strap heels, since I was wearing my high waist black pencil skirt and a tucked in white blouse. Buja was having trouble with his tie so I went over to fix it for him.

Me: " there you go"

I said, then went to take my hand bag. I walked out of the room, he held my waist then said " are you sure you don't want us to go in one car?"

Me: " I told you why I can't"

Lutha was already in the living room waiting for us. I took our lunch boxes then walked out of the house while Buja was setting the alarm and locking up. Lutha waved while going to his father's car. I drove out first, hooted and left. I arrived at work then made myself some coffee, after I was done I went straight to the office and started with drafting 20 summons. My boss didn't play when she gave us work, some of the things weren't even for the Article Clerks but I loved the



experience I was getting. Bongie was also very busy so we didn't get a chance to sit down and chat. Luckily I wasn't attending court. Around 12pm I had to do a consultation with a guy who was arrested for drunken driving. He was attending court the following week so he needed an Attorney. Since it was a magistrate court case, Karen who's the Attorney appointed me to handle the matter. Before I knew it, it was time to knock off. We said bye to the other colleagues then Bongie and I walked out. We got into my car and I drove off.

Bongie: " so I was thinking..."

Me: " yes my love"

Bongie: " I want to invite Sandi and Nelisa to our get-away. It will be more fun"

Me: " that's a great idea! I love it. I think we should go the following week. I just need to get away from everything even if its only for a few days"

Bongie: " I've been surfing the internet. Hopefully I'll find a place soon."

Me: " I wish we could get accommodation at a lodge, maybe do something like quad biking"

Bongie: " someone seems to be keen!"

Me: " I am indeed. "

Bongie: " your hubby phoned me yesterday. He wanted to know where you were, because he couldn't get hold of you"

Me: " yes, he mentioned it"

If she only knew I was right in front of him. She asked " are you guys okay now?"

Me: " he's trying, but my instincts tell me this woman is not out of our lives. I should just try to prepare myself for the worst. "

Bongie: " it should never be like that. Don't ever start believing that cheating is a normal thing. "

Me: " I know, my friend"

We arrived at her place. " I'll see you tomorrow love" I said.

Bongie: " sure chomy, thanx for the lift"

Me: " no sweat"

I drove off back to my house. When I arrived Buja had just arrived as well. He drove in first and I followed.

Lutha came running to me. I took out a sweet in my bag then we got in while he was chatting about school and his friends. Buja kissed my cheek and said " how was your day, babe"

Me: " it was good, yours?"

Buja: " it was okay. Uhm, look babe, I'm meeting my syndicates I'll be back in an hour or two."

Me: " is it regarding the meeting?"

Buja: " yes, I need to set a few records straight with them"

Me: "what did Lucky do?"

Buja: " let's just say he almost killed someone, and if this person is not dead, Lucky is going to get caught"

Me: " so you guys are going to kill him? Where is this person now?"

Buja: "babe, please don't get very deep into this. Its better if you don't know every single thing. Let me get going.."

Me: " okay then"

He came over to give me a passionate kiss, then said " I won't be too long"

I nodded. He walked out. I went to the room and changed my shoes and formal clothing then got ready to prepare for supper. My phone rang while I had just entered the kitchen . It was Wendy.

Me: " hi.."

Wendy: " hey, how are you?"

Me: " I'm good, and you?"

Wendy: " I'm good, I have some great news. Amanda woke up today."

Me: " oh really? That's nice."

Honestly, and I know I'll sound cold hearted by saying this, but I truly didn't care.

Wendy: " yes, uhm...but it seems like she's got some kind of memory loss. The doc said she did injure her head, but hopefully she'll remember some things again. She didn't even know who I am"

Me: " shame man..."

Wendy: " anyway, I'm sure Sbu will inform Buja."

Me: " okay.."

There was a moment of silence. " I'm sorry" she said.

Me: " for what?"

Wendy: " I know your history with her, I sound selfish right now. Uhm, you can inform Buja, I have to go."

Me: " bye"

I cut the call before she hung up. I took out a glass but it fell on the floor and broke into pieces. I knelt down and tried picking it up but hand was shaking. I cut myself by mistake but I wasn't even bothered. I continued taking the glass. I stared at the blood coming out of my hand. " Buja, why are you doing this to me" I murmured. I started talking to myself. I got up and went to throw the broken pieces away. The pieces had blood but I didn't care. I went to the bathroom and rinsed my hands, I felt a sting and it was only then that I felt pain. I heard people talking in the living room. I took a small towel then pressed my hand then rushed out to see who it was because Buja did say he will be back after 2 hours. It was him and Lucky. Lucky greeted and sat down on the couch.

Buja: " babe, there's something very urgent that I have to do."

Me: " what's that? Nana, please go to your room va. I'll pick you up just now"

I said looking at Lutha. He sulked but walked away going to his room.

Buja walked away going to the bedroom and said " babe, let's have a chat"

We entered our bedroom then closed the door.

Buja: " lentwana iyabhatyaza baby, now I have to do damage control. I'll punish him, though."

Me: " but won't you endanger yourself?"

Buja: " No, I'm a pro in this game, and Sbu is going to meet me at the house I showed you. I'll be back around midnight."

Me: " what are you guys going to do?"

Buja: " I can't tell you, but I promise I'll be back. What's going on with your hand?"

Me: " its just a little cut."

Buja: " okay"

He changed his clothing and wore his black sneakers. He went to the safe inside our closet then opened it. It had 2 guns in it and some cash. He took out the gun on top and said " come and lock up babe"

I followed as we made our way to the living room.

Lucky: " are we ready?"

Buja: " More than ready. Has Sbu called?"

Lucky: " yes, Tar Buja. He's already waiting for us."

Buja: " shot"

They both took out their guns at same time and opened them. They checked the bullets inside then Buja said " let's go" and returned the gun behind his waist.

He kissed my cheek then walked out. Lucky said " bye, suster" then walked out as well.

Me: " bye"

They both got into Buja's car and left. I locked the door and went to the kitchen, I stood there for about 5 minutes like a statue. I looked at my hand and realized I was still pressing it with the towel. I looked at the kitchen calendar then went straight to it. I checked the dates and realized I was supposed to go for the injection a month ago, but with everything that has been happening I completely forgot. I touched my belly and hoped there was nothing inside. Luthando was not very safe as it is, the last thing I wanted was bringing another child in this risky life that I found myself involved in.

## Chapter 31

I decided to block this thought in my mind, even though my sub-conscious didn't let me. I went to the first aid kit and took out an injury plaster. It was water proof so at least I wouldn't have trouble when cooking or washing the dishes. I then started cooking supper. After the pots were still on the stove I went to check up on Lutha. I opened his room. He was sitting on top of his bed looking very sad. He had such a cute face. I went to sit next to him and asked " what's wrong Nana ka Noxy?"

Lutha: " you don't want me to watch cartoons"

Me: " I wanted to talk to daddy"

Lutha: " but I'm bored and daddy promised to play with me."

I rubbed the side of my neck then glanced at him.

Me: " do you want to play tv games?"

Lutha: " eh-eh mama..."

Me: " okay, iza ke Nana.

He got off the bed, I knelt down and gave him a hug " I love you" I said.

Lutha: " I love you too, Mommy"

He hugged me so tight like he didn't want to let go. After a while we broke the hug. I got up and we went to the living room. I took out some tv games and played with him. I kept checking the pots in between and going back to him. Being a mom and a wife you get to do a lot of multi-tasking. Moments later the food was ready. I had cooked italian rice with lamb and vegetable stew. I dished up for myself and my kid. I put Buja's plate in the fridge. I poured oranges juice for my son and an apple juice for myself.

Lutha: " I'm a big boy now mama, I do everything for myself"

Me: " ewe boy yam, you're growing up so fast"

Lutha: " I'm going to grow up and be tall like my daddy"

He smiled at me. I smiled back, he was my reason for living. My son was the reason I woke up in the morning. Lutha had my eyes, but the shape of his lips were Buja's. I saw a lot of myself in

him. I had a chat with him, we were very close because I've never hired a nanny for him. I raised him since I was 19, I was looking after him with little help for the parents.

I watched TV for a little while until I decided it was time for bed. Lutha was already getting sleepy on top of the couch. I woke him up, he took a bath then slept as soon as his head hit the pillow. I went to take a long shower then went to bed. I wondered what Buja can be possibly doing wherever he is. I ended up drifting to sleep.

I was woken up by a bright light in the room. I involuntarily opened my eyes. It was Buja. He was taking off black leather gloves and his top. I said " hey.." softly. " You're back" I added.

He came over to me and let out a smile " I'm back sthandwa sam" he planted a kiss on my cheek then got up again.

Me: " should I warm up your food?"

Buja: " nah babe, sleep."

He took off his sneakers then said " I need a shower, its been a hectic night"

I checked the time, It was after 1am. I was so sleepy I couldn't even keep my eyes open for too long. I heard the shower running while I closed my eyes returning to dream land.

I woke up again before the alarm rang, I heard voices talking in the passage and Buja wasn't next to me. I got up and wore my slippers and my gown then walked out. They were talking in the spare room. I decided to go in and check. It was Buja, Luzz and Sbu. They were laughing, and I must say, they were in a very good mood. Sbu saw me first and said " ezka Buja-ja"

Me: " hello..."

Luzz: "eita sis'Noxy!"

Me: " how are you guys doing?"

They chanted " we good, and u?"

Me: " I'm good too"

I glanced at this big black bag that was on the floor.

Sbu: " we should get going"

Buja: "I'll see you chaps later"

Luzz: " hayi Tar Buja sani, Lucky needs to learn a lot from you. You handled everything perfectly."

Buja: " I shouldn't have appointed him on this mission. He almost ruined things for us"

Sbu: " He's a bit impulsive and he's quick to pull out the gun. He needs to be taught a lot more than what he knows"

Buja: " uyabona wena Luzz, I know I can always count on you."

Luzz: " uyayaz nje Tar Buja I never disappoint you"

Buja smiled looking so proud. The whole time I was standing there observing everything. Luzz was indeed Buja's favourite syndicate. He knew that if he's not around Luzz will make sure everything goes well in their " mission"

I interrupted them by saying " I should get ready for work"

Buja: " yeah babe, gents we'll talk later. I also have to get ready for work. Luzz you know what to do with this cash"

Luzz: " sho mjita..."

He took the heavy bag and Sbu helped him. They said their goodbyes and left. I went to take a bath then got ready for work and so did Buja. I woke up Lutha as well then got him ready. Moments later we all left.

At work during lunch time I had a chat with Bongie. She said she's found a place out of our town, but it will only be more or less 2 hours to get there. She showed me all the pic's and said " I've even found a lodge my F just like you wanted it, but they only have rooms available this weekend."

Me: " but that's a short notice, I haven't even discussed this with my husband"

Bongie: " please do tonight. We need to know whether you can go or not. I need to make the booking by tomorrow"

Me: " I will, so did Sandi and Nelisa agree on going?"

Bongie: " yes, they're so excited!"

We giggled in excitement. Lunch time was over and we had to go to back to work.

Home time arrived. I did the usual of sending Bongie home then driving back to my place. When I arrived I noticed a red GTI mk 6 parked next to Buja's Jeep. I drove in and parked next to Buja's car then got out. Lutha ran out of the house then said " mom, look at dad's new car"

I looked at him dumb struck. Buja walked out then said " sthandwa sam...so what do you think?"

Me: " you bought a new car?"

Buja: " yes my love. Check this out..."

He held me hand and we looked at the registration number. It had " LUTHA" titled on it.

Me: " my goodness...its like a new version of the one you had back in tertiary. "

Buja: " you know I've always loved this car, my love. "

Me: " and why our son's name?"

Buja: " he's my first born, and this will be his car one day, or a new version of it. I love him sthandwa sam, I live for you and this boy"

Me: " mmh, okay"

Lutha: " daddy, is this my car?"

Buja: " yes boy"

" He's only 4" I said laughing in between my words. He winked at me and we all went inside. " So you have 2 cars now.."

Buja: " actually, you can use it if you want too. I'm actually planning to use it more often on the weekend or when you and I go out of town for a vacations."

Me: " which reminds me, Bongie had suggested for us to go in a get-away- weekend. I've been under a lot of stress lately, she advised that it would be good for me, and I agree. I could use a weekend away from everything"

Buja: " is it only you and her?"

Me: "we've decided to invite Sandi and Nelisa, too"

Buja: " I hope you guys will behave"

Me: " I will"

He held my waist then said " okay sthandwa sam, you can go. Have you guys already booked everything?"

Me: " we'll book tomorrow"

Buja: " okay, just give me all the details I need, I'll book everything for you ladies. "

Me: " no, we actually budg-"

Buja: " babe, please let the trip be on me. I know I'm the one that has given you so much stress, I take all the blame. I'm willing to pay for everything. I hope you'll have a lot of fun with your friends there...you deserve it"

Me: " thanx"

Buja: " anytime babe..."

Me: " I'll let Bongie know then."

Buja: " sure. Is there anything that you'll need?"

Me: " well, I need to do my hair, and maybe buy a few clothing and toiletries."

Buja: " okay, that's not a problem. I'll give you my credit card, how's that?"

I smiled and said " okay. I should start preparing for supper"

Buja: " let me drive in the cars so long"

Time passed and the day ended. The next day before I went to work, I took my clinic booklet then packed it in my handbag. I had decided it was time to go to the clinic. I left moments later. During lunch time I drove off and went straight to there. Luckily it wasn't full at all. It was finally my turn to go in. I gave the nurse the booklet and told her I've come for the contraceptive injection. She read what was written then looked at me and said " you were suppose to come 6 weeks ago. That is more than a month"

Me: " I know, I'm sorry, it was just that many things distracted me"

Nurse: " this contraceptive that you're using lasts for up to 3 months, you are aware of that, right?"

Me: " yes I am.."

Nurse: " to be on the safe side I think its best we do a pregnancy test then if you're test negative I'll proceed on injecting you"

Me: "okay.."

Nurse: " I'll give you a plastic cup then I'll let you pee on the other room"

I reluctantly nodded. She got up and I suddenly panicked. " Uhm..nurse"

She turned around and looked at me.

Me: " I'll come tomorrow. I'm late, lunch time is over"

She had a confused look on her face.

I took my handbag and left before she could say anything. I got into my car and drove off, I realized I wasn't ready, I even decided I'll wait just a little bit longer. I arrived at work and went straight to my files. I kept myself busy until it was finally home time. While Bongie and I got into the car, I said "I'm going to the salon, I'll be doing my hair. I'm thinking of doing a weave"

Bongie: " why? Your hair looks good and very healthy, it looks like a weave already."

Me: " I want something different my friend"

Bongie: " masiye ke sana, nzoseli ndisenza something nam"

Me: " by the way, Buja offered to pay for the accommodation, for all of us"

Bongie: " what?? Yho haisana you are one lucky -"

Me: " don't say that, please. There's a lot that I have to put up with from him"

Bongie: " but I have a feeling that he truly loves you, qha ke uyamosha"

I didn't respond to that. I turned on the radio instead. We arrived at the salon I had in mind and stepped out. Bongie decided to do a carrot up style and I was given options of the different weaves to choose from. I decided on doing Malaysian Hair 20 inch long. They even shaped my eyebrows. I phoned Buja and told him I'll be a little bit late and that I'll bring take aways, he was

all chilled and didn't have a problem. We later on left. I went to buy take aways for supper then dropped Bongie off.

I arrived at my house and walked in. Buja was with Lutha in the living room busy with the play station. I said " that is very addictive, Lutha will be hooked. ...."

Buja stopped the game and turned his head. He stared at me without saying anything. I went to put the take aways in the kitchen then went back to the living room. " I'll dish up just now" I said " I just need to take off these shoes"

Lutha: " mama, you look so pretty!

He said with a huge smile on my face. " Thanx nana wam" I responded.

Buja came over to me and said " wow, awumhle, how am I going to let you leave when you look this stunning. "

Me: " I hope you won't change your mind because I'm still going"

I made my way to the bedroom. Buja walked behind me and sat on the bedroom couch while I went to check something comfy to wear. My phone rang, it was Sandi calling. I got a mini excitement then answered.

Me" love!"

Sandi: " ola ola ola! Sizobangena. I can't wait for friday!!"

Me: " me too, hey. I've already done my hair. I can't wait my f. Sidibane sizi girls mani"

Sandi: " ewe mani, ewe, ewe, ewe! Its been a while since we had fun, Nelisa will call you tomorrow. We thinking of doing shopping, just the 4 of us."

Me: " I have enough clothes, but hey! I can't say no to that."

We laughed.

Sandi: " I'll buy booze kemna, you know me, I love being tipsy"

Me: "oh ke wena, will Nelz also drink?"

Sandi: " hahaha she's worse than me, Bongie won't be drinking, and I assume you also won't"

Me: " no love, I'm not into booze"

Sandi: "no probz, see you tomorrow va"

Me: " bye, mcwah-mcwah"

Sandi: " mcwaaaaah!"

I laughed while we hung up. I went to the closet in the section where I hung my dresses " so Buja, what will you be doing with Lutha this weekend?"

Buja: " the usual..."

He said laying on the couch, it was like he was deep in thoughts. I saw a short white dress and took out my white bikini suite. " I'm thinking of wearing this while we chilling in the vintage chairs sipping some drinks - "

Buja: " alcohol free, right?"

Me: " of course"

I changed and wore my short dress and my white flip flops and a beige and white striped summer hat.

I looked at myself on the big mirror in front of me. I took off my hat and flicked my weave. " So what do you think?"I asked

He got up and came over to stand behind me. He looked at me for a while and said " I don't trust this Sandi chick. She'll give you alcohol then you'll get drunk. Obviously men will take advantage of you because they'll be checking out your sexy body. I'm no longer sure about you going"

I turned around then glanced up at him " I'm going, you cannot stop me. At least when I'm away from you for just 2 days I'll be happy and stress free. Sandi and the rest of my friends will not be a reminder of a note from a side chick sucking my husband's dick. Or wait! Amanda calling out your name while you are busy sexing her. At least they're trying to brighten up my mood because this get-away is for me. Now allow me to be excited about this trip."

I looked at him with so much anger. We glared at each other. I didn't take my eyes off him as well. He said " Noxy, since when do you talk to me like this?"

I didn't respond. I turned and looked at myself in the mirror again, running my hands through my new weave and checking myself out.

He rubbed his hands on my arms " let me tell you one thing babe" he said,

Buja: " if one man, and I mean just one touches or flirts with you in any way, I swear on my grandfather's grave I'll eliminate him from this earth. He will be known as 'last seen at' and never found again. I'll torture him for touching what's mine."

I turned around again slowly and looked up at him. I said " unlike you, my love, I have self control. I'm not easily tempted or get horny when I see other men. I know I have a husband, that I give myself too, and only to him. I'm faithful, I'm trustworthy, I have self respect. So to answer you, I will not let another man touch me in any kind of sexual way. I know that I'm someone's wife. I hope one day you will remember that you are someone's husband, and by then, it won't be too late for both of us."

He looked down and scratched the side of his neck.

Me: " I should check up on my boy"

I walked out of the room leaving him with shame written all over his face.

## Chapter 32

I made my way to the living room going to look for my son. I didn't care how Buja was feeling at that moment. I was just glad I told him what I have been feeling. Being cheated on is not easily forgettable. It hurts to the core. When I arrived there I didn't see him so I went to look in his room. He was laying on the carpet with his stomach playing with 2 toy cars. I decided to let him be and dish up so long before I called him to come and eat. I warmed up the food and dished up for the 3 of us. I was still wearing my short white dress so I decided to go and change first before going to eat supper. I went back to the bedroom. Buja was sitting on the couch again. He was staring at the floor and he looked like he was pissed. I said " supper is ready, I'll join you guys just now. " he got up without answering me and walked out of the room, I assumed he's going to eat. I changed then went to call my son over. When we got to the dinning room table Buja wasn't there. I sat down with Lutha then we began eating.

Lutha: "why is daddy not coming to eat? His food will get cold."

Me: " he's still coming Nana"

Lutha: " okay, I'll wait"

Me: " why are you waiting? You can eat so long"

Lutha: " no mommy, I want to eat when daddy is here."



Me: " please eat Lutha, he will be back"

Lutha: "okay ke"

I looked at him and wondered why he would say that. Lutha was starting to notice things and he was indeed growing up. I realized we have to be careful in many things now. I wondered where Buja had gone too, but I refused to call him and ask. I told myself that if he doesn't come back I'll make up another story to Lutha. We finally finished supper. I took Buja's plate and went to put it in the microwave. I watched TV with Lutha in the living room. He laid his head on my lap while I watched all the drama series. Buja walked in and passed us. Lutha sat up straight and shouted "daddy!!" Buja stopped on his tracked then looked at him " what son?" He asked. " your food is cold. I was waiting for you"

Buja: " I'm going to eat now, boy. Daddy had to go somewhere"

The whole time I was staring at the TV, my eyes were fixed on it while Buja was chatting with Lutha. He finally walked away, Lutha laid his head on my lap again and I continued watching TV with him. After about an hour I heard him snoring. When I looked he was fast asleep. I gently lifted his head then got up and went to open the bed covers then took out his pyjamas. I then went to pick him up. He was so heavy. I changed him then covered him with the blankets. "Goodnight sthandwa sika mama" I said to him. Then I planted a light kiss on his forehead. I turned off the lights then went to switch off the TV. When I was going to the bedroom I met Buja in the passage. " can we talk" he asked. " no, I'm sleepy" I responded passing him. He grabbed my arm so tightly then said " we need to talk"

Me: " no I don't want to talk to you. Now please let go"

Buja: " are you ever going to forgive me about this Amanda thing?"

Me: " I have forgiven you, forgetting is the hard part"

Buja: " so all along you holding this grudge against me while I'm thinking that we have moved on. Noxy, do you realize how much that hurts babe? I've made mistakes in my past, but the fact that you won't forgive me hurts me so much. I love you standwa sam and all I want is your forgiveness that's all. And I really wish you could believe my reason for that note. Its a note from long time ago"

Me: " do you swear on your grandfather's grave that you telling the truth?"

He looked away then bit the side of his lower lip. Secretly I was hoping he would say yes. But after he did that I just knew I was right, I knew there was another woman sleeping with my husband. "Who is it? " I asked. " don't do this again, please babe. Yes,I swear on his grave that I'm telling the truth" he said. I walked away from him again and went to sleep. After about 30 minutes he came in and got inside the covers as well. He tried touching me but I yanked his hand. " babe...." He said. I had such a huge lump in my throat I just didn't want to talk to him. We heard a scream coming from the other room . We both jumped out of bed and went to check what was happening. " its Lutha" Buja said going straight to his room . when we got there I turned on the lights. My son looked terrified like he had just seen a ghost. I went over to him and gave him a hug. He said " mama I'm scared." Buja and I both sat down and he rubbed his back while Lutha was hugging me tightly.

Me: " come, you'll sleep with me and daddy tonight" he nodded while he buried his face on my chest. I picked him up then Buja and I both walked out and went back to our bedroom. I placed him in the middle then tucked him in. He held my PJ top so tightly then said " mommy,please hug me" Buja and I glanced at each other. Buja said " boy, what did you dream about? "

Lutha: " it was big and scary daddy. It came to me, it was laughing"

He said while his voice was breaking. Tears were rolling down his face"

Buja:" it was just a nightmare"

Me: " he's never had that kind of dream before"

Buja: " bad dreams do happen. I hope it was just a once off thing"

Me: "let's hope"

We laid in silence. After a while Lutha was asleep. He was jumpy almost the whole night. We kept the side lamps on and both Buja and I kept checking up on him . Finally it was in the morning. Lutha's head was now on top of my chest and his feet were on top of Buja's stomach. Buja said " look at how this chap is sleeping. My body is aching because of his kicks"

Me: " hahaha we were in trouble last night."

Buja: " he sleeps like a maniac, babe"

I hit is arm and said " don't say that about my angel. You once slept like this too when you were young"

Buja: " yho sthandwa sam, I could have sworn I was the scary ghost he saw in his dream last night. The way he was busy kicking me during the night, I think we have raised a karate kid babe, or lil Jackie Chan.

He winked. I laughed so hard even Lutha woke up and rubbed his eyes. Buja smiled and said " I'm glad I made you laugh, it has been a while" I smiled and said " we should get ready for work".

Lutha : "mommy,daddy can I sleep here again tomorrow and the next day and forever??

Pleasssse"

Buja: " yhooooo!"

I burst out laughing and said "we'll see nana "

Buja cleared his throat then said " yeah, we'll see my boy"

Lutha: " okay"

We got up, Buja came over to me and whispered " there's no way I'm sleeping with lil Jackie Chan again in this bed. Or maybe he's getting me back for making mommy sad"

"Maybe" I said giggling. We all got ready for work then left. After work I met my 3 ladies and we all went to do some shopping. Nelisa was happy to see me, it had been a while since I saw her although I did see the others . After we were done I drove straight home.

Days went by, and I was happy because Lutha didn't have the bad dream again. However, he wanted to sleep with us because he was still scared to sleep alone again. Buja was not happy about that at all because Lutha was kicking us like no ones business. When we woke up, his foot was on top of Buja's neck and his face was in the opposite direction. Buja was complaining every time, he even said " baby, we need to train him to sleep alone again. I miss cuddling with you"

Me: " well my boy is still cuddling with his mommy, try to be patient."

Buja: "mmh....."

So now it was Thursday late in the evening. I had just finished taking a shower. I lotioned my body and wore my bum short pyjamas and my PJ top. We had tucked in Lutha in his bed again and this time he didn't have a problem although we kept the lights on for him. Buja walked in while I was opening the bed covers and came over to my side. He gently rubbed his hand on my butt and said " did I ever tell you how sexy your bum looks in these pyjamas?.....But you know what? I love it even more when you sleep naked"

Me: " I won't sleep naked, Buja"

He backed away and went to his side of the bed. I got inside the covers while he took his clothes off. He slept half naked and said " I miss cuddling with you, Noxy. And I know you miss it too"

Me: " I miss the faithful man that I thought I married. I miss trusting you, Bulelani. I miss the good Buja that I had in my mind before I knew the real you"

I started to become teary. He put his arms around me and pulled me closer. " try to trust me again, please"

Me: " its hard. I don't think I ever will"

He lifted my chin and said " you will in time, my love"

He gently bit my lower lip and said " let's get naked" whispering.

Me: " I have condoms in my bag. I need put them under my pillow because there is no way I'm sleeping with you without one again."

Buja: " I'm not going to use a condom with you, my love. We are husband and wife. I'd rather go and test with you before you leave for your trip than use it. I protected you when I was cheating and I regret everything that I did. Please trust what I am saying.

Me: " stop being so selfish"

Buja: " we've never used protection. Let's not start now"

He rested his lips on mine before I could say anything and kissed me. He slid his finger inside my PJ and gently rubbed my clit. I was starting to get wet down there when we heard our door opening. We broke the kiss and checked. Lutha came in carrying his teddy. He said " can I sleep with you, please. I'm scared of the monster again. "

Me: " uhm.... Yes Nana come here"

He came over to us and got in between the covers with his teddy. I looked at Buja and he look so annoyed. He murmured "bad timing boy, bad timing" Lutha hugged me tightly while his teddy was next to Buja and said "night mommy and daddy"

Buja and I both chanted "night" he immediately slept in my arms. When I looked at Buja he was so irritated. I said "hayi Buja...."

He said " nah its cool babe, I'm trying to think of ways to soften my hard shaft. Damn babe.....Lutha is on a mission this week. Ncnncnc eish this boy...." He looked like he was sulking. I couldn't help but giggle while brushing my son's back and kissing his cute little cheeks

## Chapter 33

Age restriction : 18 SN

I ended up drifting to sleep as well.

I woke up in the middle of the night and this time Lutha was next to Buja while he had his arms around him. I realized I forgot to switch my side lamp off. Before I did that I took my phone and took a photo of them, they looked so cute together. I saved the pic as "father and son" then I switched the light off and tried to sleep again.

The alarm made a " trrrrrrrr" sound . I almost took it and threw it against the wall. Buja also woke up and said " morning babe"

Me: " morning"

My head was feeling so heavy almost like I didn't get enough sleep. Lutha didn't even wake up, he was so used to being woken up by me he didn't even hear when the alarm rang. I got up while Buja closed his eyes again then I said " let me take a shower"

Buja: " sure, I'll join you in 5 minutes"

Me: " okay"

I made my way to the en-suite bathroom and took off my clothes. I waited until the shower door steamed up before I could go in. I tied my weave into a bun then wore my shower cap and entered. It was nice and steamy inside just the way I like it. I patiently waited for Buja to get in the shower as well while I washed myself enjoying the warm water running down my body. Buja finally entered, I smiled looking up at him. He pulled me to him and kissed me passionately. I could feel his hard shaft against my belly, poking and rubbing. He pressed my body against the wall and gently lifted me up, I wrapped my legs around his waist and made a soft moan as I felt his shaft entering and filling up my punani. His hands were grabbing my butt while he was hitting it in every corner inside me. I couldn't contain the loud moan as I reached my orgasm. We kissed again like we were hungry for each other, it had been a few days as it is since we were last intimate. I indicated for him to put me down, and he did just that. I knelt down and rubbed his shaft then slid the head into my mouth. I played with my tongue on the head, I looked up and met his hungry eyes pleading for me to go on. I licked it continuously, I could hear him groaning in pleasure. I closed my eyes and went as deep as I could. I could feel him on the verge of bursting and he pulled out fast. He unexpectedly pushed me back and lifted one leg up then entered me. He started thrusting harder until we both climaxed at the same time. We laid there while the water was still running down our bodies. After a while we continued to shower. Buja said softly " Noxy, baby wam.."

Me: " mmh?"

Buja: " I love you, I love you so much"

I smiled and said " I love you too, Buja wam"

He came close and kissed me. I wrapped my arms around his neck and kissed him back. For a moment there we had both completely forgotten about every problem we had in our marriage and concentrated on the love we had for each other. We finally got out of that hour shower session. We stepped out and wore our towels. He wrapped his arms around me from behind then said " are you sure you still want to go to this trip? You know Lutha and I won't survive without you this whole weekend"

I giggled and said " I'll be back on sunday nje love wam"

Buja: " okay..."

Me: "don't sulk.."

Buja: " I'm trying not too"

Me: " you knew I was going nje sthandwa sam"

Buja: " I'm not ready..."

I laughed and we walked out. Lutha was still fast asleep. We lotioned ourselves then Buja dressed up while I went to run my son a bath and got him ready for school. After about an hour we were done with everything. I wasn't ready though, I was still sitting down in front of the mirror brushing my hair and trying to decide on whether to let it loose or tie it up. Buja said " babe, I'll take Lutha to school. "

Me: " wait..."

I said while he was taking his laptop bag.

Me: " I think today is a good day to go and do the HIV test. I'll book the appointment when I'm at work, hopefully we'll get lunch time. What is your schedule for today?"

Buja: " uh....I've got an 8am appointment and at 2pm. That's all babe, I'll wait for your call then"

Me: " sure"

I looked at myself in the mirror and took out my eye liner. Buja came over to me and kissed my cheek and said "uyathandwa ngu Buja wakho va"

I turned to look at him then said "uyathandwa nje nawe ngu Noxy wakho Bubu wam" I pouted. He let out a smile then kissed my lips and said " see you later babe"

Lutha walked in carrying his school bag and said " bye-bye mama" waving.

Me: " bye nana, give mommy a kiss kaloku"

He came over and kissed my cheek then walked out. Moments later they left. I went to take my hand bag and my file bag, just when I was about to walk out of the room I noticed something flashing on top of the dressing table. I went over to it and realized Buja left his cellphone behind, there was an incoming call but the phone was on silent hence I saw the flashing. The number was unsaved. I swiped the screen and answered.

Me: " hello.."

There was silence

Me: " hello..."

Caller: " uh....hello...who am I speaking to?"

It was a female voice.

Me: " Bulelani's wife"

There was a moment of silence.

Me: " can I help you?"

Caller: " uhm, sorry, can I speak to him please"

Me: " he's not here. Who's calling?"

Caller: " I think this is the wrong number. Sorry for calling. I'm so sorry"

Me: " you just wanted to speak to him, when did you realize it was the wrong number?"

I put the phone on loud speaker then quickly took down the number. " I was calling the wrong Bulelani, not this one. I'm sorry ma'am. I have to go. Sorry, bye"she hung up.

There were so many sorry's I even lost track of count. I put his phone on my hand bag then walked out and locked the house. Once I got into my car I took it out and tried to enter his password. I tried every word and number I could think off but it just kept saying " wrong password" I finally thought of the day and year our son got baptized and it opened. My heart started accelerating. I never had interest of looking through his phone but I was very curious after that phone call. I went to messages, my hand started shaking uncontrollably, I wasn't ready. I quickly exited and locked the phone again. I started the car and drove out of the yard. I drove off while the gate closed automatically. That was the day I was going to the get-away trip with my friends. I didn't want to be heart broken, not when I was suppose to be making good memories with my ladies. I arrived at work and greeted everyone then entered my office. I sat down and picked up the phone to book a doctor's appointment. They had space for 12pm. I said okay and hoped I'd be back from court by that time. I then booked it in my diary, luckily I didn't have any consultations. I took out the piece of paper where I wrote the number and dialed it on my phone then saved the number as " mystery woman" I then started concentrating on my work. At 9am I

had to attend to court, then came back to work at 11am. My office phone rang just when I was sitting down. " Hello, Noxy speaking" I said.

Rulene: " your husband is on the line lovey"

Me: " okay thanx..."

After a while Buja said " hey babe"

Me: " hey there"

Buja: " how are you?"

Me: "I'm okay, and yourself?"

Buja: " I'm good too, my love. Did you get to book that appointment?"

Me: " yes, its a 12. I was about to call you just now"

Buja: "okay, that's not a problem. We'll use one car, I'll come and fetch you then"

Me: " sure"

I hung up then went to tell Karen I have a doctors appointment. She said okay. Buja arrived after about 20 minutes, I got in then he drove off.

Me: " you left your phone behind"

He was looking at the road ahead" Yes,I was about to ask you because I returned back to the house after my meeting but I couldn't find it"

I took it out of my bag and gave it to him. " Thanx babe" he said.

Me: " some woman phoned asking for you"

Buja: " did she leave her name?"

Me: " no"

I wasn't even looking at him. He paged his phone while driving then checked the call log. He then exited and continued driving.

Me: " do you know that number?"

Buja: " no, hence its not even saved"

Me: " do you know her"

He glanced at me then looked ahead again "No,babe."

Me: " then how did she get your number, my love?"

Buja:" babe, don't use your Attorney skills on me now. Please sthandwa sam"

I looked away not satisfied with his answers at all. After a while we arrived at the doc's place and stepped out. We held hands as we made our way to the reception. After about 5 minutes we were called in. The doctor greeted us and asked how he can help us.

Buja: "we've come to do an HIV test"

The doctor said okay, he advised that the results will come after 2weeks and asked if there's any other tests we would like to do. I quickly said " No, doc" because the pregnancy test crossed my mind. Buja also said no. The doctor took the sample of our blood then advised that he'll give us a call when the results are ready. We said okay and walked out. When we got into the car Buja said " would you like to spend lunch time with me?"

Me: " yeah, sure. My food is at the office though. Actually, I think I want to discuss a few things with Bongie."

Buja: " okay then. I'll see you after work."

Me: " okay"

He came close and we kissed then he drove off. I arrived at work. Bongie arrived 10 minutes after I got in looking tired. She was busy removing property with the sheriff so she had to do a report back to the Attorney.

During lunch I sat with her, and we discussed about the trip. Rulene and Linda joined us and we had a fat conversation together.

Home time I arrived. I went to fetch Lutha and told him I'd be going but not for long. I even went to buy him a whole lot of junk food so that he wouldn't sulk. He smiled and said " okay mama, ubuye ke va!"

I laughed and said " okay nana"

We arrived at home and Buja arrived after us. I changed and cooked a quick supper for them then packed all my new clothes and toiletries. Bongie phoned and said " we'll be picking you up at 7pm love!"

Me: " okay dear."

I hung up and continued getting ready. Buja got in and said " have fun babe, but don't forget me when you're away"

Me: "of course I won't"

He wrapped his arms around me and said " I'll miss you so much"

Me: " its only a few days..."

Buja: " I know, I'll be bonding with karate kid anyways. We'll have some father and son time tomorrow"

Me: " ncooh, remember not to be hard on him"

Buja: " I promise I won't babe"

Time passed then I got a call from Bongie saying they're outside. Buja helped me with my traveling bag while I carried my hand bag then we went to the car, Lutha came over to us as well and said " mommy, when will you be back?"

Me: " on sunday my boy"

Buja gave me a warm hug and said " take care"

Me: " you too. In what ever you will be doing, I hope you'll be thinking of me"

Buja: " I will, I promise. Enjoy ke sthandwa sam"

Me: " thanx"

We kissed then I kissed Lutha as well and got in the car while Buja put the bag in the boot. He went to greet my friends then said " take care of my wife please ladies. If anything happens to her know that all hell will break loose. "

They laughed and said " we will Buja z'ka Noxy!" I looked away blushing. We said our goodbyes and left. Bongie was driving.

Nelisa said " I also want a handsome husband guys. Noxy give us tips please on how to get one"

Sandi: " I admire you guys though"

Me: " haha ewe nhe..."

They carried on talking. We stopped by at the garage for some snacks then went back to the car. This time I sat at the passengers seat at the front. While Bongie drove off again I decided to take my phone out. There was an MMS from Buja. I opened it and it was a photo of him and Lutha chilling in the living room making funny faces. He wrote " we already miss you, Noxy wam. Your

presence is felt. We love you" I smiled and replied "I love you guys too. Enjoy the bonding session"

I pressed 'send' then opened WhatsApp. I checked my contacts and came across "mystery woman" so she had WhatsApp. I went to her profile picture. She was light in complexion, more like caramel colour, but I was lighter than her. She had a curly weave on which looked like brazilian hair. She wore a very short pink dress, her thighs were on total display in that pic. I didn't recognize her at all. I went to her status message. She wrote "first it was all fun and games, but now I've fallen in love with him. I fight for what I want, and I'll fight for him, no matter what it takes."

I read the status message 3 times. She didn't even know I had her on WhatsApp and I couldn't help but think the "him" she's talking about is Buja. But how can she say she'll fight for him. He's my husband, how can she say she'll fight for a married man. Was Buja having an affair with her? Is she the one that wrote that note? I looked at her profile pic again, I didn't know this woman. I tried to convince myself that it can't be Buja that she's talking about. I decided not to frustrate myself over this, not when I want to have fun. I refused to let this status message ruin my whole weekend. My friends were chatting, I joined in the convo distracting myself. We finally arrived at this beautiful lodge and drove in then parked. We wheeled our bags and walked in at the reception to check-in chatting and laughing. My excitement was starting again. I took my phone and called Buja to let him know I arrived safely. Bongie was checking us in and Sandi and Nelz were busy chatting non-stop. "Noxy?" Someone called out. I turned my head to check who on earth knows me in this town.

"Noxy! Its so good to see you,wow babe, this is a nice surprise "

It was Khaya and it looked like he had just arrived with 2 of his friends. I swallowed hard wondering how am I going to explain to Buja that Khaya, whom he hates so much, has booked in at the same lodge that I'll be staying in.

(Surprise insert as promised)

#### Chapter 34

I quickly cut the call because Buja's phone was still ringing from the other side. I suddenly got tongue tied and didn't know what to say, I couldn't contain my shock when I saw him. He came over to me and gave me a hug.

Khaya: " how are you?"

Me: " Me? \*clears throat\* Uhm...I'm good. How are you?"

My phone rang in my hand. I broke the hug and checked, it was Buja returning my call. I said " I need to take this, excuse me" I answered.

Me: " hello..."

Buja: " babe, have you arrived yet?"

Me: " yes, sthandwa sam. We're checking in now. "

Buja: " okay, that's good. I'm going to call it a night now. Your boy is already getting sleepy here. I don't know who he thinks is going to keep me company"

Me: " its way past his bed time kaloku. And I think you should sleep with him in our bed. He might be scared again."

Buja: " hahaha maka Lutha, you joking right? I'm tired as it is, I'm in no mood for kicks from him, not again. "



Me: " hahahaha...anyway, I have to go"

Buja: " bye babe. "

Me: " bye..."

Buja: " I love you..."

Me: " I love you too"

We hung up. I turned and saw Bongie getting the keys. Some lady escorted us. I said to Khaya " its good to see you, I have to go.."

Khaya: " me too, Noxy. I guess I'll see you in the morning then."

Me: " yeah....uhm. Goodnight"

Khaya: " night babe"

I didn't like this 'babe' at all. I felt uncomfortable. I took my bags and we were shown our rooms. I kept admiring the place checking it out until we arrived. We were given 2 big and beautiful rooms with lounges and bathrooms inside. They had sliding doors and the view outside was just amazing. I could see the sea view and God's beautiful creation; His art of nature. I closed my eyes as I felt the sea breeze running through my skin. This was indeed just what I needed. Bongie and my friends came to join me outside.

Nelisa: " wow sana, this is just too beautiful. I've been under a lot of stress lately at work, its exactly what I needed as well."

Me: " I wish I could stay here forever"

Bongie: " how about tomorrow morning we go to the beach and watch the sunrise?"

Me: " that's a perfect idea. I need that"

Sandi: " we must bring champagne ke, we won't watch the sunrise without drinking something"

Me: " haha, unless its alcohol free, I won't drink it"

Sandi: " I'll order 2 bottles, the other one is champagne free"

Me: " okay then"

We all went back inside and chilled together in one bed. We ended up changing and wearing our night wear then sitting on the couches. We ordered supper and chatting while eating. Nelisa and Sandi told me all about their relationship drama's and Bongie told us about that new guy she has met. She had decided on giving him a chance. I was happy for her. It was good hearing about other people's problems, it actually helped listening to them. But I wasn't about to tell them about my marriage problems. Bongie was the only one I fully trusted, and unfortunately, I didn't have any friends that are married like me that I met. Being a young wife you only get to befriend older women that are married, because most people my age were still single and partying. Around 11pm we decided to call it a night since we would be waking up and 5am to watch the sunrise.

I took a shower and wore my pyjamas then got into bed. Sandi and Nelisa would be sleeping together while I was sleeping with Bongie in our room.

So Bongie asked " who was that guy you were talking to earlier?"

Me: " that's Khaya, Buja's friend"

Bongie: "oh, he's a hottie"

Me: " haibo, I hope you won't see hotties here, you've got a boyfie remember"

Bongie: " hahaha I know, I was just checking him out. You wouldn't even notice kaloku wena because your man is handsome as it is. My Xolisa is not even hot, but ke he has a good heart."

Me: " that's what matters my friend. Sometimes its not all about the physical appearance. When you want someone you can build a future with, the inside beauty is what matters"

Bongie: " as long as you won't be embarrassed when you walking with him"

Me: " hahaha haike andazi"

We laughed. " Yazi my friend, some woman called my hubby this morning. I saved her number, and she appeared on my WhatsApp." I took my phone and opened my WhatsApp then showed her the profile picture. " She couldn't even talk and kept apologizing when I said I'm Buja's wife. Its like she was feeling guilty. Now her status message somehow makes me uneasy. Please tell me I'm not reading into things"

Bongie took the phone and checked it out. " She's sexy, but a slutty kind of sexy. I'll be honest with you"

Me: " why is she phoning my husband Bongie. I can't help but feel she's the one he's having an affair with"

Bongie: "that might be possible. So she's saying she'll fight for him no matter what it takes? Hehehe haisana some side chicks are on a mission. I hope she's not planning something evil to get rid of you"

Me: " Buja doesn't want to admit that the note I saw is recent. He keeps denying everything"

Bongie: " ha a mani, why is Buja doing this to you Noxy. You are such a good woman, you inspire me. Why is he hurting you"

Me: " the good are always unlucky, Bongie. Right now I'm trying to save my marriage, I'm trying to be calm and keep my composure about this. I'm trying to be content but I'm afraid what will happen when I've had enough. I don't want to lose my sanity, Bongie. "

She gave me a hug and said " I'm here for you. I know you're not good at opening up to people, but I'm glad that you trust me enough to open up to me. I'll always be by your side no matter what Noxy. "

Me: " thanx"

Tears filled my eyes but I quickly wiped them. We ended up drifting to sleep moments later. Bongie woke me up in the morning. She said " we should get ready love"

Me: " mmmh...I'm so lazy to get up"

I said with my eyes still closed. " Come on. Move it, move it!" She said pulling my arm. I got up, Bongie was so fresh, I wished I could take her energy. I went over to the bathroom and washed my face with cold water then wore my white shorts and my blue top. I wore my slippers again then we got ready to go. I tied my weave and applied lip gloss and took a mini basket then put some fruit inside. Sandi knocked and said " let's get going!"

We all walked out. We went over to the sand and sat on a towel then Sandi took out 2 bottles of champagne and some champagne glasses. She poured us each one. " Here's the alcohol free one ke my F. I don't want your hubby to kill me for giving you alcohol." I laughed and thanked her. We made a toast to the fun that's ahead then downed the glass. I poured another glass then we started chatting. We watched the waves. I laid on my back and said " this feels good"

Bongie: " yeah it is. Which reminds me, we need to take lots of selfies"

Me: " true!"

We gathered together and started taking lots of pictures. Sandi said " we look pretty even if we haven't washed! True beauty" we all laughed then took more pictures. The sun started rising while my friends and I were sitting and chatting about anything and everything. We only left around 7am and went back to the lodge to take a bath and eat breakfast.

Around 10am we were taken to a place which was a few kilometers away from the lodge for quad biking. I must admit that I had the time of my life. We were all dusty but hey, I wasn't complaining. In the afternoon we played golf. I have always thought golf is very boring but after I tried playing it I was having fun. All this time pictures were taken of us having a great time. Later on we returned back to the lodge to take a shower. I took a shower then wore my white bikini suite, white flip flops then took my pink towel and tied it on the side of my waist. I took my sunglasses and wore them and my summer hat. My friends also wore their bikini suits we walked out and laid on the beach vintage chairs. We were served juices and cocktails. I even found myself saying " aaah this is the life"

Sandi: " it is indeed!"

Me: " cheers to the good life"

I said lifting my glass for a toast. We all made a toast. Sandi said " let me go to the pool for a swim"

Bongie: " Il join you..."

They went for a swim.

Nelz: " here's the guy you were talking to last night"

I looked and saw Khaya with his friends. He had just gotten out of the 2nd swimming pool that was there. "Khand'fake Noxy, I want him" she whispered.

I looked at her and said " you have a man Nelz!"

She laughed and said " I'm not happy wethu, so I'm still available. There's no guarantee that he'll marry me anyways" she said checking Khaya out. Khaya glanced at us and waved. We waved back. He walked over to us and Nelz pinched me. I almost laughed. He arrived and said " hey ladies"

We chanted "hey"

Me: " Khaya, please meet my dearest friend Nelisa. Nelz, this is Khaya"

Khaya: " pleased to meet you"

Nelz: " pleased to meet you too, love"

She sipped on her glass and smiled.

Khaya looked at me and said " there's a few things I'd like to discuss with you, Noxy. If you have a chance can we take a walk"

Me: " what kind of things?"

Khaya: " you'll find out when we take a walk"

Me: " okay. I'll be back lovey"

Nelz: " sure. Let me join the others for a swim so long"

Me: " okay"

Khaya: " thanx Nelz, she won't be long"

Nelz: " sure sweetie"

I looked at her and she looked away almost wanting to laugh. I got up and took my drink with me. " So where are we going?"

Khaya: " just checking out this beautiful place we'll be chilling in for the rest of the weekend"

Me: " okay, so you also decided on a get-away with friends"

Khaya: " something like that. I love going on get-aways at least 5 times a year. You know, just to

unwind from everything. "

Me: " oh well...this definitely won't be the last trip I'll be having."

He stopped and stared at me " you look so beautiful, Noxy" he said.

Me: " thanx, I should go back to my friends"

Khaya: " you not comfortable because Buja hates my guts, right? You on your husband's side"

Me: " Khaya, I don't want to talk about this, especially your feud with my husband"

Khaya: " come, let's go to those couches, I think its time I opened up to you about the feud I have with Buja."

Me: " I don't think that's a good idea"

Khaya: " you deserve to know the truth Noxy, then you can decided which side you're going to choose"

Me: " I'm on my husband's side Khaya. He's my life partner"

Khaya: " come..."

He held my hand and we made our way to the couches which were outside. There were beautiful candles placed everywhere. There was a somewhat bush just abit far from where we are. We sat down, Khaya sat next to me. " Buja and I were once close friends" he said.

Me: " then what changed?"

He looked at me then said " him and I met when we were both doing 3rd year in tertiary. We became close and did everything together, but his closest friend was Sbu and still is. We went to different Universities, but we were all involved in corruption together. We were a crew, and we had money because of what we did. We drove nice cars and almost all the chicks wanted us, of course we used to grab the oppourtunities of getting free pussies"

I cleared my throat. He continued " Buja and I started arguing about a certain illegal and dangerous deal. The argument was serious. I'm sure he has told you by now what else he does for a living. "

Me: " he has..."

Khaya: " Buja can be hard core, he used to come back with the cash no matter what the cost is. We had a fight which turned ugly. We tried to get over it and move on but the tention between us was so high it was hard not to notice. We got legal good jobs but we didn't stop what we were doing. Our parents did educate us, so we all have degrees. Ey...Buja and I had a fall out again and this time we were in a party. Buja told himself that he will get me, and he did. He slept with the one woman I saw a future with, and it was more than once. Wandityela uBuja repeatedly and once he was done with her he dropped her like a hot potato. "

Me: " is this a story from long time ago?"

Khaya: " this is last year. Noxy, umyeni wakho yinja,(your hubby is a dog) and I feel for you because you don't deserve him."

I could see he was starting to become upset " that man you call a husband sleeps around with all these chicks, and they fall for him because he's a charmer. Once he's done with them he brushes them off coldly and tells them he has a wife, that's always his excuse. Buja is a bastard"

Me: " how do I know you not saying these things because you have a grudge against him?"

Khaya: " Noxy I care a lot about you. When I first saw you I saw this naturally beautiful innocent woman coming from a small town. This young lady who knows no one in this town and trying to adjust to everything. All I wished for you was to have a good man who will love and honour you. Not that piece of rubbish and mother fucker called Buja. He knows he's got you wrapped around his lil finger. And to be honest, he got you pregnant on purpose while you were young so that you

can forever be his. Nevermind not being able to finish matric and having to repeat the grade. Everything has always been about him babe."

I looked away trying not to be hurt by what he was saying. " If you think I'm lying, tell me Noxy, is there anything odd you've seen from him since you've arrived? Nevermind the Amanda saga, is there anything that you've noticed that shows that he's a ladies man"

Tears rolled down my face. I couldn't protest because it was true. I was trying so hard not to be teary but I failed.

Khaya held my hand and said " I know its going to be hard, but try to walk away while you still can"

Me: " I can't, I love him"

Khaya: " is there any other man that you've been with before other than him?"

I shook my head while wiping my cheeks.

Khaya: " that's why he knows how to handle you. He's not what he seems. I've seen him do very bad things. How do you know another man won't treat you better? How long will you have more than one side chick in your marriage having sex with your husband behind your back?"

That question made me even more teary. He came close and gave me a warm hug. " Sshh babe, I hate seeing you hurting like this."

Me: " I'm scared Khaya, sometimes I feel like I'm about to lose my mind. Its hurting so bad yet I love him and enduring all of this. Its painful and its really killing me inside."

" I'm always going to be here for you, Noxy. You can count on me. " He was still hugging me and stroking his hand through my weave. " I'm not the enemy here, Buja is" he said.

He planted a gentle kissed on my forehead and continued comforting me. At that moment, I felt that he's the only one that truly understand what I'm going through. It seemed like he wasn't a bad guy after all.

## Chapter 35

You can never run away from your problems. Whether you go to holiday trips or to a foreign country, they will always come back to haunt you- following you wherever you go. Problems need to be dealt with and not run away from. It was all clear that my happiness was limited. Its like a curse was put in my life never to be happy even if it was just a short period of time.

So now I was in Khaya's arms crying on his shoulders while he was brushing my back. I sniffed and broke the hug. He wiped my cheeks with his left thumb and stared into my eyes. Our eyes met. I got up and said " I need to go back to my friends, I'm sure they're wondering where I am."

He also got up and said " let's not let this spoil your day. Otherwise I felt I needed to open up to you, I wanted you to stop being in the dark about the beef I have with Buja."

Me: " thanx for letting me know. The truth is always the best, right?"

Khaya: " absolutely"

He stroked my cheek and said " you shouldn't have to shed any tear for that man.."

Me: " bye, Khaya"

I walked away, he held my arm and asked " do you want me to check up on you later on?"

Me: " no thanx, I'm fine"

I gently removed my arm from his hand. "not many women are as loyal as you are. Most men are searching for someone like you, Buja is playing with fire"he said.

I walked away at a fast pace. I just wanted to get away from him. All along I was thinking about the intimate hug we shared, it felt so wrong. I went back to my friends who were now out of the swimming pool and grabbed my sunglasses then immediately wore them. I didn't want them to see my eyes from all that crying. They looked at me and asked "where were you na sana?"

Me: "I went to have a chat with Khaya, as he said, he wanted to discuss something with me"

Bongie: "okay, I was starting to get worried."

Me: "no love, I'm still okay. Nelz, do you want to join me for a swim?"

Nelz: "sure"

I took off my towel and sunglasses then got into the swimming pool. I washed my face then began swimming and playing with water.

Nelz: "so what did you and my crush talk about?"

Me: "my husband and his friends. You will get lost so it doesn't matter"

Nelz: "mmh okay, I was actually hoping you were gonna say you talked about me"

Me: "hahaha next time..."

Nelz: "okay my F. "

After about 30 minutes I got tired and got out of the water. I brushed my hands through my wet weave and made my way to the vintage chair to get my towel. Something made me glance at the direction from the right hand side. Khaya was staring at me while his friends were busy chatting and laughing. The way he was staring at me it was like he was undressing me with his eyes. He smiled and waved again. I waved back and wrapped myself with the towel. "We should get back to our room" I said.

Sandi: "not now, I still wanna order more cocktails. Sex on the beach will do. "

Me: "what?"

Sandi: "hahaha its the name of the cocktail"

Me: "uh...oh..yho..."

Sandi: "yazi wena Noxy, you look like those innocent women who are very naughty in the bedroom"

Bongie: "hahaha hehake.."

"Haibo!" I said looking at Sandi.

Sandi: "its true!!"

I looked away wanting to keep a straight face.

Sandi: "grrrrr"

She made a funny face. I said "oh! So now I'm being teased! Okay, I'll get you"

Nelz: "get her Noxy, men stay with her for 2 days and disappear."

Me: "hahaha 2???"

Sandi: "hahaha eshe so you're exposing me now Nelz?? guys please give me tips on how to keep a man! or if your ice cream melts, I will gladly take it and it will get frozen within 2 minutes"

We all laughed "I cannot believe you making a fool of yourself. You are so weird." I said still laughing.

Sandi: "hahaha I know, I'm unique like that"

Me: "you remind me of my sister yazi"

Sandi: " really? Hahaha I'd like to meet her"

Me: " you will, she will be visiting in think next month"

Sandi: " okay then"

We continued chatting until I reminded them that I needed to go back to the room. I left them there and arrived then closed the door. I had left my phone on top of the bed. When I checked it, there were 3 missed calls from Buja's father, and 2 from him. I decided to call Buja's father first. It rang for a while until he picked up.

" Makoti" he said. I wondered if he'll ever stop calling me that. " Molo Tata, how are you?"

Buja's father : " I'm okay, unjani wena mntanam?"

Me: " I'm good too, thanx. I've just seen your missed call. It has been a while since we last spoke"

He said " it has been indeed. The last time I saw you was at your father's funeral. I was just checking mntanam on how you are holding up?"

Me: " I'm okay, Tata. There are times when I think about him but ke God has healed my heart."

" Okay, that's good to hear. Makoti, I want you to know and always remember that we love you. Your biological father might have passed away, but mna I am your father too. We did not name you Simthandile just for the hell of it. Sikuthandile mntanam apha kwa Giba. I haven't heard any complains from you in a while, so I'm assuming my son has been treating you very good. Your mother-in-law did mention that she spoke to him and he said you two are happy. That is music to my ears my child."

Simthandile is what the Giba family named me when I was still a new bride. It is my marriage name. It is a name I've decided not to use much in this diary in order not to confuse some of the readers, hence I always stick with my I.D name Noxolo.

Buja's father has always been so good to me. I actually missed him a lot. I was surprised when he said Buja's mom advised him that we still happy and that she spoke to Buja. He never mentioned that she called. I wondered who was lying between her and my husband, because we were far from being "very happy"

" I have to go my child, take care" his father said to me.

Me: " take care as well Tata. Thanx a lot for checking up on me, please send my greetings to everyone"

Buja's father : " I will my child. Bye-bye"

Me: " bye..."

We hung up. I took a deep sigh and paged to Buja's number. His phone rang and he answered immediately.

Buja: " maka Luthando.."

He said in a deep voice, it was such a serious tone.

Me: " hey, I saw your missed call. I was having a swim outside"

Buja: " how are things that side?"

Me: "I'm having fun with my friends. This trip is actually very good for me"

Buja: " I see. I miss you babe"

Me: " I miss you too.."

I rubbed my neck feeling abit flushed. I was undecided whether to tell him about Khaya. " Baby...."

I said to him. I went over to pour myself some water.

" My love..." He responded calmly. "I saw someone here. I saw him today while I was having a swim"

" Who is it?" He asked..

Me: " its Khaya. He's booked in at the same Lodge."

My heart was accelerating like I did something extremely wrong. I wasn't sure what exactly was happening to me.

Buja: " so he's in the same lodge, on the same weekend..."

Me: " yes..."

I could hear him taking a sigh, then he said " damn that asshole. Did you get to talk to him?"

Me: " yes"

Buja: " what did he say to you?"

Me: " he told me some stuff that I cannot say over the phone"

The door flew open and my friends walked in talking loudly. I said " I have to go"

Buja: " sure, we'll talk when you get back"

Me: " where's Lutha?"

Buja: " he's gone to visit Wendy's kids. I'll pick him up later"

Me: " okay."

Buja: " bye, my love"

Me: " bye"

We hung up. He sounded calm, which was very unexpected of him. I went to take the hair dryer and started drying up my hair. Later on we went to a fancy restaurant for supper. We were all dressed in beautiful classy dresses and wearing heels. I had now forgotten about the chat I had with Khaya and concentrated on the beautiful evening and delicious meal I was indulging in.

The next day was Sunday. We would be leaving going back home around 2pm because it was a 2-3 hour drive. We started to get ready around 12pm then took a walk around the place before going back to the lodge and checking out. Time passed and we finally checked out and drove back to our town. On the way we did nothing but chat and tease each other. Nelisa was still crushing on Khaya, and match making wasn't really my thing but it seemed like I had to do something because she couldn't stop saying " I know my friend Noxy will put in a good word for me" after a long drive we finally entered our town. We went to drop off Nelisa and Sandi first. Then Bongie went to drop me off. We hugged then I said " I had a great time my friend. Thanx"

Bongie: " I'm glad you had fun. This trip was for you anyways."

Me: " this means a lot to me, Bongie"

Bongie: " anytime lovey"

I stepped out and went to take my bags. We said our goodbyes then she hooted and drove off. I went to open the door but it was locked, Buja wasn't home. I unlocked the door and entered the alarm code. I made my way to our bedroom and just wheeled my bag to the closet. I was not in the mood to unpack just yet. I sat on top of the bed then called Buja, he didn't pick up. I phoned again and this time he picked up on the 2nd ring " hey babe" he said, I could hear that he's not indoors.

Me: " hey, where are you love?"

Buja: " I'm at the car wash.

He told me which one then asked " where are you?"



Me: " I'm on my way home, we've just left the lodge now"

Buja: " oh okay, see you later then"

Me: " okay sure"

We hung up. I lied. I actually wanted to spy on him. I took my car keys then locked the house and went to my car. I drove out straight to the car wash he said he was at. As soon as I got closer I slowed down and drove at 20 speed. I parked next to a black polo which was parked abit far, just opposite the car wash. I spotted the Jeep being washed. Buja was standing at a distance carrying Lutha in his right arm. Lutha was playing with his caps. I watched and observed everything that was happening. I took out a mint bubble gum and started chewing it. After about 10 minutes I saw a light skinned woman wearing a cap and a black cutted jean and white top going to them carrying 2 cans and a small bottle which looked like juice for Lutha. She went straight to Buja and gave him and Lutha the drinks. She started playing with Lutha's cheeks and putting her hand on top of Buja's shoulder. They looked like a family. Buja was chatting to her and they were laughing at something. I wished she could take off the cap because I wanted to see her properly. I took out my phone and went to mystery woman's profile pic on WhatsApp, she had changed it to a more closer picture, she had taken a photo with a dark skinned woman who I assumed is her friend. I glanced at them again. Lutha was playing with her cap too now. She took him from Buja and Lutha took off her cap. She said something and they all laughed. Some woman was busy playing my role to my husband and son while I was away. I even wondered if she didn't sleep over my house, in my bed, with my husband. She put Lutha down and ran her hands through her hair. She was now facing my way. I fixed my eyes on her face. It was Mystery Woman. My heart sank. So Buja introduced her to our son. Lutha was even used to her because she was chatting to him and he seemed comfortable around her. I started my car and reversed then made a U-turn and left going back to my place. I saw everything that I needed to see. I arrived and parked my car in the garage. As usual I was acting tough because I didn't break down. My heart felt heavy and the lump in my throat was so huge it was even hard to swallow. As soon as I got in the house I suddenly felt light headed. I went straight to the washing basket and started smelling all tops that Buja wore. They had his cologne. I went to look under the bed, in the drawers, in the en-suite bathroom. Everywhere for any evidence that she came to sleep in my house. I started heating up and changed then wore a more lighter top. My head was starting to spin. I closed my eyes then after a while I felt better. I stood up and walked around in circles in the room. Somehow I was starting to lose focus. Turmoil was starting to wash all over me. I went to the closet and stared at the safe that had a gun inside. Buja had told me the password because he said the gun was for safety. I never thought I would want to use the gun until that day. I unlocked the safe and opened it. 1 gun was inside this time, and not 2. I took it out. It felt heavy, so I knew there were bullets inside. I closed the safe and put the gun on top of the bed. I wanted Buja to die, I wanted to kill him. All the hurt, anger, hatred and resentment came to me all at once. Light left the building and darkness washed all over me. I wanted to see blood. I wanted him to pay for what was happening to me. I sat in the bed and looked into space, I kept having dizzy spells but I ignored them. I was starting to lose my senses and my reasoning power. I didn't even think of Lutha at that moment. All I was thinking about was death, I wanted him to die for continuously hurting me so much. I was tired of crying because of him. I waited for him to return. I sat in the same position for about an hour looking into space. It got late and finally I heard the car driving in. I slowly took the gun and placed it under the bed. I got up and opened the closet then went to unpack all my clothes. Buja shouted from the passage " Noxy love wam!" " I'm here!" I shouted back. He entered the room with Luthando, my son ran over to me in total excitement and hugged me. " Mama wam, you back!"

Me: " yes I am, and I've brought you some nice goodies."

Buja came over to kiss my cheek then said " when did you arrive?"

Me: " just now"

I said not even looking at him. I gave Lutha the sweets and said " nana, please wait for mommy and daddy in the living room. We'll come just now"

Lutha: " okay.."

He walked out of the room.

Buja: " so babe, tell me all about your trip"

His phone beeped just when he said that. He took it out and opened the message. He was busy scrolling down something and I could see he's facial expression changing from being in a good mood to rage.

He glared at me and said " Noxy, what the hell is this?"

He threw his phone over to me. I looked at the pictures. Khaya and I were hugging each other. The 2nd one he was holding my hand, the 3rd we were standing up and he was wiping my cheeks. I didn't even care to ask who took those pictures or who sent them.

I threw the phone on the floor and said " Khaya was comforting me after he confessed that you, Bulelani, were busy fucking his girlfriend behind his back, just like you're busy fucking your whore behind my back. I was crying and guess what? He was my shoulder to cry on" I looked at him feeling numb. I continued " you have slept with so many bitches I think you've even lost count. "

He gave me a smack across my face and it made such a loud sound. I balanced with the bed holding my cheek. The smack didn't hurt at all, I didn't even pay attention to the stings I was feeling on my cheek.

I took out my phone and showed him mystery woman's photo. " So she's the mystery woman you've been screwing, you've even introduced her to our son. I know everything. I saw everything. Khaya has also told me everything. You know what \*i pointed at him\* he cares so much about me. I realized this after this weekend. He cares about me more than my own husband"

The whole time Buja was staring at me. He grabbed my weave so tightly. "Did you sleep with him?" He asked coldly. " I'm not like you, I'm not loose. But then again, me and you Buja are one. I might think I've slept with you only, but nooooo, I've also slept with every side chick that you've slept with. You have given me all your sins, all your sexual immorality is in me. I feel dirty already."

Buja: " Noxy, what did I tell you about Khaya? Did I not say let me know if he ever touches you? Why the fuck didn't you let me know!!!"

He was still painfully grabbing my weave. He let go of my hair and went to lock the bedroom door then he put the keys inside his pocket. I knew shit was about to hit the fan and knelt down quickly to take out the gun. He glanced at me. I could see the surprised look on his face when he saw me aiming the gun on him. " Noxy, what are you doing?"

Me: " I hate you!!!! I curse the day we got married" I said aiming at his heart.

He stood there watching me, then unexpectedly he came straight to me. My hands started trembling, I didn't understand why he wasn't afraid of the gun. I wanted to pull the trigger but I couldn't. Tears flew down my cheeks. He grabbed the gun from my hand and slid it behind he's

waist. " Noxolo Giba, Khaya is my worst enemy. How can you listen to him and let him touch you! He knows how much you mean to me. He wants to destroy me through you. Fuck Noxy! How can you let him touch you like that!" His eyes were red. I started to become dizzy. My abdomen started paining, with every second the pain got stronger. The room started spinning. I suddenly felt a sharp pain in my lower abdomen again and screamed in agony. I bent down and knelt on the floor " something is wrong!" I shouted in panic.

Buja knelt down and said " babe? Utheni? " I cried in total agony. " I'm dying!!" I shouted in pain. I took off my top because I was starting to sweat and pulled down my pants. I saw a big stain of blood on my underwear. Buja stared at the underwear motionless. I cried even harder because I knew this wasn't normal period pains. I knew that I might be losing my precious unborn baby, that's how I realized I was pregnant. I laid on the floor holding my stomach tight. I could hear a knock and screaming on the door from outside. It was Lutha, he was shouting " mommy!! Open please mommy, please don't cry!" Buja was picking me up but I felt so faint I was starting to lose consciousness. I closed my eyes and could still hear Lutha crying but it sounded like he was crying from a distance. I don't remember much after.

I woke up in a hospital bed. I blinked rapidly wondering why I was there. My whole body felt numb. I turned my head slowly and saw Buja sitting down next to me. He was holding my hand. He buried his face on his arm on top of my bed. I wasn't sure whether he was asleep or not. Everything that happened came flooding back. I moved my left hand and touched my belly. I wondered if my baby was still alive or did I have a miscarriage. Buja lifted up his head and looked at me. His eyes were blood red, he had so much pain in his eyes.

" I've destroyed us, I've destroyed everything we had." he said with a breaking voice. He looked like he was in total despair.

## Chapter 36

My heart pained when I saw his face. I lost all hope I had. I wasn't ready to get pregnant again but the fact that I might have suffered a miscarriage was more painful. We looked at each other, he wasn't letting go of my hand. I realized he was holding it tight. I had no answer to what he had just said. It was the honest truth that he destroyed the beautiful thing that we had. He destroyed our marriage without even realizing it. He let 3rd and 4th parties into what was sacred. I tried to fight for my marriage but I felt defeated. I tried to hold on and be strong but what Buja was doing to us was destroying me.

The doctor walked in and said " Mrs Giba, you're awake" I turned and looked at him blankly.

Doctor: " how are you feeling?"

Me: " where's my son?"

The doctor looked at Buja, then at me.

Buja: "baby, Lutha was not allowed to come in. Wendy and Sbu are outside with him.

I looked into space like I was mentally challenged.

Doctor: " Mrs Giba, you are 5 weeks pregnant"

I glanced at him thinking he's making some sort of mistake. How can he use " are" instead of " were"

Me: " I had a miscarriage"

Buja: " is the baby okay?"

Doctor: " Mrs Giba, you had a threatened miscarriage. What happened to you is very rare. Usually any amount of stress can cause a miscarriage in an early pregnancy. In your case, with the amount of stress and anxiety you suffered from, it is very rare for the foetus to survive at 5 weeks . But I'm happy to say your baby survived. He or she is a fighter. You need to stay here at the hospital for the whole week. We need to monitor you closely before we can discharge you. Your baby is not out of danger yet, you-"

Me: " he needs to go, doctor please tell this man to leave"

I said looking away. " Noxy..." Buja called out.

I turned my head slowly and looked at him with so much hatred." Go!!!! Leave me alone! Go back to your girlfriend!" I could feel my pulse beating fast. I hated him, I didn't want to see the sight of him.

Doctor: " Mr Giba, I'll have to ask for you to please go. She's not in a good state right now, but I will update you about her progress"

Me: " why?? He doesn't care. He'll go and cheat on me while I'm in this hospital bed. He's killing me and my unborn child!! Where's my Lutha? Where's my nana? I want my son!! Bring me my son!!"

Buja looked at me with fear written all over his face, he could see I was acting strange. I started kicking and screaming and it felt like I was having some sort of attack. The doctor called the nurses, the next thing I saw was nurses surrounding me and holding my arms and legs. The doctor forced me to put on a oxygen mask. I started seeing blur and had some sort of black out.

.....I was taking a walk in a place filled with long grass and lots of fig trees. I was singing and playing, it was like I was a little girl. I sat down and suddenly saw a red rose laying next to me. I took the rose and stared at it with a big smile on my face. One white bird was flying in circles. I glanced at it then continued looking at this beautiful red rose. " My princess" someone called out. I turned my head and looked at who was calling me. It was my late father. He sat down next to me and held my hand " how are you doing my child?"

I smiled and said " I'm fine tata"

The white bird was still flying in circles. I said " look tata, I have a beautiful rose. I feel like such a princess"

" You are one" he said " you are my beautiful princess. This single red rose in your hand is my gift to you. It speaks of love I have for you my precious daughter, it is love that does not wither away. Noxolo, I'm always with you.."

The bird started flying away. I concentrated on it until I couldn't see it anymore. I turned my head and looked for my father. He was at a distance walking away."Tata, wait. We still chatting.." I called out.

My eyes short open. I was alone in the room. I looked around and all I could hear was a beeping sound of machines. I wanted to take off the oxygen mask but I decided not too. My baby needed all the oxygen he/she can get. I touched my belly again, one tear rolled down my face " that you God for saving my baby. Thank you so much heavenly Father. I know its a miracle, you have plans for my unborn and I know you saved my child for a reason. Ndiyabulela Somandla." I wiped my tear and thought of the dream I had about my father, I smiled because of that beautiful dream " thank you daddy for paying me a visit, I will always love you." I said softly. I closed my eyes again and drifted to sleep.

I was woken up by some people talking next to me. I looked and it was the doctor and some lady. " She might be suffering from clinical depression. That kind of depression is very dangerous especially in the situation she's in right now. We need to have a few rounds of psychological sessions. I want to evaluate on whether she is suffering from clinical depression or not. " This woman said advising the doctor.

The doctor was looking at her while she spoke, they weren't aware that I had woken up. They both looked at me. "Good morning, Mrs Giba"

Me: " what's good about it?"

They both wore concerned expressions. The doctor wrote something down on his book then said " Mrs Giba, please meet Dr Watson. She's a Psychologists, and you'll have 3 sessions with her."

Me: " so you guys think I'm mad?"

Doc: " no, no of course not. We just want you to let everything that has been stressing you out. We want to find ways to help you. Remember bottling things up is not good for you and for the baby. You suffered a mental breakdown, Mrs Giba. That is one of the reasons we are monitoring you closely. Unfortunately we can't give you any kind of medication, we don't want to give you anything that will endanger your unborn child. "

I couldn't believe my ears, a mental breakdown? So I almost lost my mind. The doctor kept on talking but I was no longer listening. Him and this Psychologist walked out. After about an hour hospital food came in. I didn't want to eat but I had to force myself. After a while Bongie, Sandi and Nelisa walked in. I was still trying to finish my bowl of food. I told the nurses I don't want to be fed. They all gave me a hug.

Bongie: " I called you but Buja answered the phone. He told me you are here. What happened Noxy? You were happy not so long ago?"

I carried on eating and didn't respond.

Sandi: " chomy, are you alright?"

Me: " yes, uhm...thanx guys for coming to see me. I'm sorry, but I just want to be alone at the moment"

Nelz: " okay its fine. We'll check up on you during the week"

Me: " thanx guys"

I took a spoon of food and ate again. I chewed slowly hating the taste of the food in my mouth.

Bongie: " we've bought you some juice and fruit."

Me: " thanx, a lot."

Nelz: " stay strong Noxy. We love you va..."

I smiled at them. Before they walked out I said " Bongie, can I speak to you, please."

"Okay" she said, then came back and sat down. She held my hand and said " are you okay, Noxy?"

Me: " yes, I'll be okay, don't worry about me."

Bongie: " what happened?"

Me: " I'll tell you some other time. I want you to do something for me, please."

Bongie: " what's that? I'll do anything for you my friend"

Me: " I'll be discharged probably on friday or sunday. I need for you to search for available bachelor flats for me around town. I'm willing to pay for up to R3500, you know we don't get paid much as Article Clerks. Or please buy newspapers for me, I'll search, I'm even willing to do it

myself."

Bongie: " Noxy, your husband bought that house for you and your son. He needs to be the one leaving and not you. "

Me: " He can have it. I want to have my own space, I don't want him coming and going as he pleases"

Bongie: " I cannot believe this. So you letting that bitch win Noxy? You are his wife and not her"

I stared at her for a while then said " I'm not suppose to be competing with anyone in the first place."

She nodded and said " I'm sorry, you right. I won't get in the way of your decision"

Me: " I'll wait for you to come back"

Bongie: " sure, I'll see you again later. I need to go back to work"

Me: " okay"

She left moments later.

Days passed and I was at the hospital the whole week. The psychologist came and we had our session, I opened up to her about Buja cheating on me repeatedly and how I was bottling things inside pretending to be okay in front of the world. I told her everything except about his corruption. That was one secret I vowed to keep to myself and not expose him to world. The doctor monitored my pregnancy and said it seems like the baby is out of danger, but he advised me that I should make it a point not to stress myself about anything. I had to take it easy. Buja came over to give me my toiletries and my handbag that had my stuff. I didn't even want him to enter the ward I was in so he gave the nurse all my stuff, the doctor understood because every time I saw him my stress levels went up, which of course wasn't good for the baby. Bongie found a flat for me. I gave her my 2nd debit card to make deposit payment. She did everything for me, I just needed to sign all the necessary papers and I was going to do that as soon as I get discharged.

Sunday I was getting discharged, it was in the afternoon around 2pm. Buja walked in walking with Lutha. I immediately got disgusted by his presence. He said " hey"

I ignored him and gave my son a hug. He helped me with my stuff and we signed all the discharge papers and left. In the car it was all silent, I could see he wanted to speak to me but didn't know where to start. We arrived at home. I went straight to the bedroom and took out my handbag and packed my documents and wallet. I took my car keys and walked out. " Where are you going?" He asked. " To sort out some stuff" I rushed out of the house and got in my car then drove out. He stood in the doorway and watched me as I drove off. I went to book a BnB first for the night then called Bongie to sms me the directions. I had forgotten which street this flat was in. She did just that a few minutes later. I didn't get lost at all. I arrived within 30 minutes then went to the offices. I signed a contract and was given the key. I went to check it out. It was a small bachelor flat, but I didn't mind because that's all I could afford. I left and went back to my place. I arrived, Buja was in the living room looking frustrated. I walked passed him and took out my suitcase. I packed most of my clothes and took out my big bag and packed even more. I went to Lutha's room and took out his suitcase as well then packed most of his clothes. I wheeled the suitcase to the passage. I went to take my bags then walked out. I said " come Nana, we're going now"

Lutha came over to me and said " siyaphi?"

Me: " to mommy's new place. Come let's go"

Buja stood up and said " where do you think you're going, Noxy?"

Me: " I'm leaving"

Buja: " you're in no state to be leaving. The doctor said you must take it easy"

Me: " that's exactly what I'm doing. I need to take it easy, and that means being far away from you"

Buja: " I'm sure those are hormones talking. You know that your home is here, in your house where you belong"

I wheeled my bag. Buja came over and held my arm. I shouted " let go of me!"

He quickly let go and said " where are you going?I need to know."

Me: " to my new place. I'm renting a new flat"

Buja: " are you serious about this? we have our unborn baby to think about"

Me: " that's exactly what I'm doing. I'm thinking about my child. You are toxic Bulelani, you disgust me. Come nana wam, let's go now."

Buja: " you are going no where with my son. Leave him behind"

Me: " you know I cannot leave without him. He needs to be with me."

Buja: " Noxy, please sthandwa sam don't go"

Me: " bye"

Buja: " Lutha is not going anywhere. My son is staying behind."

I stopped on my tracks and looked at him " being far away from you is good for me, Lutha and my unborn baby. Lutha is getting traumatized because of our fights. It is affecting him too. If you love me Buja, you will let me go. Ndiyakuvula Bulelani, you are free to live your life like a single man now, I'm giving you what you want. I will no longer stand in your way"

I took the suitcases and went to the boot to put them in. I went to take my hand bag. Lutha was standing there like he didn't know what to do with himself. I took his favourite teddy bear and held his hand. " Noxy, my love, please don't leave me, without you I feel empty. I'm nothing sthandwa sam. I know I've hurt you so bad and it will take some time for you to forgive me, I'm begging you,please don't go, I live for you and Lutha...." Buja said with a pleading voice.

I walked out of the house with Lutha.

Buja: " Noxy, I need you..." He said sounding defeated.

I turned around and looked at him. One tear was rolling down his face. He looked so frustrated and devastated.

Me: " bye, Bulelani.."

I walked away to my car, Lutha and I got in. I drove out of the yard and sped off without looking back. Buja was the love of my life, but enough was enough.

## Chapter 37

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only option you have "- Bob Marley.

I felt like a child that has just run away from home. Just because I left the big beautiful house that Buja bought for us, it didn't mean I was going to live happily ever after, the struggle was definitely not over. Let me give you a breakdown of why I felt like a child that has ran away from home.

Firstly, I have never lived by myself, I have never been independent before. I lived with my parents, then my in-laws, and then my husband who bought every little thing for me. He usually said my salary as an Article Clerk should be my pocket money, I should just spoil myself with it.

Now I was facing going to an empty flat, I had to buy new furniture, new dishes, new everything. And the amount that I earned was less than R10 000. Remember I wasn't a qualified Attorney just yet. I was still doing Law practice, I was still going to go and write my practical exams. But one thing I was sure of was, I wasn't going back to that house. I wasn't going back to ask for a few plates, or blankets. I wasn't going to give Buja that satisfaction of needing him. I was determined to show him that I will survive without him. I had a plan in mind. I arrived at the BnB and went to check in. I took my bag and Lutha's suitcase then we went to our room. I left the rest of my bags in my car boot. We were going to sleep there just for one night before moving in my flat. Lutha was quiet the whole time. We finally arrived in our room. I looked at him and said "Nana, what's wrong?"

Lutha: " I want to go home"

He said looking down. I sat on top of the bed and said " Nana, you will go home, but not anytime soon. We will be living in a new place now. It is mommy's house. Please understand Nana"

Lutha: " why did we leave daddy behind? I want to stay with him too"

Me: " daddy and mommy will not be staying together anymore"

Lutha: " why mommy? You said we'll stay with him and be happy. Remember when we left my grandparents. You promised me that we'll stay with daddy and be a family. I want my daddy"

He said getting teary. I didn't know how I was going to let Lutha understand, he was too young to understand. I decided to distract him by saying we must go and buy supper. We walked out and went to steers to buy some burgers and chips. Then I bought him ice-cream on the way back to the BnB. We arrived and ate the take away. I turned on the tv for him. After we were done eating I went to take a shower then also bathed him and we wore out sleep wear and got into bed. He got closer and said " mommy"

Me: " mmmh?.."

I put my arms around him. " Daddy has a new friend"

Me: " really? What's his name?"

Lutha: " no its a girl"

Me: " oh nyani?"

Lutha: " eh-eh mama, her name is sis'Lumka, she said she likes me, I'm handsome just like my daddy"

He said playing with my pyjama top.

Me: " okay nana"

Lutha: " then she came to visit at home and asked to use the bathroom"

Me: " did she sleep over?"

Lutha: " no, she only came to visit. Daddy said he doesn't want her to sleep over. She buys me a lot of sweets. She's nice."

Me: " I see...."

Lutha: " she whispered something to me"

Me: " what's that?"

Lutha: " that she'll soon be my 2nd mommy"

Me: " I hope you told her you don't need a 2nd mommy"

Lutha: " what did she mean mama?"

Me: " she's mad, don't listen to her"

Lutha: " okay"



I brushed his back until he drifted to sleep. I took my phone, it had 15 missed calls from Buja and 2 new messages, I had put it on silent. I dismissed all of them. I didn't care what Buja had to say, I was no longer interested.

The next morning was Monday. I decided that Lutha was gonna go to school on Tuesday. The doctor advised that I should go to work the following week because I still need to rest, but I had decided I'll go on Wednesday, there was lots of catching up I needed to do. Lutha and I both washed and got ready to go. I checked out at the BnB then we went to our flat to put the suitcases inside. I made a deep sigh then said "okay nana, let's go."

We walked out and my first stop was the furniture shops. I bought a bed and couches on credit. They said it will be same day delivery, which was a huge relief for me. I went to Game to buy some pots and a stove, then Sheet Street to buy the bedding. I took out Buja's credit card and debated on whether to use it or not. I was in a tight spot and running out of money as it is. I decided to buy all the dishes and the rest of the stuff with it, I knew the message alerts were going to come through his phone but I didn't care. I bought a small plasma tv as well and a stand then we went to the flat, I had to open up for the delivery guys and they placed everything in their places. I had to wipe the cupboards before placing my pots and dishes inside. I thanked the delivery guys then they left. Lutha tapped me and said "Mama, I'm hungry"

Me: "let's go and eat out for lunch"

Lutha: "okay"

I held his hand. We locked the flat then drove off to McDonald for a meal. Lutha ate, I didn't have much appetite. I was thinking about the grocery I had to buy for supper and the debts I'm getting myself into. Finally he was done. We went to Pick n Pay and did some grocery, again, I used Buja's credit card to buy everything I needed. I wheeled the trolley to the car then we went back to the flat.

It was now in the evening around 7pm. I turned on the TV to sabc 1 then went to the kitchen to start cooking. Lutha walked in the kitchen and said "Mama, I want to watch cartoons"

Me: "we don't have a Dstv my love, you'll have to watch those channels so long"

Lutha: "mommy this house is too small, I want to go back home. I want my room"

I had to stop what I was doing. I looked at him and said "Nana, I know you hate this change, but it's for the best. We won't stay here for long. We'll move to a bigger and better house later."

Lutha: "I want my daddy!"

He started getting teary. I tried my absolute best not to get emotional. Lutha was putting me in a very tight position.

Lutha: "please call him, I want to speak to my daddy. I miss him"

He wiped his tears. "I can't" I said to him. He cried even harder. I didn't want to give Lutha the phone to call Buja, not when he missed him so much. He was going to complain to Buja about our new place, and Buja was going to use that to his advantage to convince me to come back. I didn't want to give him the satisfaction.

Lutha said "I hate this place! Please mommy let's go back home. I promise I'll be a good boy"

Me: "Nana, this is not about you"

He continued crying. Lutha just didn't understand. I knelt down and said "Lutha.."

He looked at me and sniffed. I wiped his tears then said " baby, you are growing up now and soon you'll be tall just like your daddy. You don't understand now because you are too young, but one day you'll understand. Do you want to be a big boy?"

He nodded. " Big boys don't cry. You have to be strong now for mommy okay?"

Lutha: " okay mama..."

Me: " that's my boy. We have to stay here. You will get used to this place very soon. "

Lutha: "are we going to go back to my daddy and be a happy family again? Promise me mommy that we'll go back. I know you and daddy will stop fighting and be happy. Promise me mommy.."

I couldn't help but get teary. Lutha was frustrating me. It was so hard to explain this to him. He had so much hope that me and Buja would be okay again. I said" Nana, I promise you that you will see you father, okay? I can't promise you anything else"

He nodded. I distracted him by asking what did he do at school last week. He talked about his friends. I cooked for us then dished up. We ate supper watching tv, Generations. After that we got ready for bed and slept. The next morning I woke up and went to wash my face and hands then got Lutha ready for school. I made lunch for him then also took a bath and wore my Adidas pink tracksuit and sneakers then walked out carrying his bag. I drove off to his pre-school and told the teachers I will be the one fetching him from now on, and that if his father comes to fetch him I must be phoned immediately. They said okay even though I could see they wanted to know why. I left then I went back to the flat and ate cereal. After that I wore my pyjamas again and got inside the covers. I took my phone and saw that I had a message from Buja. This time I decided to open it. He said " Sthandwa sam, I admit that I treated you like trash, I don't deserve you I know, Noxy. I give in to lust very easily,I have a huge problem. I lifted my hand on you, I harmed you instead of protecting you. I broke the promise I made to you. Mrs Giba, I didn't make a mistake by marrying you, I love you with all of my heart and soul. You are the queen of my heart Maka Lutha. No woman will ever take your place in my heart"

I re-read the message then put down my phone. After a while I thought about Mystery Woman, who's name of course is ' Lumka' I decided to delete her number. There was no use of keeping it. I went to my WhatsApp first to check her out. In her profile pic this time she was sitting on top of a man in the drivers seat. She was wearing sneakers, I looked at the man's sneakers, it was Buja's white and grey Lacoste sneakers. I know every shoe Buja has. And they were in the Jeep. Her status message said " pic taken 3 weeks back. I did say I fight for what I want. Finally my man and I can be together. Umtu xa eshiywa makashiyeke" I let out a slight laughter and screen grabbed everything then I deleted her number. I had to show Bongie this. I decided to take nap. Almost the whole day I stayed in bed resting until it was time to go and fetch Lutha. I changed then went to fetch my son. We got back to the flat then I made something to eat for him. I turned on tv, luckily YOTV was playing, he didn't mind watching it while he dug in. My phoned beeped. I went to check it. It was an in contact alert. R15000 had been transferred into my account by Buja. I needed the money, I smsed him and said " thanx." He phoned and I rejected the call. I said thanks, what more does he want now?

It got late, I cooked then dished up. I then went to iron my work clothes and Lutha's for tomorrow. After a while, we called it a night, I knelt down with my son and prayed to my Heavenly Father, then we slept almost immediately . The next morning I got my son ready so long then took a bath. I was returning back to work. And I must say, I felt much better and much stronger.

I made lunch for both of us then wore my blue hugging dress, there was no bump yet, it was still early. I wore my black stilettos, and tied my weave into a bun. I applied my red matt lipstick then

finished of doing my make up. After I was done we left. I dropped him off then went to my workplace. As soon as I walked in everyone gave me a hug and asked me how I was feeling. I told them I'm okay. I went to my office and started working. There was so much I had to do. Around 10am I went to knock on Karen's office (the Attorney) I walked in and said " may I please have a few minutes of your time"

Karen: " yes, come in Noxy"

She closed the file she was working on. I sat down opposite her.

Me: "may you please refer me to one of your corresponding Attorneys. I would like to file for a divorce. The sooner the process is done the better. It cannot take longer than 3 months."

She looked at me in total shock.

Karen: " you want a divorce? Noxy, are you sure about your decision?"

Me: " yes, I'm very sure"

Karen: " you are aware by now that some divorces are not as simple as the others, especially when there is a child involved. There is child custody and maintenance that you also have to go through and most of the time we fight a lot before a final decision is made. There is a long process that is followed especially if you did not sign a Antenuptial Contract with your husband. It can be a very stressful moment for you. "

I kept quiet for a while then said " okay, please recommend an Attorney that will act on my behalf. I'll have to think about it first"

Karen: " okay, that's not a problem, Noxy. I'll give you a business card of the Attorney I have in mind"

Me: " thanx, a lot"

She gave me some Attorney's business card then I left her office and continued to do my work. Lunch time I went to warm up my food and sat in my office. Bongie walked in with her lunch box and said " yintoni wazivalela apha?" (Why are you alone here?)

Me: " I just want to be alone"

Bongie: " I'll join you ke, whether you like it or not"

I laughed and she sat down then we started eating. The food was smelling funny and I suddenly hated the taste. I ate about 4 spoons and closed the lunch tin.

Bongie: " you look disgusted.."

Me: " its the food"

Bongie: " is it off?"

Me: " I'm pregnant, it must be the hormones."

Her eyes widened. " Does Buja know? How far along are you? Congratz!"

Me: " he knows. Let's take a walk"

Bongie: " sure, let's go"

We walked out then went to buy some drinks. I bought fruit juice then we began walking.

Me: " I've moved in already in my new flat."

Bongie: " how did Buja take it?"

Me: " he was begging me to stay, but I couldn't, I almost lost my baby because of him."

Bongie: " I feel you giving up too easily, Noxy. "

Me: " you don't know half of the things I've gone through because of that man. I need to take

care of my boy and have a healthy pregnancy. I don't need any stress in my life now"

Bongie: " mk mk, that side chick will be so happy when she finds out that you moved out."

I took out my phone and showed her the screen grab. "Read this"

Bongie stared at the picture and status message.

Bongie:" Rhaaaa iyanya yazi le bitch!! How dare she brag about taking someone's husband. She needs to be given a bitch slap. I'm even willing to do it for you Noxy"

Me: " no, let her be.."

I sipped my juice. Bongie stood still and looked at me, she looked so angry. " Noxolo, that bitch is happy about this. You need to fight for your marriage"

Me: " Did that already, not again. I'm leaving everything all on God now."

She looked at my phone screen again and said " Yho haisana, she has no shame. If she thinks she is going to build her happiness with Buja on your tears, she must think again. Marriage is a blessing, Karma is a bitch, and believe me when I say she will get what's coming to her. Rhaa, to say "finally my man and I will be together"he's not her man! She's obviously saying good riddance"

Me: " she obviously doesn't know Buja very well. And now I have to deal with Luthando who misses his father. Sometimes I don't even know what to say to him"

Bongie: " Noxy, what is happening to you is giving me headaches. I was going to attack someone, I'm so angry"

Me: " her name is Lumka, my son told me. Apparently she's gone to our house and went to use the bathroom."

Bongie: " what if she went to plant muthi?? She's obviously determined to get rid of you. I would not put it passed her, the way she wants to put you in the back seat while she's the madam makes me suspicious"

Me: " myeke wethu, Bongie"

Bongie: " Noxy, your calmness is making me even more upset. She and Buja are obviously making you a laughing stock. You have moved in this small flat when she will be moving in your house and playing wife to your husband! All of those stuff in your house belong to you and your children my friend! Do not let her win"

Me: " Bongie, I know what I'm doing. I do not regret my decision. In my situation, I've let God be in control. Let her think she's won. Right now, I'm focusing on my career, my pregnancy and my son Luthando. Those 3 things are what matters to me."

Bongie was shaking with anger. She didn't understand my decision at all, I was done fighting for someone who refused to change. But Luthando worried me, I wondered when will he get used to this change, because everytime he cried for Buja it saddened my heart.

## Chapter 38

Sometimes you have to stand to what you believe in, no matter what other people have to say. There is no use in listening to people's advices about your painful situation where as if they were in your shoes, they would not even be doing what they advising you to do. "Practice what you preach" is not said for no good reason, most people out there are good at preaching but always do the opposite of what they advise. Always stand your ground, no matter what, because at the end of the day, you get to make the final decision about your future.

Bongie and I turned around and went back to the office because lunch time was almost over. She was very upset, I had to calm her down because she was determined to meet this Lumka and give her a lesson she'll never forget. She even said " if I ever meet her at the mall or at any shop, I don't wanna lie Noxy, I will give her one hell of a smack, or I'll send some tsotsis to go and fix her up. " I laughed and said " you should know better than getting physical on the street or in any public place. You are going to be an Attorney soon, you know the only way to fight is using Law"

Bongie: " Noxy, I grew up in the township where we make sure we get physical when we teaching people a lesson. I'll go all ghetto on her!"

Me: " hahaha oh my friend"

I gave her a hug laughing, she ended up laughing too. We entered the office and continued doing our work. After work I said my goodbyes to everyone and left. I went to pick up my son then after that I went straight to my flat.

The following day I got a call when I was busy preparing a file note for Karen regarding a collections file I was working on. It was an office number. I decided to answer.

Me: " hello"

Caller: " Good day, am I speaking to Mrs Giba?"

Me: " yes you are, may I ask who's calling?"

Caller: " I'm Shereen Ma'am calling from the Doctor's office. He said I must advise you that the results are ready. I have already phoned your husband, please discuss with him on when will be a suitable date and time for you to come and fetch the results"

Me: " thanx for letting me know. I'll do that and get back to you"

Caller: " thanx ma'am, goodbye"

Me: " goodbye"

I hung up. My heart started pounding. It kicked in that I might be HIV positive. I might be pregnant and have HIV yet I never even cheated, I remained faithful to my cheating husband but he might have came with the virus to our marriage bed and infected me. Tears filled my eyes, " how could you be so selfish, Bulelani" I said softly. I took the phone and sms'd him " the results are ready. Which is the suitable time for us to fetch them?"

He phoned immediately. I didn't want to speak to him, why was he even calling? Because there was nothing wrong with replying to the sms via text. I decided to pick up.

Me: " hi"

Buja: " hey, how are you?"

Me: " good, yourself?"

Buja: " I'm okay, my love"

There was silence. I decided to speak first.

Me: " what time can I book the appointment?"

Buja: " I'll be free from 10am until 12pm. I can call and book it"

Me: " okay then"

Buja: " I'll sms you to confirm the time"

Me: " okay then. Bye"

Buja: " how is-"

I hung up before he could finish the sentence and carried on working. After about 15minutes a message came through from Buja confirming that the appointment is at 10am tomorrow. The rest of the day I was very busy. I was almost done with the backlog I had on my work. I had 2

consultations and I was becoming an expert in criminal matters like drunken driving. The following month I was going to practice Conveyancing matters. Work was indeed distracting me from my personal life. I even took 2 files to my flat and carried on studying and referring to my tertiary books.

Friday arrived. My son and I got ready to go as per usual. After he was dressed up he ate cereal while I went to look for something to wear. I decided on wearing my white skinny pants, my white open top heels and a navy blouse. I wore my diamond earrings and necklace and applied my frost nude pink lipstick. I brushed my Malaysian hair and decided to let it loose. After I was done getting ready I looked stunning. I sprayed my perfume then said "let's go my love!" to Lutha. No matter how broken you may feel, never show it to the world. We walked out. We got in the car and I drove off. On the way to his pre-school, Lutha said "mommy, I always tell all my friends my mom is the prettiest in the whole white world!"

I smiled and said "why thank you Nana!"

He smiled and took out his chips from his school bag.

Me: "ha a kaloku Nana that's for lunch time"

Lutha: "okay ke.."

He put the chips in his bag again. We arrived at his school. I sent him to class and we said our goodbyes then I drove off to work.

At work I couldn't concentrate at all. I kept checking the time every 5 minutes. I was about to receive the news that would change my whole life and somehow I wasn't very hopeful. I wondered if he did use a condom with Amanda, Zizipho and now Lumka, oh and how can I forget Khaya's girlfriend, whoever she is. The time went by slowly and finally at 09:45 I asked to be excused. I drove off to the doctor's GP. I arrived and made a silent pray for God to give me strength, not only for me but for my baby. I stepped out of the car and went to the reception to wait for Buja. He arrived after about 10 minutes. I stood up while he came over to me and he gave me a hug. "Noxy..hey babe"

Me: "hi.."

It had been a week since I last saw him. I stared at his smokey brown eyes and his charming look. I won't lie and say I loved him less, no I didn't. I still loved him, a lot. But not enough to go back to the pain of living with him. I said "we should get in" he stared at me without saying anything. It was like he was lost in the moment. I said "Buja..." He snapped out of it and said "of course, let's go in" we went to the doctor's office and sat down. He greeted us and took out 2 documents. My heart was pounding almost like it was going to pop out of my chest. Buja was looking down the whole time.

Dr: "I will now read the HIV test results. I'll start with you Mr Giba"

Buja didn't respond. He looked at the doctor blankly.

Dr: "should I counsel you first"

Buja: "no please, I need to know"

Dr: "okay then. Mr Giba, the results came back negative.."

Buja closed his eyes like he was making a silent prayer.

Dr: "Mrs Giba, your results also came back as negative. This is still a window period for both of you. Please come back after 3 months to test again."

Me: " thank you, doctor"

Buja: " yes, thanx doc."

We shook his hand and walked out.

Once we arrived outside Buja said " we clean babe"

Me: " I have to go. Bye"

Buja: " wait...please"

I stopped and looked at him. " I was telling you the truth. I protected you babe, I used protection. I thought of you, Noxy"

Me: " so you think that makes things okay?"

Buja: " I miss you, Noxy sthandwa sam. It hurts knowing that I'll come back to an empty house. I miss your touch, I miss you so much"

Me: " you've got Lumka remember? The one you introduced to our son"

He looked surprised " babe, please don't do this"

Me: " don't do what?"

Buja: " there is so many things I regret, Noxy. Lumka is one of them. She introduced herself to him, I didn't plan to do that."

I crossed my arms and glared at him. " Bulelani..." I said " you cannot, and I mean CANNOT have your bread butted on both sides. I will not be involved in your love triangle, actually it might be a square, uyandiva bhuti? Stay with your Lumka and the rest you sleeping with and live myself and my kids out of this drama"

Buja: " Noxy, please don't do this to me. Can I at least see Luthando? I miss that lil man so much."

Me: " I'll arrange that because he misses you too. You'll have to wait for my call"

Buja: " Okay. Will you come over at our house and stay for the weekend, at least?"

Me: " you must be out of your mind. That is absurd. You introduced my son to your mistress, you let her into our house knowing that you cheating on me with her. She said to Lutha she'll be his 2nd mom very soon. So he will not be going there. Not when you want to confuse my son, he asked me what she meant by that. Now I had to be the one covering your ass and explaining to your son because he doesn't know how much of a cheater and a heart breaker you really are. He doesn't understand why things are so messed up, Bulelani"

He was frowning the whole time like anger was building up. "She said what??" He asked.

Me: " I'm not going to repeat myself. Now, please excuse me. I have to go.."

Buja: " Noxy wait!"

I rushed off to my car then got in. He stared at me until I drove off without even hooting to him. I arrived at work thanking my lucky stars that I didn't get the virus, but I wasn't too happy because I had to test again after 3 months and again before I give birth. Time passed on quickly. Me and Bongie were working together most of the time and giving our views about a certain case we were given to work on. Karen wanted to know how we would handle it. Finally it was home time and it was the weekend. Bongie was excited. She said " I want to go clubbing this weekend."

Me: " I want to decorate my flat this weekend"

Bongie: " haike sana, we'll keep in touch!"

Me: " sure.."

We hugged, I drove off and left. I decided to go to the shopping mall. I actually wanted to go to @Home to buy all these beautiful stuff to make my flat pretty and less dull.

As I was driving I couldn't help but notice this black Audi A3 following me in every direction I take. I tried my best not to panic and pressed on the accelerator. I turned right but it also did the same. I then started to panic. I approached the mall and when to look for a parking in a less quiet place. I was scared. I browsed around for the security guards before getting out of the car. I looked for that Audi but I couldn't see it anymore. I took a deep sigh and stepped out. I looked again but it was nowhere to be seen. I closed the car door and locked my car. " Hey you!" Someone called out. I almost jumped. When I turned it was Khaya. I was still shaking. " You gave me a fright" I said " stop creeping up on me"

Khaya: " hahaha, stop being so jumpy"

Me: " its just that, I swear I was being followed. A black Audi A3 was following me."

Khaya: "Oh that was me....Sorry babe, I saw your car and decided to follow you. I actually wanted to come and greet you"

Me: " why didn't you flash your lights or hoot at least because that was very creepy"

Khaya: " sorry babe, I didn't realize you'd be scared. Wanna hug?"

Me: " No thanx. Not after what you did"

He wore a confused expression " what did I do?" He asked.

Me: "you wanted us to go to a quiet place to talk kanti you did that to your own advantage. Photos were taken of us and sent to him. Khaya, don't involve me in your personal vendetta with Bulelani. I didn't ask him to sleep with your girlfriend and dump her after, just like I didn't ask him to cheat on me repeatedly."

Khaya: " Noxy, I didn't do it. Please believe me. I swear I didn't plan anything. I know Buja can get violent when someone messes with him. Why would I plan something like that when I know what he did to Amanda? He's dangerous Noxy, I would never deliberately put you into trouble when I know you're not safe around him. I love and care about you too much to do that."

I gave him a death stare, I couldn't believe what he had just said " I'm sorry, but its the truth. Noxy, you the first person I think about every time I wake up in the morning, your smile, your beautiful and pleasant personality. I wish \* he took a deep breath\*" I wish I saw you first, and not him. You would have been mine now."

" I have to go"

I rushed off before he could say anything else. I was flushed. I entered the mall and went to @Home hoping he wasn't following me. I took the trolley and stood there not knowing where to start looking. I thought about what just happened. I didn't know whether to tell Buja or not about this. But then I remembered, Buja was cheating on me, with his new mistress Lumka. Why should I report this to him? I decided to keep it a secret. We were in a separation anyways. I decided not to bother myself by telling him.

" Need any help ma'am" a lady working there asked. " No, thanx love" I responded. I began taking everything I needed to decorate my new crib then went to pay. When I got to the parking lot, I wondered if Khaya wasn't watching me. I put everything in the boot then left going to pick up Lutha. I was late in the after care so I paid extra to them for looking after him in the not agreed time. We went back to our place. I took off my heels and wore my slippers then went to the kitchen and wore my apron. I checked for something to cook then started preparing for supper.

The following day was saturday....



I woke up feeling very nauseas, something was going up to my throat and it felt like I was going to vomit. I jumped out of bed and ran to the bathroom. I started throwing up, I wasn't stopping and I needed water. After a while I stopped. I felt like death. I went to the sink and rinsed my mouth then brushed my teeth, the toothpaste tasted horrible. After I was done I went to the kitchen and prepared lemon water for myself. I downed the water and put in an extra slice of lemon again then downed the 2nd glass. I felt a bit better. I went to the living room and sat down on the couch. Morning sickness was definitely starting, and it seemed like I was gonna have a difficult one. Lutha walked in and said " morning mommy"

Me: " morning nana"

I kissed his cheek.

Lutha: " I'm not going to school today. Is daddy going to come and fetch us?"

Me: " no"

I stood up and went to the kitchen to make him breakfast. He followed me. " But I wanna see him" he made a puppy face. " Okay ke nana, I'll ask him to come over. How's that?"

Lutha: " thanx mom!"

He hugged me. I smiled and said " go and fetch my phone ke boy yam"

He ran to the bedroom and came back with it. I smsed Buja asking if he'll be able to come over to visit his son. He replied " yes. I'll be there at 12 my love" I text back " sure" then said " daddy is coming over today ke Lutha"

He jumped up and down in excitement. I haven't seen him happy like that in days. I had a sudden craving for a cheese sandwich. I made 5 slices of it with mayonnaise. I ate like I haven't eaten in years. " Yho" Lutha said watching me. " What?" I asked him. " Mom you were hungry nhe?" He said eating his breakfast. I laughed and continued eating. After a while I started with my decorations. I was so keen in doing this. I pulled out the vase with artificial flowers and placed it in the living room. I placed some photo frames with me and Lutha, Buja was not included. I placed a big silver clock on the wall. I did all of that while Lutha was playing games on my phone. Around 10 I took a bath then wore my denim shorts, white top with beige strips and my push ons. I tied my hair to the side then ran a bath for Lutha. He also wore denim shorts, a black top, and his white All Star boot sneakers. I then carried on decorating my flat, this time in the kitchen. Around 11:30 Buja phoned asking for directions. I told him which block of flats I'm staying in and the number then hung up. Moments later there was a knock on the door. Lutha ran to the door first while I followed behind him. He opened the door and said " its daddy!!!" I opened the burglar gate for him. "Hey boy!!!" Buja said picking him up. " Ugrand boy yam?! I've missed you!" he kissed his cheek then put him down. He went to take 2 shopping bags and a bicycle then carried all those things in. " Hey babe" he said.

Me: " hey.." I closed the gate and left the door open.

He looked around and said " cozy place you've got here. Its a pity your house is freezing cold without you" I decided to ignore him. " I'm sorry babe" he said " I'm just being bitter"

I went to the bedroom while Lutha was chatting to him. After a while Lutha said " mom, dad is calling you"

I got up and went over to him. He was sitting on the couch, he said " I want to take you guys out for the day"

Me: " thanks for the offer, but no."

I sat down.

Lutha: " I want to go out"

Me: " No, and that's final"

Buja stared at me with a serious look. His phone started ringing, it was next to him on the couch, I quickly glanced at it. The number was familiar but was unsaved. Lutha grabbed it and answered " daddy's phone helloooo! Yes he's here" he gave Buja the phone. Buja looked at the screen and cut the call. After about a minute his phone rang again. He answered " yes...."he said coldly.

" I'm busy, spending time with my family. " He said. He listened then cut the call again. " Who was that?" Lutha asked. " No one important my boy" he responded. I got up from the couch and made my way to the bedroom again. He held my arm just when I was passing him " What, Bulelani???" I asked sounding very irritated because I knew that was Lumka phoning. He pulled me over and made me stand in front of him. " I want to bond with my unborn baby" he said pulling up my top. " I'll be a father, again. Thanx my beautiful wife"

I looked away. " We've created a new life, my love.....Yeah, I knocked you up babe" he said.

Me: " don't say those things in front of Lutha"

Buja: " I didn't say anything rude."

Lutha was watching him.

Buja: " hey baby, this is your daddy. Do you know how much you are loved by me? I haven't seen you, yet I can't stop thinking about you my angel. I can't wait to hold you."

He said holding the side of my waist and stroking my belly. Lutha giggled and said " what are you doing dad?"

Buja: " I'm talking to your lil brother or sister. You'll be a big brother very soon"

He kissed my stomach and looked up at me. He fixed his eyes on mine. Then he squinted his eyes and bit his lower lip still maintaining eye contact. I was starting to get lost in the moment, but I looked away and pulled away from him then went to the bedroom and closed the door. I could see he was trying to soften my heart, and I refused to let him do that to me all over again.

## Chapter 39

It was always hard to resist Buja, he knew exactly where to touch or what to say to turn me on. Sometimes even if I was very angry at him he would always get his way and I'd end up giving in and being intimate with him. But this time it was different because we were in a separation. I wasn't about to give myself to him, not when he was the cause of everything wrong happening between us, and also affecting our son.

I laid in bed and took out my notebook and my file from work. I decided to keep myself busy while he was still chilling with Lutha in the living room. After about 20 minutes there was a knock on the door. I stood up and went to open because I didn't even want him to enter my bedroom. I opened the door and he was standing there glancing at me.

Buja: " Noxy, all I wanted was to bond with you and my children"

Me: " you came here to bond with Luthando, not me."

He sighed and said " are you sure you don't want us to spend our time together somewhere out of this flat?"

Me: " I'm very sure"

Buja: " can I at least go with Lutha?"

Me: " as I said earlier, no, you will not go with him."

Buja: " Noxy, why are you being so unreasonable?"

Me: " unreasonable? Are you not the one that introduced my son to your side chick that whispered pathetic things to him? Do you honestly want me to let you go with him so that you and Lumka can go together for ice cream and take selfies with my son as a family? sudlala ngam nomntanam, Bulelani. Cheat alone, and not with my son."

He looked at me with so much frustration. " I'll show him how to ride a bicycle then. The last time he fell, I think its a good time I teach him how to be perfect in riding it today" he said.

Me: " no problem then"

He glanced at me like he wanted to say something then said " boy, let's go outside" he turned around and took the bicycle and walked out. Lutha ran passed him with his ball and they went outside. I went to pour myself an orange juice then went outside to watch them. Buja was helping him with putting on the hamlet then Lutha got on the bicycle. I noticed that this new bicycle is a bit bigger than the one we left behind in our house. I didn't understand why Buja had bought a much bigger one. I watched them. Lutha looked nervous. He rode it while Buja watched. He shouted " that's it my boy! I know you can do this" clapping his hands. Lutha looked like he was gaining more courage. He suddenly fell. I almost ran to him but Buja went there first. Lutha got up looking very upset.

Buja: " let's try again"

I wasn't sure about this. I sipped my juice and watched again. Lutha rode the bicycle again. He looked less nervous. " That's it!!! Go Lutha! That's a true Giba!" Buja shouted. I smiled feeling proud of him. Buja looked at me and smiled to. I sipped my juice and went inside again. I decided on making some food for them in the mean time. Moments later the food was ready. I called them to come and eat and we sat down. Lutha started telling me how good he is in riding the bicycle. He said " tell her daddy! I only fell once. Daddy said I'm a fast learner and I'm clever"

Me: " mmmmmh! I'm proud of you nana"

Lutha: " yes, and daddy is proud of me too. Tell her dad!"

Buja: " I'm very proud of you boy."

Lutha smiled in total excitement and continued eating.

Me: " thanx for making his day"

Buja: " you don't need to thank me. You and him come first in my life, no matter what"

I ate and didn't respond. He drank his juice and continued eating too. " I've missed your cooking" he said.

Me: " shame..."

He looked at me startled. I could see he wasn't expecting that response at all. " Noxy, kutheni ugeza nje ngoku?" (Why are you being sarcastic?)

Me: " awuphekelwa na dan?"(Isn't there someone to cook for you?)

He took the remote and increased the volume so Lutha could concentrate on what he was watching.

Buja: " maka Lutha, the only people I trust to cook for me is you and my mother. Don't ever think that some woman cooks for me, I do not trust very easily"

Me: " I see....."

We ate in silence. He looked upset and I was just in a calm mood the whole time. After we were done eating I put the dishes in the sink. He came to the kitchen and said " how's the morning sickness?"

Me: " its starting, it was worse this morning but I'm okay now"

Buja: " how I wish I could be by your side every step of the way"

Me: " I'll let you know when I go for my first scan"

Buja: " thanx babe.."

He came close but I backed away " I did let you bond with the baby earlier, but please, don't touch me"

Buja: " sthandwa sam, why are you doing this to me? Its painful Noxy. I'm really sorry for everything I've done"

Me: " I doubt you are. The first time you were sorry, but moments later you did the same thing over and over again. You hurt me deeply and I suffered a mental breakdown. I need to wash the dishes, and I'm sure Lutha is waiting for you..."

I turned around and began washing the dishes. He stood behind me for a while. I could feel his body behind me. I tried my best not to turn my head and glance up at him, then finally he walked out of the kitchen. I sighed and continued with what I was doing. After I was done I walked out and watched him playing soccer with Lutha. I decided on going back to my file and keeping myself busy but Lutha said " mom, come and join us!"

I laughed and said " I don't even know how to play"

Buja: " I'm a good teacher, you know that. I'll show you"

Me: " let me wear my sneakers then, I'll be back"

Lutha: " okay..."

I went to wear my sneakers then walked out.

Me:" a pregnant woman playing soccer? I'm not sure about this"

Buja: " we won't aim for the stomach don't worry babe"

Me: " okay, let's get started!"

Lutha kicked the ball to me. I kicked it to Buja then he kicked it back to me again but I missed. Lutha laughed. " Haibo! You not supposed to laugh at me tshini" I said doing a puppy face.

Lutha: "sorry" he said giggling.

He ran to fetch the ball then kicked it again. We continued playing soccer and in no time I was getting the hang of it. We were laughing and enjoying ourselves. Buja said " babe, I think you should start joining women's soccer league, you a pro!!" I laughed hard and said " hayi don't play with me"

Lutha: " one day is one day mom."

Buja and I laughed. We spent the whole day playing with Lutha, and I must say my son was joyful, which made my heart smile. Buja decided on leaving at around 6pm. Lutha said " when are you visiting us again"

Buja: " when its okay with your mom"

Lutha: " okay"

He stood up and said " can you please walk me out, if you don't mind"

Me: " sure"

I went to wear my cardigan because it was a bit chilly outside then Lutha and I walked him out to the car. He was driving the red GTI. We stood next to the car then he said " I'll meet up with Joseph for a few drinks then I'll head straight to my place."

Me: " okay, enjoy"

Buja: " if you need anything babe, I'm a phone call away. Whether its craving during the night, I'll come flying to you. I'll try my best to be here for you, for Lutha and the baby. "

I nodded. "I love you, babe."

He tried coming closer to me but I signaled with my hand for him to stop right there. " Yazi, Bulelani..." I said trying my best to remain calm. " I've heard you repeatedly telling me how much you love me and Lutha and how much I'm hurting you. But I haven't heard you, not even once saying you're going to break up with Lumka. You want me to come back to you, while she still remains in the picture."

" Boy, here's my phone. Play games inside the car so long" he said

Lutha took his phone and got in the car. Buja said " its complicated"

Me: " is she also pregnant?"

Buja: " No! Of course not, I use protection Noxy, the only woman I was not using it was with you."

Me: " then what's making it so complicated?"

Buja: " its just..."

He didn't know what to say after. You know, even if I didn't want to go back to him, It pained to know that there is some woman that has a hold over my man. I wondered if she was that hot in bed? Was she freaky in sex and wild, maybe doing styles that I didn't know of? What was she doing that I couldn't do? Those questions were running through my mind.

Me: " is she the one that wrote the note about sucking your dick?be honest with me because I deserve to know the truth. You owe me that much"

He closed his eyes and took a deep sigh then said " Noxy, I don't want to upset you."

Me: " tell me"

My voice was starting to break. Tears were filling my eyes " Yes, its her" he breathed. " Babe..." he called out to me.

I opened the car for Lutha then said " Nana wam, say bye to your daddy"

I said wiping my tears. " Bye daddy!!" He said opening his arms for Buja. Buja picked him up and said " I'll leave her babe, I promise I will"

Me: " its too late"

Buja: " Noxy..."

Me: " come Lutha, its getting cold."

He put Lutha down and I held his hand then we went back to the flat. I cooked supper for him. I only ate dry bread and milk, I didn't have much appetite. My heart was so heavy, I wanted the truth but damn it hurt deeply. Lutha went to bed and slept immediately because he was tired. I went to the living room and sat down thinking about this. I took my phone and called Phozisa. I doubted she was indoors because it was on a saturday but I needed someone to talk to. My own sister and not Bongie. It rang continuously and finally she picked up. "Hello mntase" she said sounding like she just woke up.

Me: " hey, are you sleeping?"

Phozi: " yes, I have such a terrible flu. How are you my love?"

I broke down and cried over the phone. " Some woman is seriously taking my husband away from me. It hurts Phozisa, it hurts so much. I've decided to divorce him but how I wish the love I have for him can also fade away."

Phozi: " hay Noxolo, is it that bitch Amanda?"

She sounded like she was wide awake now. " No, its a woman called Lumka. She first sucked my husband in secret places, I saw a note written by her. Now she's determined to win him over. Infact she has because I haven't got the strength to fight for him anymore. There's so much that has been happening that you don't know"

Phozi: " yabona ke Noxy, right now I feel like sorting out both of them. I'm shaking with anger. Bulelani is an idiot and myeke sthandwa sam. He will know your worth once you gone, he will cry for you when things don't go well for him. He will regret playing with your heart like this. And that asshole of a bitch will get what's coming to her, she will lose Buja the same way she got him. Let karma deal with them."

I nodded my head even though she wasn't even seeing me. " Noxy, do you hear me?" She asked.

Me: " yes, I hear you mntase"

I went to take a box of tissues and sniffed. " I love you, and stay strong and pray" she said. " I love you too. Thanx for listening"

Phozi: " I want to recuperate first and be 100% strong then I'll pay you a visit. I want to show them who's sister they have been messing with. Ndizobanyisa Noxy, ndizoba vuthulula"

Me: " oh kewena mntase. I have to go big sis"

Phozi: " goodnight love, try not to think about this too much"

Me: " I'll try"

We hung up. I went to wash my face then changed to my night wear. There was a knock on the door. " Who is it?" I asked. " Its me, Buja"

I didn't expect him to come back. I wondered if he didn't forget something.

Me: " what do you want?"

Buja: " I need to talk to you. Please babe, open up"

Me: " just leave"

Buja: " I won't, I'll sleep on this door step if I have to"

I went over to open up for him. I opened the gate then said " what do you want?" He walked in.

Buja: " I love you, Noxy. But I always keep hurting you. I have this hungry beast inside me that cannot resist temptation. Its like I'm a drug addict and I cannot get rid of my addiction, I've tried but failed, I give in. Its destroying my life with you but I'm not stopping. You are my wife and the mother of my children, I don't want to lose you. God knows I don't."

He hugged me breathing heavily, the hug was so tight almost like he was afraid to let go. I hugged him back. We stood in the same position for a very long time, the only thing we could hear was our breathing. We didn't say anything to each other, we just hugged. After what seemed like forever, I said " goodnight" we broke the hug "goodnight my love" he responded. He stroked my cheek then walked out. I closed the gate and locked the door and I went straight to bed. Weird enough I slept within 5 minutes.

The next morning was sunday...

I decided I'm going to pay Buja's parents a visit. It was time I informed them about the separation and the divorce that I was going to file soon. My son and I got ready and went to church first. After the service we went home and I prepared Sunday lunch for us. Around 3pm we got ready to go. I wore my head scarf and long red dress with a brown thin belt. I gave Buja's dad a call to inform him I was coming. He said okay he'll wait and that his wife is also at home. That was a relief because I wanted both of them to be there.

Moments later I left with Lutha. We had a long drive, around 5pm we arrived. I parked the car and got out then we knocked and entered. They were both in the living room watching rugby. I greeted both of them while Lutha hugged them in excitement.

Buja's mom: " you guys can be so scarce mani. It has been a while since I saw my grandson."

I sat down. " It has been a while indeed. "

Buja's mom: " school holidays are coming soon. He should come here for the week, his cousins will also be coming for holidays so he won't get bored"

Lutha: " I want to come makhulu. Can I come mommy?"

Me: " yes my love."

Buja's dad: " makoti, how are you?"

Me: " tata, I'm not very good. There is a reason for me to come and visit. Ndenzwa ku xakwa tata. Its regarding my marriage with Lutha's father. Things have been going from bad to worse. I need to speak to both of you in private, not in front of Luthando"

Buja's mom: " Lutha, do you want to go and play next door? Uyayazi ke Noxy children around here only stop playing at 8pm when its time for Generations"

Lutha: " I want to play, I miss my friends."

Me: " okay, let's go"

I went next door with him to the kids he played with while we were still living there. They were so excited to see him, they began playing while I went back to the house. I made tea for my in-laws then we sat down in the living room.

Buja's father asked " what is happening now my child. Didn't you two sort things out?"

I began telling them everything that has happened up to the Lumka part. They were both startled about what they heard. " I tried fighting for my marriage. I tried to be a good wife to Bulelani, but its never good enough. I've made a final decision. I want to leave him, I'm giving up on my marriage, for the sake of my health and happiness. I can no longer live in pain for the rest of my life"

" Uvumela unopatazana athathe indoda yakho kengoku, Simthandile?"(Are you letting that floozy take your husband, Simthandile?) His mother said.

Me: " he's not willing to let her go. I suffered a mental breakdown because of him. I'm giving up on him mama. She can have him, I deserve to be treated much better than this."

She clapped once and said " this is unbelievable! For a wife to talk like this is a disgrace. Sakuyala Simthandile! Emtshatweni uginya noba kukrakra. No woman gives up on her man like this! Maybe you never loved my son"

Me: " mama, I'm pregnant. I almost suffered a miscarriage because of Bulelani. Why do I always have to fight for him when he doesn't value our marriage? Its enough. The pain he's putting me through is too much"

Tears rolled down my face. " So you want a divorce? You want to go back to being a single woman who's come out of a marriage and have lots and lots of boyfriends? You want to behave like Brooke from The Bold and the beautiful now caba marriage is a prison to you. You are letting that Jezebel win you naïve little girl. Wake up!"

" Enough Nolitha!!" Buja's father shouted with so much authority in his voice. There was silence in the room.

Buja's mom: " how dare you speak to her like that? She has every right to want to leave him after this painful story she has told us. Bulelani has never been wrong in your eyes. He has gotten away with many things before, because of you. He lacks discipline because of you Nolitha(Buja's mom) You always took his side since he was a little boy. "

He paused and breathed then looked at me. "I'm very hurt, I'm deeply disappointed by this. My son has disappointed me in more ways than one. Did you say you are pregnant?"

Me: " yes tata..."

"How far along are you?" He asked.

Me: "I'll be 2 months next week"

He sighed and said " Bulelani is too old to be disciplined now. He doesn't know the damage he has done. He just doesn't listen. Makoti, you know that I have loved you from the moment I saw you. I was proud of Bulelani for deciding to marry you even though you were young. This decision you have taken is very hard for me and will be for the rest of the Giba family, but I will not hold you back mntanam. I can only hope that you will change your mind. I will have a talk with my son about this."

" I hope you do acknowledge that our children are not leaving with you. Luthando is a Giba and so is the baby you are expecting. Our children will not be raised by another man one day. I'm even willing to raise them myself" his mother said. I couldn't believe this.

Me: " Mama, with all due respect. My children are coming with me. I'm even willing to fight in Court for them. I am their mother"

Buja's mom: " hehe! My love, we will fight tooth and nail too. If you think walking out of a marriage is so easy, think again, Simthandile. Nje ufuna ubuphuma kwesi s'dima soba semzini ubeyi nkazana engu mabuya ekwendeni uzobona kakuhle. ( If you want to get out of this marriage from being a dignified wife to being a single woman think again) no one said life was easy. Luthando Giba will not say daddy to another man, he is staying with us, sign those divorce papers ke sisi, va"

She sipped her cup of tea. I looked at her in disbelief.

Me: " Mam'Giba, I endured the pain of watching your son cheating on me over and over again. He has cheated on me with so many women, one of them even attacked me. I have even heard him and this woman moaning over the phone while he left me in that house to keep his bed warm. He has laid his hand on me more than once. He has introduced me to things that made me forget about my morals that my parents taught me. I have supported him. I have stood by him. I cooked for him. I cleaned for him. I gave him a son as his first born. I listened and obeyed him. I acknowledged and respected that he is the man of the house. I tried to be a good wife to him, but it was just not enough.

I paused to take a few breathes. " I am also someone's child. I do not deserve this kind of treatment from him. Marriage is a beautiful thing, it is a blessing from The Almighty. But in my case, it is a hell hole. I've had enough."



She looked away and sipped on her cup again. Buja's father sipped his tea as well then said " a family meeting will take place. Bulelani will have to come back home and so will you. Your mother must come, too. I'll call my brothers and let them know. But tomorrow morning I'm leaving mntanam. I'm leaving for London and will be back after 3 months. All I ask of you is to hold on before the divorce takes place. The family needs to know why you have decided to make this decision. This is to avoid them assuming you are the one in the wrong. They must know its our son that ill treated you, it is not your fault your marriage fell apart."

Me: " yes tata, I understand. I will wait"

Buja's dad: " thank you, makoti"

We talked about random stuff until I said I had to get going. They stood up and so did I. Buja's mom said " let me walk you out, my child" I said okay and said good bye to his father then we walked out. As soon as we got outside his mother said " I want to talk to you from woman to woman and from wife to wife. My child, we told you when you were still a new bride that these things will happen, they are obstacles in your marriage, that you have to overcome. Bulelani is young, he's hardly 30, he has the looks and he has a successful career. Many women want him, so he will get easily tempted. You are his wife, he chose you out of many woman in this world. Now stop being a cry baby and solve your marriage problems instead of taking the easy way out"

Me: " why are you justifying his actions so much?"

Buja's mom: " because you are weak mani, you have no back bone. You letting some mistress take your husband so easily. I've been married to Bule's father for more than 30 years, there were many obstacles but I never backed down so easily. You can see I'm a strong woman, its clear I never taught you well. So if you re-marry, when someone tries to steal your husband you will cry and run to the divorce court again? How pathetic. Clearly my son made a mistake by marrying you"

Me: " I do not have to listen to these insults."

I left her standing there and went to fetch my son. I was in so much rage. How dare she throw insults at me like my heart is made out of steel. She was trying her absolute best to make me doubt the decision I had made. I drove off in so much anger. I listened to her before but things got worse instead of better. Now she wanted me to go back to him. But for how long will I be happy before he cheats on me again.

While still driving my phone rang. It was her calling, I didn't answer it. It kept ringing but I put it on silent. I finally arrived at my place. Lutha was getting sleepy, but he had to eat first before he slept. I opened my flat and walked in. I took out my phone while locking the door. It had a message from her.

It read" I doubted your marriage with my son at first, I thought you were a young girl after his money and the wealth of the Giba household. But he married you regardless of me begging him not to. I apologize if I sounded harsh, but its the honest truth every word I said. Bulelani loves you, and believe me when I say your decision is a mistake; a mistake that you will regret for the rest of your life."

Kindly take note, this is the last insert for 2015. I'll see you guys after the new year celebration. Thanx. ♥]

Chapter 40

My mother-in-law's sms was deep. It was clear she didn't want me divorcing Buja, even though she had a tendency of being rude towards me. I started having doubts, the fact that she said I might regret my decision made me wonder if I was really sure about this. It was no doubt that I loved my husband, but at the same time I was certain that going back to live with him would be a big mistake. I started getting confused about everything. I then thought about one thing, and that is prayer. I needed God to show me the right path, I had to make a decision that would determine my future and God was the only one who I could determine the answers from. I had to rely on Him to show me whether the forbidden word divorce was indeed the solution. I had left some food from the sunday lunch I cooked in the afternoon so I just warmed it and dished up for myself and Lutha. We ate then took a bath and wore our sleep wear. I sms'd my father-in-law to let him know we arrived safely. After that, I read my son a story book while he was laying his head on my chest. He slept moments later. I kissed his forehead and got out of bed then knelt down and prayed. I opened up to God about everything I'm going through and how I trust him to lead me to the right path. After a longer prayer I said Amen and got into bed. My phone rang just when I had closed my eyes. It was Buja calling. I decided to answer.

Me: "hello"

Buja: "sthandwa sam..."

Me: "Hi. Can I help you?"

Buja: "I got a call from my father, and he gave me an earful. "

Me: "I went to report to them about our separation"

Buja: "and that you want a divorce"

Me: "true"

Buja: "sthandwa sam, are we really giving up on us? We have a baby on the way. Do you want our children to grow up without me. We need to stay as a family, think about Luthando and ozayo, Noxy."

Me: "you should have thought about that before you started having an affair."

Buja: "its over between me and Lumka. I ended things with her"

Me: "how do I know you're telling the truth, Bulelani? You've lied to me so many times"

Buja: "I am maka Lutha. She's not willing to accept it, but in time she will. She just needs time"

Me: "its amazing how soft you are towards her compared to the other women you cheated on me with. I highly doubt you're telling me the truth. Goodnight, my baby and I need to sleep."

Buja: "I won't give up on you, Noxy. You won't be getting any divorce from me. I love you and my children, you are my family. Goodnight sthandwa sam. "

Me: "bye..."

I hung up and closed my eyes then tried to sleep.

The new week started. It was the last week for Lutha to go to school because holidays were approaching for them. On saturday morning I was planning to drop him off at his grandparents house for the holidays and he was very keen on going. I never responded to the sms my mother-in-law sent me. I was still very upset with her about the way she spoke to me. The week was a busy one at work. There were about 5 court appearances we had to attend. Bongie and I only did magistrate court while Karen did high Court. The morning sickness wasn't getting any better. I was now 2 months pregnant yet I was already eating dry bread and cracker bread for lunch and breakfast. Cooking for Lutha was becoming a challenge because I hated the smell of meat so I had to cover my nose every time. Lutha sometimes laughed at me and said "mommy, you look like a ninja! Wagagagaga" I always ended up giggling with him because I was wearing a scarf around my face.

Buja called everyday to check up on us. I had informed him that Lutha will be going to his grandparents for the holidays and that his lil cousins were also going to visit so he would have lots of fun. He didn't have a problem. He spoke to his son as well, they were close, but every time he wanted to come over I said no. I didn't want him to get too comfortable in my new place. He hadn't even entered my bedroom yet. I decided to block the thought of Lumka sleeping at my house. I just decided to try my best not to upset myself. Most of our chats were about Lutha and our unborn baby. I told him about the way I'm feeling in the morning and how I hate feeling this way. He said " remember my mother gave you a natural herb when you were pregnant with Luthando. Maybe we should ask her about it again. "

Me: " I think I'm going to lose weight soon because of this pregnancy. Its worse than my first one. I should really ask her"

Buja: " the baby is growing sthandwa sam. And I have a feeling it will be a boy"

Me: " I'm hoping it will be a girl"

Buja: " eish, I also hope so too babe. I want lobola to come in"

I laughed and said " so you want it to be a girl because you want lobola money? Hayi Buja"

Buja: " hahaha yeah, but then its a pity because I only have boys in my balls."

I giggled and said " how do you know?"

Buja: " I just do. Maybe we should make it a surprise"

Me: " I don't think I'll be able to wait that long. I already can't wait for the 5th month for the gender scan"

Buja: " me too yazi babe"

There was silence. " Uhm. Thanx for checking up on me.." I said.

Buja: " okay babe, take care okay... "

Me: " you too. bye.."

Buja: " bye.."

We hung up.

The weekend arrived, and it was now on saturday in the morning. I had already packed Lutha's suitcase. A week without my son was going to be a lonely one, but I promised to call him everyday. Buja called saying his on his way to my place because he wants to see Lutha. I said okay I'll wait for him. He arrived shortly and hugged Lutha. He took out all the junk food Lutha liked and said " be a good boy at your grandparents house, okay?"

Lutha said " I will daddy"

He looked at me then said " I can drop him off for you, or maybe we should go together"

Me: " its fine, I'll drop him off"

Buja: " okay... Later on what will you be doing?"

Me: " I'm thinking of visiting my friends. "

Buja: " ooBongie?"

Me: " yes"

Buja: " okay sure...we'll keep in touch then"

Me: " sure"

He fist bumped with Lutha then went to his car while I locked up my flat. I soon left going to Buja's home town. We arrived around 11am. I parked and took Lutha's suitcase. Buja's mom was outside watering the garden. " Molo Mama" I said.

She looked at me and smiled then greeted back. She stopped what she was doing and came over to us. 3 kids came out of the house running, they were almost the same age as Lutha. One was the last born of Buja's older brother. Buja had 2 siblings. An older brother that lived at another province, he was a medical doctor, a sister who worked in the U.K then it was him. He was the last born and his mother's favourite.

Buja's mom asked how I was doing and that Buja's father had arrived safely to his destination. She was being nice, I wasn't really sure why but I also decided to be nice to her. She asked how my pregnancy was treating me, I told her about the morning sickness then she told me about the herb Buja talked about. She said she will order it for me and send it via courier. I thanked her. She then said " did you get my sms?"

I looked down and said " yes, Mama, I did"

Buja's mom: " okay, I hope you have thought about what I said my child. Remember, I'm older than you, I have a lot of experience when it comes to these things. You should listen to my advice. You are Bulelani's wife. I will never welcome a Jezebel and home wrecker into this family."

Me: " Mama, to be honest, I thought you never liked me"

Buja's mom: " nonsense maan!"

She then laughed. "How can you think such a thing."

She looked away still laughing. I glanced at her. I just didn't understand this woman. She was a monster in-law for the whole 4 years I stayed with her, and now she was being nice. I decided to say " haike Ma..I should get going. I know Lutha is in good hands." I wheeled his suitcase to the room we used to sleep in then went back outside.

Buja's mom: " he will have the time of his life. Call me anytime when you want to speak to him"

Me: " Okay. thank you, Mama"

I kissed Lutha and hugged the other kids then said my goodbyes and left. On the way I missed him already. I was so attached to Lutha, it wasn't even funny. Once I arrived, I decided to chill at my flat before visiting my friends. I then changed my clothes and wore my powder blue high waist pants, a white summer top and my heels. I tied my hair and washed my face then re-applied my make up and took my handbag. I decided to call Bongie and ask where she is because I was definitely not staying alone in that flat and let boredom kill me. "Sikwa Sandi love, come here" she said. " I'm on my way" I dropped the phone then drove off to there. I still remembered where she lived because we dropped her off when we came back from our get-away trip. I arrived there and parked my car. Sandi opened the gate then said"drive it in, we gonna go out, we'll use Nelisa's car". I did just that and got out. They were listening to music. The street was less quiet there, I just enjoyed the vibe around where she stayed. It was exactly what I needed to distract myself from everything. When I got in, there was Loyz, Luntu, Bongie and Nelisa in the living room. They were busy drinking and listening to music. I greeted everyone, before I could sit down Loyz came to me and said " yho! Noxy, I've missed you so much yaz"

He gave me a hug. I hugged him back and said " really? That's nice to hear"

He held my hand " how are you?"

Me: "I'm okay thanx, yourself?"

Loyz: " I'm okay now that I see you"

Nelz: " order lapho!! Noxy is married. Look at her left finger"

Sandi: " stay in your lane loyz"

She said pouring herself some red wine.

Loyz took his beer and said " tell that to my heart guys. Noxy, ey, let's just leave it before I say some things."

Luntu and Sandi laughed. I sat down.

Me: " hehe what a welcome"

They all laughed. Loyz drank his beer and said " so ladies, kumnandi phi vandag?"(Where are we partying today?)

Sandi: " iyhooo guys, there's this hot and happening place that just opened last month! We have to check it out later on today. That place is vibey va!"

Nelz: " We there kaloku Sandz!"

Nelz increased the volume when 'Wena by Heavy K ft Mpumi' played. Everyone stood up and started dancing. I laughed at them. My friends were a crazy bunch. Bongie pulled me up and said "woooooza!!" I joined in the dancing. In no time I was in the party mode as well. They were indeed a good distraction. Nelisa walked away and came back with a carry pack of Hunters Dry. " Noxy, you still don't drink?"

Me: " No, and anyway, I'm expecting"

Nelz: " you pregnant????!"

Loyz stopped what he was doing and stared at me. "Yes" I said. Bongie looked down.

Loyz: " Noxy, but why? No wonder you look extra beautiful, you have a bun in the oven. But anyway....Congratz love. Your husband is very lucky to have you"

Bongie: " mxim"

She took her can of hunters and downed it. I sat next to her and said " please control yourself"

Bongie: " I can't stand Buja. I just can't my friend. I wish he didn't knock you up"

Me: " well he did. I have no choice but to accept it"

Bongie: " let's not talk about him. Let's just dance and enjoy"

We stood up and danced. They gave me juice. They ate some meat while I was eating fruit. Later on they decided to get ready to go. " Is Miss Preggy going too?" Nelz said winking at me. " Of course! Its not like I'll drink" I said. I wanted to see this hot place Sandi was raving about. The girls changed and did their make up while I chilled with Loyz and Luntu in the living room. Loyz was busy holding my hand. " You're so sexy Noxy, I'm sure you'll be even more sexier with a big belly."He kissed the back of my hand. Its funny how Loyz was flirting with me yet I wasn't even bothered. I didn't even feel guilty. Everyone got ready and we drove off using 2 cars. We finally arrived at this place, and wow it looked good. There were some blue lights outside, and it looked classy. We parked and got out of the car. Loyz quickly held my hand. " I don't want you to get lost" he said. I laughed at him. We made our way to the entrance passing cars. Bongie rushed over to me and said " you better remove your hand from Loyz because there is your husband chilling with those guys"

I quickly removed my hand and looked at the direction she was showing me. They were standing next to his GTI. I saw Sbu's car next to it. Buja was wearing a white muscle top, silver chain necklace, white cutted denim jeans and timberland boots. Bongie poked me " you should tell your husband to stop looking this hot, I'm sure there are some bitches here already eyeing him." She said" We've come to have some fun here. Let's ignore him." I responded to her. Sbu glanced at our direction but I quickly looked away and we entered this place. Sandi danced as soon as she entered " haibooooo aibo eyyyyy!" She sang. I laughed. I really wanted her to meet my sister because her character was almost the same as Phozi. We went to a free table and sat down.

Loyz and Luntu went to the bar to buy some drinks and came back with a Grapetizer for me. They sat down. After about 30 minutes the vibe was starting to get hot. My friends are not shy when it comes to dancing. In no time I was dancing having the time of my life. Loyz held my waist. I removed his hand feeling uncomfortable and said " my hubby is here, can you please behave." he let go. Nelz held my hand and said " Loyz should stop what he's doing because Buja and his friends keep looking at our table. " I have stopped him" I said.

She nodded and continued dancing. We sat down again and chilled.

Sandi:" I keep checking Buja's friends. Damn, they yummy. Where's Khaya? I can't see him"

Me: " I don't know"

I said thinking about the last conversation I had with him. I glanced at the table Buja was on. It was only him and his friends and no women. Only one or 2 came to them and left. I pretended to be minding my own business again.

While my friends and I were busy chatting, I noticed some guys coming to our table. When I looked it was Buja, Sbu and Vusi "flip, what the hell do they want" I thought to myself biting my lip in panic, but I pretended not to take notice. " Molweni" Sbu greeted us. We greeted back.

Buja sat directly opposite Loyz while Sbu sat down next to Luntu and Vusi sat next to Sandi. I was puzzled by their actions, invading our space like that. They didn't even bother asking if they could sit down.

Sbu sipped on his glass and said " lovey ka Buja" glancing at me. I didn't respond because he obviously knew Buja and I weren't in good terms. Buja looked at Loyz and said " tell me sani, do I look like I eat shit to you?"

The table went dead silent while music was playing . Loyz looked a little intimidated by this shocking question but tried his best not to show. I was startled, I didn't know whether to speak or just keep quiet. Loyz didn't respond to Buja.

Buja: " I've just asked you a fucking question, and you better answer me if you know what's good for you boy"

Loyz: " No"

He said boldly. " This woman you're busy touching is my pregnant wife, the love of my life, uBaby ka Buja. Kutheni undiqhela nje boy?"

Me: " Buja, please don't do this"

He glanced at me and said " my love, please don't get involved" I glared at him hoping he could see I wasn't impressed at all by this.

I didn't even understand why Buja was calling Loyz boy because he was only 1 year older than him. The next thing Buja took Loyz's glass of shot and downed it even though he had his own. He was definitely trying to provoke him. Loyz squinted his eyes, I could see his anger was starting to build up.

Buja: " you have the guts to touch my woman, you have no manners what's so ever. Are you challenging me sani?"

Luntu: " look mfethu, Maybe he wasn't aware Noxy is your wife"

Buja, Sbu and Vusi started laughing all at once like Luntu had shared a funny joke. Buja's facial expression quickly changed, he glared at Loyz and said " you think I'm an idiot nhe? let me get one thing clear to you, and I hope you are listening very carefully. I don't have kaka written on my forehead and I certainly don't take shit from anyone. Touch my wife again, and I'll come after you

boy, I'll be like a bad rash on your skin, a rash that just doesn't want to go away. Take me on, and you'll live to regret it."

He sipped on his glass. I wished I could just dig a hole and bury myself. I glanced around and noticed Vusi winking at Sandi, she looked away blushing. For a moment there I thought my eyes were deceiving me.

Sbu: " I like this table gentz...how about we join them"

Vusi: " yeah....ladies, don't look so tense. How about a bottle of Moet? Its on me..."

Sandi: " uhm...yeah, why not.." She said smiling.

Buja smiled and looked at me, I quickly avoided eye contact with him. This was one awkward situation, I didn't even have the courage to check up on loyz.

[Happy New Year everyone. Wishing you lots of blessings for this year!! :\*♥]

#### Chapter 41

I took my glass and put it down again. I just didn't know what to do with myself. I could feel Buja's eyes piercing through my skin while I was still avoiding eye contact with him. I then looked at him and said " why do you always have to ruin everything...." sounding defeated.

Loyz unexpectedly stood up, when I looked at him I could see he was boiling with anger. He took a bottle of beer and walked away without even saying goodbye " Loyz!!" I shouted. I wanted to follow him and apologize. I hated seeing him like that. He stormed out of the place. Bongie got up and followed him. I stood up too. "Where are you going?" Buja asked "I'm leaving" I answered.

I took my handbag and said " bye guys"

Sandi: " haibo, uyaphi chomy??"(Where are you going?)

I looked at her then walked away, I just didn't have the energy to answer her, and she saw that I was upset. " You can't go alone!" She shouted. As soon as I got out I remembered I left my car and at her place, " damn it" I said to myself. I looked around and it was so packed outside. I stood next to a corner and took out my phone to call Bongie, I hoped she hadn't left me because I didn't want to go back inside and chill with Sandi and Nelz because it was clear they were going to stay with Buja and his friends. I wasn't even used to partying, I was panicking as it is, people were dancing next to their cars others were busy socializing and I was standing there like a statue. I gave Bongie a call. It rang once but someone took my phone and held my hand, when I checked it was Buja "come, let's go home" he said.

Me: " I'm not going with you!"

Buja: " we need to talk"

Me: " I said I'm not leaving with you, Bulelani"

He stood in front of me then said " if you don't, then I'll have to drag you out of here, my love. I'm leaving now, and I'm not going without you. Come babe" he pulled my hand and we went to his car. He went to open the door for me and watched me as I got in, I don't know whether he thought I was going to run away or what. He also got in and drove off.

Me: " send me to my flat"

Buja: " Noxolo, you're married and pregnant yet you busy partying. What about my kid that is inside you?"

Me: " don't you dare judge me! You married yet you a man whore! You pathetic excuse of a husband. You had no right to be so rude to Loyiso. No right!"

Buja: " did you just call me a man whore?"

Me: " why are you surprised when you are one?"

Buja: " since when do you insult me, Noxy? You used to respect me, kutheni nje ndingabonakali kuwe ngoku?"

Me: " just send me to my flat and stop talking"

I looked through the window. He glanced at me and looked ahead again.

Buja:" I don't like your friends. You should be friends with Wendy. She'll be Sbu's wife soon, you shouldn't be friends with party animals who are not even married, I don't want you to start behaving like a hooligan."

I completely lost it. I screamed" Stop this car!!!" He ignored me. I moved the steering wheel to the side and the car swerved forcefully and it almost hit a pole. Buja drove to the side of the road and stopped the car. He switched off the engine and looked at me in total astonishment. " Are you trying to kill us?" He asked.

I fiddled in my bag looking for my phone but I couldn't find it. I remembered he took it and said " my phone please. Now!"

He stared at me then took it out and gave it to me. He said " Noxy, is it my lil angel that's making you like this?"

I started boiling with anger. " I can't stand you! You are disgusting, rude, everything about you is just so disgusting"

I said looking away. I tried opening the door but it was locked. I said " why the hell did you lock the car?" I started punching him repeatedly. He held both my arms and said " awusanqumki sthandwa sam"

Me: " this is not about hormones! Why did you disrespect Loyiso like that? He is such a sweet guy. He didn't deserve what you did. "

Buja: " he had no right to touch you, Noxy. He knows you are married, he just wants to take advantage of you. I'll be damned if I let any man use my wife."

Me: " Loyz is not like that! He's a gentlemen, he respects the fact that I'm married."

Buja: "that's not what I saw. He was busy touching you all over your body. I was watching him babe. I needed to put him in his place. Yazi Noxy, you not fully exposed to many things. You don't even know what happens in clubs and parties. People like you can be easy targets to men. I wish you could see that I'm protecting you. Promise me you won't go out partying again, because it will piss me off completely"

Me: " so its fine for you to go out partying, yet I have to sit at home and be bored to death??? As usual you are being selfish"

Buja: " babe, you left me and decided to move in a flat. I'm all alone in that house Noxy. That's why I decided to just come here and hang out with my friends. Remember when you were still living with me we spent a lot of time together with our son. And I always came back around 9pm home when I went out. Now you not there, and I miss you, I miss holding you in our bed"

Me: " you hypocrite! You are busy sleeping with Lumka in our bed! How dare you preach to me like you're a saint!"

He's phone started ringing. He took it out of his pocket but checked the screen first. I grabbed it and checked, it was the same unsaved number. I wondered why Buja didn't even bother saving her number " Noxy, give me that phone" he said. I answered it.



Caller: " baby, can we please talk about this. Please mntuwam. I love you and I know you love me too. Please don't break up with me. I know you don't love Noxy, not the way you love me. Can I come over tomorrow"

Me: " its his wife you little slut.."

I said boldly. She kept quiet.

Me: " listen here you bitch. If you ever come near my son, and I mean ever and tell him about being his 2nd mom, I will kill you. Don't play mind games with my son, he's not your bloody puppet."

Lumka: " I'm sorry sisi. Its just that he was with B at that time. I was just being nice."

She cut the call before I could say anything. I realized I was starting to change. My personality was no longer the same as I was before. I slid his phone in my pocket.

Buja: " I'm sorry babe. Can you give me the phone"

Me: " you not getting it until I decide to give it to you."

He looked startled. He started the car and drove off again, and this time we drove in silence. I took out his phone and entered his password, I remembered it but he wasn't aware that I figured it out.

Buja: " wenzani?"

Me: " I'm trying to figure out my ex husband to be's password."

He looked pissed but continued driving. I went to messages. It had about 10 unread messages from Lumka. I opened them, she was begging him to give their relationship a 2nd chance. I didn't finish reading. I decided to scroll down and opened one of the messages from her. It said " you know, sometimes it hurts when you sleep with me then go back to your wife. I sometimes feel cheap and used. You said you were gonna leave her. When? I love you and I want us to be together without her being in our way." I went to the 2nd one. " I can't get over the way you fucked me yesterday. Sometimes I even dream about your dick B wam"

The messages were from a month back. I stopped reading and decided to give her a call.

Buja: " Noxy, babe, please give me back my phone. I can explain everything."

She answered and said " baby? Is it you?"

Me: " its Mrs Giba you pathetic idiot that sucks married men's dicks. Shame, you have such a low self esteem. You being fucked and left to wait for the day I get divorced. Hahaha you are such an air head."

Lumka: " Esheee, Bulelani is mine. You are just in our way"

Buja slowed down and stopped the car again. He grabbed the phone from me and cut the call. He slid it in his pocket then drove off again. I looked away as tears filled my eyes. " Yazi Buja, I'm always happy when I'm with my friends. But with you, its always the opposite"

He drove without saying a word. He slowed down and took out the gate remote. I checked through the window and realized we had just arrived at our house, he didn't send me to my flat and I wasn't even concentrating to even notice. He drove in.

Me: " I'm not getting out of this car until you send me to my flat"

He parked and got out of the car. He opened the door for me and said " come babe, we need to have a serious talk inside"

I looked straight ahead without answering him. He unexpectedly picked me up and carried me to the door step. " Hehe.....so you honestly think I can't run"

Buja: " I obviously can outrun you, so you'll be wasting your time my love"

He put me down and unlocked the door. He held my hand and pulled me to the house. " Do you miss this house? Because I'm sure it misses you too"

I went over to the living room, I suddenly didn't feel okay at all. I felt edgy. I had a dizzy spell again and balanced with the sofa. Buja rushed over to me and said " are you okay?"

Me: " no, I don't feel okay. I have to get out of this house"

My heart was beating fast. I didn't know what was happening to me.

Buja: " what are you feeling sthandwa sam? Should I get you some water"

I shivered. I rushed to the door and went outside. As soon as I got out I was a bit better. Buja said " I wanted us to have a little chat, but I think its best I send you to your flat"

Me: " I don't know what's going on, do you feel anything when you enter this house?"

Buja: " no, I feel fine babe"

Me: " maybe I'm just tired. I need to sleep"

I went to his car again. He locked the house and we drove off. We arrived at my place then he helped me in. I stood in the passage and said " thanx. You can go now"

Buja: " are you sure you okay?"

Me: " I'm perfect. Bye"

Buja: " Noxy stop-"

Me: " I said I'm fine! Get out!"

Buja: " please phone me if you're not okay"

Me: " I will"

He turned around and left then I locked the door. Surprisingly I felt fine like nothing happened. The dizziness I had was almost the same as the one I had that day I pointed a gun on Buja. I went to change my clothes then got into bed. I tossed and turned because I kept thinking about Loyiso but I was also scared to call him. Maybe he was mad at me. I turned off the lights and closed my eyes. Sleeping was a struggle. I took my phone and paged his number then called him. I needed to apologize and tomorrow was just too far. After a while he said " hey..."

Me: " hey, its me, Noxy"

Loyz: " I know...how are you?"

Me: " I should be asking you that. I'm so sorry about what happened."

Loyz: " you did nothing wrong. Anyway I'm fine. I just needed to get away from your husband because he was seriously provoking me. I'm sorry if I got you into trouble, I guess I got too excited when I saw you"

I smiled. " No its okay..." I said.

Loyz: " I wonder when I'll see you again. I keep wanting to call you every day but I don't want to get you into trouble. You are such a beautiful woman, inside and out"

Me: " hahaha are you charming me? Because its definitely working"

Loyz: " maybe..."

We laughed.

Me: " I have to go and fetch my car tomorrow at Sandi's place"

Loyz: " I can bring it to you. I don't live very far from her place"

Me: " no its fine, I want to have a chat with her anyways"

Loyz: " okay, I guess I'll see you tomorrow then. What are your plans for tomorrow?"

Me: " I'll just chill in my flat then in the afternoon go to see Sandi. I can ask Bongie to come and fetch me though"

Loyz: " I wish I could be the one to come and fetch you. "

Me: " you can"

I smiled again. "I'll direct you to my flat"

Loyz: " do you live in a flat now?"

Me: " yes, I'm not in good terms with my husband."

Loyz: "I'm sorry to hear that"

Me: " its fine. Can you come around 10am?"

Loyz: " sure, see you tomorrow then"

Me: " are you sure you don't mind? My husband threatened you."

Loyz: " no, I won't let him get to me. I'll see you tomorrow"

Me: " okay, where are you now?"

Loyz: " in bed. I didn't feel like partying after what happened"

Me: " okay then"

We said our goodbyes and hung up. I just couldn't stop smiling. There was something about Loyz that made me happy every time I spoke to him. I slept immediately after.

The following morning I ate cereal then cleaned. After I was done I took a bath and wore my above the knee floral dress. I called my mother-in-law because I wanted to speak to my son. Lutha was so happy. He was telling me about everything they were doing and how their grandma was spoiling them. I was happy he was having a good time. We hung up after about an hour.

Around 10:30am Loyz called asking for direction. I directed him and stood outside. He arrived shortly driving his car. It was a white BMW. He parked and got out of the car. He had brought a bunch of red roses. He said " hey" and gave me a warm hug. "This is for you"

I couldn't contain my smile" ncooooh thanx" I said and took them. I went to look for a vase, filled it with water and put them in. I went to put them in my bedroom. While he went to sit in the living room. I went to sit next to him.

Me: " can I get you anything?"

Loyz: " no, I'm fine thanx"

Me: " okay then."

He held my hand. " I'm taking a huge risk by being here because I have a feeling if your husband finds out he will really make my life a living hell"

Me: " mxim. He is just being selfish"

Loyz: " I'll be honest with you Noxy. I have feelings for you. I know you're married and I'll never have anything with you, I just wish I was able to control my feelings"

My heart started beating fast. I blushed and looked down. He stroked my cheek. I looked at him and our eyes met. He came close and rested his lips on mine. He slowly started kissing me, I kissed him back. I broke the kiss and said " what am I doing, I'm married. I'm no different from my cheating husband"

I stood up. He also stood up and said " I'm sorry babe. Its my fault."

Me: " we should get going"

He nodded. I walked away to my room wondering what the hell is wrong with me. I took my bag, I couldn't stop thinking about this kiss, I walked out and said " we can go" trying my best to not look at him. " Noxy wait.." He said " did you feel something too after this kiss we just shared? Do you regret it?"

I looked at him not knowing whether to shake my head or nod. I said" It doesn't matter, it shouldn't have happened" he came close and said " I know we might not kiss again, but to me, it felt right Noxy. I love you, and that's the honest truth" he said stroking my cheek.

## Chapter 42

So now Loyz was stroking my cheek looking into my eyes. It was like he wanted me to get lost in the moment again, and it was working. I came close and so did he then we kissed again, this time more passionately. He wrapped his arms around my waist, he kissed differently from Buja who I was used to, but it wasn't bad at all. I missed the feeling I was having - the feeling of being touched, the intimacy. I had to stop because I could see that I was getting carried away. I broke the kiss and said " I'm married Loyiso. This is just wrong"

Loyz: " it feels right"

Me: "to you, not to me."

I turned and approached the door, he followed and walked out. I locked my flat and we went to his car. On the way I was looking through the window deep in thoughts. " Noxy..." Loyz said.

Me: "mmh?"

Loyz: " please forgive me by saying this, but I do not regret what happened"

Me: " I do"

Loyz: " we have feelings for each other. Stop fighting this"

I didn't respond. The only thing in my mind was to make an appointment with the Attorney Karen recommended so that divorce papers could be drafted for me. Waiting 3 months for Buja's father to come back was starting to seem like forever. I felt guilty for what I had just done, I felt pregnant and lonely, and Loyz happened to be there to say the right words and give me a touch that I've been longing for.

" Your husband and I know each other." Loyz said while I was deep in thoughts.

Me: "how do you know each other?"

Loyz:" remember he came to fetch you when you had too much to drink. I've seen him also in some places."

Me: " oh okay"

Moments later we arrived at Sandi's place. He said " I won't be coming in"

Me: " okay, no problem"

Loyz: " can I come later on to check up on you"

Me: " no, there's no need."

Loyz: " okay"

I got out of the car and entered the gate while he drove off. I went to knock. Nelisa's car was outside so I reckoned they were back. Sandi opened the door and said " hey chomy, come in" She looked like she had just woken up. I got in and went to sit down in the living room.

Me: " how are you love?"

Sandi: " Tired. I had such a hectic night. Nelisa is in my room sleeping as well. Can I get you anything?"

Me: " water will be fine, thanx"

She walked away and came back with water and a can of Hunters Extreme.

Me: " have you eaten anything?"

Sandi: " nah, I don't have any appetite. I'm trying to get rid of this hangover"

Me: " let's go to the kitchen, I'm going to make you a sandwich. You can't drink alcohol on an empty stomach"

Sandi: " thanx so much my friend. You're such a caring person mani"

I smiled at her then we went to the kitchen. She sat on the high chair while I opened the fridge.

Sandi: " Buja's friends know how to party va. I had the time of my life"

I stopped what I was doing and looked at her. " Didn't you leave?"

Sandi: " hell no! Let me tell you what happened after you guys left"

She crossed her legs and downed the cider then burped.

Sandi: " After you and Buja left, I was left with Luntu, Sbu, Vusi and Nelisa. Luntu phoned his friends and left, well he said he won't be able to stay with us. Haike sana after he was gone Vusi bought the Moet for us and more booze. 2 of their other friends came to join us as well, Lwando and Jospeh, do you know them?"

I gave her the sandwich and said " yes, I only saw them once or twice though"

Sandi: " thanx my friend."

She took a bite and chewed. I went to get her juice but she said " nah don't stress, I'll drink the Hunters"

Me: " alright then."

I sat on the high chair as well and opened up the bottled water.

Sandi: " so as I was saying. We ended up leaving and checking out other places around town. Nelisa came back here to drop off her car and we partied with them."

My eyes widened.

Me: " but how can you do that? You only first saw them last night. I mean, how can you trust them so easily?"

Sandi: "ey wena! Those guys are chilled, they have no stress, we had to hang out with them tshi."

She winked. " Yho, okay, and then what happened?"I asked.

Sandi: " we went to every hot club around town, drinking thee most expensive bottles. So now my f, I'm going to tell you something. Please don't judge me"

Me: " okay...."

Sandi: "andithi mos we partied the whole night, and of course we were drunk. Uhm.....Vusi and I kissed..."

Me: " well, I saw him winking at you at the table"

She laughed and said " your eyes are too quick mani!"

Me: " I'm not sure who he's dating though."

Sandi: " uhm...yah. So we kissed, in fact we were flirting and kissing the whole night. And then..."

She drank her cider again then said " We left the others around 5am and I went to his place. I slept with him"

I looked at her astonished. I was beyond shocked.

Me: " but my friend, so soon?"

Sandi: " we wanted each other at that time. Don't worry, we used protection."

Me: " aren't you scared? What if he doesn't call you? Hayi mani Sandi I'm upset with you"

Sandi: " I don't regret it though..."

Nelisa walked it and said " morning!!"

Me: " someone is not as tired as Sandi. Morning friend."

Nelisa: " we had so much fun chomy, its a pity you had to leave with Buja"

Sandi: " I hope Sbu sent you straight home"

Nelisa: " hahaha yes he did"

She blushed.

Sandi "liar!!"

They laughed. This conversation wasn't really sitting well with me. Sbu was Wendy's fiance, what if Nelisa slept with him??the conversation we were having wasn't really clicking with me because I was someone's wife while they were unmarried. I started to realize that its true when it is said when you're a wife you should befriend married women kuze incoko idibane. I remained calm then decided to tell them about Loyz.

Me: " Loyz came to drop me off just now"

Sandi: " Mxim. He better stay away from you before Buja kicks his ass. Uyadelela uLoyiso."

Me: " uhm...before I say anything. Nelz, did you sleep over at Sbu's place?"

Nelz: " okay, I'll be honest, we kissed and that was it. Gosh, he's such a good kisser. But luckily Sandi's keys were with me so he dropped me off here."

Me:" okay..."

Nelz: " why?"

Me: " just asking dear. Loyz came over to my flat. He confessed that he has feelings for me...and..."

Sandi: " he's got guts nhe? He actually has the nerve. Now he's really challenging Buja. Tshini thiza"

Nelz: " we warned him, he should just stay away from you"

Me: " he's not a bad guy, he's actually very sweet"

There was a knock on the door then the door opened.

Sandi: " who is it??!"

Bongie walked in the kitchen and said " hey girls" she didn't look like she was in a good mood. We greeted her back.

Bongie: " Noxy, I tried calling you love"

Me: " oh sorry, the phone is in my bag on top of the couch. I didn't even hear it. Where did you go last night?"

Bongie: " I left with Loyiso. I wasn't going to stay there after how Buja was so rude to him. We actually turned around to come and fetch you but when we got there you had already left. I wish

you waited a few more minutes before leaving because I got so upset when I heard that you left with that bastard Buja"

Sandi stopped what she was doing and gave her an ugly look " hay sisi" she said " how dare you call Noxy's husband a bastard?"

Bongie: " well he is. I don't like him and I'm not going to act like I do"

Me: " he dropped me off at my flat."

Bongie: " nxa, I hate him shame."

Sandi: " what's it with you na Bongie?"

Bongie: " well if you knew what I know you would hate him too"

Sandi: " no Bongie, don't interfere dear"

Bongie: " he had no right to speak so rudely to Loyiso"

Sandi: " Loyiso had no right to touch Noxy like that. Noxy is Buja's wife. Nelz and I did say he must stay in his lane. I was very happy when Buja did that, maybe now he will know his place and stop crushing on a married woman"

Bongie: " well when Noxy leaves Buja, maybe she will find happiness with Loyiso. I'm very sure he will treat her much better"

Nelz: " Noxy what do you have to say when Bongie is speaking about your hubby like that?"

Me: " I know where she's coming from. Look guys, Buja has been treating me very badly. He's cheated on me many times. Even last night I was busy shouting and swearing at his side chick over the phone, something that's very unlike me. I even almost suffered a miscarriage because of him. That's some of the reasons him and I are in a separation."

Bongie: " how I wish you can divorce him. Happiness is what you need. I am supporting Loyiso 100%. "

Sandi: " how do you know Loyiso won't show his true colours later on? I'm very sure Buja was very sweet and charming when him and Noxy met. If he wasn't, then I'm sure she wouldn't have married him."

Nelz: " I agree with you Sandi"

Bongie: " I can't believe you on his side even after what you just heard! Why didn't you guys leave with me after what happened? I'm starting to think you two are back stabbers. We hang out with Loyz, so he's more of a friend to us. Iworse kewena Sandi, you didn't even have a worry in your eye"

Sandi: " as I said, Loyz deserved it. I won't encourage him about something that's totally wrong. Have you ever seen Loyz in a committed relationship Bongie?? No!! Now all of a sudden he has a huge crush on Noxy, who is of course married. Something is very fishy here."

Nelz: " I agree. Noxy, don't give him a chance love. Stick to your hubby, Buja loves you. "

Bongie: " hehehe....I'm sure you want her to die at a young age. That man is toxic"

Nelz: " Bongie, stop being so judgmental. The only backstabber I see here is you. We were warning Loyz to get her hands off Noxy here in this house before we left but you didn't say anything"

Bongie stood up. "Excuse me?? I warned Noxy when I saw Buja standing with his friends outside his car. Now how can you say I'm a back stabber?I'm sure you guys ended up partying with them. The only thing in your mind is alcohol and men"

I stood up and said " guys, can you please stop arguing about this. Let's keep the peace that we have between us"

Bongie: " No, no Noxy. I think its time I said a few things. I'm the one that introduced Noxy to you. She is my friend and not yours. I know why I'm behaving like this towards her husband. That man is a liar and a cheat. I'll celebrate the day she divorces him"

Nelz stood up as well. " you know what Bongie? You also need to stay in your lane and stop being too judgmental. Who died and made you Noxy's mother? you're not married and have never been married. Noxy and Buja obviously love each other, if they didn't, they wouldn't have gotten married. You need to focus on your love life and stop meddling on other peoples businesses. Now you think Loyz will be good for Noxy, meaning you encouraging her to cheat! The only back stabber I see here is you."

Sandi crossed her arms and said " I couldn't agree more. And for your info, yes I do love alcohol and men. That's why I decided to shag Vusi. I'm the honest type and I tell it like it is."

Bongie: " I think its best Noxy started distancing herself from you two. Maybe introducing you to her was a big mistake"

Sandi: " hahaha oh?! Noxy, keep your eyes open and watch her. The way she wants you to divorce your husband makes me suspicious. At least me and Nelz know our places. We will advise you but not tell you what to do."

Nelz: " and kesana we have never seen Loyz in any serious relationship. But we won't say he's a player because we have never seen him changing any women. What if he wants to use Noxy? Why fall inlove with a married woman? And its fishy that you Bongie, the most judgmental person I know have no problem with all of this"

Bongie: " I seriously haven't got time to listen to this nonsense. Noxy, are you coming with me? Because I'm going."

Sandi: " Noxy came to see me and not you. She should just stay behind, at least me and Nelz seem to be very transparent and honest. We not good friends in disguise like you."

In all of this arguing that was going on, my only fear in this was, I had told Bongie almost everything about my marriage life and my downs with Buja. I trusted her with my secrets, I hoped everything they were saying about her was not true, because if it is I really needed to watch my back.

## Chapter 43

" guys, I think its time I headed back to my place" that's what I said trying to excuse myself from this argument.

Sandi: " let me walk you out then"

Bongie took her car keys from the kitchen counter and walked out without even saying bye to us. By the time we went outside she was driving off.

Nelz: " myeke wethu, she's mad because you didn't want to go with her. She gets upset when thinks don't go her way. We know her"

Me: " why were you guys ganging up on her like that? I thought you were best friends"

Sandi: " we have been friends since primary, that's how long we've known her. She's very good at judging people almost like her life seems perfect when it is in fact not. We party together but ever since she became friends with you she thinks she's better than us."

Nelz: " does she tell you her dirty lil secrets? Like how she and Luntu slept together in his car when they were both drunk in a party? I bet you she didn't, because we also never got told. We heard that from him, shame he made us promise not to ask her because he thought she told us."

Sandi: " so ke sisi, we are her friends but we don't know much about her scandals."



Me: " gosh, I didn't realize. I really thought you guys were close. But anyway, you need to fix things with her. I like your friendship and I'd hate to see it breaking up."

Sandi: " me and Nelz don't have a problem. She needs to put away her pride and apologize to us. We weren't gonna leave her while she was busy attacking us"

Me: " okay then. Let me get going. Bye lovie"

I hugged both of them then got into my car and drove out. I hooted and left. On the way I thought about what they had just told me. Bongie wasn't really open about her life. The only thing she told me was about her new man Xolisa, and that's it. I arrived at my place then parked my car. I decided to give her a call. I think it was high time I played detective on her, in a nice kind of way. I called her and she picked up.

Me: " hey, where are you?"

Bongie: " I'm on my way to my place."

Me: " can you come over to my flat. I need yo talk to you"

Bongie: " okay fine"

She hung up first, which I thought was weird. I entered my flat and left the door open for some fresh air. I kicked off my shoes and wore my slippers then turned on the tv. Moments later someone on the door said " knock-knock!"

I got up and went to open the gate. It was her. She got in and said " I thought you were gonna stay there abit longer"

Me: " no, I just went there to fetch my car"

I went to get some drinks then we went to the living room.

Me: " why were you so upset there, Bongie?"

Bongie: " so you think I was over reacting?"

Me: " of course not. Its just that I didn't think me going with Buja would be such a big deal for you"

Bongie: " I hate the guy, Noxy. You know I take you as my sister. I love you. It hurts when you telling me these things about him. You love him I know that, but I'm not blinded by love, I see right through him. He has hurt you so badly, and all I want is to make him feel exactly what you have been feeling. He thinks he has so much power over you, he has a mistake of thinking he knows you while he sleeps around with other women. He knows you will always wait for him. I sometimes feel like killing him"

Me: " I didn't realize you were feeling this way"

Bongie: " and then he thinks he owns the world. I'll show that Buja what's what. Please tell me you not thinking twice about divorcing him"

I was startled. I couldn't contain my shock.

Me: " I'll decide that, I can't promise you anything"

Bongie: " and then you'll go back to him and play happy family. Then boom! He cheats again. Noxy, when will you ever stop being so soft."

Me: " okay. Why are you so upset about this? Can you be honest with me. Yes I get you are my friend and you say you care about me, but why are you so eager for me to divorce him?"

Bongie: " I've just told you why"

Me: " no, tell me the real reason. I think there's more that meets the eye. You are hiding something from me"

Bongie: " what?"

Me: " yes, and you know me by now I don't judge. All I want is the truth, Bongie. Tell me, is there anything you know?"

She looked away and sipped her drink. "Yes" she said.

Me: " tell me then..."

Bongie: " I'd rather not"

Me: " please do, because if you are a true friend like you say you are, you will"

She looked at me and said " I recently found out that his the Buja that was dating my cousin."

Me: " which cousin"

Bongie: " the cousin that dumped her boyfie because of Buja only to get dumped later on. He used her"

Me: " please tell me everything because right now you not making much sense. I want all the details."

Bongie: " her name is Nwabisa, and she was dating Khaya"

Me: " which Khaya? The one we saw in the get-away trip?"

Bongie: " yes."

Me: " so you knew him?"

Bongie: " No! He just looked familiar. I tried to remember where I know him from and finally I remembered I saw him once when he was still dating my cousin. She told me about this hot guy she's dating, but he's married. I was against this. She suddenly didn't want anything to do with Khaya, even though this married guy was a side dish. I knew he was playing her. She was meeting him almost everyday, their relationship didn't even last a month and then she was dumped. She was devastated."

Me: " she knew he was married. Now how can she be devastated? What was she hoping for?"

Bongie: " its love I guess. So I think its been 2 or 3 months now since I knew its Bulelani Giba who she was dating. I didn't know how I was going to tell you this."

Me: " are you close with your cousin?"

Bongie: " very close, she's like my twin sister. I share everything with her"

Me: " I guess you have been telling her all my problems with Buja just to make her happy right?"

Bongie: " no, I wouldn't do that. I've kept all your secrets"

Me: " I see..."

Bongie: " Sandi and Nelz are my friends, but sometimes I feel they don't really have goals in life. All they care about is partying and having fun. "

Me: " weren't you partying with them?"

Bongie: " sometimes, but not all the time."

Me: " okay, I think I should just go through my file. Its work tomorrow, I have so much to do"

Bongie: " I should get going then. See you at work"

Me: " okay"

Bongie: " I hope our friendship will stay the same"

Me: " it will"

She left moments later. I closed the door and thought deeply about this. I no longer trusted her. I didn't trust anything she had to say after she confessed its her cousin that Buja played and that they are close. I had a feeling she's updating her about my marriage problems, and the only reason she has been helping me its for her own benefit, which is to see Buja suffer. I came to realize that its better to just trust a stone than trusting a human being.

Sunday ended and the new week started. I tried my best to keep myself busy at work and avoid chatting to Bongie. I didn't want to update her on anything that had to do with my marriage.

Lunch time I sat with the others and she joined in as well. I just didn't give her a chance to ask her about anything.

Once it was home time I went to my car, she called me and I waited for her. " Why do I get the feeling that you're avoiding me?" She asked.

Me: " no, its just that I've been very busy"

Bongie: " let's please not let Sandi and Nelisa come between us"

Me: " as I said Bongie, I've been busy"

Bongie: " Noxy, I won't pretend to like your husband when I don't. He can go to hell for all I care. He's toxic, and the sooner you realize that the better"

Me: " you've made your point before. I don't understand why you're repeating it"

Bongie: " if you need someone to talk to I'm here. Please don't forget that"

Me: " sure. I have to go, bye"

Bongie: " bye"

I got into my car and left. I wanted to kick myself for telling my colleague my marriage problems, but then again she has been a friend to me more than Wendy and the other ladies Buja introduced me too. She didn't act fake towards me, she supported me and was there for me when I was in need. I started being confused. So I decided on one think, and that is to consider her as my friend, but not to open up to her about anything that had to do with Buja.

As days passed the morning sickness was still getting to me. And the more it did, the more I hated Buja and being pregnant. Every day after work I called Buja's mom to speak to Lutha, she told me the herb she talked about will arrive during the week. She then gave Lutha the phone. He said " Mommy! Do you miss me?"

Me: " I miss you Nana wam, a lot. "

Lutha: " I miss you too! I promise I'll come back, soon-soon-soon. Do you want me to buy chips, biscuits and sweets for you?"

I laughed and said " yes, my love".

Lutha: " okay, I'm gonna come with them va? Don't be sad"

I laughed, he was trying to make me feel better. I felt so incomplete without him. Moments later we hung up.

Buja and I weren't making contact. He sometimes sent messages asking if I'm okay and my reply would always be " yes" he didn't respond after that. I didn't want to see him though, even the thought of him disgusted me. I sometimes sent smses that said " I hate you" he's reply would be " I love you. Goodnight"

His reply made me more upset, I'm not sure why though. The pregnancy was really messing with me, and Buja was just letting me be and getting out of my way. On saturday morning he gave me a call.

Me: " hello"

Buja: " sthandwa sam..I'm on my way to pick up Lutha"

Me: " who told you to go and pick him up, Bulelani?"

Buja: " I don't mind babe. Its not like I had any other plans"

Me: " you see? You making me upset all over again. You picking up my son without my permission. Just like you impregnated me without my permission"

Buja: " Babe, its not my fault you forgot the injection"

Me: " oh?!! now you shifting the blame"

I started to become teary and cried. "I'm pulling over to the side" he said. I sniffed and said "how dare you? I wish you were the one that had this morning sickness and not me."

Buja: "please allow me to be closer to you"

Me: "over my dead body."

Buja: "maybe when you've reached the 5th month you'll stop hating me"

Me: "whatever. "

I cut the call and decided to go and wash my face. I had slept until 10 am and I still felt tired. I went to the kitchen and made myself dry bread and rooibos tea. After I was done eating I went to take a shower. Around 12 my phone rang. It was Loyz, I decided to pick up "hey"

Loyz: "how are you?"

Me: "good and yourself?"

Loyz: "I'm okay. I miss you, can I come and see you, please"

Me: "No, I think its best we just keep our distance."

Loyz: "why?"

Me: "because what we are doing is obviously wrong. Just please stay away from me"

I cut the call before he could say anything and deleted his number. There was a knock on the door. I went over to open. It was an old lady who was my neighbour. "Hello" she said. "Hi there" I greeted back and opened up for her. She got in. Her perfume suddenly made me nauseas. I ran to the bathroom and threw up. I went to rinse my mouth and wiped myself then got out. "Sorry about that. I'm not feeling too good" I said.

She said "no its fine, I won't be staying for long"

I couldn't stand the smell of the perfume, it was too strong. I tried my best not to the throw up again. "I think you are being stalked" she continued.

Me: "stalked? Why would you think that ma'am?"

Old lady: "there's a blue car, I don't know its name. It keeps parking here every single day. When you go to work, its here, when you come back from work, its still here"

Me: "how do you see all of this?"

Old lady: "my dear, I look through the window almost all the time. I know everything that is happening here. I thought I should warn you"

Me: "but, what if its someone who's just visiting?"

Old day: "then why does it come when you at work as well? The man comes out of the car but doesn't knock on the door he looks at the gate, its like he's evaluating something then leaves again."

My heart started accelerating "thanx so much for informing me this"

Old lady: "I asked him if he needs any help and he said no. He's a fine young man, he didn't seem to be harmless. You can give me a pen and I'll draw how he looks like"

Me: "or you can describe him"

Old lady: "I prefer drawing thank you"

I went to my room and took a pencil and an A4 paper then went to her. "Are you sure you can draw?"

Old lady: "yes."

She started drawing while I watched her. My phone rang, it was Buja. I answered.

Buja: "I've just entered the block of flats"

Me: "okay"

Buja: " please don't attack me with anything"

Me: " mxim"

I hung up. He arrived moments later with Lutha. The old lady was still drawing. I could hear Lutha chatting so I went over to them. I hugged my son so tightly. " Mom!! I can't breath" he said laughing. I broke the hug and said " how are you? I'm so happy you back home"

He smiled and said " come mom, I want to show you the toys my grandma bought for me."

Me: " okay"

Buja took the shopping bags and entered. " Hey"

Me: " hi"

I wasn't even looking at him. He went to the kitchen to put the shopping bags down and said " I bought you something" he gave me zinger wings.

I took the packet and started digging in. " Thanx" I said with a mouth full. He smiled still looking at me.

Me: " why do you look so tired?"

Buja: " eish babe, during the night I don't sleep a wink, then during the day I'm completely sleepy. I don't know what's going on with me, but all I can say is right now, I'm feeling very drained."

Me: " maybe its a change of sleeping patterns. I'm sure its the pregnancy"

Buja: " maybe I'll take a nap on the couch. I'm so tired"

Me: " want some coffee?"

Buja: " nope, I just want a nap. "

" This is the man!" The old lady came over to us in a hurry. I took the paper and looked at it. The drawing looked like a teddy bear.

Me: " but it looks like you've just drawn a teddy bear. Can't you describe this man"

Old lady: " Morning young man!"

She said looking at Buja.

Buja: " its in the afternoon now ma'am. Good afternoon to you too"

She looked at me again then said " I'm very good at drawing and I'm sure this is the man who is stalking you. He looks exactly like this"

Buja raised his eyebrow and looked at the paper. Lutha also came over to look at it.

Lutha: " hahaha why is this grandma drawing a teddy bear? Hahahahaha"

Me: " Lutha stop it"

Buja: " so you being stalked by a teddy bear?"

Buja and Lutha both laughed. I gave them a dead stare. " This is serious Buja. She might be old but she's on to something. She's told me there is a blue car that has been watching me."

Buja stopped laughing and looked more concerned. I glanced at this picture again then the granny. She was smiling looking so proud of herself. " Mommy is being stalked by a teddy bear hahahaha!" Lutha said. He was finding it so funny. Buja came close and whispered in my ear. " Look babe, I'll look into this. It could be true, or maybe its not. Maybe she watches to many action movies and wants to be the super hero, she is old after all. Don't stress okay..."

I nodded. I didn't know whether to believe this woman or not. I had a feeling that maybe she was too old and was starting to lose her focus or she could be on to something.

## Chapter 44

This old lady interrupted my thoughts by saying " I think my work here is done. If you need any help I'm just next door. I'll keep a watch over your flat not to worry my child. Okay?"

Me: " thanx, ma'am"

Old fella: " okay, bye-bye"

Me: " bye"

Buja: " bye ma'am"

She walked away and I closed the gate.

Buja: " so if you need her help I guess she'll be coming to your rescue"

Me: " don't sound so sarcastic"

Buja: " I'm just saying"

Lutha: " she's funny"

Me " you said you were going to show me your toys Lutha, go and get them hun"

Lutha: " okay mom"

He walked away to the living room.

Buja: " I'll get one of my boys to keep an eye on you. You must also be alert and be on the look out for any suspicious cars. If you suspect that you're being followed let me know immediately"

Me: " what if its Khaya?"

Buja: " I'll do my investigation. But all I know for now is that he's out of the city"

Me: " how do you know? Are you back to being friends with him?"

Buja: " No, but I do keep doing my research. I've got eyes and ears everywhere babe."

Me: "oh..."

He looked at me like he's waiting for me to say something.

Me: " what?"

Buja: " Noxy, why are you keeping secrets from me now?"

Me: " what secrets?"

Buja: " there are many things happening while you are away from me but you not telling me anything. I was alerted that there is a black Audi A3 following you, it turned out to be Khaya. Why did you not inform me about this? Why every time when Khaya does something you choose to keep quiet about it. Do you know that you putting your life and my child's life in danger by doing this?"

Me: " what? Wait, how did you know all of this?"

Buja: " do you think I'm relaxing while you are away from me? No babe, you and Lutha need to be protected and its my job to protect you. I'm keeping my eye on you. Anything might happen because people are starting to notice that we're not living together anymore. "

Me: " I see..."

My heart was pounding. I was starting to think he was the one responsible for the blue car, and if he is, I wondered if he doesn't know that Loyiso came to see me and we left together.

Buja: " I'm gonna go and lie down on the couch since I'm not allowed to be in the bedroom."

I didn't respond. He went to take off his sneakers then laid on his back. Lutha was busy checking out his toy cars. I sat on the floor with him.

" I thought you wanted to show me the toys" I said to him. " Sorry mom, I'm still checking them out" he responded. We chilled for about an hour playing with his toys. After a while I decided to take a walk with him. When I looked at Buja, he was fast asleep. I went to take a fleece blanket and covered him then Lutha and I left going to the nearest shop. On the way I kept checking cars out. I was not fully relaxed. Lutha said " mom, I want to visit my granny again in December. She's the best granny in the whole white world"

Me: " is it because she spoils you?"

He nodded in excitement. " Well I'll see nana. Remember in December you turning 5?"

Lutha: " yes mom. Are we going to celebrate my birthday party at home?"

Me: " I'll see. Maybe..or maybe at Spur, how's that?"

Lutha: " that would be great!"

I laughed. We carried on talking until we arrived at the shop. I bought 2 juices and we turned back going to my flat. When we arrived, Buja was still fast asleep. I got worried about his neck. I decided to wake him up. He said "mmmh" while his eyes were still closed. "You can go and sleep in my bedroom, its okay" I said.

He sat up straight and rubbed his face "thanx babe" then he got up and went to lie down on the bed. He slept as soon as his head hit the pillow. I raised my eye brow. It was so unlike him to be so tired and drained like that. Lutha and I spent the whole day together. Later on I cooked supper. I still wore a scarf around my face, this time Lutha didn't make fun of me. Buja walked in the kitchen then said "I slept like a baby sthandwa sam thanx"

Me: "I didn't think you were serious about not sleeping at night"

Buja: "I don't remember the last time I had a peaceful sleep like this one. I just don't sleep peacefully in that house. I'm even thinking of getting myself sleeping tablets"

Me: "maybe its just insomnia. Wait a little bit before you do. Anyway you can stay for supper if you want to"

Buja: "ayt"

Me: "are you going anywhere tonight?"

Buja: "No"

Me: "okay then"

He walked away while I took out the dishes. After supper he said his goodbyes and left. I cleaned the kitchen, then Lutha and I decided to call it a night. We chatted in bed until he drifted to sleep.

The following week started. I checked every minute for any blue cars around. But that didn't help much because there were about 5 different blue cars parked in my block of flats I stayed in. On the road there were so many and everyone was focusing on the road, so I didn't see any specific car that made me suspicious. It was like that as days passed and I was starting to give up on spotting this blue car. The old lady said "I also keep checking, it did come once or twice this week" everytime when I asked her to describe it she said she can't, she can only draw. I was getting a bit irritated because I knew she was going to draw a ball or a tree instead of a car. Buja only said his boys Jabu and Lucky are still searching but they not seeing anything promising, Buja wasn't really panicking about this and I wondered why.

A month later.....

I was now 4 months and a week pregnant. My bump was starting to become visible. The day was on Wednesday in the morning and I had just arrived at work. I was wearing a light pink just below the knee dress and my brown wedges since I wasn't going to attend Court. I had taken off my weave so I had my long natural hair now. I walked in at work and greeted everyone. Sis'Linda called me over to her desk. She was the Litigation Secretary and was about 15 years older than us "Noxy. How are you?" She asked.

Me: "I'm fine sis'Linda and you?"

Linda: "I'm good. Tell me, are you expecting?"

I blushed and asked "why?"

Sis'Linda: "I'm older than you kaloku, I can see when someone is pregnant. I can see a lot of change in your body."

Me: "okay, yes I am. But I haven't told Karen yet. I'm still finding ways to tell her"

Sis'Linda: "okay, you should though. The sooner she knows the better. Anyway congratz...!"

Me: "thank you, sisi"

Sis'Linda: "let's hope its a girl this time"

Me: "I hope so too."

Sis'Linda: "let me not keep you then"

Me: "okay..."

I left and went to my office then closed the door. I wished I could lock it because I didn't want Bongie budging in. But luckily, the whole day she was minding her own business. Just before home time my phone rang. It was Wendy calling.

Me: "hi"

I said in a low tone.

Wendy: " hi Noxy, how are you doing love?"

Me: " I'm okay and you?"

Wendy: " I'm okay. Are you free after work? I would like to see you. I promise I won't be too long. I need to discuss something with you"

Me: " can it not be over the phone?"

Wendy: " no, I promise it won't be longer than 30 minutes"

Me: " I have Lutha that I have to fetch from school, Wendy. I don't want to waste time"

Wendy: " Noxy,please. I know we not in good terms and I want to speak to you about that"

Me: " fine. Where should we meet then?"

Wendy: " Ocean Basket. I've booked a table already"

Me: " cool then"

We hung up. I stay for about 30 minutes then finally it was time to knock off. I drove off to Ocean Basket. When I arrived she was already there. I went over and sat down on the opposite chair.

Wendy:" how are you sweetie?"

Me: " I'm good"

The waitress came with the menu. I said I want water, and she ordered juice.

Me: " so what's this about?"

Wendy: " I want us to sort out our differences"

I looked away and crossed my arms.

Wendy: " Noxy, you have been distant towards me and have developed this nasty attitude ever since you heard about Buja and Amanda. As I said before, I didn't know about the affair, I was also in the dark. I would never encourage an affair when I'm going to get married to Sbu and also be a wife. I really wish you could believe you"

Me: " how am I suppose to believe you Wendy? Mmh? You people in this town are all fake! I'm surrounded by fake people everywhere. Its better where I come from. I had one friend, me and her drifted apart after tertiary and I really miss her. She was the most honest person I know. Here in this town, all of you are just frenemies. My husband is one of the people who betrayed me. I'd rather be friends with my son than befriend fake people who pretend to like me when they in fact don't! Can I go now?"

Wendy: " Noxy, I don't know how long I've been trying to reach out to you, but all you do is push me away."

Our order arrived. I drank the water then put the glass down.

She got teary and took out a tissue. "You are the only trustworthy person I know. I'm about to make a big decision and that is being a wife to Sbu, and I need you in my life Noxy. I wish you could believe that I was in the dark about the affair. Amanda and I might be cousins, but she knows I'm always against some of the things that she does, hence she keeps many things from me while her best friends are updated. Please forgive me and give me a 2nd chance"

Me: " I'll think about it"

Wendy: " thanx. In November the 15th is my wedding day. I'll send the invitations next week. I'd like for you to please come. I know you will think twice, but it will mean the world to me if you do"

Me: " I will..."

Wendy: " thank you so much"

Me: " its a pleasure. I have to get going"

Wendy: " okay.."

I got up and left. She seemed really sorry, but I needed to think if I could trust her or not. I went to fetch Luthando then went to my flat. 2 days passed and it was now saturday. Buja phoned me and said " babe, may I please take Lutha to the Zoo today? I'll be going with Sbu and his kids. You know, father and child bonding sessions"

Me: " mmmh...I'm not sure"

Buja: " please babe, this will mean a lot to us"

Me: " okay fine then.."

I smiled. "Thanx my love, I'll pick him up around 1pm" he said.



Me: "sharp dear"

I hung up and told him his going to the Zoo with his daddy and friends. He got so excited. Around 12. We both took a bath and I dressed him up in his nice outfit then packed some fruit and food in his bag. Buja arrived moments later. He was wearing his shorts, adidas push ons and a red sleeveless shirt.

Me: "when will you be back?"

Buja: "how about he comes back tomorrow?"

Me: "how am I suppose to sleep without him next to me?"

Buja: "hayi baby. I also need to bond with him"

"Are you guys fighting over me?" Lutha said giggling.

Me: "ey you! Don't listen to grown up discussion"

He sulked and said "sorry mom"

Me: "how's the insomnia?"

Buja: "its not getting any better. That's why I want my son to sleep over. At least I'll have some company"

Me: "ok then. Please bring him back tomorrow morning"

Buja: "okay"

He came close for a kiss but I backed away "remember, our focus is on Luthando" I said.

Buja: "yho..okay babe"

He sulked too but I didn't care. "You so hard on me, weeks are turning into months now. I'm not going to give up on you though"

Me: "and the side chick?"

Buja: "I broke it off with her long time ago"

Me: "I wonder which side chick is next"

Buja: "I'm done with all of that, Noxy"

Me: "mxim, what ever"

Buja: "this baby you carrying is making you extremely cheeky. I hate this attitude you have yazi"

Me: "bye"

I crossed my arms and cat walked to my room. I could hear him going "nc nc nc" but I wasn't even bothered. He closed the door and gate while I decided to take a nap. Later on he phoned and said he just entered the house with Lutha. I was now eating popcorns watching a movie. I said "okay" and hung up. Around 10pm I called it a night.

The next day around 12pm Buja phoned and said "I'm at the chemist babe. Lutha woke up shivering. He said he's feeling cold but he was also sweating. I think his coming down with something"

Me: "but he was fine yesterday"

Buja: "I know babe, but I'm buying flu meds as we speak"

Me: "okay. Please come straight here after you done"

Buja: "okay"

We hung up. I got worried. I kept checking the time until they arrived. Finally they did. When he arrived, Lutha wasn't himself. "Boy, what's wrong?" I asked.

Lutha: "I don't feel to good mommy"

He said looking down.

Buja: "this started at night around 11pm. He also couldn't sleep, he started feeling cold, I put on an extra blanket for him. He then wanted me to hold him. We slept in my room, he didn't want to let go off me. In the morning he was sweating. The pharmacist things he could be coming down with flu. I think I'll take him to the doctor tomorrow"

Me: "okay, that's a good idea." I held his little hand and we went to my room then I made him sleep on the bed. He slept immediately. I walked out. Buja was standing in the passage looking stressed.

Me: " I'll look after him"

Buja: " I'll check up on him later on"

Me: " okay"

Buja: " bye babe"

He walked out and I closed the door. Later in the evening I tried feeding him but he didn't want any food. My son was really not himself at all. We changed to our sleep wear then I cuddled with him in bed. He was sleeping on top of my chest. He drifted to sleep moments later, I also drifted to sleep.

I was woken up by a scream. My eyes shot open and I turned on the side lamp light. It was Lutha burying his head on my chest shaking. " Mama, its coming for me!!" He said screaming. He sounded extremely terrified.

Me: " what's coming for you???"

I looked around but I couldn't see anything.

Lutha: " the scary monster." He pointed by the door and looked, he screamed again and said " its coming to eat me, please chase it away mom."

I took out my phone and checked, the time was around 00:15. " Its laughing at me!! Mama, please make it stop."He shouted.

I was so terrified, I remembered he once had this kind of dream, I wasn't even sure what exactly to call it but Buja and I never took it seriously. My son was seeing things I couldn't even see. I grabbed my phoned and called Buja. It rang for a while then he said " hi babe" he sounded like he was still awake.

Me: " Buja uLuthando uyaphaphazela! Ubona izinto yedwa" (Luthando is seeing things that I can't even see) I said in panic.

Buja: " what kind of things?"

Me: " he's seeing a scary monster, I can't see anything. I'm so scared"

The whole time Lutha was crying on my chest shivering. " I'm on my way" Buja said. I dropped the phone and decided to pray out loud asking God to chase what ever is scaring my Lutha away. Moments later my phone rang. It was Buja, he asked for me to open up. I got up and picked Lutha up as heavy as he was then went to the door. I opened up for Buja. He closed up and took Lutha. " Boy, utheni?"

Lutha: " I'm scared" his voice was breaking.

Me: " something is terribly wrong. My son was fine not so long ago. This thing started when he went to that house Buja"

We went to the bedroom. Buja sat on top of the bed still holding him. He looked at the door again. " Daddy, its standing there smiling at me. It wants to eat me. Its coming to the bed now"

Buja and I both looked but we saw absolutely nothing. " Buja let's pray. There is some sort of evil spirit playing with my son" I was now also crying. He closed his eyes while I knelt down and prayed. The whole time Lutha was crying I was praying. He finally stopped after a while but I continued praying. I was crying in between. I felt helpless, I asked God to protect my son from whoever was torturing him, I asked Him to let me see this terrible monster instead of Lutha. When I was done he was asleep in Buja's arms.

Buja: " I think I need to call my parents and inform them about this. For the first time ever, this is something that I just don't know how to handle."

He laid on his back and Lutha slept on top of him. That night we both didn't sleep a wink. We just looked at our son and watched him sleeping hoping he wasn't going to see this scary monster again.

#### Chapter 45

The alarm went off at 6:30am. I was laying on the bed looking into space while Buja was staring at the ceiling. Lutha was now sleeping in between us. The feeling of not being able to protect your child is the worst feeling ever. When you see your child being tortured by an unknown

creature can be so heart breaking. I hated feeling helpless especially when it comes to him. I'm his mother, I was suppose to protect him from the world.

Me: " I'm not going to work. I'll watch him"

Buja: " go babe. I'm going to take leave just to watch him. "

Me: " No. I want to be here for him Buja. He needs me"

Buja: " sthandwa sam, you can't keep on being absent. Remember you still doing your Articles, you need a good record. I'll update you if anything happens to him. I'll also call my mother and tell her about what happened. Maybe she can give me good advice on how to handle this kind of situation. I don't know how to deal with supernatural things babe, seriously."

I stared at the wall. " This is so hard Buja. The way he was crying and so terrified was heart breaking." He got up and came over to my side. I got up too then he gave me a hug. " We'll get through this together." He said.

Me: " let me go and take a bath."

Buja: " okay."

I went over to the bathroom to shower. My eyes felt heavy. It showed that I didn't get enough sleep. I showered then came to the back to the room after I was done. Buja had his arms around Lutha and his eyes were closed. I took my clothes and toiletry bag and went back to the bathroom. I didn't want to tempt him by being naked. I lotioned myself then dressed up. I walked in again and he was sitting up straight looking through the window. He looked like he was lost in his thoughts.

Me: " are you okay?"

Buja: " I couldn't protect him. I'm the worst father any child could ask for"

I went over to sit next to him. " This was beyond your control, Buja. You were here for him that's what matters" I responded.

Buja: " remember when we moved in our house, everything was perfect. We were a happy family"

Me: " I'll be late. I should get going"

Buja: " have you eaten anything?"

Me: " no, I'm not hungry. I'll grab an apple"

Buja: " please don't starve my child."

Me: " I don't have appetite. I'll eat around tea time"

Buja: " okay babe."

I kissed my son and took my hand bag then walked out leaving them in my flat. I arrived at work and went to make myself some Rooibos tea. I bumped into Karen on the way to my office. She looked at me and said " are you okay?"

Me: " not really. My son is sick, I didn't get much sleep last night"

Karen: " shame man, what's wrong with him?"

Me: " he's coming down with flu. He's father will take him to the doctor"

Karen: " okay. I hope he'll be fine."

Me: " me too"

I went to my office. My boss seemed to be very caring. Around 11 Buja phoned. I immediately picked up.

Buja: " Babe, I went to the office to book leave for the week then I sent him to the doctor. The doctor also thinks it might be flu."

Me: " what about the bad dreams?"

Buja: " he thinks they're also might be caused by flu."

Me: " that doesn't make sense"

Buja: " hey my love, he explained this whole lot of crap that I just couldn't understand. But I phoned my mother and told her what happened"

Me: " what did she say?"

Buja: " she thinks there's some sort of evil spirit in that house, but she advised me to call her immediately if something like this happens again"

Me: " okay..."

Buja: " he's feeling okay now although he's not 100% fine."

Me: " that's good news. So there's no sweating?"

Buja: " no, but he wants to sleep that's all. "

Me: " let's hope he'll be fine"

Buja: " let's hope my love"

We kept quiet.

Me: " uhm..see you after work then"

Buja: " sure babe"

I hung up. I was relieved that he was getting better. I decided to go to Court and spend my whole day there. I just needed to be out of the office. Around 15:30 I came back to the office and did my work. Finally it was home time. I said bye to everyone. Bongie was chilling with Rulene, they said bye and I walked out. I drove back straight to my flat. When I arrived Lutha was still in bed while Buja was watching TV eating chips.

Me: " hey.."

Buja: " yho babe! I've never been so bored in my whole entire life. Your TV only has 4 channels, then Etv doesn't even play clearly. I had to go and hire some movies just to keep myself busy. "

Me: " are you making fun of my place?"

Buja: " no don't get me wrong babe, but I just wonder how do you keep yourself busy"

Me: "well me and Lutha are used to this place okay? So don't judge"

Buja: " why are you being so sensitive? I'm just saying my love"

Me: " oh.."

I went to the room to take off my shoes.

Buja: " I think I should stay over, then if he's okay I'll go back to our house tomorrow"

Me: " just go, you're invading my space with Lutha anyways"

Buja: " I was just joking kaloku maka Lutha. I know you're being grumpy because of my comment"

He came over and held me from behind then touched my belly.

Buja: " he's growing very fast"

Me: " its a she, actually"

Buja: " I told you I shoot boys only. But we'll see soon"

Me: " yeah. Let me check up on Lutha and start cooking"

Buja: " I'll cook don't stress. Just tell me where everything is and I'll be on it"

Me: " okay."

Buja was making it so obvious that his sucking up. I told him where everything is and went to the room. Lutha was rubbing his eyes, he had just woken up. I went over to him and kissed his cheek. " How are you now, nana?"

Lutha: " I'm okay"

Me: " what happened last night?"

Lutha: "I saw the monster. It was hairy and had red eyes. It looked like a gorilla but a funny looking gorilla. It had white sharp teeth. It was so ugly mommy"

I suddenly had chills down my spine. The description was indeed an ugly image. " Mommy and daddy will protect you, okay?"

He nodded. Later on Buja dished up for us. He had made pasta with mince and cheese. I laughed and said " shame, its the easiest thing you could cook"

Buja: " I'm a chef kaloku baby"

Me: " taught by me, right?"

Buja: " yayazi kaloku sthandwa sam"

He winked at me, I laughed and looked at the TV. Around 9pm we decided to call it a night. I went to change to my night wear and Lutha wore his pyjamas. Buja walked in moments later. " We should pray" I said.

Buja: " I can only kneel down and listen."

Me: " okay fine"

The 3 of us knelt down and I began praying. After I was done we got into bed.

Lutha: " nothing is going to happen to me. "

He said smiling. " Yes nana, we're here" I said, then I kissed his forehead.

Buja: " I wish I could stay here forever. I'd rather be in a small flat with you and him than be in a big cold and lonely house"

Me: " its your actions that pushed us away"

He didn't respond to that. Lutha drifted to sleep moments later. I was also starting to get sleepy but I kept waking up and checking up on him. We kept the lights on. Buja also got sleepy, I struggled to keep my eyes open and decided to close my eyes.

"Noxy!!" Buja called out in panic. I jumped up and looked at him. " What's happening to him?"He said sounding terrified. When I looked Lutha's eyes were rolling back almost like he was being strangled. I screamed in fear. Buja got out of bed and wore he's jeans and top. " Luthando!!" I shouted. He started shaking and had seizures. My child was literally dying in front of him. Buja said " let's take him to hospital, let's hurry babe" he grabbed his car keys. I wore my slippers and we rushed out of the flat. I was carrying him but he was still having seizures. Buja opened the car for us and carried him in. I was crying so hard, even the neighbours got out to check what was going on. Buja drove out and sped off. I even doubted we locked the flat. Lutha stopped with the seizures and laid there helplessly. We arrived at the hospital and Buja got out of the car then took him. I locked the car in the mean time and we rushed and called out for help. He was taken in immediately. As soon as the nurses put him on the hospital bed he started with the seizures again. I cried feeling helpless. Buja hugged me tight. Lutha was rushed to the emergency ward. " Sthandwa san, you need to stay strong for the unborn child" he said.

Me: " its hard, I can't"

Buja: " you have to, Noxy"

We broke the hug. Buja's eyes were red. It was like he was crying from the inside. " We have to stay strong for our children. " He said. We went to sit down. He took out his phone and said " let me call my mother."

Me: " put it on loudspeaker because I also want to talk to her."

The phone rang. She said "hello" in a sleepy voice.

Buja: "mama, my boy had a seizure. He's dying. His eyes were rolling back. I watched my son suffering.."

One tear escaped his eye. I wiped it away.

Buja's mom: "oh Thixo wam. I told you Bulelani there must be some evil spirit in that house, and its working on Luthando. Tomorrow we are going to a traditional healer. Where's my daughter-in-law?"

Me: "I'm here, Ma"

Buja' mom: "listen my child. I know this is hurting, I know you feel weak right now. But please try to be strong for the unborn baby. His or her life depends on you. We are going to find out what's wrong with Luthando once and for all. Early in the morning I'm going to come to the hospital you are in and we are going to discharge him. Ifuna umntu wesXhosa le yenzeka kulo mntana. Are you listening to me?"

Me:" yes, Mama, I am"

Buja's mom: "tell Bulelani that Lutha will be fine, have faith"

The doctor came out. "Mama, I have to go, the doctor is here"

She said "okay, bye" then hung up.

The doctor came over to us while we stood up. He greeted then said "we've managed to stabilize him. We still running some tests to figure out what could be wrong with him"

Me: "do you know what could be causing this?"

Doctor: "at this present moment we're not sure. His body temperature seems to be fine, high temperature usually triggers a seizure on little kids, but as I said. It is fine. He doesn't seem to have any head injury, which also causes seizures. We will keep running tests to find out what could be happening with him."

Buja: "can we see him?"

Doctor: "of course. You can go in"

We walked in and went to see him. He had an oxygen mask on his face. I couldn't help but cry. My baby was laughing and making fun of the teddy bear drawing a few days back, and now he was in a hospital bed fighting for his life. Buja and I stood there and looked at him. "I love you, Lutha. You know I live for you, please wake up Nana" I said trying my best to sound strong.

Buja: "boy, if its a human being that's torturing you like this. I promise you my son, I'll make the torture double to that person. Stay strong boy, daddy loves you okay"

We looked at him for hours, we just didn't want to leave. I was still wearing my pj's. Buja suggested that we go. I said "No! I'm not going anywhere"

Buja: "I'll call in at your work place and let them know what happened. We need to go to this traditional healer"

I nodded.

Buja: "let's go and take a shower please babe, then we'll come back"

I kissed Lutha's hand then we left.

On the way it was all silent until we arrived at our flat. I took a shower and wore my long dress and a head scarf since I was going to see my mother inlaw. Buja only wore his jean, golf shirt and sneakers. He made cereal for me and said "you have to eat babe, remember you not alone."

I forced myself to eat until I was done. We left the flat and returned to the hospital. Lutha was still laying there helplessly. Buja and I sat there in silence. He's mother phoned and asked for directions. Buja directed her then moments later she arrived. She came in and hugged both of us. She held Lutha's hand and said " yini bethuna umntanam. We should go to Bawo'Mpinga as soon as possible. He's waiting for us. He's the traditional healer I was telling you about. "

Buja: " let's inform the doctor"

He got up and left. " I trust this traditional healer, what ever has been put into that house will be gone. He is very good at what he does." Buja's mom said brushing Lutha's hand.

Me: " I remember feeling dizzy Mama every time I entered that house. I didn't want to stay there for long. Now it makes sense why"

Buja's mom: " refuse to let the devil win, my child. Stay strong"

Buja walked in with the doctor. He was against us discharging Lutha but we told him we want a second opinion. That was when he agreed. We signed the papers and left the hospital moments later.

Buja's mom drove out first then we followed. On the way I kept making Lutha drink water. He was so weak he could hardly open up his eyes. We left the windows open. We passed Buja's home town and entered a village, we drove for about 45minutes until we arrived at our destination.

Buja's mom parked and we parked behind her. We got out of the car then Buja carried Lutha. We walked into the yard, a teenage boy came to us and asked if we are the Giba's we said yes. He then asked us to wait outside and went inside a hut. After about 5 minutes he asked for us to go in. We took off our shoes and entered this hut. Bawo'Mpinga was busy mixing up his traditional medicine. We greeted and sat down on the floor. He stopped what he was doing and looked at us, his face suddenly became tense then he shouted " tyo tyo tyo tyo tyo!!!" He began calling out all his clan names, he's body started shaking like he was seeing something. After a while he stopped and took a small brown bowl then splashed at us with the liquid that was inside. I looked at Buja, he was just watching attentively.

The traditional healer finally stopped what he was doing. He instructed us to lay Lutha flat on the floor and move away from him. I got a bit scared. This was all awkward for me. We did as instructed. He looked at both me and Buja then said " why do you have so many enemies? And their aim is one thing, and that is to destroy you"

I swallowed hard. He then said " This boy is being killed, there is someone who wants to get rid of him. He is paying for all your sins."

He closed his eyes while he was still shivering. He said " I see a beautiful woman, she is attractive and has a pretty smile, a smile that attracts any man she wants. This woman's heart is pure evil. She has darkness inside her. She is vicious, she is a snake under a beautiful flower. She is dangerous and destroys everything that gets in her way. This woman is destroying this child, but the aim is not suppose to be the boy; the aim is suppose to be the boy's mother. A child senses an evil spirit more quicker than an adult. A child catches when there is darkness and reacts to it more quicker"

He stopped and looked at both me and Buja" this boy felt the darkness in your house immediately when he came in. He saw what was going on in that house. It is something that you cannot see with the naked eye, its something supernatural. There is a snake roaming around your house, and this snake is seeking death. It goes to every corner of every room seeking this woman that it is suppose to destroy, but it cannot find her. Prayer is stopping this snake from getting to her. The father of this woman is protecting her."

He looked at me " the snake seeks you" he said. I was flushed, I couldn't even move a muscle " but it cannot find you, that's why it is now attacking the child. It wants blood."

Buja's mom: " can you see who is responsible for this snake?"

Traditional healer: " it is this beautiful woman with an evil heart. She entered that house with the aim to destroy so that she can be the queen of the household. "

He slowly turned his head and looked at Buja "You know exactly who I am talking about"he said staring at Buja. I knew right there and then that it was Lumka that he was talking about. He then said he needs Luthando to stay there for the night because he will spend the whole night healing him. I said okay because I was desperate for him to be his normal self again. He told us he wants to cleanse us too, then he has to go to our house and cleanse it with his traditional medicine. He said our house is very dirty, we cannot enter in it until he is done with getting rid of all this evil. He asked me and Buja to go and wait into the 2nd hut because he wants to talk to us before starting with the cleansing. We said okay and stood up then walked out.

As soon as we walked out Buja said " Noxy, I'm deeply sorry. I know I don't deserve your forgiveness because its even hard to forgive myself. I know you will forever resent me for this, but please babe, find it in your heart to forgive me"

I turned around and looked at him " do you now realize the damage you've caused us by cheating on me with so many women? Do you see how your unfaithful ways have destroyed this marriage? Your side chicks want to get rid of me, they see that they can't get to me now they going after our son. Tell me Bulelani, where do I begin to forgive you after the pain and heartache you've put me through?"

"I'm so sorry, I've learned my lesson the hard way" he said sounding devastated.

Me: " its too late..."

Tears flew down my face. " I can't forgive you, not after this"

He hugged me tightly " please try Noxy, you and my children are my life. Please don't give up on me, not now. I promise I will never cheat on you again, not after what happened. Please don't give up on us."

All I could think about while he was begging was the fact that I almost lost my son because of Lumka, who he brought into our lives, who he cheated on me with. I couldn't find it in my heart to forgive him, I resented him for doing this to our marriage.

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## Chapter 46

Buja was still hugging me tight. I said " please let go of me" softly. He continued hugging me.

Buja: " promise me that you won't leave me"

Me: " I can't promise you anything"

He slowly broke the hug and looked at me. He looked more broken than I was. I walked away and left him standing there. I arrived in this hut and sat down on the chair. I was still walking bare foot. He entered moments later and sat down next to me. I glanced up at him. He didn't look okay at all. In all my years that I've known my husband, I could see that this was really eating him up. It was a sure case that he never saw this coming. He always thought he was on top of things, but what happened to Luthando knocked him hard. Forgiveness is a powerful thing, but at that moment - even though I was glancing at his sad eyes- I still didn't have it in me to forgive him. I wanted to beat him up for being the cause of all these problems. I wanted to shout at him, swear, punch him and many more for this painful experience that we encountered.



Bawo'Mpinga entered the hut and greeted us again. He then said " before we start with the cleansing, I want to have a word with both of you"

Buja and I kept quiet and stared at him.

Bawo'Mpinga: " this boy almost died because of the immorality caused by you the parents. Actions have consequences. I hope once I have cleansed you, I will not see you again coming back with the same issue. Lessons are meant to be learnt. I hope you two are making a mental note of what I'm saying."

Buja cleared his throat then said " yes, ofcourse, Bawo'Mpinga. Loud and clear"

Me: " yes, we've heard, tata"

He nodded and said " its time for your first cleansing"

Buja and I listened at all the instructions he was giving us. We had to wash from head to toe with a traditional herb. Then after we had to drink a traditional medicine at the same time. We did lots of things which took about 2 hours, every time we were called in to do something else. By the time we were done Buja said " damn! I smell of traditional herbs all over. I really feel cleansed, I actually feel like a new born"

Me:" I need a massage. A full body massage that is"

The traditional healer called us over again then said " you must eat your next meal only at night. The traditional medicine is cleansing you from the inside" he then looked at me and said " don't worry about the baby, it will do no harm, the medicine is destroying any poison that might be in your body endangering your lives."

We thanked him and went to Buja's mom who was now sitting in her car outside. She was on the phone and I could hear that she was speaking to her husband. We stood next to the car. Buja held my hand but I removed it from him. He let me be then said " I should check up on Lutha"

I nodded. Buja's mom finally hung up and said " how was the cleansing?"

Me: " it was tiring. There was so many things we had to do. But I feel cleansed."

She said " let's hope things will get better for both of you"

Me: " let's hope"

I went to check up on Lutha. He was laying on the mattress still sleeping. It was now in the afternoon and we had spent almost the whole day there. Buja was sitting down next to him. I walked in while he was still chatting to Lutha. I could hear him saying " daddy has failed you my boy, I'm the cause of all of this. I wish I could take the pain away, I really do. But I promise you one thing, and that is I'll make up to you, okay? She will pay for what she did to you. I love you more than I love myself, Luthando. Be strong boy" the whole time I was standing behind him. I decided to come closer and looked at my boy. He was still the same. Laying there helplessly, I knelt down and checked his pulse even though I could hear him breathing. I just wanted to be sure if he was still alive.

Buja: " maybe we should get going now"

I held Lutha's hand and kissed him. He opened his eyes then looked at me, he couldn't even smile, then he closed his eyes again. The traditional healer walked in and said we should pick him up at exactly 5am. We had to say our goodbyes then we left. I decided to get into my mother-in-law's car while Buja drove behind us. She said " Bulelani's father said he'll call later on, he wants to speak to him. I'm scared bonanje because I know how he can be hard on him. My

son has already learned his lesson, he feels sorry. His father just enjoys putting salt in the wound"

She sounded frustrated. I glanced at her then looked at the road ahead. She had such a soft spot for Buja, it was just ridiculous.

Me: " Luthando almost died because of Buja, Tata has every right to want to speak to him"

Buja's mom: " I know, its just that, people do make mistakes. He's sorry I can see that. I wish I could see this hood rat, I want to teach her a lesson she'll never forget. That bloody witch"

She carried on talking but I looked through the window. She was busy blaming other people but what I noticed was, she was once again not hard on her son. We arrived at Buja's home and drove in. We stepped out while Buja had just parked and went to the house. I made tea for Mama and gave Buja a drink. I then took an apron and cooked supper while Buja was having a conversation with his mother.

Later on in the evening I dished up and we gathered around the dining room table.

Me: " can't we check up on Lutha? What if he wakes up and becomes scared because he'll be seeing total strangers"

Buja's mom: " we can't, you heard Bawo'Mpinga. We must fetch him at exactly 5am. They want to get rid of this spirit that is causing the seizures and the monsters that he's seeing."

Me: " okay"

Buja's mom looked at him then said " you're so quiet mntanam. Are you okay?"

Buja: " yes, I'm okay"

He ate in silence. I looked at him as well then Mama and I carried on making a random conversation. Her phone rang while we were still chatting. She sighed and picked up. " Hello...yes he's here. Okay hold on...why loud speaker? Okay ke"

She put the phone down and turned it to loud speaker. " Its your father" she said.

Buja: " hi dad"

Buja's father: " uthi nyayi dad ntoni? What is this nonsense I hear Bulelani? Hemani, how many times have I spoken to you. What is wrong with you?"

Buja kept quiet and put the spoon down.

Buja's father: " I'm talking to you, Bulelani."

Buja: " I made a mistake. A fatal one. I want to say I sincerely apologize to everyone I have hurt. I almost lost my son, he's soul was drifting away in front of me. This is something I'll never be able to forget. I hope all of you will one day find it in your hearts to forgive me. "

Buja's dad: " yazi Bulelani, my eldest son Zwelakhe has never given me these problems. And I'm telling you young man, if Luthando died because of your behaviour, sleeping with other loose women while you have a wife at home. I swear to you, your death was going to follow. I was going to kill you with my bare hands uyandiva ndithini? I was going to go to jail because of murder. You are one problematic child."

Buja: " then why don't you disown me? I'll never be like your perfect son Zwelakhe, and I'm tired of competing with him. Nothing I ever do pleases you."

Buja's dad: " hee kwedini. Are you back chatting to me? Its a pity I'm overseas because you weren't even going to finish that sentence. I want you to repeat what you've just said when I get back. Start acting like a man and not a boy, then I'll treat you like one. You have a wife and kid

that you putting in danger because of your reckless behaviour. Stop being so problematic for once in your life. "

" Please don't be so hard on him, please tata" his mom said coming to his rescue. " Maka Bulelani, do not get involved. I'm still speaking to my son" she kept quiet.

"Makoti are you there?" He asked. "Yes, Tata" I responded. Buja got up and stormed out without even finishing his food.

Tata said " is that Bulelani banging my house door like that? Nxa..."

Mama: " but Tata you know he doesn't get along with his brother, why did you have to bring his name up?"

" Makoti, I hope you are being strong my child. I'm sure what has happened to Luthando has been very hard on you" Buja's father started a conversation with me and totally ignored Mama. I pretended not to notice this and spoke to him. He encouraged me to stay strong and keep pray then he said he's coming back in 3 weeks time. He has cut his trip short. Once I was done chatting with him Mama was already taking all the dishes. I stood up and said " you can leave them, I'll do it"

Mama: " its fine, you should check up on Bulelani or rest. You shouldn't be working too hard while you pregnant. You've been under a lot of stress as it is."

Me: " okay, I'll check up on him. Thanx"

I walked out. When I got outside I saw Bulelani in his car. He was listening to RnB and his chair was laid back.

I got in at the front and closed the door. " Are you okay?" I asked.

Buja: " don't worry about me babe. I'm a die hard kind of guy, nothing gets me down for long. I should be asking you if you're okay"

Me: " you know that you can open up to me, Buja"

Buja: " I don't want to bore you with my family issues. We should go and sleep. Its been a long day. Should I sleep with you or in the spare room?"

I looked away undecided. " We need each other right now, Noxy. Come let's go and sleep babe. "He said

Me: " yeah, let's go"

We got out of the car then went back to the house. Buja's mom was now in the living room watching tv. We said goodnight to her and went to the bedroom. Once I got in I said " I haven't even alerted my sister and mother about this. I should do it tomorrow morning"

Buja: " yes, we've been so stressed, they didn't come across my mind at all."

I went to the closet and took out my silky night dress then changed. Buja took off his clothes and was only left with his boxers. He got inside the covers then took his phone and made a call. I joined him in bed.

" Do you have any good news for me?" He asked talking on the phone. He smiled and said " Good sani. I want them to be delivered as soon as I get back in town. Sharp ke mfethu" then he hung up.

Me: " what's that about?"

Buja: " that's Luzz, I wanted him to get something for me. You'll know what's this about soon enough. Its not the right time to talk about it now"

I gave him the look " relax babe" he said, then he pulled me closer to him and cuddled with me. I cuddled back. He kissed my forehead and said " thank you for being so strong for both of our children. We should go to the doctor and be 100% sure that our baby is still okay"

Me: " I wonder what my Lutha is doing"

He rubbed my back and said " let's not think about it. He's being healed, that's what matters" I could feel his heart beat. I felt so comfortable in his arms. I said " goodnight"

Buja: " night babe"

He put the light on dim mode then we laid in silence. I ended up drifting to sleep. I woke up in the middle of the night, and the first person I thought about was Lutha. I made a silent prayer asking for God to protect him. I felt Buja planting a kiss on my forehead. " You're awake" he said in a hoarse voice.

Me: " I just woke up now, I'm thinking about our son"

Buja: " I keep waking up babe. Round about this time he gets attacked. I'm praying silently that he's being protected."

Me: " me too"

He stroked my cheek, I could feel him breathing heavily, his breath ran through my skin. He's shaft was so hard against my belly button, it was almost like it was impatiently waiting to enter its place. I looked up at his face and I felt myself get wet. What's happening to me? I thought silently. I wanted him to make love to me. I wanted him inside me. He came close and we kissed, almost like we were hungry for each other. His hands rubbed on my swollen breasts. He took off my night dress. I closed my eyes as he kissed my neck then slowly left traces of kisses going down on me. Once he reached my belly he stopped and kissed my stomach. I brushed his head and pulled him up to me. His muscular body was now caging me. I pulled down his boxers and he helped me with that. Before I knew it we were both naked. He entered in between my legs as I opened wider for him. " I promise you my love, you'll never shed a tear because of me again" he whispered. I nodded somehow believing what he was saying. He slid his super hard shaft in, sending sparks throughout my body. I couldn't contain my moan. "I've missed you so much" he exhaled. Our breaths mingled on our faces, my mouth met his and he kissed me wildly. The whole time he was thrusting in me reaching every corner, touching all the parts inside my punani that made me release my juices. I could feel every inch of him inside of me. Every sensation was acting up. I could feel one good grind and he was pumping me full of his love and cum. I don't know how many times I was reaching orgasm. My vision was blacking out. His hand intertwined with mine as he released himself inside me. We laid in each other's arms all sweaty trying to catch our breaths. He lifted my chin up and gave me a passionate kiss. He then broke the kiss and said "let's try and fix our marriage Noxy sthandwa sam. I promise you on our son's life that I will not mess it up again. I will protect you and our kids even if it means sacrificing my own life"

Me: " I needed comfort, and I needed it from you Buja. Maybe what we did shouldn't have happened. Right now I'm in a bad space and cannot make any informed decision. I need to have a family meeting first then I'll decided after."

Buja: " okay babe..."

We laid in the same position in silence. All I could think about was why does love hurt so much. Why does it make me give in so easily to him. Why was I seeking comfort from the very same person who's hurt me so deeply. " You are my pillar of strength, mfaz'wam. You and I are inseparable. I won't let what happened to Lutha slide, I promise you. It is my responsibility to deal

with this and I already know how. Death is far too sweet compared to what I'll do to her" he said interrupting my thoughts.

## Chapter 47

I tried to think what could he mean by saying this. I had absolutely no clue what he was planning to do to Lumka.

Me: " what are you planning to do to her?"

Buja: " its too soon to tell. I haven't put my plan in action yet. You will soon find out after everything is in order"

Me: " I wonder..."

Buja: " be patient my love."

Me: " we should sleep. It will be 5am very soon"

Buja: " sure.."

I closed my eyes and tried to sleep then eventually drifted to dreamland.

Buja shook me gently and said " babe, let's take a bath and get ready"

I woke up and rubbed my eyes then checked the time. It was 4am. We got up and took a bath then got ready to go. Mama got out of her room and told us she's staying behind but will wait for us. We said okay and left. On the way I was nervous wondering if I'll see any change in my son. Buja held my hand and said " have faith babe. I can see you're scared"

Me: " okay, I'll try."

He nodded and continued driving. Moments later we arrived at Bawo'Mpinga's place and parked. The guy that welcomed us in the previous day came to open the gate. He escorted us to the hut Lutha was in. We took off our shoes and entered. Lutha was sitting on top of a teenage boy who was telling him stories about the sheep and the goats. He was listening attentively and nodding. He turned his head and looked at us. He smiled and said " look, here's my mommy and daddy" pointing at us. I couldn't hold back my tears. I rushed over to him and gave him a warm hug. " My baby" I said. Buja also came over to us. " Hi mommy" Lutha said " I'm better now"

I looked at this teenage boy and said " how did you guys do it?"

He smiled and said " we deal with these things on a daily basis ma'am we know how to fight and get rid of them. I doubt he will be having any seizures again. Please stay here while I go and call Bawo'Mpinga"

We said okay while he walked out. Lutha pulled Buja's top then said " I'm a big boy, I didn't cry when I saw strangers."

Buja: " you are a big boy indeed"

He said with a slight smile. Bawo'Mpinga walked in and greeted us. He then said we should be leaving at 8am going to our house because he wants to work on it. I decided to call Mama and let her know. She said she's just taken a bath and that we should pass by at her house then she'll follow behind us. I said okay. Bawo'Mpinga gave us some medicines and an ointment to rub Lutha everyday before he sleeps. We said okay and left with him and this teenage boy. Buja passed by at his home and mom drove off behind us until we arrived at our house. We parked outside the yard then Bawo'Mpinga instructed us to wait outside because the house was still very dirty. Buja's mom got out of her car and said " Bawo'Mpinga. I want you to make sure that this

snake in the house that has been instructed to kill my daughter in law and grandson goes back to its owner. I want it to torture her the same way it was torturing my son's family"

Bawo'Mpinga: " Mrs Giba, that won't be a problem at all. Leave it all to me"

Buja's mom nodded with a smile on her face. Him and this boy got out of the car. The boy was carrying a bag which had all the stuff Bawo'Mpinga was going to use. As soon as he entered the gate he started shivering. We could see he was sensing something. He started splashing all over the yard and speaking to his ancestors. Buja got in and opened the house door for him then stood outside. Him and this boy entered the house. It was still so hard to believe there was a supernatural snake roaming around in that house. I didn't believe in those evil things until it happened to me. Me and my son were in the car looking through the window. I didn't even want to enter that gate. We stayed in the house for about an hour before Bawo'Mpinga got out. His face was all sweaty. He came over to us and said " it is done. I've gotten rid of all the evil in that house. It is now clean. You can evil sleep here tonight".

Me: " are you sure?"

Bawo'Mpinga: " absolutely. No evil will bother you again. It has left the house and I have made sure that it has returned to its owner. If you know her personally, you'll see a change in her in a few days to come"

Buja: " thanx so much Bawo. You've helped us a lot"

We all thanked him. Buja's mom said she won't be staying for long and that she has to drop off Bawo'Mpinga to his place again. Moments later we said our goodbyes then they left.

The day ended and Buja had decided to sleep over at the house. He said " its my house, I need to evaluate whether the evil snake is indeed gone."

Me: " shame, you're brave"

Buja: " of course I am"

He winked and I looked away trying not to laugh. Well, me and my son went to sleep at our flat and I'm happy to say he slept peacefully like the angel that he is. I woke up in the morning and got ready for work. Buja said he's still on leave and that he wants to take Lutha out and also check if his really okay. I said its fine. I asked how he slept, he's response was " I slept within 5 minutes. Bawo'Mpinga deserves a great reward"

Me: " true"

Buja: " usebenzile baby yho. I need to also thank my parents for introducing us to him"

Me: " they have been around longer than we have, right"

Buja: " yes sthandwa sam"

We spoke for a while over the phone. All the time it turned out he was coming over to my flat. He knocked while I was still chatting to him. When I opened he hung up and said " hey" I smiled and said " hi" then opened the gate for him. I left him and Lutha then drove off to work. I arrived and greeted everyone then went to my office. Bongie knocked and came in.

Bongie: " hey"

Me: " hi.."

Bongie: " I heard your child was sick, what was wrong with Lutha?"

Me: " he had a fever, he's okay now"

Bongie: " okay, that's good. I was just checking up on you"

Me: " thanx. I'm okay, not to worry"

Bongie: " alright. Let me go then"

Me: " sure"

I concentrated on the file I was opening. She stood there for a few seconds then left. I wasn't about to open up to her, no not at all...lessons are meant to be learned. I now realized that I had to think twice before I ever open up to someone about sensitive secrets, because one day they might use it against me. I went to Karen later on to update her that my son is fine, and to get instructions from her about new cases. She said she'll e-mail me all the documents and the consultations I need to attend. I said okay.

The following day Buja and I went to check if the baby was okay. Luckily the heart beat was normal and it seemed like there weren't any complications. However, the doctor couldn't see the gender, he said the baby kept hiding and playing and that I should come again the following month. I said okay then we left.

Days passed, Buja's father phoned me on the following monday informing me that he's coming back in 2 weeks time. I said okay. He asked when would I like the family meeting to take place. I said " on a Saturday will be fine, Tata. " He said okay and that he'll inform his brothers and phone my mother as well. We agreed on the saturday that would be after 2 weeks. Yes, I hadn't backed down on the meeting because of the love making I had with Buja. It is never easy to forgive and forget when someone has hurt you this badly, never. My son was getting back to his normal self again. He even returned back to school and I asked the teachers to keep an eye on him. They advised that he's okay and plays normally like other kids. My heart smiled. I didn't stop praying because things were okay for me again. You never know when the devil might strike again. That is why its always wise to keep prayer as your weapon. Buja also returned back to work. He didn't understand why I wasn't coming back to the house, but I told him I need to have the family meeting first then I'll decided whether I'm coming back or not. He wore a confused expression wondering why I wanted this meeting so much when things were so promising between us. I did let him touch me now, and feel my stomach because the baby was starting to kick. He was welcomed in my flat to see Lutha any time he wanted.

It was now on a Thursday in the afternoon. I took the business card that Karen gave to me and decided to make an appointment with the Attorney she recommended. I decided to see the Attorney at 10am which was tea time for me. But I knew very well the consultation was going to be an hour. The day ended then friday arrived. I wore my white above the knee dress and my black blazer. My pencil skirt could no longer fit me so now I was careful in choosing my outfits for work.

Around 10am I left the office and went to my appointment. I arrived and was called in. I sat down and greeted the Attorney. He addressed himself as Mr Iveson.

Iveson: " so how can I help you Mrs Giba?"

Me: " I want to file for a divorce"

Iveson: " okay, may you tell me the reasons that resulted to your decision?"

Me: " Yes. My husband has ill treated me for many months now, he has taken advantage of the love I have for him. He has had numerous affairs, smacked me more than once, emotionally abused me and the last straw was him putting my life and that of our child's in danger "

He was writing down everything. " Would you like an uncontested divorce? It is always the best option to avoid prolonging the divorce procedure. You and your husband can come in on the next consultation and discuss on how you would like to divide your assets . This kind of divorce is less stressful but of cause, it works when both of you have a mutual agreement."

I crossed my legs then said " he is not aware I'm filing for a divorce. So no, this kind of divorce won't work because he will obviously try to stop me"

Iveson: " very well then. Our first procedure is; I'll instruct the sheriff to serve divorce summons on him"

Me: " about that, I'd like for us to break the rules a little. I'm very much aware that the Sheriff serves the summons on the defendant. I have organized a family meeting. I would like for you to draft the documents, have them issued at Court then give them to me to serve them personally to him. I'm even willing to pay you extra money for that."

He rubbed his nose with his index finger then said " may I ask why?"

Me: " I want to serve the divorce documents in the family meeting. I want to strike when he at least expects. That man has given me too much heartache, the pain I felt because of him has been too much for any woman to bare. I want him to feel the pain that I have felt all these months. And this is the only way I know how."

Iveson: " okay, I understand. I'll drafted the papers, they will be ready in the next week or 2 because they still need to be issued by the Clerk of the Court"

Me: " no problem. Please let them be ready in the week of the family meeting."

Iveson: " will do, Mrs Giba"

We both stood up and shook hands then I left going back to the office.

The week went by faster. And it was now the week before the family meeting. Buja had also been alerted by his father when it will take place. It would be at his home. My mother was also alerted. She wanted to know what was going on but I refused to tell her, I didn't want anyone trying to change my mind.

It was now on a Wednesday. I got a call from Mr Iveson alerting me that the papers were ready. I asked to make an appointment the same day, I couldn't wait any longer. He said I can come round about 1. I said okay and hung up with a smile on my face.

1pm arrived and I was already at the Reception waiting to be called in. " Mrs Giba, you can come in" he said. I made my way to his office and we closed the door. He had documents in front of him. I sat down.

Mr Iverson: " the Divorce papers are now ready to be served. You can read through them and sign on the dotted line next to your name. The 2nd dotted line should be signed by your husband. After he has signed please bring back the document so that we can now advise you on our next step. You have made a good decision by having an Attorney to assist you. Usually unguided divorce procedures can have a few errors which of course can be costly and cause a delay in everything"

Me: " yes I understand. Please give me the document so that I can read through"

He gave it to me and I read it. After I was done I took a pen and signed on the dotted line. It took me a lot of courage to do this. It was the 2nd step I had taken upon divorcing my husband. I put the document inside my file and said " Thank you. I'll now see you on our next meeting" I got up and made my way to the door. Before I opened the door Mr Iverson said " Mrs Giba, are you sure about your decision? He's not aware about this, it might be a great shock to him"

I turned my head to look at him and said " Yes, I'm very sure." Then opened the door and left his office.



Once I left Mr Iveson's office I went straight to my car and got in. I slid down the window and breathed out loud. This was one difficult decision I had made. The grudge that I had against my husband made me want him to be hurt. I wanted him to suffer and break down the same way he has done to me. I wanted him to regret the day he let Amanda into his hotel room and slept with her even though I was with his son waiting for him at home. I wanted him to regret taking that note Lumka wrote to him and following her to their "secret place" to be given a blow job. I wanted him to suffer for not thinking about me when he's fulfilling his lust and sleeping with these different women even though he has a wife. My phone rang while I was still staring into space thinking about my big decision. It was my sister Phози. I picked up and said " hey"

Phози: " mntase, I'm coming over today, I need to see my nephew ntombi. I've been so busy even during the weekend and I'm sorry about that, I know I've been promising to come and visit you and I'm sure you starting to think I'm making empty promises."

Me: " Phози, how are you doing love?"

She laughed and said " ooooh my gosh, I'm good sweetie and you? Here I am babbling on and on"

Me: " goodness, you can talk!"

She laughed so loudly then said " can I come over? I don't even know your flat"

Me: " yes, take a taxi at around 3pm then when you arrive let me know I'll pick you up at the taxi rank"

Phози: " sure, will do. See you later then"

Me: " alright"

We hung up. I started the car and drove off back to work. I arrived and went to my office. My office phone rang while I had just entered. It was Karen asking me to come to her office. I went there. She said " close the door" I did just that and sat down.

Karen: " Noxy, are you pregnant?"

Me: " yes, I am. I have been meaning to tell you"

Karen: " when?"

Me: " I've been so preoccupied lately, and my child getting sick also distracted me. I'm so sorry for not alerting you"

Karen: " we always advise Candidate Attorneys to wait before falling pregnant for a reason Noxy. This will delay you from finishing your Articles."

She sighed then said " I can only give you 2 months maternity leave. You do not even have maternity leave in your contract but since its you I will give you one. You are a hard worker Noxy and your work has been exceptional. I hope you won't be getting any sick leaves anytime soon now because I want you to have a good record in this practice"

Me: " thank you so much Karen"

Karen: " have you been taking your pills?"

Me: " yes, the doctor gave me some pills. I'll be going to the clinic next week for a check up"

Karen: " okay then that's good. You can go back to work now, that will be all."

Me: " thanx"

I walked out of her office and went to mine. The door was slightly opened. When I entered Bongie was right next to my desk. " What are you doing here??" I asked in panic because my file and handbag was on top of my desk.

She looked surprised like she was fiddling doing something.

Bongie: " I decided to wait for you. I wanted to ask you something"

I maintained my calmness and said " okay, ask"

Bongie: " do you want to go for some drinks after work? Its been a while since we did some catch up"

Me: " no thanx. My sister is coming over, I'll have to go and fetch her"

Bongie: " okay then..how are things between you and Buja?"

Me: " fine. Sorry but I have a lot of work to do"

Bongie: " so is this how things are going to be between us? Since you now know my cousin was dating your hubby?"

Me: " please leave"

She stormed out of my office looking very frustrated. I continued doing my work and decided to just ignore her.

Phozi phoned just when I was packing my things getting ready to go. "Mntase I'm here at the taxi rank okay"

Me: " sure, I'm on my way"

I left work and went straight to her. When I arrived she was standing there eating an ice cream. I parked right next to her then opened the boot. She put her bag in and entered at the front. " Hey you!!" She said. "Mcwah!"She kissed me on my cheek. " Hey love" I responded as I drove off.

Me: " I feel like eating a pizza, let's pass by at Panarottis."

Phozi: " sure... Mmh you look so cute in this bump, it reminds me of when you were preggies with Lutha trying to hide your stomach from our parents"

We laughed. " Don't remind me. Every time my mother cooked supper I used to vomit. "

Phozi: " hahaha I remember when dad found out, he was like 'Who impregnated you, Noxolo??! I demand to know him right now!' Mean time there's a big belt in his hand. Hahaha I miss my old man though, I was so scared for you mntase. We even ran together to Buja's car while he was waiting outside, all he said was 'relax...I've got everything under control babe' yhu haisana I'll never forget that line, waske waphola umntu"

Me: " hahaha mxim we've got so many memories though. Its funny now yet it wasn't so funny that time."

Phozi: " hahaha yeah, you and Buja go way back"

I reluctantly smiled. We arrived at Panarottis and made our order than continued chatting about the past. Our order finally arrived. We decided to leave and went to pick up Lutha at creche before heading back to our flat. I dished up for her and Lutha while they were still chatting in the living room and poured some juice for them. I walked in and said " what's new ke mntase? Did you finally get your mother's family"

Phozi: " yes, they talked a whole lot of bullshit about why they never made contact with me"

Me: " what did they say?"

I took a bite from the pizza while I listened.

Phozi: " they told me they forced my dad to stay with me since they were angry at him. Few years later they wanted to take me back but my dad didn't let them. That time I was being raised by your mother ke Noxy, who wasn't very motherly to me. Apparently her and my mother shared a man and they blamed your mother for her death even though they later found out she was not involved."

Me: " mmh that's deep"

Phozi: " they showed me my mother's photo. I took it with me, let me go and fetch it"

She went to the room and came back with the photo " here she is" I could see a lot of Phozi in her. She was tall and slim, she had the same body structure as her. "She's so beautiful" I said.

Phozi: " more beautiful than your mom!"

She pulled out her tongue on me. I laughed and said " whatever!!"

We ate the pizza until it was finished. Lutha was also digging in. He took his toys and played with them after. I then took an ice cream tub and we dug in that as well.

Me: " I've decided to divorce Buja"

She looked at me in total shock " you're joking right?"

Me: " no, I even have the divorce papers in my bag. This saturday is the family meeting that's where I'm going to take them out. I'm leaving him"

Phozi: " why mntase? You know mos the truth now. That bitch Buja didn't want to let go had a muthi spell on him. You know what happened. Why are you giving up on your marriage?"

Me: " I gave him a chance but he decided to cheat again. I know his promised not to do it. But what if he breaks his promise again?"

Phozi: " Noxy, you are making a mistake"

Me: " not so long ago you heard me crying over the phone. You heard how broken I was. Ubuja undigezele Phozisa. I'm willing to support him in many things, but when he cheats on me he just takes my whole energy away."

Phozi: " mntase, Buja is your man, you know that. You have his heart. Remember in our home town you were known as uNoxy ka Buja. Many tried to take your place in his heart but failed. He then did the least expected and married you while you were pregnant, a beautiful wedding that is. Not everyone was happy about that. Once you divorce him know that your enemies will be having a celebration. The question is, will you be happy after you've divorced him? What if he's willing to change after what happened to Luthando?"

Me: " I'm certain about my decision"

Phozi: " yho okay..."

I ate in silence. Phozy decided to talk about something else. We slept at close to midnight talking about everything and anything. I even said to her " I was planning to organize a meet up with my friends Sandi and Nelisa, but I'm not sure if I should be close with them anymore. I've recently found out that Bongie, who's the one that introduced me to them is not to be trusted. It turned out her cousin had something with Buja. I thought maybe you and Sandi would click"

Phozi: "mxim, I have enough friends wethu. I don't need new ones."

She didn't sound interested in meeting Sandi at all. So I just let her be. We finally called it a night, and by that time Lutha was fast asleep in bed. She stayed over the next day and friday later on in the afternoon she left.

Saturday arrived. The day of the family meeting. I won't lie and say I wasn't nervous, because I was. The elders were going to be there. But I felt I owed it to myself to do this. The meeting was going to take place at 3pm. So Lutha and I washed and got ready to go. Buja phoned me while I was getting ready and asked " should we go in one car?"

Me: " No. I'll meet you there"

Buja: " okay my love"

He sounded so sincere. We hung up and I took my file and handbag then locked my flat and left. My son was busy eating Simba chips on the way and singing to a song that was playing on the radio. Myself on the other side was just looking at the road ahead thinking about what's coming.

We finally arrived. I parked the car and made a silent prayer asking God to give me strength. There were cars parked there already. Buja's car was also outside. He was driving his GTI and had left the Jeep behind. I got out with my son and we made our way to the house. My mother was there drinking a cup of coffee and so were Buja's uncles. I went to hand shake everyone and asked Lutha to go and play with the other kids outside. Buja was sitting next to his uncles. I sat on the opposite couch next to my mother and the meeting began. Buja's father started by addressing them about my last visit when he was around, he told everyone that I had said I want a divorce.

Tata: " it is not the first time my daughter-in-law has come to report that my son, Bulelani, has been treating her badly. As much as I take Simthandile as my daughter, and have welcomed her to the Giba family, I will not hold her back from her decision. If my son has failed to treat her the way she deserves to be treated, because of no self control then its better he just let's her go. I've tried to speak to him but he just refuses to listen to me. But there's one thing I want to tell you, Bulelani. You are playing with fire, and you are going to get burnt mfana wam. You will lose a precious diamond while you are busy picking up stones"

Buja was busy concentrating on the coffee table. He was so quiet. He's uncle said " Bulelani, what do you have to say about this?"

Buja: " I acknowledge my mistakes, uncle. I apologized to my wife about everything that I've done to her. I acknowledge the unbearable emotional pain that I've put her through. But now all I want is to show her, by my actions, that I'm willing to change for the sake of our marriage, and the future of our children."

My mom said " Marriage has its ups and downs. But I believe my son-in-law is really willing to change"

She sipped her tea.

His uncle: " Simthandile, do you still want to divorce your husband or are you willing to give him at least one last chance? Remember marriage has challenges. Its not a relationship where you can dump your partner and date 100 men after. Maybe he is willing to change. But its all up to you"

The living room went silent and they all looked at me.

Me: " Yes. I still want a divorce"

Everyone looked startled. I could hear them mumbling " haibo, she must be mistaking"

My mom: " maybe its the pregnancy talking. You shouldn't be making these kind of decisions in this state. Your hormones are the one talking my child. I know you don't mean it"

Me: " No mother. I stand firm on wanting a divorce. I have not changed my mind. I still want to divorce Bulelani Giba. "

Buja's mom: " Simthandile, you are making a mistake"

Buja: " sthandwa sam..."

His voice had a sense of desperation. I looked into his eyes. They were pleading for me to say I'm joking.

Me: " I'm stepping down from being a Giba wife. At the age of 22, I've experienced more than enough from you. I've cried myself to sleep many times. I've gone through unbearable pain that have left emotional scars. I'm done. I want out"

I opened my file and took out the divorce papers. I opened the document whereby he had to sign and placed it on top of the coffee table.

Me: " I've already signed the divorce papers. Here's my signature on the dotted line. This shows I'm very certain about my decision. Taka Luthando, may you please sign on the dotted line next to your name. "

I took out a pen and placed it next to the document.

Everyone in the room looked flushed.

Buja: " No....no, no, no, babe please don't do this to me. Please my love"

Me: " I'm not going to change my mind. Its too late"

Buja: " baby, why are you doing this to me? Why are you hurting me like this? This is painful to me babe. You are killing me. Why now? I thought we've worked things out."

His voice was trembling.

I looked at him with a straight face, showing absolutely no emotion.

Me: " its painful? Mmh? Now you know what emotional pain feels like? Tell me Taka Lutha, when you were leaving me in that house and sleeping with other women what did you expect from me? When I was busy staying here with my in-laws being a good wife and raising our precious son, waiting for you to buy a house so we can be a happy family. Did you not think that what you were busy doing, which is behaving like a single man and sleeping around would pain me? Did you think about me, your wife while you were cheating on me with so many different women? What you are feeling is exactly what I was feeling when you called me a nagging wife and went to Lumka, the very same woman who almost killed our son."

I kept quiet and looked at him straight in the eyes.

His uncle said " Simthandile, what I'm seeing here is not the woman that we know. Please calm down makoti."

Buja: " mfaz'wam, I know I took advantage of the love you have for me. I know I've done you wrong many time. But please don't do this...you have changed babe."

Me: " yes, I've changed. I'm not the soft woman that you were playing. You confused being kind hearted to being a doormat. Bulelani, you the one that changed me. Now please sign"

His eyes turned red, I could see his veins coming out. He looked beyond frustrated. He got up slowly and came over and knelt in front of me. " Simthandile Giba, if you want to divorce me, then you might as well take a gun and shoot me in the head. I cannot take back what I did to you, all I'm asking for is another chance to prove that I can be faithful. I played with fire, and I have been burnt. I cannot lose you. You are my life."

He breathed and held my hands. " Remember the song that we danced to on our wedding day, our song: When I Said I Do by Chante Moore and Kenny Lattimore.

I nodded. He started singing it to me.

"These times are troubled and these times are good  
 And they're always gonna be, they rise and they fall  
 We take 'em all the way that we should  
 Together you and me forsaking them all  
 Deep in the night and by the light of day  
 It always looks the same, true love always does  
 And here by your side, or a million miles away

Nothin's ever gonna change the way that I feel,  
 The way it is, is the way that it was  
 When I said I do, I meant that I will 'til the end of all time  
 Be faithful and true, devoted to you  
 That's what I had in mind when I said I do"

One tear rolled down my face, and the next rolled down on my other cheek. He sang in his deep sexy voice. I had forgotten that my husband was a man of many talents. The last time he sang to me was when he was about to propose. I remember he was celebrating his birthday, there were so many people at the venue. He knelt down on one knee in front of everyone and started singing to me with a mic in his hand, he was singing the Chorus of Superhuman by Chris Brown at that time. I could feel my cheeks getting hot because the spotlight was on us. Then he took at a ring and asked me to marry him.

While he was busy singing to me, he took me back to that day; that day I said yes, I'll marry him. For a moment there we had forgotten that we were surrounded by elders. Buja had absolutely no sense of shyness in him.

Buja: " I love you, Mrs Giba. Give me one more chance, just one. I promise you will not regret it. We said to God, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, until death do us apart. Let's keep that promise to Him" he stood up, I stood up with him. " Please, my love" he said.

Me: " I'm scared..."

Buja: " don't be. I swear I will not cheat on you again. I've growing up, I've learnt my lesson. I will not do it again. I'm done."

I nodded and said " one more chance, and that's it" he smiled and gave me a hug. We hugged in silence.

"Good,good!! That's it my nephew. Fight for what's yours!" He's 2nd uncle said clapping his hands. " I love you, Noxy" he whispered in my ear. " I love you too, Buja" I whispered back.

## Chapter 49

You can never choose who you fall in love with. The heart always chooses for you. Despite how different Buja and I were, we fell in love with each other at a young age. I hoped one day God would reveal to me why he chose Buja to be my husband. My heart didn't regret marrying him, even after the downs we had encountered in our marriage. The question is, what did the future hold for us? Was the obstacles in our marriage over? Only the Man above knew.

We broke the hug and looked at each other, he wiped my tears away. Someone cleared his throat, that's when I remembered elders were still there, how embarrassing. I whispered "Buja what are we doing, the elders are still here."

"No its okay! We just happy you two kissed and made up!" His uncle shouted. Everyone in the living room laughed. I sat down again and so did Buja. His father said " if you still betray your wife after this, I will know that my son is a lost case. I will wash my hands and say I'm done with everything that has to do with you, Bulelani. I hope you have really learned your lesson"

Buja: " I have dad. But as I said, I don't want to talk a lot, I want you to see a change in me"

His father smiled and nodded his head.

"I guess this meeting is done" his uncle said as he stood up. " We have to rush to another town so we won't be staying for long. Makoti, thanx again for giving our son a chance. Last chance that is." He gave Buja a death stare " and I hope you won't mess it up" he added.

Buja cleared his throat looking rather intimidated " No, I won't uncle"

We all got up as we walked them out of the house. Buja's mom called me over while I was still outside. I went to her. " Its nice to know that you are loved isn't it? I watched you torturing my son in that living room. I hope you won't take advantage of the love he has for you ke mntanam. Everyone can see here that he would do anything for you. Tshini, I could see he was starting to become suicidal because of you"

I looked at her while she talked. I decided that she's not worth the energy, I was really not in the mood to defend myself to her".

Me: " excuse me, Mama. I need to say my goodbyes to my mother"

Buja's mom: " so you are not going to answer me?"

Me: " I don't know how to respond to you, Ma. I really don't"

She glared at me then said " you can go"

I walked away and went over to mom and Buja's father. She put her arms around me and said " oh mntanam. Please walk me to my car"

I smiled and said " okay". We walked out of the yard.

Mom: " hesana khawutsho, why did you scare us like that? I couldn't believe my eyes when you took out those divorce papers"

Me: " I was really divorcing him, Ma"

Mom: " I saw that. Otherwise, I wish you all the best my child. I love you, always remember that"

Me: " I love you too, mom"

We hugged for a while. Buja came over to us and said " haike Ma, I wish you a safe trip"

They hugged. We waved as she drove off. We then went back to the yard holding hands. He said " let's go to the back of the yard." I wore a confused expression and said " okay" We walked to the braai area. The fire had just gone out. " I was busy burning the divorce papers" he said with a smile on his face." I looked at him in disbelief.

Me: " yhu, now that was quick"

Buja: " hahaha I have destroyed the forbidden papers. I wanted them out of my sight."

We laughed and went back inside. " Its getting late, I should get going." I said.

Buja: " are you going to move in back to the house?"

Me: " yes. Its my house, and its been cleansed, so why not"

He smiled and wrapped his arms around my waist " thank you so much, my wife"

Me: " pleasure."

Buja: " tomorrow, right?"

Me: " hahaha yes"

We kissed. His parents walked in and said " yho, love is in the air" Buja and I both giggled.

Me: " I should go and fetch Lutha, its getting late"

They said okay and I went to call him. He was busy playing soccer with the other kids. We went back to the house. When I arrived they were outside having a chat with Buja.

Me: " Mama, Tata. I'd like to thank you so much for organizing this meeting for me. I appreciate everything that you've done - your support. I feel blessed to have you as my in-laws. You've been wonderful to me. "

Tata: " its a pleasure my child. I'm wishing you all the best for the future. Have a safe trip"

Mama:" yes, uhm. Have a safe trip. Bulelani, keep well my child. I love you okay? I'll support you and be there for you no matter what."

She gave him a hug. His dad picked up Luthando while we walked to the car. Bulelani's mother is one of those parents who want you to make sure and never forget that they'll always take their child's side, no matter what. I accepted that, and I had decided to not entertain her. His father though, was fair.

Buja came over to me and said " can Lutha get into my car? I want to have a father and son chat with my boy" I laughed and said " oh? I wonder. But I'll be lonely in my car"

He smiled and said " uzoba right. Boy, get into my car"

He opened the car and helped him get in the front. I got into my car then we hooted and drove off. Buja was driving behind me, on the free way he overtook me. I saw Lutha waving with the biggest smile, the window was slid down. I waved back and signaled for Buja to slid it up again, I was worried about the wind. He phoned, I put it on loudspeaker because I was driving and said " lovey"

Buja: " why are you driving so fast?"

Me: " no I'm not"

Buja: " women are known to be careful drivers, andiyazi ke wena, I guess you a special kind of woman"

Me: " of course I am"

He laughed and said " yes, my woman. uBaby ka kabani?"

Me: " baby ka Buja kaloku..."

We laughed. I could hear Lutha shouting " hayi she's Baby ka Lutha tshini!!"

I couldn't help but laugh hard. " Are you having your father and son chat there?" I asked

Buja: " hahaha mxim, this chap is busy dancing here. I wanted to tell him about some good tricks in playing soccer but he's not interested"

Me: " oh hayi Buja, let him dance"

Buja: " babe, please sleep over at our house tonight"

Me: " mmmh, you can't wait any longer I see"

Buja: " yhoouo baby, I was actually about to lose my mind"

I laughed. We chatted until we arrived in our town. I had even forgot I was alone in the car. We started at my flat. I took my bag and packed some clothes and Lutha's. I left my car behind and decided I'll fetch it the next day. I got into the GTI and we left going to our house. Buja drove in and parked.

Me: " are you sure everything is fine here?"

Buja: " Bawo'Mpinga chased away all those evil stuff babe. I sleep like I'm in heaven."

Me: " mmmh okay...."

We got out and he helped me with the bag. I unlocked the house and entered. I didn't think I would ever come back to that house again. But hey, we all don't know what the future holds. Lutha entered the house as well and ran to his room. My child was always full of energy. He didn't like walking much, he always preferred running. I went to our bedroom and the first thing I



thought about is changing the whole bedding. Buja put the bag inside the closet. I changed everything from sheets to bed covers and put in new ones. He looked at me but didn't say anything then he walked out. After I was done, I took off my head scarf and changed what I was wearing to comfy sweat pants and a top then decided on cooking a nice meal for us. When I checked the cupboards, everything was still packed exactly like the way I left it. I went over to Buja who was in Lutha's room and said " have you cooked anything since I left?"

Buja: "no, I was too stressed to cook"

Me: " eshee, you stressed? Mxim"

Buja: " I've lost weight babe, can't you see?"

Me: " not really.."

Buja: " okay, I was living on take aways babe. My food just didn't taste nice."

Me:" hahaha oh..."

I turned around and returned to the kitchen then wore my apron and started preparing supper. Buja walked in while I was busy cutting the veggies, he wrapped his arms around my waist and kissed my neck " thanks for coming back to me, sthandwa sam. I feel the word thank you is not enough. Tell me what do I need to do to show you my appreciation"

I wiped my hands and turned around " be faithful to me, that's all I ask from you. The rest we'll get through together. All I'm asking for is your loyalty in this marriage"

Buja: " Baby ka Buja, I won't cheat on you. Please trust me. I won't risk losing you, not again."

We kissed, a long passionate kiss. "Eeeeuw mani!!!" Lutha shouted with his little voice. We broke the kiss and looked at him. " Stop kissing like that!" He said with a disgusted look. Buja laughed and said " okay boy, let's go and watch cartoons" he winked at me while I giggled going back to what I was doing. Moments later supper was ready. We gathered around the table, I blessed the food then after supper we ate dessert. I must say, it felt good to be back. It felt great being with my family again. It was now time for Lutha to go to bed. While tucking him in Buja entered the room and sat down on his bed.

Lutha: " I'm not scared of monsters anymore"

Me: " no monster will scare you nana, they're gone forever now"

Lutha: " yes mommy."

Buja: " sweet dreams my boy"

Lutha: " okay goodnight"

Me: " want me to read you a bed time story?"

Lutha: "nope"

He closed his eyes and pretended to be sleeping. Buja and I looked at each other then smiled.

Me: " I won't switch off the light okay"

He nodded still closing his eyes. We decided to leave his room and closed the door.

Buja: " hehe, I bet you he's going to play tv games in his room"

Me: " hahaha my boy is starting to have some tricks. I don't like that"

Buja: " he misses his tv games. Watching 3 channels everyday with no games to play or cartoons must have been torture to him. Shame man"

I hit his arm and gave him a death stare. " Hahaha I'm joking" he said still laughing. I walked away displeased. We went to the bedroom. I took off my top and was only left with my bra and sweat pants. He pulled me over to the bed and made me sit on top of him while his waist was in

between my legs. He stroked my thighs and said " did I tell you how sexy you look in this bump? It really turns me on"

I blushed and looked down.

Buja: " are you going all shy on me now? Eish ke wena babyyy!"

I giggled and said " no I'm not. We should go to church tomorrow"

Buja: " maybe next week"

Me: " okay, next week it is"

Buja: " but babe, I have too many sins to be a church member. Please don't make me a full time member, I'm not ready"

Me: " hahaha hayi kengoku. People judge, God doesn't."

Buja: " my love, God would strike lightning on me once I entered the church premises."

Me: " hahahaha you're crazy. Stop making excuses. Can I ask you something"

Buja: " yes, my love"

He licked his lower lip while looking at me, almost like he wasn't concentrating. " When do you think you'll stop this corruption you're doing? I mean, being a gangster"

He rubbed my ass and pulled me closer. " Its not that easy, and please don't call me a gangster. I'm too successful to be called one. I mean, focus on me being a Business Executive"

He let my bra loose, and removed it.

Me: " but its not right. I feel you should stop"

Buja: " I will babe, one hot shushu day I will. Please be patient because some people are counting on me to make a living. "

He licked his finger and slid it inside my pants. He started kissing my neck and sucking it while fingering me. he inserted a 2nd finger and reached for my mouth. We kissed, his tongue met mine. We stood up and started stripping. His strong yet gentle hands started to stroke me. I felt my nipples rise as he nibbled on my ear. I muffled a moan as I reached for his shaft and stroking it up and down. He gently laid me on the bed and spread my legs. I could feel his breath on me, he started french kissing my punani, his tongue moving up an down my clit . He licked it so good that I climaxed thrice. I couldn't even feel my legs. He got on top of me and we kissed again, the kiss starting from being gentle to being intense - so passionate " I want to ride you" I whispered in his ear. He let a smile, squinting his eyes ready for what was about come " I'm all yours" he answered as he laid on his back. I took full control. I licked the head of his shaft and started sucking him. He stroked his hands through my hair calling out my name, he pulled me up and kissed me, wildly, I entered his shaft in me, filling every corner inside me. I rode my man like it was the last time. He grabbed my butt and started thrusting me " aaah Noxy wam! Shit..." He called out as I felt his cum inside me. I laid on top of his chest. He kissed my forehead and said " I love you so much"

Me: " love you more"

He brushed my back. We laid like that until I could feel myself getting sleepy. I got up and reached for a towel. He offered to wipe me. We ended up getting in between the covers and cuddling. The next morning I woke arm in his arms. I looked at him and kissed his lips, he was still asleep. I kissed his cheek and said " hey, wake up" softly. I then licked his lower lip. "Mmmh" he woke up and said " hey babe"

Me: " hey"

Buja: " see what you've done?.."

He said as he pointed down there. I gave him a naughty smile and said " that's what I was hoping for."

He chuckled, the next thing we were busy making love again. After we were done we went to take a shower together then I made breakfast for us.

Time passed, and the whole day we were indoors with our son bonding. We were busy with the play station most of the time, then watching movies from chick flicks, to action, to horror.

I decided to cook sunday lunch. While I was busy in the kitchen I heard some people chatting in the living room. I turned off the stove and went over to check who it was.

Luzz: " Yhoooo, sis'Noxy!! No wonder I'm welcomed by a mouth watering aroma, kuyacaca ubuyile sis'wam. We've missed you here!"

He came over and said " hug?" Opening his arms.

I laughed and hugged him. Buja shook his head and said " hehe mxim"

I went to sit next to Buja while Luzz sat next to Lutha. Buja stroked my right thigh and kissed my cheek.

Me: " I hope you gonna stay for sunday lunch. I was about to dish up"

Luzz: " of course! Hehehe Tar Buja, you must be happy ne? Yho ibruh was on hunger struggle, he lived on take aways every day. It was hectic hahahaha! Not very healthy if you ask me sis'Nox"

Buja: " voetsek!"

Luzz: " eyo! Not in front of the kid"

Buja: " eish lentwana baby"

I chuckled.

Luzz: " hahaha jokes maan bruh. I hope you back for good Mrs Giba. At least now we won't be shouted at for no good reason."

Buja: " hahaha heman! When will you ever stop talking too much?"

Luzz: " hehehe sorry bruh"

Me:" haha I'm back Luzz"

Luzz: " good-good-good. Okay, now there's some serious stuff we need to discuss. I think the boy needs to go and play in his room."

Buja asked Lutha to go and play in his room. Lutha didn't protest, he did as instructed. Once he left Buja said " is everything still going accordingly?"

Luzz: " Everything is going perfectly and according to plan Tar yam"

Buja: " good..."

Me: " what's this about?"

Buja: " well....Luthando almost died, I almost lost my son. I told you babe, I definitely wasn't going to let that slide. Lumka made my son see scary monsters and tortured him, he had seizures.

Fuck that shit. She has to pay, she should have tried torturing me and not my innocent boy."

Me: " what did you do to her?"

Luzz: " Eish, all I can say is I don't ever want to mess with you Tar Buja. Damn! You know how to teach someone a lesson bruh"

Me: " Babe, what did you do? Did you beat her up?"

Buja: " no sthandwa sam. I did something more drastic. Sometime next week after work I'll take you to where she is. Its better you also know what I do to people who try to harm you and my son, my family.

Luzz: " when should we release her? I think we should soon before people start noticing that she's missing"

Buja: " nah, not yet. I'm not done with her. This is only the beginning"

He smiled. Luzz said " nc nc nc...she messed with the wrong guy. "

Me: " uhm..., I should start dishing up now"

Buja: " sure babe."

He kissed my lips then bit my lower lip " I can't get enough of you" he whispered. "Behave" I said winking at him, then I got up. " So Luzz, tell me the latest figures" he said starting up another discussion with him. On the way to the kitchen, I cracked my head trying to think what he could have done to her. And he wasn't willing to tell me, he wanted me to see it with my own eyes.

## Chapter 50

Luzz stayed over until 10pm. That's how long he stayed. He even offered to go and fetch my car then came back with it and chilled with us. He was already making himself at home, but funny enough we weren't fed up of him. We were actually thinking of giving him the spare room. Lutha was also enjoying his company.

Luzz: " let me call it a night, I think its time I went back to my crib"

By the time he said that, Lutha was laying his head on my lap fast asleep. It was way past his bed time after all. Buja walked him out while I woke up Lutha and held his hand going to his room. He couldn't even keep his eyes open. He changed then I tucked him in. Buja came back then we went to bed and called it a night.

It was now monday..

On my way to work I couldn't shake of the urge of wanting to know what was done to Lumka. I wanted to know what he did to her. I arrived at work and parked my car. I took out my phone and called Buja. He picked up quickly and said " miss me already?"

Me: " taka Lutha, Please send me to her today. I want to see what you've done to her"

Buja: " how about wednesday"

Me: " no, today."

Buja: " okay, no problem. I'll fetch Lutha and drop him off at Sbu's place then we can go"

Me: " sure"

Buja: " see you after work"

Me: " okay, bye"

Buja: " bye"

I sighed then got out. Bongie had just parked her car. "Morning!" She greeted with a smile. " Morning to you too" I greeted with a smile back at her.

We made our way to the office. " How was your weekend?" She asked.

Me: " its was good, and yours?"

Bongie: " it was okay. What did you get up to?"

Me: " I just went down to see my family, and you?"

Bongie: " argh the usual. That's all you got up too?"

Me: " yes dear, why?"

Bongie: " just curious! My man Xolisa and I spent some time together. So yeah I had fun"

Me: " mmmh!! That's great."

Bongie: " anything interesting to you?"

Me: " not at all! Argh everything was just so boring"

Bongie: " oh okay...anyway I hope you won't change your mind about your decision.."

Me: " which one?"

We entered the office and greeted every. " Chat later, gotta work!" She said rushing to her desk.

I raised my eye brow wondering what she was on about then went to my desk and started working. Time passed by very slowly. I just wanted the day to end so that I can finally find out what was happening. I hated being in the dark.

Finally home time arrived. I didn't even stay for a second to chit-chat. By the time people were walking out of the office, I was already driving off. You'd swear I had just heard an emergency phone call. I arrived at home and gave Buja a call " I've just entered our street now babe." He said. I didn't even bother unlocking the door. I waited for him outside the yard. He arrived and stopped. I got in and " okay, we can go..."

Buja: " no hello..no kiss...no hugs.."

I kissed his cheek then said " let's go love"

Buja: " damn..okay"

He drove off until we arrived at this shady place. It looked like a deserted area. He made a call and said "I'm waiting for you outside, sharp" he hung up then said "Luzz is coming with the keys.."

Me: " okay."

I was nervous, still having no clue about what I'm about to see. Luzz arrived after about 10 minutes. " Ola..." He said greeting us. We greeted back and stepped out then made our way to this place that looked like a deserted house. The painting was dirty, it looked horrible. He unlocked the door and we got in. He then went to unlock the room. It was a bathroom but there was only a toilet and a sink, no bath tub. Then there was a mattress at the corner. I saw this woman who kept scratching her arms looking lost like she didn't even recognize herself. Her hair was all fuzzy. She kept browzing around the room. " Is it her?" I asked. " Yes" Buja answered. She looked like a lost cause, totally different from the pic's I saw on her WhatsApp profile.

Me: " what on earth did you do to her?"

Buja: " there's a certain drug called Ketamine and it is in powder form. You see babe, there are several side effects that come in to play as the drug effects wear off, most notably hallucinations. My plan was for her to start seeing things, maybe snakes, spiders, gorillas....all alone in this room. Babe, I wanted her to feel exactly what was happening to my son. I wanted her to see those monsters that Lutha was seeing. She must know exactly what he went through and I want it to be a lesson she will never forget. Yes I cheated with her, but that gave her no right to torture an innocent soul like that. If she wanted to get back at me she should have attacked me directly."

Luzz: " correct Tar yam!!"

He said coming closer to us. " This chick attacked a little boy, while Tar Buja was free. Why? I don't feel sorry for her. She must suffer. Where did she get the guts to bewitch a 4 year old? What does the boy know?"

Buja took out the powder in his pocket " this is a very dangerous drug" he said " Ketamine overdoses are potentially fatal and there is no effective antidote. A patient may need to be put on life support to maintain respiratory function until they can breath on their own. It has a psychological effect, she can become small minded forever." Him and Luzz both laughed. " But hey, I'm a nice guy" Buja said.

Lumka: " I need a fix" she said shivering.

Buja walked closer to her " you want this?" She nodded. He went to the toilet and said " noooooo, I have to throw it away, its for your own good!" he poured the powder into the toilet and flushed. She cried out loud like she had just heard devastating news. " I can't watch this" I said walking out. Once I got outside I rubbed my arms. Yes she tortured my son to the point of being close to losing him. I wanted to be happy about this but my sub-conscious just wouldn't let me.

Luzz came out and said " look sis'Nox. Tar Buja is a thug. Let me tell you something about thugs, when they're on a mission, they put feelings aside. They protect what's theirs and they make sure the job is done. "

Me: " it doesn't feel right"

Buja walked out and said " we can go.." Luzz locked the house and said " go well, go shell..." Then he got into his car. We said bye to him and went into ours. Buja drove off.

Me: " can we go to the beach...I need to talk to you"

Buja: " okay..."

He didn't argue. He drove straight to the beach and we parked. It wasn't busy at all, there were a few cars parked. Buja slid down the windows and said " what's this about?"

Me: " let's get out of the car"

He stepped out first and I followed. We stood right in front of it. His eyes were concentrating on the sea. I looked into his eyes and all I saw was anger.

Me: " you've had your revenge, but the question is, are you happy?"

Buja: " yes.."

Me: " you don't look happy. "

Buja: " I'll be more happy when I torture her. I honestly want her to regret placing a supernatural snake in my house. I want her to suffer babe. I want to destroy her. "

Me: " revenge is sweet, but for a short period of time, my love. "

I held his hand. " Yes, she wanted to kill me and Lutha and take over the house. But she didn't. We survived. Look at us now, we still together, regardless of what happened. You are the one that approached her and made her fall for you. You gave in when she wrote a note to you. You had an affair with her even though you knew you were married. She fell for you because you let that happen. This is not entirely her fault because you made it happen. If I had your mindset I would be sleeping with every man in this town just to get back at you, but I choose not to. I chose to forgive you. Let's forgive her please sthandwa sam and let our Heavenly Father deal with her. "

He turned and looked at me. " Why do you have such a beautiful heart?"

Me: " I was raised by a wise man. May his soul rest in peace"

Buja: " you right. I let this happen. Its my fault. I'm just taking out all my anger on her"

Me: " and I hope you do realize that what we are doing means we are no different from her. I'm not excluding myself because I'm married to you. Let's let karma deal with what happened to Lutha."

Buja: " okay, I'll let her go"

Me: " thanx"

He came close and said " Thank you so much for being in my life. "

Me: " I love you.."

Buja: " I love you too. You are so good to me. "

I smiled at him. We kissed then went to the car then drove off to fetch our son. Only Sbu was around. He hugged me and said " you have been so scarce. uMfethu was frustrated here, I hope you won't leave him again"

Me: " well if he keeps his promise I won't"

Sbu: " hahaha I'll make sure he does."

I took my son and walked out of the house.

The days went by, on Wednesday Buja told me he let Lumka go and that Luzz and Lucky dropped her off in front of her home yard. They had taken off the registration number and used a different car, no one had noticed. I didn't truly believe him so I asked for Luzz's number, he answered his phone and said " Ya sho! She will probably go to rehab shame, she's seeing snakes everywhere. Hahahaha that will teach her not to torture little kids!" I could hear someone laughing in the background.

Me: " but wait guys, what if she snitches you?"

Buja: " when you were seeing her she wasn't in her senses, she probably thought we were aliens. That's what that drug does to you. So she has absolutely no proof even if she snitches us. She was mentally disturbed"

Me: " okay..."

I bit my lip hoping she wouldn't remember anything, especially our faces. But I was confident that we would win the case even if she did.

The following day I went to the offices where I rented my flat to put in a notice that I'd be moving out at the end of the month. It was now a done deal that I had moved back into my house.

So now it was friday....

After work Buja and I had decided to go to my flat to pack the rest of my clothes and to decide what to do with my furniture. I wanted it to stay at the back room in our yard but he wanted the furniture auctioned. So we were still discussing that standing in the living room when there was a knock on the door. I went over to open. It was the old lady from next door.

Me: " hello ma'am"

I smiled politely " hello..." She smiled back.

Old lady: " where have you been?"

Buja walked over to us and greeted. " I've moved back to my house. I'm actually moving out month end"

Old lady: " I'm going to miss you so much. You must come and visit"

Me: " will do.."

" Come, sit with me outside. Both of you" she said walking out. I looked at Buja and he looked at me back then shrugged his shoulders. We went outside. She had put 2 extra chairs for us. She sat in the middle. On the floor she had an A4 book which she took as soon as she sat down. I sat down on the left hand side while Buja sat down on the right.

Old lady: " remember I told you that there was a blue car stalking you my girl?"

Me: " yes ma'am, I remember"

Old lady: " it came again. And this time, 2 men were there. I tried drawing these men, because

they came over to me while I was busy watering my flowers. They asked where you were because they weren't seeing you anymore"

Buja: " can I see those drawings? Can you not describe them?"

Old lady: " as I said to my girl, I cannot describe I can only draw."

She took out 3 pages. One was the teddy bear she drew the last time, I could see Buja holding in his laughter. The 2nd was a drawing which looked like 2 penguins holding hands. Buja burst out in laughter " where's Lutha, he needs to see this. So babe, you are now stalked by 2 penguins? hahahaha...ma'am you are so funny" he said putting his arm around her.

I looked away giggling under my top. I was practically in tears. She then took out the 3rd drawing, it looked like 2 aliens, the other one looked like it was flying in the sky. I couldn't hold back my laughter anymore. Buja and I were in tears.

Me: " I'm so sorry for laughing.

My stomach was aching

"This is a very serious matter, I know ma'am" I continued.

Somehow she didn't mind us laughing at all. She then said " the 2nd man came the following day, with the one in the blue car. The other car was black, it had 4 rings at the front." She put up her 4 fingers then said " yes, 4, I counted them, the rings were stuck together. I forgot the name of the car. But we had it in our days as youngsters. The old version of it."

Buja and I immediately stopped laughing and looked at each other.

Me: " She's describing a black Audi, Buja"

Buja: " damn it, its Khaya"

" Yes! I'm a genius..." The old woman said proudly in a shaky voice " I told you not to underestimate my drawings!"

## Chapter 51

The good laugh we were having turned into a serious matter within seconds. We had really thought the woman was bluffing based on the fact that she was drawing total opposites of what she was saying, and I didn't see any suspicious cars. Now when she described an Audi, it meant something else. We realized that Khaya was the one behind the stalking. Buja said " Thanx for letting us know about this, excuse me" then he got up and walked away going to my flat. The old lady said " I'm glad I could help. I have some home baked muffins inside. Do you want to have a cup of tea with me?"

Me: " No thank you. please excuse me, I need to speak with my husband. Uhm...thanx a lot for alerting us about this"

She smiled and looked at her drawings again. I got up and rushed to my flat. I closed the door and looked for Buja. He was in the kitchen with a glass of water in his hand. He was staring at the glass instead of drinking it, which I found strange.

Me: " I also think its him. He was driving a black Audi A3 when he was following me. Maybe he had hired someone to watch my every move while I was staying in this flat"

Buja looked at me " have you invited him over before?" He asked.

I widened my eyes surprised at such a question. " Be honest" he added.



Me: " No. Of course not. Why would I even do that?"

Buja: " the photos that were sent to me said something else Noxy. You were cozy, crying on his shoulders. You let him comfort you. You let him touch you. Now he has hope of sleeping with you. All of what he is doing is just revenge. Fuck!"

He tightened his jaws trying his absolute best to control his anger. The glass was still in his hand, holding it the same way he was holding it before.

Buja: " and then he was following you, but you didn't say anything to me. You kept it a secret even after you sensed there was something wrong. I asked one of my boys to keep an eye on you, and thank God I did because it seems like you weren't very safe."

Me: " then why don't they know the blue car"

Buja: " the person driving the blue car is very clever. He is not following you, he waits in his car and just watches you, then he leaves again. He is untraceable. I didn't think this old lady was serious, that is why I didn't do much investigation on it."

I folded my arms and stood by the sink " Khaya has a huge grudge on you, Buja. Sometimes you can't just hurt people and think you'll get away with it. What did you expect from him when you slept with his girlfriend?"

He put the glass on top of the kitchen counter and came closer to me. " This is not about me sleeping with his girlfriend-"

Me: " you wronged him. He told me everything that you did. That's why I cried in his arms. I'm sorry for doing so, but at that time I was hurting."

Buja: " did he tell you what he did before he painted me as the worst husband to you?"

Me: " you cheated on me and slept with his woman, I don't care what he did, the fact remains you did not only hurt him, you hurt me to, and of course Bongie because she also hates your guts.

We have all these enemies now because of you"

Buja: " don't even talk about that bitch, Bongie. Don't even mention her name in this discussion"

Me: " why are you suddenly calling her a bitch?"

Buja: " I'll tell you about that later.. But for now, we're still talking about Khaya. Tell me exactly what Khaya told you in that trip?"

Me: " He told me that you guys were once close friends, and then you had an argument about one of your missions, then that's where the beef started. Then he said you had another argument and swore that you'd get back at him, then that's when you slept with the one he loves. Buja, do you think about other peoples feelings when you do something? Do you even care about the consequences?"

He breathed and closed his eyes. " Did he tell you what kind of argument it was? Did he say what exactly happened?"

Me: " not in so many words..."

Buja: " he killed one of our friends, cold blooded. Did he mention that to you?"

I was shocked " No.." I murmured, trying to hide the shock on my face.

Buja: " Maybe its time I tell you my side of the story because it seems like he is the victim in your eyes and I'm the evil one who cares about no one. Maybe its time you heard everything from the man you married before you start defending a man you just met yesterday.

I kept quiet like a cat had run away with my tongue.

Buja: " he's right when he said we were close. I took Khaya as my best friend. When we were doing our 3rd year, me, Sbu, Khaya and a friend of ours Zukisa were very close. We did our missions together, then we met Vusi and our other friends ooJoseph and Lwando. We became a

crew of 7. Khaya started to become greedy when it comes to money, we all noticed this. He started having secret missions that we knew nothing about and working with people we didn't even know nor trust. He was starting to play dirty. Zukisa confronted him, that's when the tension in the skeem started. He denied everything and we let him be, but decided to keep an eye on him. You know what they say, keep your friends close, but your enemies even closer. "

He rubbed his chin then he put both his hands on top of the kitchen counter. I was still folding my arms looking at him.

Buja: " he came to us this other time while we were chilling at a party we were invited to, then told us not to trust Zukisa, it seems like he is working with the police. I knew Zukisa very well. He was like a brother to me, and I didn't believe him, but I decided to keep my mouth shut. Babe, it wasn't long before he killed him, cold blooded, in front of us. He told us that Zukisa had snitched us to a policeman, he even had documents and photos as evidence. He convinced us that it had to be done or else we were going to go to jail. We believed him"

I swallowed hard " what?" I asked, I couldn't believe my ears.

Buja: " Sbu and I didn't let this go, we did our own investigation and later found out that all the evidence he had was fake, Zukisa didn't snitch us. Khaya killed him out of his own selfish reasons. My best friend died because of him. We all haven't forgotten about this. Khaya knows he cannot kill me, because I have something on him, something that I cannot speak about to anyone, not even you babe. I made sure that I'd give him sleepless nights. If it wasn't for him Zukisa would still be alive."

He unexpectedly took the glass and smashed it on the floor, it broke into small pieces. I screamed and covered my mouth in total fear and astonishment. " Please calm down" I said.

Buja: " Khaya is dangerous and very cold hearted. He cares about no one but himself. If you think he cares about you think again. I trust you Noxy, I know you would never betray me despite what your friend Bongie said to me."

Me: " Bongie? What did she say? Where does she fit in all of this?"

I came closer to him. " What are you talking about?"

Buja: " Remember I got photos of you from an unknown number and then we had a fight and you ended up in hospital."

Me: " yes.."

Buja: " Bongie called and asked where you were because you didn't come to work. I told her you're in hospital. Later on I called her to find out where she was when you were with Khaya. I kept looking at those pictures and my anger and frustration was building up everytime I looked at them. Her answer was you disappeared with Khaya and came back to your room the next day. She begged me not to say anything to you. She then said when she asked you where you slept last night, you said you slept with Khaya because you were too stressed and that you regret it. My love, I didn't believe her. I didn't believe a word she said. I know you Noxy, you wouldn't do that to me"

" You're lying" I said. I refused to believe what he had just said to me regarding Bongie.

Buja: " I spoke to you that day babe, remember you told me you went for a swim and that you had just spoken to my father. "

Me: " Bongie wouldn't say such a thing"

Buja: " She did. And believe me when I say if you had slept with Khaya, he would have made damn sure that I know about it. Either he would have recorded everything or did something more than that. But either way, I would have known if you slept with him"

" Is everything alright????!!!" The old lady shouted from the outside " I heard a glass and screaming. Should I call the police?"

I went over to open then said " I'm sorry, a glass fell, I was in shock. There's nothing to worry about"

She said " okay then. " Then walked away. I closed the door and went to sweep the pieces of glasses. I took the mob and tried wiping the water. Buja held me and said " no, I'll do it. Go and sit down babe" I went to the living room to sit down. I couldn't believe this, I just couldn't. I confided everything to Bongie, how could she lie about me to my husband. What was she hoping to achieve? I wondered if this was still about getting her revenge on Buja. Sandi and Nelisa warned me about her while they were arguing, were they sending out a message? They told me to be careful. Buja came over to the living room and said " we should get going. Its getting late"

I got up and said " whoever came up with the quote 'love them all but trust no one' was not joking."

Buja: " true.."

He hugged me " why didn't you tell me?" I asked.

Buja: " you were already under a lot of stress, and the doctor did advise me to make sure that I don't stress you with anything since I was the cause. I decided to just let this go, I didn't believe her anyways. I didn't even entertain it"

Me: " I can't believe this. I need to lie down. I'm not feeling too good."

Buja: " maybe we should sell the furniture to a 2nd hand shop. What do you say?"

Me: " we'll discuss that next week, right now I need to rest"

Buja: " sure"

We locked the flat and went to fetch Luthando who was at Sbu's place. Only the nanny was around though with the kids. Luthando wanted to sleep over because he was having a lot of fun but I insisted we should go. As soon as I got home I changed and got into bed. Buja said he'll tuck in Lutha, he could see I wasn't feeling to good. This thing about Bongie knocked me hard more than what I heard about Khaya. Bongie acted like a good friend to me, it just didn't make sense. I ended up falling asleep in those thoughts. I woke up later on at night. Buja was on his laptop typing. " Hey" I said. He kissed me and said " hey babe, how are you feeling now?"

Me: " better, where's Lutha?"

Buja: " fast asleep, I tucked him in"

Me: " okay..."

Buja: " tomorrow can we go and visit Sbu? We have to discuss something. And uhm...Wendy would also like to see you"

Me: " about?"

Buja: " she didn't say, maybe its one of those woman stuff"

Me: " oh."

I sat up straight and rubbed my tummy. My baby kicked

Me:" our baby just kicked."

Buja stopped what he was doing and touched my tummy " kicked again boy"

Me: " don't say that, you don't know what it'll be"

Buja: " okay, maybe its a girl"

I smiled. He closed his lap top and pulled me closer to him. " From now on we should be honest with each other. No secrets babe, even if its just something small. Do you have anything that you want to tell me?" Buja asked.

I wanted to tell him about Loyiso and the kiss but I was afraid of what he'll do to him.

Me: " uhm....when I met Khaya at the parking lot, he told me that he has feelings for me. He told me he loves me. I walked away from him though"

Buja: " bitch nigga.... What else did he say?"

Me: " that's all. I didn't listen to him any further"

Buja: " what about that boy Loyiso?"

Me: " you still remember his name?"

Buja: " I did some research on him. I know where he works, I know the address of his house. I even know his surname. I know he has a baby mama named Shanna and 2 of his siblings. Babe, I did a lot of research on that mother fucker, and I wasn't bluffing when I said I'll be like a bad rash. I'll squash him like a mosquito that he is."

Me: " he didn't touch me after you threatened him. Please, just leave him alone"

Buja: " hehehe good for him. Babe, I'm so sleepy, we should call it a night"

Me: " uhm..yeah, nyto"

I came close to kiss him. We kissed passionately, then after a while we broke the kiss. He closed his eyes and so did I.

I had to lie, for Loyz's sake. I had to protect him and I hoped he wasn't going to pull any moves on me and I was relieved he was so silent after I made it clear that I wanted nothing to do with him.

The next day was saturday.....

The time was around 12:30 and I had just taken a bath. I looked through the closet to check out what to wear. I saw my white pants and a blue floral top. I took out my blue open toe shoes and stood in front of the mirror. My bump was getting bigger by the day. Buja walked in wearing his white shirt and jean. Him and Lutha had already bathed. He wore his wrist watch while I was lotioning myself. I then wore my pants. They weren't fitting me at all. I pulled them up by force but still they were too tight. I sulked and decided to wear my white hugging skirt instead and my top. I started wearing my shoes, but they also weren't fitting me, my feet were abit swollen. " Damn it!" I shouted and burst out in tears. Buja came to me and hugged me " what's wrong?" He asked.

Me: " I feel fat. I'm a hippo. Nothing fits me"

I said crying. He wiped my tears and said " that's bull my love. You have a life growing inside of you that's why. You're still beautiful and sexy. After a few months your body will be back to normal don't stress, okay. I love you"

He kissed my forehead. " I love you too" I responded smiling but still teary. I went to wash my face then did my make up. I felt like a cry baby, but at least he did lift up my spirit. I ended up wearing different comfy shoes then moments later we left.

We arrived at Sbu's place. His kids were playing outside already and Lutha was more than excited to see them. The gate slid open and we drove in and parked. We stepped out and made our way to the door while Lutha went to the other kids. Wendy welcomed us in and we made our way to the living room. She gave both me and Buja a hug and sat next to Sbu. Me and Buja sat on the opposite couch.

Wendy: " your bump is getting so big Noxy!"

Me: " I know, and my clothes are starting not to fit me. I was kinda emotional about that earlier"

Buja: " kinda?"

I hit his hand and they laughed. " Sorry babe" Buja kissed my cheek. Wendy poured me some juice while Buja and Sbu poured themselves some whiskey.

Me: " is it just the two of you?"

Sbu: " yeah. Some people will be coming later on. But for now Buja and I just want to bond with our wives"

Wendy smiled and said " wife to be, you mean?"

Sbu: " you're already my wife. I've paid the lobola. We just need to make it office now, in 2 months time that is"

She smiled and they kissed. Buja cleared his throat and said " we're still here love bits" They giggled. I smiled at them. They looked so cute together.

Sbu: " about your call yesterday. Remember I told you Buja that I had a feeling that blue car had something to do with Khaya but you brushed it off"

Wendy: " Khaya is a pain. You guys need to deal with him before he hurts Noxy."

Buja: " you guys do know that our plan to kill him needs to be a good plan. No traces should be linked to us"

Me: " kill him? Are you guys still going ahead with the plan?"

Buja: " Khaya is on a revenge trip. He won't stop until he gets rid of me. Its either me or him. As I said yesterday, the only reason he's not killing me is because I have something against him."

Me: " Gosh, this beef between you too needs to end. Buja, you shouldn't have slept with his girlfriend. Whether he killed your friend or not, that was no excuse. You went too far, that is why he is coming after me now."

Wendy: " Mxim. Khaya didn't even care about that chick. I'm not saying Buja was right because I know he was very wrong."

Me: " yes it was wrong, now I'm his target even though I enter nowhere in this. Buja did I tell you that this chick is Bongie's cousin. Her name is Nwabisa right? "

Buja: " Nwabisa?"

Wendy: " No, I'll think of her name but it definitely wasn't Nwabisa"

Me: " Bongie told me that its Nwabisa. That's her name"

Buja: " No....was it not Aviwe?"

Wendy: "Yes! Her name is Aviwe, I remember Khaya used to call her Avees."

Me: " then why the hell would Bongie lie to me about her cousin's name"

Buja: " is she even her cousin? Your friend Bongie seems to be too much of a fake. I think she's a fraudster, maybe she even bought her Law degree"

They laughed.

Sbu: " hahaha uthini na Buja"

Buja: " I told my wife to stay away from those hood rats. I didn't trust that Bongie from the very first time I saw her. Ey, and then there's the other 2, what's their names again babe?"

Me: " Sandi and Nelisa. They are much better thanx. And I miss them"

Sbu: " hehehe mxim. Noxy shouldn't associates herself with them. You can see bitches from a far. Bad influences I tell you"

Buja: " there's Wendy, my love. You should be friends with her and not Bongie the wolf in sheep clothing."

I gave him an ugly look then drank my juice because he knew very well why I distanced myself from Wendy. I had trust issues all because of him.

Wendy: " why would this Bongie lie about Khaya's girlfriend?"

Me: " look, right now I'm beyond confused. I even considered her as my best friend"

Sbu: " be careful ke Noxy. Your friend can also be your worst enemy. Buja and I learned that the hard way. Khaya is a good example. His days are numbered I'm telling you. We're planning to make his death slow and painful. "

Buja: " and I want to be the one pulling the trigger. Right now he doesn't even know what we're planning and that is frustrating him. He's unaware that we're one step ahead of him."

Wendy: " I'm behind you guys all the way. We should murder him before he attacks first. And we all can see that Buja is the one he wants to kill."

Sbu: " he's playing a dangerous game that he knows he will lose."

Me: " guys please don't talk about death because you're really starting to freak me out."

Buja: " sorry my love. Let's just leave the topic"

Wendy: " about your friend Bongie. Basop, Noxy..."

Sbu laughed and said "mxim, bitch" then drank his shot.

Buja: " she's trying too hard....."

They both shared a chuckle looking at each other. Wendy and I shared a glance, I guess we were both wondering what the joke was really about.

## Chapter 52

Buja obviously saw this thing about Bongie as a joke, but to me it wasn't. It was a matter of fact very serious. So now him and Sbu were busy chuckling calling Bongie a bitch, which didn't really make much sense because Buja knew Bongie through me. As long as I have known Bongie, she didn't come across as a bitch to me. It was even hard to see her as an enemy. I don't know whether I was in denial or what, but I needed to get some answers from her. I wanted to know why she would backstab me like this. I took her as my sister, she actually took Phozi's place because as I said earlier in the diary, I'm not a very trusting person, but I trusted Bongie a lot. I wasn't about to let this go. I needed to confront her about it.

Wendy: " what is so funny? And why are you saying she's trying too hard Buja?"

Buja: " this chick is obviously on some secret plan which is going nowhere. Its actually amusing Wendy. She actually said Noxy slept with Khaya, she was trying her absolute best to sound convincing which of course didn't really pass. In fact, she failed dismal."

Sbu: "tltltl this Bongie thing is really a joke. Ey baby ka Buja, you should invite her over when we having one of our sit-ins. I just want to see her when she gets all moody on us"

Wendy: " Sbu, this is no laughing matter yazi"

Sbu: " okay I've stopped then"

Wendy looked at me and said " love, I actually wanted us to have our own chat. In private"

Buja: " later on Wendy. We still chatting here"

Sbu's phone rang. He answered then said " ayt, I'll open up just now"

He dropped the phone and went to buzz people in. " We've got some visitors" he said.

Me: " who?"

Sbu: " just the usual people who hang out with us. They're driving in now"

Buja kissed my cheek and said " are you still okay?"

I nodded. He took my hand and kissed it. " You just love getting all cozy don't you?" I said.

Buja: " say jump, and I'll ask how high. That's how much I adore you my queen"

I looked away and giggled. " I'm serious" he continued.

The door opened and we heard footsteps of people coming to the living room. " Honey I'm home!!" A female voice shouted.

Vusi entered first, then it was Bomikazi, Joseph and Lwando then Amanda came in. I can't even describe the feeling I had when I saw the sight of her. I removed Buja's hand from mine and folded my arms. I felt like walking out of that house, I just couldn't be in the same room as her. They all greeted and sat down. Amanda was sitting on the couch at the far end. She played with her nails.

Lwando: " 2 by 2. I'm seeing a beautiful thing over here."

I tapped my foot. My inner voice said " Noxy, just leave" I looked at Buja and said " I think its time we went back home"

Wendy: " Noxy, can we talk in my room. Please"

I got up. The tension in the room began to be high. They could all see that I wasn't in the best of moods.

Buja: " we'll get going after you've finished talking to Wendy"

Me: " No, I won't be talking to Wendy. I don't feel like being here any longer. "

Buja: " okay Sbu. What is Amanda doing here? You know I don't want to upset my wife with anything, especially now because she's pregnant. "

Sbu: " I didn't know she was coming Buja sani. If I did I would've tried to stop her."

Bomikazi: " but guys how were we suppose to leave her alone? She-"

Buja: " you shut the fuck up. We're not talking to you."

Bomikazi kept quiet.

Amanda got up and said " its fine, I'll leave. I can see that I'm the problem"

Sbu: " wait....people I'm sorry, this is very awkward as it is"

Wendy got up and said " come Noxy.." She held my hand and we went upstairs to one of the rooms. She closed the door and we went to sit in the couches that were in the lounge area which was still in the same room. It was one huge and beautiful bedroom.

Wendy: " I know Amanda ticks you off, and I'm sorry. I was unaware that she's coming"

Me: " how do I know she's not flirting with Buja as we speak? I hate the feeling I'm having right now. She once attacked me. I hate her!"

Wendy: " Noxy, I don't want you to be angry because I need to ask you something. Please say yes. I'm begging you"

Me: " what's that??"

Wendy: " may you please be my matron of honour?"

Me: " what?! No I don't want to.."

Wendy: " I know this Amanda thing has just spoiled everything. It would mean so much to me if you were. I know we got along when you had just arrived in town. I wish things would be the same again"

There was a knock on the door. " Come in!" Wendy shouted. Amanda entered. " Hi Noxy, may I please talk to you. In private"

Me: " you must be out of your mind! Not in a million years"

Amanda: " I really need to talk to you. I want to let out everything that has been bugging me"

Me: " I don't care what you have to say Amanda. You and me are enemies and I doubt that will ever change."

Amanda: " after what happened to me, I felt I needed to make things right. I got my memory back. I remember everything that happened. I've had time to think and I can't completely move on without making things right with you"

Wendy: " look Amanda, I can't leave Noxy alone with you. She doesn't trust you and I can't blame her after everything you've done"

Amanda: " okay.."

She breathed out loud and sat down. " I want to say I'm sorry for everything that I've done to you"

I let out a slight laughter. I didn't believe she was sorry at all.

Amanda: " I know you think I'm up to one of my games, but I'm not. Noxy, I was rude and bitchy to you the first time I met you because I was threatened. I was having an affair with your husband. But instead of hiding away I made sure that you know about it. I wanted you to go back to where you came from. I know it will take some time for you to forgive me, but I'm deeply sorry, I really am. You didn't deserve what I did to you. You're his wife, and I was just being used, that's the honest truth. Bulelani played me. I'm done and I've moved on."

The whole time I was looking at her blankly.

Amanda: " I'm back together with my ex. Things didn't go okay between us after I started sneaking around with Bulelani. But I know he loves me, and I'm willing to give our relationship another try"

She took out her phone and paged something. She then came over to me. " Here's his picture. I've even loaded some of my pics with him on face book. "

She had typed " X-man *heart emoticon*" and they looked all cozy together with this guy.

Amanda: " I hope this will convince you that I've really moved on"

Me: "okay"

Amanda: " okay?"

Me: " yes, there's nothing more I can say. Please excuse me"

She stood up " Noxy!" I stopped and turned around to look at her "there has been this huge tension between Wendy and I ever since she found out about the affair. I'm really sorry to both of you. I know it was wrong to try and build my happiness on a married woman's tears. But I feel Noxy you're being unfair. You forgave Buja, why can't you forgive me?"

Her question hit me hard. I felt guilty. " He's the one that lied to me even though he knew he wasn't going to divorce you. I also deserve a 2nd chance. Please."

Me: " I'll think about it Amanda. "

Wendy stood up. " Thanx, Amanda. This is very unlike you. But thanx for trying"

I walked out of the bedroom and went back to the living room. Buja was with his friends, and Bomikazi was sitting next to Vusi. Buja stood up and came over to me. Wendy walked in as well and went to sit next to Sbu. Buja held my hand " did Wendy talk to you about what she wanted to talk about?"

Me: " yes"

Amanda walked in and sat alone in the single couch.



Buja: " what was happening upstairs?"

Me: " nothing"

He lifted up my chin " are you sure you're alright?"

Me: " Yes, Buja. I'm fine"

I was a bit annoyed with everything.

Buja: " okay"

He planted a kiss on my lips. " Should we go?"

Me: " yes, maybe after an hour."

He nodded and held my hand then we went to sit on the couch again. Amanda had a phone call. She stood up and walked out. Everyone was engaging in a random chat. Moments later Amanda walked in with a man holding hands. " Guys...please meet my man. X-man"

She kissed his cheek. " Hey..." He said greeting.

Everyone greeted back.

Wendy: " I'm glad you two worked things out"

Amanda: " of course we did, we found our way back to each other. What happened was just one of those obstacles in our relationship"

She looked at Buja with the corner of her eye, X-man came close and kissed her. Sbu cleared his throat thrn said " does X-man have a full name?"

Amanda: " for now, you guys will know him as my X-man. Nevermind his name" she winked.

I looked at Buja. He sipped on his glass and put his arm around me.

X-man: " uhm....anyway I think we should get going babes. Guys, I'm pleased to meet all of you"

Vusi: " uh...like wise.."

They said their goodbyes and left. After they left everyone continued their chat like nothing had just happened. Later on Buja and I said we had to go. By this time Lutha was busy eating ice cream with the other kids. We left going back to our place. When we arrived Buja said " what did Amanda say to you?"

Me: " she was apologizing"

Buja: " oh.."

He looked surprised but I ignored him. I went to the bedroom to take off what I was wearing. I wanted to wear my tracksuit.

" I'm sorry babe. I really didn't know she was coming" he said. " No, its okay. I just wonder if its not all an act"

Buja: " I don't know, I really don't. Maybe we should go and eat out for supper today."

Me: " yeah, why not"

He came close and held my waist.

Buja: " I promise I'll make it up to you. That is all the hurt I've caused you, babe. I feel so guilty for what I did to you. "

I reluctantly smiled and nodded. I just didn't know what to say at that point. I decided to change the subject. " Wendy has asked me to be her matron of honour"

He smiled " I hope you said yes"

Me: " I said I'll think about it. I have my doubts though. I'll be heavily pregnant by November. How will I look in those pics? I don't understand why she's asking me. We're not even close"

Buja: " I'm sure she has her plan on how she'll make things work. Wendy is a nice woman. That's why I think you should be more closer to her than these loose woman you busy creating friendships with"

Me: " loose women? the same women you cheat on me with right?"

He let go of me and said " please don't start an unnecessary fight"

I kept quiet. I could see that I ticked him off. He walked away from me, but I decided to go to my son and chill with him. Later on we went out to a restaurant to eat supper. We were getting along again.

The weekend ended and it was now on monday. I arrived at work. Bongie was already there. She greeted me but I totally ignored her. We kept our distance from each other the whole day, but most of the time I was working with Karen in her office. Home time arrived. She followed me to my car.

Me: " what do you want?"

I asked totally annoyed by her.

Bongie: " what's wrong with you?"

I got into my car and reversed. She rushed to hers and followed behind me as I drove off. I decided to drive to the side because she was clearly following me. I got out of my car. She parked behind me and also got out. I stood there and crossed my arms looking at her.

Bongie: " what did I do, Noxy? I've been a good friend to you but all of a sudden you've started acting different towards me."

Me: " good friend? Bongie, if you say you've been a good friend to me I want you to be honest with me"

Bongie: " okay..."

Me: " did you tell my husband that I slept with Khaya in that get-away trip?"

Her eyes wondered around then she looked at me. " I was angry Noxy. I'm sorry, I didn't mean too. I just wanted him to feel the pain you felt when he was cheating on you. Remember at that time there was mystery woman, and you knew he was sleeping with her. I wanted to hear his reaction. The thing is, I took your pain and the hurt. I felt I needed to make him pay."

Me: " so its true..."

She nodded " I'm sorry, I hope you'll find it in your heart to forgive me. Yes, its true"

I gave her one hell of a smack across the face. " You traitor. I trusted you." I said shaking with anger.

She looked at me in total astonishment and tears rolled down her face. I've always tried to remain calm, but that day I lost my composure.

## Chapter 53

I felt like killing Bongie. I didn't care whether I was pregnant, all I had was this uncontrollable anger inside me. " How dare you!" I shouted at her.

" Noxy.." she said all teary. " I said I'm sorry"

Me: " I'm so sick and tired of people doing the most selfish and hurtful things then come back and say 'I'm sorry' and of course I'm expected to forgive. You can go to hell Bongiwewe. From now on we are just colleagues, nothing more, nothing less"

Bongie: " I went too far, I know"

She was now wiping her face " I hated myself after what I did, that's why I begged Buja not to tell you. I was just so angry at that moment, I didn't think"

Me: " was it the guilt that made you help me so quickly to find a flat? Sandi and Nelisa were right about you. You are such a backstabber"

Bongie: " I'm not, I hope one day you'll realize that I was only trying to help you"

Me: " tell me then, why did you lie about having a cousin called Nwabisa? Is my marriage problems a joke to you?"

Bongie: " uhm...look,I can explain"

Me: " then explain..."

She just got more teary instead" I'm...look...uhm" she started sniffing and taking out tissues. I shook my head, she couldn't even explain this whole cousin thing. But what I knew for sure is that Buja did sleep with Khaya's girlfriend, its just that, I didn't get how she knew about it and why she had to lie about the girlfriend being her cousin.

Me: " I want the truth"

Bongie: " I think I have to go..."

I pulled her while she turned around.

Bongie: " yazi Noxy, I'm not going to fight with you. Maybe this temper is caused by your pregnancy because I don't know you to be this aggressive"

Me: " you are going to tell me the truth Bongiwewe!! I will know today if you are Judas!"

She looked at me. " Judas? Is that what you think of me?" She asked.

I folded my arms and looked at her.

Bongie: " then I guess you must be Jesus"

Me: " hahaha is that your way of trying to be sarcastic?"

Bongie: " I don't have to answer this. I'll talk to you when you've calmed down"

Me: " you owe me and explanation. I want to know why are you treating my marriage like its yours."

Bongie: " you were letting Buja walk all over you that's why. I was only trying to help you"

Me: " so that's why you were so eager for me to divorce him?"

Bongie: " aren't you in a process of divorcing him?"

Me: " how do you know that?"

I could see her swallowing hard. She rushed to her car and said " I'm sorry, but I have to go"

She got in and drove off. I realized she didn't give me a definite answer about this Nwabisa/Aviwe cousin, nor did she answer me about the divorce. I remembered that I found her in my office when I had received the divorce papers, but I decided not to ask her any further. For my health's sake I tried to calm myself down and not upset myself too much over this. I got into my car and took out my phone. I paged it to Sandi's number. I didn't care what Buja and Sbu had to say, I loved my friends Sandi and Nelisa, and the mere fact that they didn't encourage me to date Loyz even though I'm married showed honesty in them. Sandi answered and said " Noxy! Yho haisana I thought the friendship is over even though I didn't get the memo. You've been so scarce."

Me: " hey..where are you?"

Sandi: " I've just left the office, I'll start by at the shopping mall to buy a few things at Shoprite."

Me: " can we meet up?"

Sandi: " sure"

I hung up and drove off to the shopping mall she was going to. I arrived and gave her a call. She told me she's waiting my the 2nd floor entrance. I drove and parked there then got out and made my way to the entrance. She was there waiting for me. We hugged. " Wow! Are you sure you're not carrying twins?" She asked with a big smile on her face.

Me: " No! Gosh, I would die"

She laughed.

Sandi: "How have you been?"

Me: " I don't know where to start. Can we go somewhere to catch up?"

Sandi: " Sure."

We went to Mugg n Bean.

I ordered a de-caffeine coffee and she ordered Apple Juice.

Sandi: " you don't look okay chomy.... Noxy, your hand is shaking"

I looked at my hand, it was indeed shaking. The waiter arrived with our orders. " Thank you" I took a spoon.

Me: " things are not quite good Sandi. I don't even know if I should trust you, but hey, I'll take my chances"

Sandi: " what's wrong?"

Me: " Bongie told Buja I slept with Khaya at the get-away trip we went to"

She covered her mouth and said " you lie!"

Me: " I'm dead serious. "

Sandi: " why would she tell your husband that?! Remember I told you that you must watch out? I wasn't kidding. I knew something was fishy. I did chat to Nelisa about this strange behaviour of hers."

Me: " I know I'm being somewhat a gossip girl right now and Bongie is your friend. But sana, I'm beyond disappointed, I really am. I don't know if I'll ever be able to trust anyone and I don't even care if you tell her about this."

Sandi: " I won't tell her. I'm just glad that you finally saw what a snake she can be. I'll give you my honest opinion about all of this"

She drank her juice then said" I wish I could drink a glass of wine right now, but anyways.."

I smiled and said " when will you ever stop loving alcohol"

Sandi: " alcohol is my boyfriend. I'll stop when I find a husband"

She winked. I let out a laughter then said " mxim, into zakho.."

Sandi: " as I was saying, I think Bongie envies what you have Noxy. You can ask Nelisa and she'll tell you the exact same thing. If you're not with us, she'll tell us about how big your house is, how successful and handsome your husband is. How you are so lucky. I mean, that's all she ever talks about. Why do you think Nelz and I were ganging up on her that other day? We hated the fact that she called Buja a bastard, it was even worse to say it in front of you. I don't care what marriage problems you and him have, but she had no right to call your husband names. "

Me: " well I thought at that time it was all innocent"

Sandi: "sana, I was giving you a hint when I said be careful of her. The way she's always talking about how lucky you are makes me suspicious."

Me: "how can she say I'm lucky when she knew almost all the downs of my marriage? I cried to her about almost everything"

Sandi: "well she didn't say anything to us, all she talked about was how wow your life is."

Me: "you know Bongie right? Since primary. I think that's what you said"

Sandi: "yes"

Me: "does she have a cousin called Nwabisa?"

Sandi: "not that I know of"

Me: "how about Aviwe?"

Sandi: "nope...I don't know any Aviwe"

Me: "okay, any close cousin that you know"

Sandi: "she's got close cousins, but they currently out of town..."

Me: "did you know Khaya before you met him in that get-away?"

Sandi: "Khaya the cutie? Oh my gosh, but hey, my number 1 is Vusi, the one I shagged with"

She giggled.

Me: "Sandi, focus"

I gave her a straight face. "Nope, the first time I saw him was at the get-away, I'm not sure about Nelisa and Bongie" she said.

Me: "okay thanx"

I sipped on my cup. "Its clear this cousin doesn't exist. I'm thinking of just letting this go. I'm not cut out to be a detective." I said feeling defeated. This whole thing was just consuming my energy.

Sandi: "I'll keep an eye on her if you want. But Bongie and I aren't close anymore ever since our argument. And I'm not sorry about the things I said. Nelisa is not sorry either."

My phone rang, it was Buja.

Me: "hello.."

Buja: "hey babe, where are you?"

Me: "I'm with my friend, Sandi. We doing some catch up"

He kept quiet.

Me: "hello?"

Buja: "I'm here...you usually back round about this time so I was just checking up on you"

Me: "I'll be back within an hour, is it okay"

Buja: "I miss you, please come back now"

Me: "haibo..okay"

Buja: "love you"

Me: "love you too"

He hung up.

Me: "love, I have to go. Buja is not very patient."

Sandi: "I bet you he knows I slept with Vusi. Surely Vusi told him that's why he's being uneasy. He must not worry, I won't influence you with my bad habits."

She chuckled and sipped her juice.

Me: "Sandi, do you ever stress?"

She laughed and said " I do, but with making targets at work. The rest I don't care. In fact, Vusi called me last week, you know what that means..."

Me: " what?"

Sandi: " I passed the test. I'm not a refrigerator down there"

She smiled almost like she was holding in her laughter. I couldn't help but laugh. " You're so crazy!!" I said still laughing.

Sandi: " hahaha my friend, what you see is what you get with me. I don't hide anything"

Me: " yhu sana, you're one hell of a character. Got to go love"

Sandi: " sure, I should get going too. Got shopping to do."

We called the waiter and waited for the bill. Moments left we left. I drove off back to my house. My meet up with Sandi helped me in a way, I had calmed down and it felt good to laugh with her. I drove in my car in the garage and decided to sms her " thanx for the good laugh" she replied " anytime sweetie. Now stop being so scarce"

I got out of the car and made my way to the house. When I opened, Buja was chilling in living room drinking a bottle of Castle Lite.

Me: "hello"

Buja: " hey my love...."

I went to him and sat down.

Buja: " how was your day?"

Me: " hectic..."

He came to sit next me and said " how about a foot massage.."

Me: " I need it..."

I laid my feet on top of his lap and laid on the couch. He started massaging me.

Me: " that's feels so good.

I closed my eyes. "I confronted Bongie, and she confessed that what you said is true. Right now, all I need is to sleep my problems away"

Buja: " don't let that stress you, we're okay right now aren't we? She didn't win"

Me: " that's not the point. The point is I've been back stabbed by a friend"

Buja: " you know what babe, let's just forget about everything, just for tonight and just concentrate on us. That friend of yours is not even worth the stress, just keep your distance.

Anyway, how about you go and change."

Me: " yes, and prepare supper. Where's my boy?"

Buja: " we'll fetch him later. You know that his 2nd home is at Sbu's place"

Me: " I guess Lutha and I have no choice but to be friends with them. You just love your friends sana, yet you hate mine"

Buja: " I have my reasons why. Like that Sandi you were with just now, I don't like your friendship with her"

Me: " is it because she slept with Vusi?"

Buja: "now why would I encourage a friendship with people who have one night stands and casual sex? Babe, remember you are married, you can't build friendships with people like abo Sandi and Bongie, what do you guys talk about? I don't want you to end up adopting to their lifestyle"

Me: " chill, I'm not easily influenced. Why are you including Bongie? What do you know about her?"

Buja: " well....she's a wolf, what's that story again? Ah! Yes...Little red riding hood! She's the big bad wolf and has disguised herself. And you, my love, are the girl in the story."

I burst out into laughter " you read too many bed time stories to Lutha, I can't believe you're comparing this situation to that story."

Buja: " hahahaha...yeah, but anyway...."

He drank his beer again.

Me: " let me go and change then."

Buja: " sure babe.."

I took my shoes and my hand bag then made our way to the bedroom. When I arrived there was a red rose on top of the bed and a note. I took the note and read it. " Wear the red dress inside the closet. I've got a surprise for you..." I smiled and made my way to the closet. There was a new red dress right at the front. I took it out and changed. It fitted me even with the big belly, I didn't know how Buja knew my size even though I had gained some weight. I decided on wearing my silver grey heels with it. I wasn't even sure what I was expecting. I walked out of the room and Buja was now playing smooth romantic rnb music, more like from the 80's. I said " babe! What's going on?" Nothing seemed different inside the house. He came to me and said " you look so beautiful mam'Giba." He held my hands and gave me a kiss. After a while we broke the kiss then we made our way to the back yard. When I stepped out, there were candles on top of the table and flower petals on the ground up to where we were going to sit. In the middle of the table, there were a bunch of red roses which were in a beautiful glass vase. He had prepared a romantic dinner for us. He opened the chair for me and I sat down. " Wow...okay, this was so unexpected." I said loving what I'm seeing.

Buja: " that was the plan"

He winked at me then sat down on the opposite chair. I opened the silver lid on the plates. I just knew Buja didn't cook this meal.

Me: " and....where did you order this?"

He laughed and said " from the best restaurant in town. While you were dressing, I was warming up the food"

I laughed and said " ncooh.."

He took out something from his pocket and said " open it, my love" it was a box, I opened it. There was a beautiful diamond necklace inside the box and it was personalized BNL in italic on it." Its a 5 carat, for you sthandwa sam. Let me help you put it on."

Me: " do you ever run out of romantic ideas?"

Buja: " not when it comes to you...."

He got up and helped me put it on. I smiled and said " thanx my love, this means a lot to me..."

Buja: " its a pleasure"

He sat down and we started eating. The food was just too delicious. I was trying my best not to rush when I'm eating, but gosh the baby inside me was just eating up all the food, I actually hoped there was more food inside the house. It felt like I was on my first date.

After we were done with our meal, he said " before I bring you the dessert, may I have this dance" he got up and held out his hand. I stood up and came close to him. We slow danced.

Buja: " I want you to forget about anything and everything that has been going on and just focus on the 2 of us..."

Me: " you mean the 3 of us? Because there's an invader inside my tummy"

We both laughed.

He stroked my cheek and said " Noxy, you mean the world to me"

Me: " it feels like I have escaped the real world. After the day I've had, I really needed this"

Buja: " there's more of romantic surprises to come. This is just the shots...."

Me: " ayi lanto...I'm not lucky, I'm blessed mos.."

He gave me a charming smile then said " I'm the blessed one, do you know why?"

Me: " uhm....I'll ask why anyway"

I said blushing looking at him.

Buja " When I was created, my life's journey included you in it. Noxy wam, I love you beyond the depths of my soul. I know I'm an imperfect husband, with many flaws, but thanks for loving me regardless of my imperfections"

Me: " you know what my love, I'm permanently in love with you, always and forever."

He let out a smile and said " that's right, you're stuck with me for the rest of your life" I giggled. he came close and pressed his lips on mine giving me a sizzling hot passionate kiss. We broke the kiss and continued having our slow dance. I had even forgotten that I smacked someone. My husband's idea had definitely worked. We had, just for one night, separated ourselves from the world and concentrated on us, even though we didn't know what tomorrow might bring.

## Chapter 54

It was such a beautiful evening. Buja knew exactly how to put a smile on my face. After our slow dance we later on ate dessert and just spent quality time with each other. It was now late in the evening and we had gone back inside. I said " babe, you know I won't sleep very well if Lutha is not here with me."

Buja: " Lutha is doing very fine at Sbu's place. You know what? I think we should just give him a call"

Me: " okay, yeah. I just want to check how his doing there"

Buja took out his phone and called Wendy. " Do they stay together now?"

Buja: " Not really, but she's there most of the time like before. She'll move in full time once they get married. That's their deal."

Me: " oh okay"

Buja: " hey Wendy, what's Lutha doing there? Hahahaha oh sure, my wife is so worried. Ok, hold on"

He gave me the phone. " Wendy wants to speak to you" he said. I took it and answered.

Wendy: " hey there, how are you?"

Me: " I'm good, and you?"

Wendy: " great. Lutha is having a good time. I've even dressed him in his pyjama's they're about to sleep now"

I looked at Buja. He didn't say anything about Lutha sleeping over.



Me: " okay, can I speak to him?"

Wendy: " sure"

She called him. Moments later Lutha said " hi mommy"

Me: " nana, I miss you"

Lutha: "I'll sleep over here mommy. I'll see you tomorrow. I'm having a lot of fun"

Me: " uhm...oh okay. Goodnight then"

Lutha: " night-night!"

He hung up on me.

Me: " wow okay"

Buja: " what?"

Me: " Lutha just hung up first."

Buja: " hahaha he's enjoying it there. But don't worry, atleast he'll have someone to play with very soon"

Me: " Yeah. But I wish you told me that he won't be sleeping here"

Buja: " you weren't going to approve babe, I know you. And he wanted to sleep over. Sbu and Wendy are like family to us, I didn't see a problem"

Me: " you really trust Sbu ne?"

Buja: " Sbu is my bro. He's like a brother to me. I trust him just like he trusts me"

Me: " I see that"

We later went to change and took a shower together then went to bed. All we did was cuddle and chat about everything, but in those chats we ended up being intimate - giving ourselves to one another. Everytime I made love to my husband, I felt even more in love with him. The love was indeed going stronger.

The next day we both got ready for work. Lutha was going to be sent to school by Wendy. I took out what my hubby was going to wear and an outfit for myself as well. After we were done dressing up we ate breakfast. After I was done, I said "I think I'll drive the GTI today"

Buja: " feel free my love"

I took its car keys and gave him his lunch box then took mine and we locked the door.

Buja: " have a splendid day"

Me: " thanx babe, you too"

We kissed. He drove out first and hooted while I followed. The gate closed while I drove off. I must admit the GTI drove much better than my own car, I was actually thinking of driving it more often. I arrived at work and parked. That's when I remembered I had a fight with Bongie, I could already feel the tension between us that was about to come in the office. I was early and she hadn't arrived yet. I got out of the car then went inside. I went to my office and then decided to make myself a cup of tea. Rulene walked in the kitchen and greeted and we had a chat. While going to my desk Bongie had just arrived, we passed each other like we were strangers, and well that's how it was at the office the whole day. I could see the others were sensing the tension between us but I guess they were just minding their own business. Home time I left and went straight home, Lutha was there already, Buja had picked him up. As soon as I walked in Lutha came over to me and told me about the good time he had with his friends and how he wants to sleep over there again.

Days went by and well Buja and I finally made the decision of selling the furniture in my flat to a 2nd hand shop. The price was less than the amount I bought it but Buja said its okay. He offered

to settle all my debts, he's comment was "leave it all to me, babe. You shouldn't have had these debts in the first place" Buja just loved and enjoyed playing the super hero to me though.

I met up with Wendy as well while I sent Lutha to her place for the weekend. I sat down with her and said "I thought about what you asked me"

Wendy: "yes..."

Me: "look Wendy. You and I aren't very close. We're actually trying to make things right between us. Being a matron of honour is a big deal and I feel you should ask someone who's very close to your heart. I'm sorry, but I have to decline the offer. However, I am willing to support you in everything and be there for you if you need me in anything"

She sighed and said "its alright. I have a 2nd person in mind. I was hoping you would say yes though, but anyways, its not the end of the world"

Me: "thanx for understanding"

Wendy: "can you please come with me to check out the different designs I can choose for my wedding dress? That is next weekend on saturday."

I smiled and said "sure, why not"

Wendy: "thanx"

Me: "and Wendy, thanx for taking care of my child when he's with you. You should also bring your kids over to my house some time"

Wendy: "no its okay. We've got a nanny and you're pregnant. Kids can be a handful you know"

Me: "haha yeah, you've got a point there. But I think next year Buja and I might get a nanny. We'll be having two kids so I will use a little help"

Wendy: "that's an idea. Gosh Noxy, I can't wait for my wedding day"

Me: "I'm sure you're excited. I was scared more than being excited when I was getting married. "

Wendy: "hahaha you were a teenager that's why."

Me: "yeah, but I don't regret anything. Buja has been so good to me"

I was literally blushing thinking about the romantic dinner we had.

Wendy: "hahaha my goodness, you're so in love with him. The love is written all over your face. Its the same with Sbu, we've been through so much together but the love I have for him just doesn't diminish"

We both smiled.

Wendy: "hahaha! Oh my goodness, look at us, we're like love sick puppies"

We both laughed at ourselves. Later on Wendy and I went out to have some drinks, which were alcohol free and did grocery shopping together. I was starting to get along with her again, just like the way we did before. And I was kind of keen helping her out with the wedding preparations, even though she was thinking of hiring a wedding planner.

So now it was a month later...

Buja and I had gone to the gynae for a check up, but funny enough we decided to just know the gender the following month. I was secretly hoping my baby was a girl, I wanted a little me and I didn't want to get disappointed. Buja said he doesn't really mind even if its a boy or a girl but he stood on saying he has a feeling it was a boy again. It was only 4 weeks now until Wendy's wedding. She was super excited but also had some anxiety attacks. So many things had to be done and she had some stress about it. Luckily, she had found a wedding planner. We were now phoning each other. I guess the idea of me and her being friends was definitely working. The

conversations I had with her were not out of line, I realized I had a lot in common with her, apart from me being married and her joining the marriage life soon.

So now it was Tuesday around lunch time and we were all chilling in the lunch room with my colleagues. When I say all, I mean Bongie was also there. She was now getting close to Rulene, who was the Receptionist and I was starting to get close to sis'Linda, because I was avoiding chilling with her. We did talk because we were in the same office, but most of our conversations were strictly professional.

So Rulene asks Bongie "so did you and Xolisa sort things out?" Bongie looked at me and went "yeah" then looked at her "but we'll talk about that later" I looked through the window and decided to just eat my food and mind my own business. It was clear she didn't want to talk about this in front of me. I started up a conversation about something else. Bongie's phone rang and she smiled and got up "got to get this" she said and walked out of the room.

Rulene: "she had a fight with her boyfie, but I think they have worked things out"

She said talking softly so that Bongie couldn't hear. "Okay" I said. Talk about trusting someone with your secrets. Later on she came back and we continued eating our lunch. Home time I went to pick up Lutha because it was my turn and Buja had a business meeting to attend too. I arrived at home with Lutha and prepared supper for my family. Buja only came back around 6pm. He kissed my cheek and said "hello my love"

I turned and kissed him on his lips "hello to you too, my hubby"

He smiled and said "guess what?"

Me: "what..."

Buja: "my friends and I have decided to hire a place just for saturday. We'll have our sit-in there. Its actually for both Sbu and Wendy, then you ladies can have your own private function while we men have our own as well.

Me: "sounds interesting..."

Buja: "we've even hired an artist to perform for us, just for fun."

Me: "mmmmh...I'll definitely be there. So who's coming?"

Buja: "my friends with their partners. I've even invited my syndicates, Luzz, Lucky and Jabu. "

Me: "haha I can't wait to see Luzz's girlfriend"

Buja: "haha that's if he has one"

Me: "of course he does. He is a good looker"

Buja: "have you been checking him out?"

I laughed and said "what if I have?" He gave me a weird look. I laughed even more and said "jokes man!" All he said was "ooooh..." I returned back to the pots and later on we ate supper.

The week went by fast and finally it was the weekend. I was excited even though I knew weekends tend to end very quickly. So I woke up first in a very good mood and went to wash my face and brush my teeth, when I exited the en-suite bathroom Buja was entering, he held my waist and said "good morning"

Me: "morning my love"

He kissed my lips then went to wash his face. While I busy making the bed I felt his presence behind me, the next thing he slowly slid his right hand inside my underwear and kissed my neck. I stopped what I was doing and closed my eyes. "I'm not in a hurry to leave the bedroom, are you?" He murmured and nibbled on my ear. It wasn't long before we started stripping and having

a quickie. We then went to the kitchen together while he was whispering sweet nothings in my ear. While I was still giggling Lutha walked in and said " morning!"

We greeted back. " Have you brushed your teeth?" I asked

Lutha: " oops! I forgot. But I did wash my face..."

He ran back to the bathroom. I made breakfast so long while Buja said he'll check up on him. Around 3pm we were ready to go. I was wearing a dress which was just above the knee, brown gladiator shoes, the diamond necklace Buja gave me and I blow dried my hair giving it more volume. I decided on applying my bronze colour nude lipstick and powdered my face. Buja wore a short sleeve shirt and his beige chino pants. We walked out and locked the house. We decided to drive the Jeep for the day and dropped off Lutha to his friends. Wendy's mom was also there and didn't mind looking after the kids. Then we drove off to this place the event was going to take place. When we arrived, almost everyone had just arrived. We all got in and of course there were couples, which wasn't a must, because some people came with their friends. Inside the place looked beautiful. We sat on white couches, there was also a bar area that some preferred sitting in. A waiter came and we ordered our drinks. Wendy and Sbu arrived. They sat opposite me and Buja, Wendy said "Noxy, I want us to have a lil chat, I need your advice on something. "

Me: " sure love"

She smiled and winked. I gave her the "what's up" look. She drank a glass of champagne while Sbu kissed her cheek. Luzz and the other 2 guys arrived, Luzz was holding hands with some pretty lady who looked like she's round about 20 years old. I looked at Buja and smiled. " That's it...that's my boy!" He said. I laughed at him. He got up and shoulder bumped with them then started a chat, moments later he sat down next to me again. Amanda arrived walking in with the X-man dude. They looked so cozy on their arrival. Let me describe to you guys what she was wearing. She was wearing leather bum shorts, black crop top and black open toe heels. She had a long weave on which looked like 20 inch, a belly ring, and had a tattoo on her shoulder. She had applied a red matte lipstick. She was chewing a bubble gum and man oh man the confidence she had on her walk made people turn to look at her. Bare in mind, this is the same woman who had an affair with my hubby. And here I was with a big bump in my belly. I somehow missed my old body when I saw her. I didn't even want to check if Buja was looking at her or not. I drank my juice, in fact, I downed it. " Hello everyone!!" She shouted. X-man held her waist and said " baby, let's find a nice place to sit." I stared at the floor not knowing where exactly to look. Buja kissed my cheek and said " are you okay babe?"

I nodded and said " I'm fine my love" he started a conversation with me. I felt abit at ease to know he wasn't concentrating on her body, because I'll admit, every women there was looking at her. Even Wendy kept staring at her. Admit it ladies, if there is a threat in the place, it will be written all over your face. Your eyes will watch that woman like a hawk. And my pregnancy didn't give me much confidence in my own body. The next thing Amanda came over to us. " Hey Noxy love". She said opening her arms for a hug. I decided not to be ugly towards her and got up to hug her. " How are you?" She asked.

Me: " Good. Yourself?"

Amanda: " I'm good..."

She went to hug Wendy and some ladies who were with their partners. Her thighs were in total display. I stole a glance and looked at Buja. He was listening to Lwando who was chatting to him and concentrating on the convo. I looked away and downed my juice again. I called the waiter for a refill. I breathed and closed my eyes " Noxy, stop being so insecure" I told myself.

Wendy: " Noxy, I doubt we'll be sleeping tonight, but I guess you won't be able to stay up the whole night"

Me: " hahaha, by 10pm I'll be sleepy. Maybe I can try that after I've given birth"

Wendy: " hahaha I understand love"

Wendy and I started chatting. Amanda left us and walked away to get a cider. Deep house music was playing in the mean time while people were socializing. Someone walked in from the entrance. When I turned to look, it was Bongie. I got such a shock because I was wondering what on earth she was doing there. She went straight to X-man and Amanda.

Bongie: " Xolisa!! So you're cheating on me with this bitch? How dare you!!"

Everyone turned to look at what was going on. The next thing Bongie went straight to Amanda and gave her a smack. Wendy shouted " where's the security??!"

Amanda smacked her back and grabbed Bongie's hair. They started fighting, but Bongie was losing the fight. Amanda was smacking and punching her like no ones business, even Bongie's nose started bleeding. I got up and said " guys please stop!!" I looked at Buja and said " why aren't you guys stopping the fight?"

The securities came running and grabbed Bongie's arms.

Buja: " babe, let's not get involved"

He said with a slight smile on his face and drank his glass of lime and vodka. Sbu was also calm chilling there watching. I sat down in total panic of what was going on and looked. Amanda didn't look bad at all but Bongie was the opposite. Bongie asked " so Xolisa you're busy with her?"

Amanda: " listen here you asshole, Xolisa was mine before you guys even met. You just kept his bed warm for me, but now I'm back. You better stay away from my man. Security! please throw this bitch out"

She took her cider and walked away looking proud of herself.

X-man: "Bongie, I'm sorry, but you have to go. Its over, I told you on the phone"

Bongie: " you're just after money Xolisa, I know this won't even last"

The security guard said " ma'am, let's get going. " She turned around and our eyes met, she looked around and glanced at Buja, Wendy, Sbu and the rest of the people who were there. Embarrassment and shock is all she had on her face, she just couldn't even hide it. I was embarrassed as it is for her, I looked down almost feeling her humiliation. She walked out.

Luzz: " haha yho, now that was free entertainment" he said chuckling.

I got up. Buja held my arm. " Where are you going?"

Me: " I need to know if she's alright..."

Buja: " nah leave her. She wasn't suppose to be here in the first place"

Sbu: " hehehe, what the hell was she thinking? Haha damn some girls though. Let me tell the dj to turn the music up. Its time to get this party started."

He got up and walked away. I looked at Amanda, and she was laughing having a chat with her friends. This Xolisa who of course is X-man had his arms around her.

It now made sense why she threw a brick on my car wind screen. Amanda was just plain rough, she clearly wasn't afraid of cat fights and surely had experience when it came to them. I looked at Buja and said " she could have done the same thing to me. I hate what she just did and I need to check up on Bongie"

Buja: " then I would have killed her and buried her in the middle of nowhere. And babe, trust me when I say don't contact that bitch. Her and Amanda are the same, she's not worth it. I hope now you realize that you shouldn't befriend people like her. Come let's have a chat with Luzz and his girlfriend"

He smiled and got up then walked away to Luzz. Bongie was still my colleague, how on earth was she going to face me at work on monday after what had happened to her. I just couldn't get over the look on her face when she saw me. It didn't take a genius to realize that she didn't expect to see me in that place at all.

## Chapter 55

I got up and also went to Luzz and his girlfriend with Buja. " Hey there" I said hugging both of them. Luzz introduced us to his girlfriend then asked " what was that all about? Hahaha damn that chick got her ass whipped!" his girlfriend even laughed.

Buja: " they're fighting over a man, typical bitches..."

Luzz: " haha damn, this chick with bum shorts knows her story"

Buja: " my wife is worried about the one that got beaten up, that chick tried to break us up ke Luzz by saying something that wasn't even true about Noxy. Yet she feels sorry for her"

Me: " did you see those punches? Even her nose bled"

Buja and Luzz laughed so hard. I guess this thing with Bongie was a joke to them. " You need to stop catching feelings babe" Buja said still laughing. I smiled and said " I think I'm the only one who cares in this place"

Luzz: " you got that right. The bitch got served. Did you see how she entered this place? She thought she was the boss. She had so much confidence yet she can't even fight."

I cracked in laughter.

Me: " and then she came out looking like what?"

Buja: " tltltl yho babe, and then this chap dumps her in front of us! She was most definitely the opposite of a boss. She was more like a clown"

Luzz: " talk about a joke of the week. Damn"

I couldn't stop laughing and Luzz's girlfriend was in tears. Buja and Luzz were just turning this whole thing into one big joke.

Buja: "you see now my love, I think I should start training you to be hardcore but of course, be soft only for me"

Luzz: " yes, she needs to reach that point of seeing people dying in front of her and sleep peacefully at night."

Me: " you guys are kidding right?"

Buja: " I think Luzz is a bit too extreme, but I'm concerned about your softness babe. Especially when it comes to other people. I want you to be cold in some things and put feelings aside"

Luzz: " Tar Buja is a good teacher ke sis'Noxy, in no time you'll be a pro in this"

Me: " I'm not sure what to expect, guns maybe?"

Buja: " they'll be included. But we'll wait until after you give birth. "

Me: " uhm...."

Luzz: " its for the best..you're Buja's wife, there are some things you need to get used to."

Me: " guys don't turn me into something I'm not"

Luzz: " sis'Nox, its just a lil training, we need people like you in our lives though. You're full of love."

Buja: " yeah, but my babe is capable of being hard core though. Not so long ago I was on my knees crying and begging for forgiveness"

I looked away trying hard not to smile. Luzz laughed and said " not my sis'Nox, she's too nice to do that"

Buja: " eish Luzz, it was bad"

Me: " haha guys no please stop. Luzz I'm inviting you and your girlfriend for sunday lunch tomorrow"

Luzz: " nice...okay thanx, do you hear that Zee?"

His girlfriend said " sure, no problem. We'll be there" we continued having our chats. Moments later the music was turned up, we were served some food and people were dancing having the time of their lives. A famous dj and Artist came to perform for us. Round about 8pm the ladies went to another section to have our own private function while the guys stayed behind. They all drank shooters at the same time, and of course the queen of the party Wendy was given a lot of attention. Most of the topics were about men though, and sexy lingeries to wear. Amanda was behaving and we were all getting along. So one if the ladies asked " Amanda, what happened earlier, whose that girl?"

Amanda: " some bitch who wanted to steal my man away from me. Over my dead body!"

Bomikazi: " hahahaha! That's you ke Amish."

Wendy pinched me and said " people always wonder how me and her are related, I don't blame them" I let out a laughter. Around 11 the ladies were starting to get drunk and were thinking of changing the venue and going clubbing. I decided to call it a night. So I called Buja asking him to drop me off at home. We all went out of our private area and joined the guys again, who were laughing hard and having their guy talks. I went to my man and said " I'm calling it a night babe"

Buja said " I'll see yo'll chaps later! My love and I are calling it a night."

Vusi said " haibo!! So early Buja?? Come on mfethu!!"

Buja: " we are pregnant! Its way past our bed time!"

Everyone laughed and they said goodnight.

Amanda said " are you guys serious? Buja?"

I turned my head so quickly and gave her a death stare. Buja put his arm around me and said " let's go babe" he didn't respond to her. One of her friends shouted " there's X-man Amanda, don't look so worried" they chuckled. Amanda didn't respond. We went to the car and Buja drove off.

Me: " I guess she was hoping for you to stay behind"

Buja: " Amanda?"

Me: " yes.."

Buja: " haha mxim..."

Me: " I guess she's not over you"

Buja: " who cares?"

I gave him a stare then looked at the road again " uhm...thanx for coming home with me"

Buja: " you don't need to thank me love, we are pregnant, you're not in this alone"

I smiled and said " that's so sweet"

He winked at me and I winked back. We arrived at home and went to take a shower then called it a night. I was so tired I slept almost immediately.

The following day we picked up Lutha then around midday Luzz and his girlfriend came over, they only left later in the evening.

And then the new week started. As soon as I woke up I remembered I never got a meet up with Wendy because she wanted an advice on something, but I made a mental note to see her during the week. I woke up very early than usual and went to take a long bubble bath with bath salts. I only got out of the water when it was starting to get cold. Buja had just gotten out of bed " babe you have a tendency of waking up first lately, its kinda weird...you don't even give me a chance to look at you while you sleeping" he said. I chuckled. He went to take shower while I dressed up for work. I decided on wearing a Flannel Suit dress, black blazer, black velvet rania pointed court shoes, and crystal tab ear rings. Moments later Lutha and Buja got ready and we left. I arrived at the office and greeted everyone with a bright smile on my face. " Had a great weekend?" Rulene asked because I was still at the front " it was good, I went to a private function and of course spent time with my family. How was yours?"

Rulene: " I've got a hang over, so yah, it was hectic"

I laughed and said " you'll be alright" then I made my way to my office. Buja smsed me " I love you..." I replied " uyathandwa nawe my better half heart emoticon" I put my phone down and started working. Well, Bongie was absent for that day. I didn't check up on her and we didn't hear anything from Karen. Home time Rulene came over to me " do you know where Bongie is?"

Me: " nope"

Rulene: " she didn't even call to say she's not coming"

Me: " you should check up on her"

Rulene: " I'll try later because her phone was off"

Me: " okay love"

I left and drove off to pick up Lutha then went home. The following day Bongie was still not at work. Right after I came back from Court to attend to queries Karen came out of the office and said" everyone please come, I need to have a word with you." We all went to her. She didn't look impressed at all, in fact she looked upset.

Karen: " does anyone know where Bongie is? She has not made any attempted to call or send an sms to advise that she won't be coming to work. Its 2 days now and she has to attend to matters in court"

We all kept quiet. " Uhm...I tried phoning her but the call goes straight to voicemail" Rulene said. Karen looked at me and said " Noxy?"

Me: " no, I haven't made contact with her"

Karen: " this is unacceptable, she better have a good reason for doing this or she's in big trouble. You can all go back to work"

She went to her office and slammed the door. Sis'Linda said " guys, there might be something wrong, does anyone know where she stays?"

Me: " I do, I'll check up on her after work. Its fine"

Rulene: "please, and let us know when you find her"

Me: " sure..."

We went back to our desks and continued with our work. After work I drove off to Bongie's place. I hated doing this but everyone at the office was worried about her, but Karen was more angry than worried. Our boss is nice but she is also short tempered, and she had every reason to be upset. I arrived at her flat and got out of the car then went to knock. I knocked for a while until



some said " I'm coming.." She opened the door wearing a gown and her hair looked all fuzzy. She had a minor bruise on her face because of Amanda's punch.

Me: " I was just checking if you alright, Karen and everyone else is worried about you"

Bongie: " I'm fine"

She said with a straight face looking like death.

Me: " okay then"

I turned around and went back to my car." Noxy..." She called out. I stopped and said " yes?"

Bongie: " I'm in a very bad space right now, and I have no one to talk too"

Me: " you've got Sandi and Nelisa....and your other friends"

Bongie: " you don't understand"

Me: " what don't I understand?"

Bongie: " I'm down in the dumps, Noxy."

I remembered what Buja said, she did betray me. I just couldn't be nice to her.

Me: " what do you want from me Bongie?"

Bongie: " I need to tell you something Noxy. I won't be long..."

I decided to go in and sat at the living room. She sat on the single couch.

Bongie: " I want to confess something to you"

Me: " okay, I'm waiting.."

Bongie: " Buja knows something about me. Something humiliating. And what happened on saturday made things worse.."

Me: " I'm listening.."

Bongie:" I'm telling you this because I know you won't judge me Noxy. "

Me: " I'm nice right? That's why you decided to back stab me"

Tears filled her eyes. " When I was in tertiary, I had a friend and we kind of did things together"

I stared at her. " Uhm..." She swallowed " we partied, smoked, drank...we were kind of very wild. I then decided to change..."

There was still silence from me. She continued " uhm....something happened last year.."

She stole a glance then looked down " I slept with Sbu..Buja's friend, it was a one night stand. And the worst part is the door wasn't even closed, Buja and his friends were chilling in the lounge and they could see everything"

I picked up my jaw from the floor. She then said " we were at this guy's place, I forgot his name but its one of Buja's friends.". I sat there like a statue still looking at her.

Bongie: " and then, guess what that Sbu did? 2 hours later he gave me cab money and said I can go. All I could say was 'bye guys' to them and they all looked at me then said their goodbyes, I could just feel their eyes piercing through my skin when I walked out. I was hoping he doesn't remember me but I can see it in his eyes that he does. Then we saw them when Buja was so rude to Loyz, that's one of the reasons I left, I just couldn't be in the same table as them. Saturday I got humiliated once again in front of them. I can't even face the world right now. Noxy, please say something"

Me: " where was your friend while you were sleeping with Sbu?"

Bongie: " she left with some other guy at the club"

Me: " yho.."

Bongie: " this Sbu acts like he doesn't even know me...so does Buja. "

Me: " why do you hate Buja so much then? "

Bongie: " because I know what they do Noxy, they sleep with girls and act cold towards them after."

Me: " so you hate my husband because of what Sbu did to you?"

Bongie: " I hate all of them"

Me: " mxim. I have to go, you decided to back stab me for your own selfish reasons. I don't feel sorry for you Bongie because if Buja had believed you, all hell would have broken loose. He once phoned you to confirm if I was really with you, that tells you on its own what kind of person he is. You want to get back at Sbu but you have no access to him so I'm being the victim now in all of this. "

Bongie: " its not like that.."

Me: " concentrate on your life, because it also needs some fixing up. And by the way, Karen wants answers because you didn't even call. My advice to you is getting a doctors letter because you need a good excuse to her right now. Bye."

I got up and walked away, I went to my car and drove off. I couldn't wait to get home. I arrived and walked in then changed. Buja arrived as well with my boy. We kissed then I went with him to the bedroom.

Me:" Bongie confessed everything to me today. So you knew that he slept with Sbu."

Buja: " yes.."

He said taking off his shirt.

Me: " why didn't you tell me about this?"

Buja: " it wasn't my place"

Me: " this happened last year, he cheated on Wendy too. But why do you guys do that to us?"

Buja: " Sbu hadn't even proposed that time. And he stopped all his ways when he did, just liked I have stopped messing around. What is your so called friend hoping to achieve this time by telling you this?"

Me: " she said she wanted to confess. But how can Sbu do that to her. Alcohol and drugs can really make you do things you regret though. What happened to her is so cold. Sbu didn't even hide the fact that he's using her"

Buja: " what? He didn't use her, he just gave her what she wanted. Now she must stop sulking, Sbu wasn't going to leave his girlfriend for her."

Me: " haibo Buja..."

Buja: " nah, the bitch must stop acting like a victim to you, Sbu didn't force her to spread her legs for him. She must focus on begging that X-man for a love back. "

He laughed then said " I wonder what else she's hiding from you. "

Me: " a lot, and I'm going to wait for her to tell me. There's lots of things that don't make sense and she's the only one who can make sense of them all"

He held my hand " enough about that nasty bitch wanna be, who the fuck has casual sex and becomes a cry baby after? Nxa..anyway, I feel like doing some dirty things to you babe. When I say dirty..nc....nc....you just won't get enough of me. You'll even bunk work and rush to my workplace every single day." He bit the side of his lower lip and stroked my cheek.

I giggled and said " you should work on your language. You swear like its a normal thing"

Buja: " I'll try to be a good guy then"

I wrapped my arms around his neck and we kissed "let's lock the door before Lutha checks up on us" he said " I can't wait any longer, I want my cookie right now" I couldn't help but laugh as he made his way to the door.

## Chapter 56

As soon as Buja locked the door he took off his vest which was under his shirt showing off his 6 pack. I instantly got wet down there. I stripped but he didn't wait for me to finish, he picked me up and gently pressed my body against the wall. " Mind the baby.." I whispered in his ear. "He's enjoying it too" he whispered back " ndiqinisa ifokoto baby" he added. He sucked my neck while his pants slid down, he pushed my under wear to the side and started fingering me, from one finger to two. He then laid me in bed and spread my legs then started licking me even though my undies were still slid to the side. He knew I enjoyed that so much, I moaned while holding his head. He moved up and kissed my stomach, he always did that before coming close to passionately kiss me. He pulled down his boxers and teased me, inserting his shaft and pulling it out again. I wanted him so bad that I pulled him closer to me and said " get it in already. " Not yet, my love" he said softly. He rubbed my clit while playing with his tongue on my nipples, I was more than just wet, my orgasm was even starting to build up even though he hadn't even slid it in yet. He rubbed his shaft up and down my clit and finally inserted it. It filled my punani so much that I started to become breathless. We danced listening to each others rhythms, he lifted one leg up and went deeper, going back and forward then in circles. I started speaking in tongues. We finally reached orgasm and laid in bed in silence. " That was good..." I said biting my lip. " I think I felt my kid kick while I was going deeper." He said raising his eye brow. I laughed and said " are you serious?"

Buja: " I'm sure he was saying ' go daddy go!!' "

I laughed so hard and said " I have to cook"

Buja: " I'm sure you're tired, we should just get take aways"

Me: " I'm not a fan of take aways, a home cooked meal is much healthier"

Buja: " just for tonight babe"

Me: " sure then"

We wiped ourselves and dressed up. We went to check up on Lutha and he was watching the cartoon network eating mashmallows. We decided to join him while Buja made the call to order in supper.

Well, the rest of the week it was the same old routine. Bongie had decided to go to work on wednesday, when the staff asked what happened she said she was sick. She had covered her bruise with make up because it wasn't really showing unless you noticed. Karen called her to the office and she spent about 30 minutes there, I'm sure she was explaining her absents from work. I still kept my distance from her, we only sat together when the others were around, if they weren't I would just go to my office and eat there or go to Buja and spend my lunch time with him.

On the weekend I met up with Wendy, the advice she wanted was regarding her wedding, but her colleague who was married was also with us, we gave our opinions where we can, but at the end of the day it was her decision to make. Well days passed and finally it was the wedding day which took place on a saturday morning. Herself and Sbu had planned a white wedding and traditional which would take place the whole day. We dressed up Wendy and did her make up. Some other lady was her matron of honour and Amanda and 3 of her other friends were the

brides maids. Buja was Sbu's best man. I sat at the front with Lutha while we watched her and Sbu doing their vows holding each others hands. I almost got teary thinking of my day with Buja. Her wedding dress was very beautiful. They slid their rings on each other and kissed. The pastor pronounced them husband and wife, Mr & Mrs Kabase. We then went to a Hall where all the activities would take place, from cutting the wedding cake to Wendy throwing the bridal bouquet to all the single ladies. One of the ladies caught it but I wasn't sure who she was. We had to go and change to our traditional outfit wear. Then it was the traditional wedding. Wendy was given a marriage name by Sbu's family and wore her makoti outfit the same day. However, on monday they would be leaving for their honeymoon. I saw Buja man hugging his friend Sbu and then having a heart to heart chat. I decided to go and see Wendy before leaving because he was at Sbu's home.

I gave her a hug and said " congrats love, I'm very happy for you"

She got teary and said " I can't believe I'm finally Mrs Kabase, I'm happy and scared at the same time. I wonder if the family will love me"

Me: " they will, if they don't then keep your head up high. As long as your husband loves and supports you then you have nothing to fear. Be a good wife to him that's all. I'm sure the Kabase wives and elder women gave you a lot of advice"

She nodded and said " yes they did. Noxy, thanx for everything."

Me: " its my pleasure"

Wendy: " I wonder where Sbu is taking me for the honeymoon, he said its a surprise"

Me: " mmmmh....enjoy love. At least you had a chance to plan your wedding. Buja's mom did everything for me"

Wendy: " really? You were only 18 though"

Me: " I know, but how I wish I planned it with him. I was so young, I wish I could just have another wedding with him. But anyway its too late now because we're already married."

Wendy: " true"

Someone opened the door and 2 ladies came in. It was my time to leave. Moments later Buja and I left. Vusi, Lwando, Joseph and some of his other friends also followed behind us. Buja dropped me and Lutha at home and said he's going out with his friends to celebrate Sbu's day so I didn't mind. I was tired anyways. Around 4am he came back home, I only woke up to check the time when I felt his arms around me.

It was then back to work for us while Wendy and Sbu were out of town on a honey moon.

3 weeks later....

It was the festive season. The year was almost over and I just couldn't wait for it to end. It was the worst year of my life. I had found out my husband was cheating on me with numerous women and that he's involved in corruption. I had almost divorced him, everything in my marriage was just not right that year but thanks to the Almighty, we managed to save our marriage. Lutha's birthday was coming the following week but we were closing on the 15th of December at work and so was Buja so we had decided to celebrate it in his hometown. His sister wasn't coming back that year, she only promised to come back in march but his brother Zwelakhe was coming back. At work they did a baby shower for me, I was given a lot of presents and they all looked beautiful. Buja and I had even bought a baby Cot and placed it in our room.

On the 17th of Dec was Lutha's birthday. Wendy phoned to wish him a good day and so did my sister, mother and some of my family relatives. We had gone down to Buja's home for the holidays, he tried to get along with his brother but we could see there was tension. I didn't have

anything against me though. While I was busy preparing for Lutha's birthday with his wife and some ladies who were Buja's cousins, his older brother said " Simtha, how have you been?"

Me: " I'm good thanx, and yourself?"

Zwelakhe: " I'm good too. So do you know whether its a boy or a girl?"

Me: " I think Buja and I want it to be a surprise. We're not ready to know"

Zwe: " haha okay. I hope my lil bro has been good to you"

Me: " uhm...yeah he has"

Zwe: " that's great. If there's anything you would like to talk about I'm here for you"

Me: " thanx I'll keep that in mind"

His wife came over to me and said " we should ask the girls to help us with party packs"

Me: " sure"

We called Buja's cousins over while we made some salads. Around midday the party started. There were so many kids and we had hired a jumping castle. Lutha was now turning 5. He blew the candles and said " yes! I'm a big boy!!" Everyone laughed as they clapped hands. Later in the evening we went to Spur for supper. The festive season was great for me, I went to visit my mom and sister as well to check how they were doing. I was now heavily pregnant and close to giving birth. Buja and I had to go for a check up again but we went to our gynae, my baby was fully human now, I could see the head and the legs, but we still didn't want to know the gender. " We'll see when she gives birth" Buja said to the gynae. After the check up we bought a few things then headed back to his hometown to his parent's house. It was still packed there and there were plenty of rooms for everyone. We had decided to just go back to our house after the New Year maybe on the 3rd. I was on leave anyways.

On the New Year's Eve we were having a family braai, Buja's sister who was overseas was surely missing out, but she wanted to speak to everyone on the phone, Buja got along with her more than his brother. I decided not to get involved in his family politics, even though I had to support him since he was my husband. Zwe-zwe's wife and I got along though, we refused to enter in the beef we're not even sure about. We all did the count down together and said " happy new year!!" Buja came over to me and we kissed, " another year with you my love" he said. Our foreheads were touching each other " and many more years to come" I added. The kids, Lutha included just didn't want to sleep. The music was playing very loud, Buja's parents didn't mind even though they went to sleep. I got sleepy so quickly and decided to call it a night. Buja went out with his family relatives, they didn't sleep at all. His brother's wife also left with them. My pregnancy had really made me miss out in a lot of things, but I rubbed my tummy and said " its all worth it my baby" I could feel he/her moving, I'm sure my baby was playing inside me. I drifted to sleep.

On the first Buja's parents went to a hotel and left us in the house lol, I think they were fed up of all the chaos and noise everyone was making. The kids and adults, everyone was having the time of their lives. It was the same thing on the 2nd, Buja left with his bro and some of his cousins to go and party. I let him be, I only hoped he was behaving, but I had hope because he left with the relatives who were also married, and his brother who seemed to be very focused on his wife.

So now it was still the 3rd around midday. I busy packing some food in the picnic basket in the kitchen, the ladies and I had decided to just chill in the park with the kids. I felt pain in my lower abdomen but decided to ignore it. It started to become stronger. I held my lower abdomen and said " I'm suppose to give birth after 2 weeks" talking to myself.

Buja was outside sitting on camp chairs with the guys. The pain got worse, I called out Buja but he couldn't hear me because of the music that was playing, one of his younger cousins walked in from the passage and saw me balancing on the wall. " I think its time" I said.

"Sisi, water is running down your legs" she said staring at me. " Let me call bhuti" she rushed out. I screamed when I felt severe pain. Zwe's wife saw me and said " we need to get you to the hospital, let me call Mama" Buja walked in and said " come babe, they're packing things for you. Let's go to the car" his cousin wrapped a towel around me and they helped me to the car. I went to the back seat and cried out in pain. His brother and wife got in as well. Buja sped off to the hospital. I was crying tossing and turning because they had now laid down the backseat chair for me.

Zwelakhe: " maybe I should be the one driving"

Buja: " nah, leave it to me"

Zwelakhe: " I can see you driving too fast, you're not even concentrating"

Buja: " shut the fuck up! Just for once can you stop talking crap to me"

Zwelakhe: " that's the thing with you! you just don't want to be corrected. Bulelani you just irritate the living day lights out of me yazi, so does your stinking attitude..."

Buja: " then get the fuck out of my car. What are you even doing here? You're too arrogant that's your problem"

Zwe: " I'm your big brother, I'll support you, that's why I'm here"

Buja didn't respond.

Zwelakhe: " yerrr, you drive like a maniac."

Buja: " what??? do you want-"

Me: " shut the hell up!!! Voetsek to you both! Oooh my goodness, you're making the labour pains even worse"

They both kept quiet. Finally he arrived at the hospital and I was sent to the labour ward, by that time I had already lost my mind, I was crying so hard. I had to wait for about 5-6 hours before it was finally time to give birth. Buja was waiting outside. I was shouting " don't you dare let that man in!! I hate you Bulelani!! You're the one that did this to me. I didn't want to get pregnant, in fact I was never ready...shit this is painful" the nurse even went " my goodness..." I was going on like a mad woman. I finally gave birth, the baby was crying and it looked so big and healthy. " Its a boy! Congratulations" the doctor said. They wrapped a hospital towel around him and showed me then they said he'll be back after a few minutes. In the mean time I was sent to the recovery room. I was so tired I couldn't even keep my eyes open. Moments later Buja walked in and came over to me. The nurses came back with the baby all cleaned up.

Buja: " its a boy again babe. I told you I shoot boys"

Me: " but I wanted a girl"

I held the baby in my arms. He was a new born but gosh he looked like a photo copy of Buja. Buja asked to hold him, I handed the baby to him. He was still holding fists tight and didn't want to open his hand at all. Buja kissed his forehead and said " welcome to the world my boy. We now have 2 boys babe, and I want his name to be Bathandwa, I love my boys with all my heart. Thanks so much my love for making me a father again"

I smiled almost wanting to pass out. " Luthando and Bathandwa." I said in very tired voice. The nurse asked for me to breast feed him. Buja's brother and his wife entered all smiles. They were carrying some bags. " Hello little one!" They said. " What's his name?" They asked.

Me: " Bathandwa, I can't wait for Lutha to see him"

Zwe: " first thing in the morning the family will be here. They can't wait. But mom and dad are already on the way. "

His wife said " uthini na mama we boyz!" I laughed. My baby was so hungry, I could see by the way he was sucking. Buja stood up and brushed his lil head. He couldn't keep his eyes off our baby.

Zwe: " congratz parents ze boyz. We're happy for you. Buja, be a good father to these kids, don't teach them bad habits, I know you. All the best mfethu. We might not see eye to eye in most things but ke I love you man, you're my lil bro. My forever in trouble lil bro" he said patting Buja's back.

Buja looked at him and smiled then said " you were coming right with your speech until you spoke bullshit. What you just said is like doing good foreplay but when it comes to the sex you sperm within 5 seconds, that's how floppy you made your speech sound. Nxa....you dumb excuse of a medical doctor. Don't you dare try to mess up my mood."

Zwe smiled and looked down then said " I give up, you will never respect me as your older brother will you?"

I looked at Zwe's wife and she shook her head and shrugged her shoulders. We were both thinking " there they go again" I finished breast feeding my child, when I was about to burp him Buja said " let me do it my love" I gently handed over the baby and he rubbed his back. He was so tiny. Buja closed his eyes while rubbing him and said " finally, I've met you. I love you so much. I can't wait for your big brother to finally meet you. My boys, the future of the Giba family..."

I closed my eyes and he sounded a far, it seemed like I had drifted to sleep even though I had visitors.

## Chapter 57

I woke up in the middle of the night and the baby was peacefully sleeping next to me. Everyone else had left. I picked my baby up, he still wasn't loosening his hands. I stared at him. " Bathandwa, wake up my angel". I kissed his small lips. " I love you so much, do you know that? I don't care even if you're not a girl" he moved his mouth almost like he was chewing and continued with the sleeping. The nurse walked in to check up on us. " Hey, do you know when the others left?"

Nurse: "you were fast asleep, I think about 3 hours ago. But the baby's father left about 30 minutes ago. "

Me: " okay"

Well I didn't get much sleep at all. My boy kept waking up the whole night and crying, most of the time he was hungry though. Buja and his parents came to check up on me in the morning. I had just taken a bath and the baby had also bathed in his small tub. Lutha was with them. He said " wow he's soooo tiny. I'm a big brother now? Don't worry mom I'll protect him"

" I know you will" I said looking at him with a smile. The cousins also came to see him, I was the one with the most visitors. The family just couldn't get enough of Bathandwa. Later in the evening Zwelakhe's wife arrived with some food, fruit and a yoghurt. "Hey you" she said. My baby was now sleeping on top of me " hey love" I responded " do you want to hold him?"

Zwe's wife: " yes please"

I gave her the baby. " He looks so adorable, I feel like trying for another one again. Babies are cute, but then they grow up so quickly"

Me: " yeah I know. I can't believe Lutha is 5 already"

Zwe's wife: " well he is, they grow up very fast. Uhm, Simtha, there's something I want us to talk about"

Me: " me too..."

Zwe's wife: " is it regarding the brothers?"

Me: " yes...gosh they're almost like enemies. I didn't know it was this bad"

Zwe's wife: " I do. I'm not sure who exactly has a problem with who because even my husband always talks negative about Buja."

Me: " Buja doesn't even talk about his brother to me. He doesn't like to open up to me when it comes to his feelings, and I feel the only way he shows his anger is by being rude towards that person."

Zwe's wife: " well I think its time we found out where this argument began, or they're going to kill each other. Its funny though because they always go together but their conversation is never a good one"

Me: " it was worse yesterday, Buja can be rude and he uses a lot of strong language"

Zwe's wife: " I know, but my husband has a tendency of putting him down, I've noticed this. Nothing Buja does is ever good enough, he always makes sure he points out the negatives"

Me: " yazi I'm so glad we're not taking our husband's side even if they're wrong"

Zwe's wife: " don't worry, we don't take after our mother-in-law"

We both cracked in laughter " her children are so perfect in her eyes, nothing is ever wrong when it comes to them." She added. We continued laughing.

Me: "My hubby is her favourite"

She said: haike, Buja is mama's favourite sana everyone in the family knows that, she always bails him when he is in trouble and defends him everytime. "

Me: " yeah, I know exactly what you're talking about"

We continued having a chat. I started eating because I was very hungry. I thanked her for the food, because the hospital food wasn't very yummy. She left moments later. On the 3rd day I was getting discharged. I dressed myself up and my son after bathing and wrapped him up in a warm blanket. Buja, Zwe, and his wife walked in. I almost laughed because everytime his brother wanted to go with him he never declined the offer even though they were gonna argue all the way to their destination. Buja hugged and kissed me then took the baby. I hugged both his brother and wife and they helped me with the bags. We filled in the discharge papers then left. Zwe's wife asked for us to start at a restaurant first, Buja agreed and so did Zwe-zwe. We arrived and parked then got out. Buja took the baby and carried him. We arrived at the restaurant and picked a table for four. I knew this was her plan to have a discussion with our husband's. She gave me the ' its now or never' look. I smiled and slightly nodded. We ordered and waited for our orders.

Buja: " I just can't get enough of him"

He said kissing Bathi's cheeks.

Zwe: " he looks a lot like you bro. I don't see any Simthandile in him"

Me: " he'll look like me when he grows up, just like Lutha. I see a lot of me in him now"

It was taking longer for the food to arrive and my stomach was starting to growl. Zusakhe said " Simthandile and I have been chatting..." Zusakhe is her marriage name (Zwelakhe's wife) and



Zwe-zwe is his nickname. Zwelakhe looked a lot like Buja, it was like he was the older version of him. Its just that Buja's complexion was darker while his bro was light skinned, Buja had smokey brown eyes that he took from his father but Zwe-zwe had his mother's eyes.

Me: " Yes. " I said agreeing on what Zwe's wife had said. I looked at Buja. " We feel you and your brother's constant arguing is not very healthy for both of you. You two are brothers yet you act like enemies. Maybe its time you opened up to us about what could be the problem"

Zusakhe: " I agree. That's if you guys feel comfortable in talking about it"

Our orders arrived and we started eating. Buja and his big bro kept quiet and concentrated on their food. Zusakhe and I shared a glance, I felt like our plan wasn't working. Zwelakhe put the fork and the knife down.

Zwe: " Simthandile, your husband is very disrespectful towards me. He doesn't respect the fact that I'm older than him. He is stubborn, he is rude, and he is not willing to change."

Buja kept quiet and concentrated on his plate.

Me: " Buja, what do have to say?"

He put down the fork then sighed.

Buja: " I have so many things to say about this man I don't even know where to start"

Zusakhe: " just open up to us. We're here to listen"

Buja: " firstly my big brother has always made sure that my father loses all hope in me. He is discouraging and has absolutely no faith in me. He always talks negative about me. Nothing I ever do is right in his eyes, and now he has influenced our father. This all started when he snitched me..how do I even begin to respect a snitch?"

Zwelakhe: " come on Buja, I found cocaine in your room. I didn't want you to throw away your future"

Buja: " is that why you decided to run to the parents instead of confronting me first? That's not all, you have snitched me so many times to them I've even lost count. Your number one aim was to always earn golden points as the good son to my father while I came across as the black sheep of the family. I bet you also didn't think I'd have a senior position at the company I work for right? You didn't think I'd be a shareholder in a successful company. I'll show you flames big bro you just watch. This is just the beginning. You and my father don't believe in me, but at least there are a few people in my life who do. And I value those people more than anything."

Zwelakhe stared at him and said " Buja, you're blaming other people instead of yourself. You the one that decided to be corrupted and hang out with the wrong crowd, I had to tell the parents, it was only for your own good. You're turning 28 soon, you're still young in my eyes and you'll always be my lil bro. Yes I admit I snitched you many times but I felt it was for the best. You're very intelligent I don't doubt that, but sometimes you use your intelligence in a very wrong and dangerous way. "

Zusakhe: " I'm glad you guys are opening up to each other. Please let go of all the grudges. Its affecting me and Simthandile because we hardly ever phone each other, we don't even visit each other, and the kids are growing up, soon it will affect them as well...you two are brothers. Please support each other"

Buja looked at his brother then said " in medical school, the date was the 4th of April in the evening. You and your friends smashed a red Volvo outside your campus, you got arrested for 2 days and got out on bail, then you Zwelakhe paid a bribe so that the chargers would be dropped against you."

Zwelakhe choked on his food, he coughed so hard his wife had to give him his glass then he downed his drink instantly.

Buja: " yeah, I know your dirty lil secret, but I didn't run to the parents now did I. Do you know why I didn't my dear brother? Because I'm not a snitch bitch. I didn't want you to get into trouble. I guess you're not so perfect after all. But don't worry, I'll let our father continue to think you're perfect"

He winked at him and continued eating. Zwelakhe was still coughing. " How did you know?" He said looking startled. "I'm Buja, I do my research wisely."

I swallowed hard. So Buja knew this secret about his brother but didn't tell anyone, but why not? Zusakhe said " my gosh, Sbari. I can't believe you knew about this"

Hahaha being a wife is really not a fairy tale. You get to know all your husband's secrets and keep your mouth shut. I knew Buja was still in corruption but I hadn't said a word to anyone. Buja said " we should finish up eating, people are waiting for us at home. Babe, I think we should get going tomorrow."

Me: " yeah, and I need a nanny guys,I must have it before I go back to work. But I'll talk to Mama about it."

Zusakhe: " okay, I'll help you search as well."

We got done with eating and left the table. In the car only me and Zusakhe were chatting. The brothers were dead silent. We could see Zwelakhe was thinking deeply, but Buja was looking straight ahead concentrating on the road. Zwe's wife was now holding the baby admiring him. We arrived at home. Haike almost everyone was all over the baby, Buja's mom held him almost the whole day and night. She only gave me the baby when I had to feed him and do a nappy change. Lutha was next to her and kept kissing his brother's cheeks.

The day ended and the next day we announced that we're leaving. Buja's mom said she had a nanny in mind and that she will talk to her and give me a call. I asked if she had the experience and she said yes, she has raised a lot of kids and some of them are in tertiary now. I started being hopeful. Buja and his brother were outside most of the time having a chat with the others who were still there, and we had decided not to bother them or ask if they settled their differences.

The following day we decided to get going. Some people had already left and the house was getting quiet. The festive season was over after all. Zwelakhe called me, Buja and Zusakhe over to one of the flats he slept in outside. We entered there then he closed the door.

Zwel: "uhm...guys, I couldn't sleep properly after the discussion we had at the restaurant"

He looked at Buja: " I think I was wrong, I want to apologize for being a snitch and selling you out to the parents. But that also doesn't excuse the dangerous things you have been doing. I hope for your sake and your wife and kids you change. You have a family now lil bro, you're no longer living solo"

Zusakhe: " uhm...yah. My husband only wants his brother to change. He loves Buja a lot, its not that he hates him. I'm sorry guys for everything, and I still hope things will get better between you guys."

Buja rubbed his hands together and maintained his silence. I just knew he might want to drop a bomb again. I decided to say something.

Me: " okay, thanx guys for every thing. I know you meant well. You are Buja's big brother after all. Buja, I really hope you guys can talk in a more civilized manner. And I hope we'll be able to make more contact, this is a new year with new beginnings right...."

Buja: " I would like to apologize as well for my rude behaviour towards you big brother. I just had a huge grudge against you for always selling me out to our father. You're my blood, so you can never be my enemy. I hope now you realize that sometimes snitching a person for your own personal gain is not very ideal, since I never did the same to you. I can't help but wonder though.....if I didn't say what I know about you.....would you still apologize? Or would you still be acting perfect to me, with a red pen in your hand correcting every wrong thing I have been doing."

Zwelakhe didn't respond. They just glared at each other. " Babe, we should get going before it gets late" he said. Then he got up to hug Zusakhe and said " sharp big bro, take care" then walked out. Zwelakhe walked out as well, we weren't sure where he was going.

I hugged his wife and said " we tried, but I think they'll get along again"

She said " yeah, let hope. We just have to keep trying. Take care."

Me: " you too."

We broke the hug and I walked out of the flat going back to the main house.

## Chapter 58

I arrived in the main house and went to the living room where everyone else was sitting. We had already packed everything last night so what was short of us was to say our goodbyes. I entered and sat for just a few minutes then Buja told them we are going now. His mother said " okay, I'll give you a call by tomorrow to tell you if this nanny I have in mind will be available or not."

Zusakhe entered the living room as well. Buja and I said okay then went to take our bags, some of the little kids helped us. His father was now holding the baby. We got Lutha in the car and moments later we left. On the way I decided to call my mother to ask if she was home, she said yes so Buja and I drove of to my home town, which wasn't very far. It was only an hour drive. We arrived moments later and mom was with Phozi's kids as per usual and another woman who was living next door, we showed her the baby and they couldn't stop kissing him. We heard that Phozi got a new job as a Sales Executive in a Car Dealership Company and she was on training. I was very happy for her considering that the money would be better than her previous job. We only left around 4pm then headed back to our place. On the way I was still sitting in the back seat feeding my kid. Buja said " this one is forever hungry" I laughed and said " if I don't take care of myself properly I'll be skin and bones he's sucking my breasts like its for the last time."

Buja: " haha you'll be fine babe"

Me: " yeah, I can't wait to see this nanny"

Buja: " I'm not really keen about that. I don't trust easily and I don't want some woman we don't even know invading our privacy. How about we send the baby to a day care centre? I don't even mind paying extra cash since he's a new born."

Me: " no Buja. I need to do so many things this year and its my last year doing my Articles so I will definitely need an extra hand. At least back at home mama used to help me with Luthando sometimes"

He didn't respond. Buja hated the nanny idea but I wasn't about to agree with him. I really needed one. " So are you and your brother okay now? I hope you're not still angry at him" I said.

Buja: " we'll be fine, don't stress babe"

Me: " okay..."

We arrived at our house, finally. He parked and took all the bags while I unlocked the house and made my way to the bedroom with the baby. I decided to give him a bath then I dressed him up in a white warm romper.

2 days after, Buja's mom gave me a call to say that woman is available, she then said " she was considering bringing her daughter over in the mean time, who is 19 years old because she's not studying, I said no. You really don't need some young girl seducing your husband"

I laughed and said " yes Mama, I totally agree. These young girls are not to be trusted"

Mama: " Yes my child. You must be careful. If this nanny leaves don't make the mistake of hiring a young woman, they will want to look after your husband instead of looking after the children. You must not be responsible for leading your husband into temptation. And anyway, she should be studying and not looking after babies in the first place"

I laughed so hard, it was the first time having a good conversation with Buja's mom on the phone instead of her arguing with me. She said " you are laughing Simthandile but I'm serious. I hope you'll keep my advice"

Me: " I will Mama, I promise"

Mama: " good"

To think about it, the nanny that looked after Wendy's kids was in her late 50's, and Wendy didn't even mind if she stayed in Sbu's place. Mama really had a point there. She gave me the woman's number and I gave her a call. She said she'll be available tomorrow for an interview and I said okay that won't be a problem. The following day she arrived around 2pm. She looked like she was in her late 40's. Buja and I both sat down with her. She took out a document and handed out her CV. I didn't think she would have her CV with her since Mama recommended her to us. She had a lot of working experience, her age was 48 years old and she had been looking after children her whole life, she even had about 3 references and recommendation letters.

Me: " I think she can start next week, what do you say myen'wam?"

Buja: " uh..yah sure...if you happy, I'm happy"

Woman: " thank you"

Me: " consider yourself hired. So what do you prefer for us to call you?"

She said " I've been called by my clan name my whole life, so call me Makheswa" I smiled and said " okay then Makheswa, will you be able to arrive this coming weekend?"

Makheswa: " yes, I'll come early in the morning"

Me: " is it alright if you take your off days after every 2 weeks in the weekend?"

Makheswa: " yes, thank you"

Oh well the interview went well. Buja wasn't doing much talking though, he didn't even like the idea of having a nanny in the first place. She left moments later and promised to move in on saturday. I phoned mama and told her I'm happy with her, she said okay. I phoned Zusakhe and told her I've found a nanny, so she didn't need to search for me. We had a long chat over the phone then said our goodbyes."

During the week Wendy and Sbu came to see the baby together with their kids, she was so beautiful in her new bride traditional outfit, we asked how the honeymoon was and she had a lot to say, they even showed us the pictures. They had bought presents for the new born as well.

Wendy held him and said " oh bethuna, he's so cute. Why does he look like Buja so much, maybe you guys fought a lot when you were pregnant Noxy.

Buja: " yho Wendy, she hated my guts in the beginning"

They laughed. Sbu:" I know mfethu, its always like that"

Me: " it wasn't only about the pregnancy you know that Buja"

Wendy: " oh well, I'm sure you happy Noxy your no longer pregnant. In no time your body will be back to normal"

Me: " yhu!! Sana I was running out of things to wear my clothes couldn't fit me. But ke next week I'm planning to sign up at the gym. I'm so happy we've found a nanny"

Buja: " I hope you won't give Bathi less attention because we have a nanny. Bond with him the same way you did with Luthando"

I looked at Buja, " of course I will. I always give my kids attention" I said very upset about his statement.

Buja: " I'm just reminding you babe"

I decided not to respond to him. Wendy decided to change the topic and talk about her honeymoon again. Later on they left.

The weekend arrived and Makheswa phoned saying she's at the taxi rank with her bags. Buja went to go and fetch her, they arrived and he helped her with the suitcases. I had already tidied and put in new bedding for her in the spare room. I showed her around the house and told her Lutha's favourite food and the chores she can do in the mean time when I'm not around the house. She listened and I loved the fact that she didn't have attitude since I was young. She called Lutha over and chatted to him. I also gave her Bathandwa and observed how she was with him. She knew a lot about children. As days passed I bought Bathandwa some baby meds, Makheswa also gave me good advice about some of the medicines good for babies. I went to the shops with her sometimes together with the kids. She told me her husband past away last year and that she has 3 children but at least they were old now. I loved her, it felt like I had a mother figure in the house. Bathandwa was 3 weeks old now but he had a problem of not sleeping at night, so Buja and I took turns in waking up and trying to make him sleep again. The Baby Cot was still in our room. We decided he'll have his own room when he is atleast 3 months old.

So now it was on a saturday around 1pm. I was still on leave but Buja had his first week back at work. Makheswa had just finished taking the children's clothes off the washing line and I was cooking food for lunch. Buja was with Lutha and Bathi and they were chilling outside in the car listening to music. Buja enjoyed spending time with his kids. While I was about to dish up, I heard some chatting outside, I went to check who it was and it was Luzz, Jabu and lucky. I went to greet them and asked for them to come inside. Luzz was already holding Bathi saying " idzzoooo molo boy-boy!! Hello Tar-Buja omncinci" we all went inside and I dished up for everyone then we gathered around the table and ate. The nanny was also with us. We started chatting.

Luzz: " next time try for a girl mani, Tar"

Lucky: " haha my father has 5 boys, no chicks"

Buja: " hahaha the thing is deep down I don't want to have a girl, but ke my wife wants a girl so let's hope next time when we try we'll be lucky"

Me: " next time? I think we done now sthandwa sam"

Buja: " Nooo, I want 4 kids."

Me: " what??!"

Luzz: " and Tar-Buja, you will keep trying until a girl pops up. Even if you end up with 10 kids."

I glared at Luzz and he chuckled.

Buja: " I have a feeling the 3rd one will be a boy as well"

Me: " stop staying that! Why don't you want a girl so much?"

Buja: " eish babe, I think I'll be too stressed if I have a daughter. The thing is with girls, when they grow up they'll start liking boys then the boys will play them and then they'll end up falling pregnant, then the bastard will run away. Yho baby! I'd end up shooting someone"

Everyone laughed including Makheswa.

Makheswa: " stop thinking about the future too much"

Buja: " the thing is Makheswa, when it comes to my kids I always think about the future. I just want to protect them from the world"

Me: " ncooh baby.."

I held his hand and we smiled at each other. After we were done Makheswa and I cleared up the table and went to the kitchen. I washed the dishes and she helped me. When I went to check up on the baby Luzz was rocking him and Lutha was already busy with the playstation with Lucky. These people were thugs yet I was so used to them now, to me they were now part of the family.

Me: " haisana you're so inlove with him"

Luzz: " I think I should make my girlfriend pregnant. I want to be a father"

Me: " hahaha please, marry her first then think about knocking her up"

Luzz: " nah, I'll see"

I gave him the look and said " excuse me?"

Luzz: " I'm ready to be a father, not marriage! "

Buja laughed. " haibo!" I said " you're being unfair now."

Luzz: " sis'Nox, we should actually just go to my house, all of us. You know we can't have a deep convo 'cause there's..."

He lowered his voice " ma-oledi in the house. "

Buja: " yeah babe, let's go and take a breather for a few hours. We'll be back later on."

Me: " okay, let me tell her then."

I went to Makheswa to let her know we're going. She said okay and continued cleaning. She then took Bathi who was fast asleep in Luzz's arms while we went to the cars. I got in the GTI with Buja and they followed driving a silver grey BMW. We went over to Buja's 2nd house, which of course was more like Luzz's house. I think Buja bought it for him although he didn't want to say it. We arrived and parked. They opened the front door and turned on some old school hip hop. Jabu took out a packet of weed and said " don't worry sis'Nox, I'll have a smoke outside."

Me: " no, don't mind me"

Buja: " these 3 are smokers ke baby. But ke its their crib so let's let them be.."

Me: " yes my love."

Luzz: " as I was saying sis'Nox earlier. The thing is I have money but I feel I'm too young for marriage. Her parents are very fussy, they already keep asking my chick what I do for a living, she knows I'm a thug and I'm happy with my job its just that her parents are just pushing her to stay away from me. "

Me: " well if you get her pregnant they'll dislike you even more"

Luzz: " I don't care, I love my chick and we'll fight for us"

Lucky walked away to the kitchen and came back to the living room with some beers and a 500ml of coke for me. "Thanx" I said.

Buja: "babe, I hope you're feeling comfortable"

Me: "yeah sure, I am"

Buja: "come and sit on top of me"

Me: "haibo Buja"

He smiled and said "don't mind these 3" I went to sit on top of me. Jabu was now rolling up the blunt. "I'm a chilled boss aren't I? Cause I can see you're all relaxed around me" Buja asked with a smug.

Jabu: "sho Tar Buja! But when it comes to making money you don't laugh much."

Luzz: "hahaha well if you mess up he doesn't"

Lucky: "Tar Buja you're the man, we really look up to you mfethu"

Buja: "I'm thinking of opening up a new legit business and recruiting you guys. Do you still want to do this illegal business? Because everything is up to you"

They all say "yes."

Luzz: "you know bruh I love doing this shit, even though its risky but its worth it"

Jabu: "yah sho, we don't mind bruh, we're happy"

Baju: "oh sho ke. Babe, let's go to the basement I want to show you something"

Me: "sure..."

We got up. "Don't be naughty there!" Luzz shouted as we walked away. "Fokoff!" Buja shouted back, I could hear them laughing. Buja entered the password and unlock the door and we walked down the stairs he closed the basement then said "I don't want them to disturb us."

I looked around and it was like I had entered another place and we weren't in the same house. Remember I once said inside the house everything looked normal, no one would suspect anything that might be illegal unless there was a tip off to the police. Cash was still placed neatly in shelves and there were different weapons placed on the other side.

Buja took a gun which was chilling alone in one shelf and said "this is a silent gun, the only noise you'll hear from it is 'tsu-tsu-tsu'" I giggled at the weird sound he was making.

Buja: "I want to give you shooting lessons babe. The sooner you get used to a gun the better. Maybe it would be good to have your won licensed gun"

Me: "well I once told you I don't need one"

Buja: "believe me you do. I don't want you to be involved in my illegal dealings, but I do want you to have a clear picture of what exactly I do. Remember, I do have enemies, and Khaya is one of them. He has people that know him, I might be one step ahead of him but I can never be too careful"

Me: "does that mean me and my kids are in danger?"

Buja: "no, because I'm protecting you. The mere fact that he is stalking you makes me uneasy. He is laying low but I can't help feeling that he's planning something huge. "

He took out the gun and opened it then closed it again.

"Look on your right" he said. I turned to look and there were about 3 drawings of what looked like a man. Next to them there were 3 big watermelons.

Buja: "I'll shoot 3 of these watermelons in less than 3 seconds. That's how fast you must be when it comes to shooting"

Me: "Did you know we were coming here? I feel sorry for these watermelons. They're still food"

after all."

Buja: "haha sorry for wasting food. And yeah, I asked Luzz to sort out this place because I wanted to give you shooting lessons"

Me: "gosh, you guys are good actors"

He laughed and came behind me. "Watch carefully" he said. He aimed at the watermelons, I was still blinking when I heard a "tsu" sound. When I checked the water inside the melons had splashed and it was indeed exactly on the same spot in all of them. "Wow". I said.

Buja: "now its your turn"

He gave me the gun and held my waist. It was a bit heavy.

Buja: "On the first drawing, I want you to shoot on the forehead"

Me: "not even on the arm?"

Buja: "no, you must aim to kill"

I turned my head to look at him. "Are you hearing yourself?"

Buja: "imagine an enemy has come to kill you and you have no choice but to attack first. Take it as you protecting yourself from him or her"

I aimed and this drawing. "Spread your legs alittle" he said. I did as instructed. I swallowed hard. I couldn't believe it was me that had a gun with bullets inside on my hands. "I don't think I can do this" I said.

Buja: "yes you can"

He touched my hands and pulled the trigger, it hit the wall but not on the forehead, instead it was on the nose.

Buja: "you aimed at the wrong side. Do it again"

I moved my arms upper then closed my eyes and pulled the trigger. It hit right next to the forehead.

"Do it again" he said. I pulled the trigger again but this time I didn't close my eyes. It hit straight on the forehead." Yes!!" I shouted. I was starting to enjoy this. "Well done..." He kissed my cheek. "Okay, do it on the next drawing."

Me: "okay"

Buja: "aim for the heart this time"

I pulled the trigger and I aimed correctly. I smiled feeling proud of myself.

He took the gun away and went to take a much bigger gun.

Buja: "this gun is not silent, it will make a loud sound so don't panic okay."

Me: "this one is kinda scary"

Buja: "you'll get used to it."

Me: "I can't believe its me that's doing this"

Buja: "let's just break the rules a little"

I aimed at the wall again. The gun was much bigger than the first one, I aimed for the chest and pulled the trigger. It made a loud "BANG!!" I screamed and let go of the gun and it fell on the floor. The noise made my ears go zzzzzzz. Buja took the gun and went to put it on top of the table then he came over to me. I was shivering abit traumatized about what just happened.



Me: " what about the neighbours Buja?"

Buja: " the walls are sound proof babe, so no one from the outside can hear anything. Just like the wall where you were aiming at is specially designed for shooting lessons. Don't stress okay"

He wrapped his arms around me. " You're not always going to have something to cover your ears, that's why I didn't give it to you. Let's take a break, we'll use a different and smaller gun again " he said. I nodded still abit flushed. He took a small gun and said " this one is a hand gun, its less scary, but I'll give you something to cover your ears, I'm sure you don't want that buzzing sound again"

I took the gun and looked at it. He kissed my neck and said " relax babe, its your first day I understand. He turned me around and said " you're a quick learner, I'm proud of you" he came close and kiss me and I kissed him back. We kissed passionately...

" How about the silent gun again?" He asked. " Yes, I love that one, it makes it so much fun to shoot" I said feeling very keen. He took it again and gave it to me. I positioned myself and aimed for the 3rd drawing then started shooting in the same place repeatedly. I wasn't exactly sure where this thing of Buja introducing me to guns was going or what will happen next, but I'll admit, I was enjoying it. A lot.

## Chapter 59

Buja said " okay, that's enough for today" I gave him the gun and said " I feel like a pro in this" I winked at him, he slightly laughed then said " I hope you won't use it on me one day like you did the last time."

Me: " don't make me angry then I won't"

Buja: " I'm serious Noxy"

He suddenly had a serious face on. " I'm joking, come on" I said. He checked the guns then he placed them back on the shelf again. " Let's go babe" he said. We walked up the stairs and returned to the others once he locked the basement door. When we arrived, it was just smokey in the living room. I started coughing. The guys were busy getting high smoking weed. They were listening to 2pac now. " Gents, we'll meet soon, for now me and my wife are going"

Lucky: " sho Tar Buja skhokho"

His eyes were red. " Lawd have mercy" I said stunned looking at them. Luzz said " uhm...sis'Noxy, see you vha.."

Me: " bye guys..."

Buja and I left them and got into the car. Once he drove off I said " sana, do they always get that stoned?"

Buja: " yeah, later they're gonna go out and party, maybe sniff some drugs. Luzz only smokes weed though, the others part time in drugs."

Me: " what if they become addicts?"

Buja: " I'll know immediately, but I'm not their father I can't tell them what to do when it comes to their personal lives."

Me: " eish okay. I'm thinking about my sons. I hope they don't mix with the wrong crowd"

Buja: " like me right? "

Me: " I didn't say that"

Buja: " babe, I can't say that I was involve with the wrong crowd because I was the wrong crowd. I was the one with corruption in my head, its just that my friends had the same ideas as me. But I

think by the time I have reached the age of 30 I must quit my illegal life and try to be legal in everything I do. My kids need to have a good father. Its just that its not easy, I need to sort out my life first."

Me: " what's your ideas in terms of quitting this thug life?"

Buja: " the boyz don't want to leave this life, so I'm thinking of giving all the authority to Luzz, he's my right hand man and he knows everything. I taught him well. I'll also sign over the house to his name and he can handle the rest of the syndicates. I feel like a big brother to him babe, and he knows when it comes to business there's no time for games. I'll focus on my legit job and of course open my own company in a few more years to come. "

Me: " I love the fact that you still have dreams and goals that you still want to achieve"

Buja: " This is for my family babe and the future of my children. I want to leave a legacy. And with you by my side I know I can"

I came close to kiss his cheek while he was still driving. We arrived back to our house and drove in. Lutha was playing soccer alone outside and Makheswa was busy feeding Bathi the bottle. I decided to prepare supper so long. It was already late by that time. Buja said he'll be back, he's going to his friends. I said okay then he left moments later. He came back at around 9pm by that time we were already done with eating. I decided to warm up his food and served him then went to bath my baby. Moments later we went to bed.

The following week Buja went to work and Lutha went to pre-school, so I had to wake up and prepare lunch for both of them while Makheswa got Lutha ready. They both left, and it was the same routine for the rest of the week. On thursday I decided around 1pm to go and visit Buja at work with the baby. I placed him in the baby seat then left. We arrived at his work place. As soon as we entered the staff came over to us to see the baby. I doubted my baby could even breath properly because they were all over him. " Guys daddy is waiting.." I said politely hoping they would get the message, they said okay and left him. I made my way to his office. Luckily he was free. We entered and stayed there for the whole hour. I finally said I had to go. Buja was still holding the baby and feeding him. " Don't go now.." He said.

Me: " you have to back to work my love. Let me not keep you"

Someone knocked and entered. It was a lady, she greeted and gave him some documents then left the office.

Me: " can I ask you something?"

Buja: " sure babe..."

Me: " when Lumka gave you that note, where were you two?"

Buja: " please don't bring that up, not now.."

Me: " I want to know "

Buja: " why?"

Me: " was it here? "

Buja: " Noxy, I thought we moved on from that. Please let's not go back to the past"

Me: ". Okay.."

Buja: " I know it will take time for you to trust me, but please babe give me a chance to prove myself to you"

Me: " okay, uhm...let me go"

I got up and he walked me out. I said my goodbyes to the Receptionist and those I could see because some staff had returned back to their offices . We went outside and he kissed me cheek and Bathi's. I buckled my kid and we drove off. I decided to go to the baby shop which was in town but not inside the shopping mall. On the way I looked in the review mirror and saw a blue

car with tinted windows. I felt uneasy and thought of that granny from the flats. It indicated to the left and turned. I breathed a sigh of relief then continued driving. I finally arrived outside the shop and parked my car. "Let's go my baby" I said looking at Bathi who was making baby noises. I took out my sunglasses and wore them then applied my lipstick again. When I was about to go out of the car I noticed the same car parked a bit far opposite to where I parked. I grabbed my phone and called Buja. The phone rang until he picked up.

Buja: "babe.."

Me: "Buja the blue car is following me again. I just saw it now. I'm scared"

Buja: "okay, stay calm babe. Don't leave your car I'm on my way, where are you?"

Me: "right next to the baby shop"

I told him where and we hung up. I was scared someone was going to come and smash the window but at least there were people walking up and down the street. Buja arrived moments later and parked behind me. As soon as he arrived the car drove off. Buja came over to me and said "is it the one that just left?"

Me: "yes"

Buja: "this means Khaya hasn't stopped. "

Me: "how am I going to drive to and from work or anywhere else without fearing for my life?"

Buja: "that's why I was teaching you to shoot, I want you to have a gun with you. I want you to be able to aim and shoot. Its for your protection babe"

Me: "what do we do now?"

Buja: "I'll follow behind you until we get home. I want you and Bathi to be indoors until I can be able to have a good plan to sort this out. I don't want you to go anywhere without me."

Me: "okay..."

Buja returned to his car. I drove off first and he followed behind me. We arrived at home. "Lock all the doors and the gate. I'll pick up Luthando from school." I nodded. He kissed my forehead and returned to his car. I went inside and gave Makheswa the baby then went to take pain killers then went to bed. I had a headache and all I wanted was to sleep because I was worried. I was woken up by a kiss from Buja. "Hey, when did you come back?" I asked him.

Buja: "just now. Babe, we can't trace Khaya. I don't know where he is now"

Me: "you have to know, my life might be in danger"

Buja: "we're trying, Sbu is also trying on his side, but it seems like there are other people working for him. But I will protect you"

He sighed with a bit of frustration.

Me: "I trust you, I know you will"

Buja: "I have to go to the syndicates for a meeting about our next mission and about this. I'll be back after an hour okay"

Me: "will you be fine?"

Buja: "yes, don't stress about me"

Me: "okay, bye then"

He walked out. But I could see he wasn't okay.

The day ended. On Friday Buja phoned and said "babe, I'll be knocking off and around 3pm, I'll fetch you then we can go and watch movies and maybe take a walk at the beach"

I laughed and said "movies?"

Buja: " I just want to spend some time with you, away from Makheswa"

Me: " hahaha what's wrong with her?"

Buja: "it feels like I have my own mother in my house. I have to be careful everytime. We can't even have sex in the kitchen or in the living room"

I laughed " hahaha stop please you killing me" he ended up laughing as well. I said I'll get ready then hung up. I went to take a quick shower again then wore my boobtube maxi dress and candy metallic brown sandals. Then took my handbag. Buja arrived with Lutha then Makheswa made him something to eat. I said my goodbyes to Makheswa and we drove off. " Let's start at the sneaker shop babe, there's some very cool sneakers I saw for Lutha last week"

Me: " he has enough sneakers"

Buja: " no he doesn't"

Me: " mmh okay then"

He parked abit far from the shop and we stepped out and held hands. We arrived at the shop. It was a red nike sneaker boot. Buja paid and we walked out. He held my hand all the way to the car. " Its not like I'll get lost" I said teasing him" I'll hold you anyway" he responded. He unlocked the car with the immobiliser and gave me the shopping bag while he made his way to the drivers seat. A red tinted car came in full speed out of nowhere and the next thing I heard was "Bang-bang-bang!" It was exactly 3 shots and it sped off. The side window of Buja's Jeep cracked into pieces. I threw the shopping bag down and ran to Buja's side. He was laying in the ground helplessly and all I saw was blood on his top. I screamed and knelt down then tried pulling him up but he was too heavy " help!!!" I shouted as tears streamed down from my eyes. He looked at me and started coughing blood. I screamed even more, he wasn't in a good state at all. People came from across the street and others from our side. " He's dying!!!" I cried out in total pain. A man came out of no where and took off his jersey then pressed on Buja's stomach " someone call the ambulance!" He shouted in panic. We heard a police siren coming from a distance.

Me: " Buja, stay with me okay. Please my love, we'll send you to the hospital."

He was just looking at me and then he blinked, a tear escaped his eye, somehow it looked like he was giving up. He tried speaking but more blood came out of his mouth.

Me: " sthandwa sam, please fight, Bathi and Lutha need you. I need you. Please don't leave me Buja, pleaaaaase my love! \*I sniffed\* Let's breath together"

I didn't know what I was doing, but all I wanted was for him to fight. I did a breathing exercise, blood was still coming out of his mouth. It wasn't stopping. But strangely enough he was not taking his eyes off me. He started breathing with me, we were breathing in and out at the same time. That man was still pressing on his stomach "he's fighting" that man said. My husband's condition wasn't hopeful at all, I feared at any moment he might be taking his last breath. " Fight" I whispered. The police arrived and rushed over to us. " We haven't got enough time. Let's rush him to the hospital!" A police man said. " This is a crime scene. Please don't come any closer!" He continued warning the people that were watching.

I didn't want to let go of him. I feared if he stops staring at me and closes his eyes, he might give up.

## Chapter 60

The man who was helping me to stop the blood and one police officer picked up Buja, then the policeman instructed the man to help him place Buja in the back of the police van. 2 more police vans came in a hurry, even the road was blocked - no cars were allowed to pass. People were

going " yoh, yho, yho!" We were in the spotlight of this tragedy. My dress was covered in Buja's blood. There were splashes of his blood as well on his car. I got up and followed as they were going to the van with Buja. I stopped on my tracks and went to look for Buja's car keys. They were laying on the ground. I picked them up and slid them in my handbag then rushed to the van and got in as well. The man who was helping me was told to stay behind for a statement. He said to me " be strong and faith" I got more teary and said " I don't know who you are, but thank you so much for helping me. I'm sorry about your jersey"

"Its okay.." He said.

I got inside the van and it sped off to the hospital. There was a policeman with me still pressing on Buja's stomach with that man's jersey. My mind wasn't functioning properly. It felt like everything that was happening was a nightmare and I'd wake up from it. I could see Buja was starting to lose consciousness. I pocketed his pants and took out his cellphone. How did a normal day turn out to be so such a disaster, I thought. We arrived at the hospital. As soon as he arrived he was placed on the hospital bed and rushed to the emergency ward. My hands were shivering and they had blood all over. I took out my phone and called Wendy. She picked up on the 3rd ring.

"Hey Noxy" she said. I cried so hard. " What's wrong??"She asked in panic.

Me: " its Buja, he's been shot"

I was rushing going to the ward he was in while on the phone. The nurses stopped me because I wasn't allowed to go in. " Tell Sbu, please. " I told her which hospital I was in. " We're on our way Noxy, please try to be strong" she said.

Me: " its so hard. I have to go"

I paged Luzz's number and called him. He picked up and said " hey sis'Nox. This is a nice surprise"

Me: " Buja has been shot. He's fighting for his life this very minute"

Luzz: " uthi k'then? Which hospital is he in?"

I gave him all the details he needed and hung up. I paced up and down the passage. I decided to go and open the door but a nurse stopped me again " you cannot go in ma'am"

Me: " will he be fine?"

Nurse: " I cannot tell you anything at this moment"

Me: " just tell me he'll be fine!"

Nurse: " the doctor is still doing an emergency operation on him. At this point all you have to do is pray"

I walked up and down the passage and didn't respond to the nurse. The 2 policemen came over to me and said " you'll need to make a statement ma'am but we understand you're not in a good space to make it now. Can you please give us your contact number and your house address."

I gave them what they wanted, one police officer wrote everything down. Sbu, Vusi and Wendy arrived. Wendy rushed over to me and gave me a hug " I'm so sorry, Noxy" she said. She didn't even care about the blood all over me, and it was starting to dry up on my clothes, arms and hands. Sbu also gave me a hug. He looked at the police officers then back at me. " Noxy what exactly happened?"

I shook my head, I didn't want to talk about it. I wasn't ready. Luzz also arrived, but he was alone. He came over to me with panic written all over his face. " Sis'Nox, where's Tar Buja??" I pointed at the ward he was in. He rushed over and opened the door. Nurses pulled him out. He turned

around with his hands behind his head. "Yeses..." He breathed. The doctor that was there came over to us. He looked at me then the rest who were with us including the police officers.

" Are you all related to him? That excludes the policemen" He asked. " I'm his wife. Is he okay?"

Doctor: " we've managed to take out the bullets, but- "

Me: " will he be fine?"

He looked at me then said " ma'am, we've tried the best we can. Right now he's on life support. "

Everyone shouted " what?!"

Doctor : " one of the bullets shot through his lung. Therefore he has suffered a lung failure. We're keeping him on the ventilator, which keeps oxygen flowing throughout the body by pushing air into the lungs."

Me: " No, no , no. You doctor are making a mistake. My husband is not on life support. He'll wake up at anytime from now"

Doctor: " ma'am at this present moment things are not looking promising, wev-"

Me: " No!! I don't want to hear it. My man.." I patted my chest " my Buja is a fighter. I don't care who says what or how discouraging you are, I know he will wake up at any time from now"

Wendy: " Noxy...."

Me: " wait Wendy, I'm not finished."

I looked at all of them one by one " you don't understand, you just don't understand. Buja and I wanted to just spend some time together. We went to buy some sneakers for our son, then we were going to go and watch a movie and then take a stroll at the beach together.."

I smiled " he'll wake up now-now and we'll do exactly that. He won't leave me."

The police officers looked at each other.

Luzz: " sis'Nox...." He breathed " Tar Buja is fighting for his life at the moment. We don't know when he'll wake up."

Me:" he will wake up Luzuko! Any minute he will wake up. This is all just a terrible dream. "

I scratched my head. Suddenly everything that happened came flooding back. His eyes, it was almost like he was fighting his soul not to leave his body and the blood that was coming out of his mouth. I cried hard and screamed, I was having a panic attack " he can't die, he can't leave me!" I shouted. It felt like I was suffocating. I could hear Wendy and the rest calling my name, the doctor was calling the nurses. " She's having a panic attack" he said, he told them to get something, I was struggling to breath, I tried catching my breath but it wasn't helping. I was still crying out loud. Wendy was crying too looking at me which so much fear. Suddenly I felt a sting on my arm and had this urge to fall asleep. I closed my eyes.

I woke up in a hospital bed. There was a white woman writing something sitting next to me. I sat up straight and removed the oxygen mask from my face " was I dreaming?" I asked. She shook her head " I'm Mrs Gibson ma'am. What is your name?"

Me: " Noxolo Giba"

She wrote something on her note pad. " How are you feeling now?"

Me: " I feel numb and tired."

She said " I'm a trauma counsellor. I've come here to help you"

She asked for me to open up to her about what happened. I told her but every time I did I cried hard. My face was so pink and my eyes were blood red. It didn't even feel better talking to her,

nothing was taking the pain away of knowing that my husband might not even make it. I had a baby that was almost a month old and a 5 year old child. They were too young. I was only turning 23 the following month. I needed Buja, my children needed their father. I didn't care about his faults, all I wanted was my husband back. Sbu and Wendy got in to check up on me. I got off the bed and wore my shoes. " I need to see him" I said.

Sbu: " are you sure?"

Me: " yes"

Sbu: " okay, we'll ask the doctor if you can see him."

I walked out and we went to the doctor. He instructed the nurse to go in with us. When we arrived, Buja had pipes all over his body. His mouth was slightly open and a huge pipe went straight to his throat. I had flashbacks of when we played with Lutha, when we cuddled and made jokes, and when he was holding my hand while we were going to his car. He was so full of energy. Yet in that bed I was seeing a different person.

Something came across my mind " they're going to finish him off " I said starting to panic again. " Its not over. They're going to kill him. "

Sbu: " I'll get more than one security to look after him Noxy. I have thought about that and I've made a plan"

He held both my hands. " I'm on to this. We just need for him to get out of life support then I'll hire a private doctor to look after him."

Wendy: " Noxy, love. We need to get going. You need to take a bath then get some sleep. We'll see Buja again tonight."

Me: " no, I want to be by his side"

Wendy: " clean yourself up then we'll come back. I know this is too hard for you but you need to be strong for him"

I nodded and looked at him again, tears rolled down my cheeks. He looked so pale and lifeless. We walked out. " Where's the police?"

Wendy: " Sbu asked them to go. You couldn't make a statement. You weren't fit enough for that at the time"

We went to Wendy's car. Luzz was in his car looking into space. He was parking next to her car. I looked at him then Wendy drove off.

Wendy: " Vusi has left to get the two best man to look after Buja and act as security guards. We can't just hire just any security guards from these companies that's the thing. They might easily get bribed, and our number 1 suspect is Khaya and we need our boys to be the ones keeping the guard 24/7. "

I was looking at the road the whole time. We arrived at Sbu's mansion and Wendy drove in.

" My kids" I said because it was getting late. I suddenly got teary again " I'm not coping with this" I added. " I can't even face them."

She parked and said " let's go in"

I stepped out of the car and looked at my dress and arms. Buja's blood had totally dried up on me. I wept silently. My heart was breaking into little pieces. Wendy held my hand and we went inside the house. We walked up the stairs and went into one of the rooms. She took out a white warm gown and slippers then directed me to the en-suit bathroom and said " after you've done taking a shower you can wear this so long while I look for something to wear. You can't go to

your house now. But not to worry, we have someone watching and keeping guard. Noxy, Sbu and I think its best they come and stay here. Remember there is a car stalking you, and it has been for a while now. Chances are you need to be protected and now that Buja is out of the way, you might be the target"

I closed my eyes and said " Wendy, please don't say those things. Not now please"

" I'm sorry" she said. I took off the clothes and went to take a shower. I scrubbed the blood off my body. After I was done I wore a towel and stepped out then I lotioned myself and wore the gown. I looked at myself in the mirror and broke down. I cried so hard my head and heart felt so heavy. " I know his a sinner God, and I know he has people who hate him and want him dead. He's trying to change and give his children a better future. Please give him a another chance. How will I live without him? I don't think I'll be able to go on. Why do I have to witness my son and husband dying in front of me? What did I do in this world to deserve this much pain..."

Wendy opened the door. I sniffed and wiped my tears. " I hope these clothes will fit you" she said.

I got up and said " I need water"

"Let's go to the kitchen" she said. We walked to the kitchen and she gave me bottled water.

Wendy: " Luzz, Lucky and Jabu have just arrived. Joseph, Lwando and Vusi are also here."

I nodded and said " okay..."

Wendy: " these are all Buja's close friends. They're busy discussing a strategic plan to get revenge on what happened to him."

Me: " I'm not ready to face them. I need to go and lie down."

Sbu entered the kitchen and gave me a hug " how are you doing?" He asked.

Me: " don't even ask"

Sbu: " by tomorrow we will confirm on whether its Khaya who did this. Do you remember which car it was?"

Me: " it was red, I think a vw polo and it had tinted windows"

He nodded and said " Noxy, you have to listen to me now, very carefully"

I stared at him.

Sbu: " Buja is on life support, who ever did this was trying to kill him. We know it is Khaya but we need to confirm that its him first before we take action. We will know by tomorrow. I told Buja that we should get rid of Khaya last year but he kept saying he's bluffing he won't do anything. Khaya planned this and he planned it very well. This has nothing to do with Buja sleeping with Khaya's girlfriend, believe me when I say the beef goes way back and Khaya will not rest until Buja is dead. Now I need for you to do something for me"

Me: " yes.."

Sbu: " you and your children need to stay here for a few days. Tomorrow you will go to your house and tell that nanny to take a few days off. You are not safe, especially now that Buja is not around to protect you. You will go and make a statement to the police but do not, and I mean not even a single word talk about Buja's corruption or Khaya being his enemy, say you not sure who might have done this. I'm going to handle this and believe me when I say if its Khaya who did this, he will be 6 feet under first, I'll make sure of it. Buja is like my brother, and you better prepare yourself Noxy because this is going to be war, there is a lot of blood shed coming."



Sbu's eyes had even turned red, he was fuming with anger. " Okay, I'll do as you say" I said. He nodded and said " get some rest" I returned back to the room and laid on the bed. Tears rolled down my face everytime I had the image in my mind of Buja's blooded body. There was a knock on the door. Luzz entered and said " ola..."

Me: " hey"

I wiped my tears. He sat on top of the bed and said " I've come to check how you're holding up"

Me: " I feel empty. I'm even afraid to check up on my kids because I fear breaking down in front of them. I'm so scared." My voice started breaking. " I feel like giving up on everything"

Luzz: " what do you mean?"

Me: " I don't have the energy to finish my articles. I'm not strong enough to be a mother to my children. I'm in so much pain right now and I'm not coping. I feel like dying"

Luzz went to take some tissues and gave them to me. " Noxy, you've been through worse before. Try to be strong, for him and for your children"

Me: " Its so hard, Luzuko. Right now he's in the middle of life and death. "

He kept quiet and looked down. Silence filled the room. I could only hear my sniffing.

He broke the silence and said " yazi sis'Nox, the first time I met Tar Buja, I wanted to rob him. I was straight out of the gutter trying to provide for my siblings and the only way was to beg for food in town. I was dirty, and all I thought about to take the pain of poverty away was to smoke dagga."

I stared at him listening to his story. He smiled and said " so I saw this guy driving a fancy car wearing expensive clothing and decided to take my chances, I took out a pocket knife and went straight to him. He took out some cash and gave it to me then said " come let's go and eat somewhere" the knife didn't even intimidate him. I was so dirty and so smelly yet he wasn't even embarrassed to walk with me. I didn't trust him but decided to go with him anyway because I was starving. We ate and chatted, he told me he has a wife and a kid then asked about my family."

He stopped and took a deep sigh then said " sis'Noxy Tar Buja acted like a father and brother to me. I had no one, even my own family and relatives deserted me and my younger siblings. They didn't care about us. I'm clean and I am who I am today because of your husband. What's happening right now is sending me back to the time both my parents died and we were left as orphans"

He rubbed his face and started breathing heavily. He then looked at me and said " he can be cold hearted I know, but he's showed me love, something that my own family lacked. He has supported me and my siblings, he even paid for their school fees. "

I got surprised by this" I didn't know" I said.

Luzz: " I told him not to say this to anyone. I didn't want to come across as a charity case. "

He continued " the last time I cried was when I was 15 years old, that was 8 years ago. But right now my heart is breaking into pieces. I'm so scared to lose him, and I will help Tar Sbu to bring who ever did this down"

Tears started rolling down his face. " Yini uTar Buja madoda, yini ibuddah yam. This shit is painful Noxy, if I had a choice I would sacrifice my own life for him, that's how much he means to me"

He wiped his tears but more rolled down. I came close and gave him a hug. It was sad to see Luzz in that state, I was used to seeing him in a good mood all the time. I wasn't used to seeing him breaking down like this

## Chapter 61

I didn't realize how strong the bond between Luzz and Buja was, I knew my husband had a soft spot for him but I actually took it lightly. Luzz and I hugged for a while in silence, but I could hear him sniffing. We broke the hug then he said "yah, let me go and wash my face"

Me: "I'm sorry Luzz. I guess the only way forward now is just to stay positive and hope he will get out of life support soon. Buja will fight death, and he would want us to stay positive as well and believe in him."

Luzz: "putting that man who did this to death will also help me find peace and I want it done sooner than later"

Me: "do what you have to do. I won't try to stop you because I have a feeling they still want to finish my husband off."

Luzz: "they do sis'Nox. This is not over."

He got up and went to the en-suite bathroom to wash his face then came back.

Luzz: "you should dress up sis'Nox, we'll go and check up on Tar Buja then you have to go to your house. Sbu has already spoken to you right?"

Me: "yes. I know exactly what I have to do"

Luzz: "I'll be sleeping over, then tomorrow you can move in here"

Me: "sure no problem"

Luzz: "let me leave you to dress up then"

Me: "okay, thanx Luzz"

He nodded and walked out.

I took off the gown and dressed up in the clothes Wendy gave me. My handbag wasn't around. I remembered I had a black out, so someone might have took it. I didn't even have any make up on. I walked out of the room and made my way down the stairs to the others. As soon as the guys saw me they got up and came over to give me a hug.

Joseph: "Noxy, I promise you we'll settle this beef once and for all. We definitely won't let what happened to Buja slide. Khaya messed with the wrong man"

I just nodded and said "we should get going"

Wendy: "I'll get your handbag, its with me"

Me: "okay thank you"

Everyone got ready and we left. I got into Sbu's car with Wendy while the others got into their cars. We went to the hospital to see Buja. Nothing had changed. Only me, Luzz, Sbu and Wendy went in. The others waited for us outside. There were two big and tall muscular men outside Buja's ward. They were keeping guard. I held Buja's hand and looked at him. I wondered when will he ever wake up and come back to us. But I was a lot stronger now, I think the support system was also helping me because I didn't feel alone. Vusi had to go, he was in charge of this investigation and tracing Khaya and he had gotten a phone call regarding that. Moments later we left. Luzz said he's going to start at his place to get some stuff then he'll arrive at my house. I said okay. Sbu went to drop me off. There was a car parked right opposite my yard.

Sbu: " this is the guy who has been keeping guard. He'll only leave when Luzz arrives"

Me: " thanx for everything Sbu"

Sbu: " you are my best friend's wife, its my job to look out for you. I know he would have done the same if it was me on that hospital bed"

I reluctantly smiled. Wendy said " I'm going to go in with you"

Me: " please do..."

We stepped out. It was now dark outside but I wasn't sure what the time was. I unlocked the door and entered the house with Wendy. Makheswa was in the living room looking very worried. She was holding Bathi " Noxy, where have you been? I've been trying to call you and Lutha's father the whole evening. I have been so worried."

She had panic on her voice.

"Something happened" I said. I put down my handbag and checked my phone and Buja's. Mine had 7 missed calls from Makheswa and 2 from Phozi. Buja's phone had 10 missed calls and the most was from her mother. My hand started shaking. The time was around 10pm now, and it was the longest day of my life. I had to inform Buja's family, and it was the hardest thing I had to do. I tried to find the right words in my mind to break this down to them but I just couldn't. I had no choice but to be strong, even though I didn't feel strong at all.

Wendy: " Noxy, will you be alright?"

Me: " yes, thanx Wendy for being here for me. I wouldn't have been able to go on without you and Sbu."

Wendy: " we'll check up on you tomorrow okay?"

Me: " okay"

We hugged and she walked out. I went to sit in the living room. " Where's Luthando?"

Makheswa: " he's asleep. "

Me: " Bulelani is in hospital, he was shot"

Tears filled my eyes. Her eyes widened in shock then she went to put Bathi who was fast asleep down and came over to me.

Makheswa: " Noxy, what happened?"

Me: " we went to buy some sneakers for Lutha, on our way back to the car a red car which I think is a vw polo came in a rush and there was shooting, it sped off. Everything happened so quickly Makheswa. It was like we were followed. This was planned. They planned to kill my husband today. How am I going to explain this to his mother? His brother, his whole family. I need to call them now"

She gave me a hug and I cried on her shoulder" I will do it" she said. I sniffed and wiped my tears and nose " no its fine. I'll call his father right now."

I took my phone and paged his number then called him. Makheswa was holding my hand. "Hello" he said in a sleepy voice.

Me: " Tata, I'm so sorry to wake you up."

I could hear Mama talking in the background, but I wasn't sure what she was saying.

Tata: " how are you doing my child? We have been trying to get hold of Bulelani with no success. Is he next to you? His mother would like to speak to him"

I had such a huge lump in my throat. How am I going to break this to them. I tightened Makheswa's hand. She wiped my tears.

Me: " Tata, I have some terrible news. Bulelani is in hospital, he's been shot. At the moment he's on life support. "

My voice was breaking. There was absolutely no easy way to say it. Tata kept quiet. After a while he said " what?"

Me: " everything happened so fast."

"Bulelani has been shot" he said speaking in the background.

"Hello, Simthandile? What did you say??" His mother shouted in my ear.

I explained everything that happened to her. " How is he?" She asked " he's on life support. We can only pray"

She cried so hard over the phone which broke my heart, she loved Buja more than any of her other children, everyone in the family knew that. His father took the phone and said " we'll be there tomorrow morning Simthandile, I know this is hard for you as well. Stay strong mntanam uvile? We will support you. Where are the kids?"

Me: " they're sleeping, Tata"

Tata: " please hide this from Luthando. He is still young."

Me: " I will"

I hung up. Makheswa hugged me again. " Ssssh, we will pray Noxy, your husband will make it"

Me: " I'm trying to be strong..."

We continued hugging, she wasn't letting go of me. She acted like a mother towards me and that was exactly what I needed. We broke the hug when we heard Bathi crying. I decided to take him and went to the bedroom. I breast fed him. He was looking at me the whole time. He looked so much like Buja, his ears were a bit darker than his face, it showed he was going to take his skin colour as well. My bedroom door opened. Lutha walked in " mommy" he said as he made his way to the bed. He climbed in and said " I waited for you and daddy to come back. Where's daddy? Is he in the bathroom?"

Me: " daddy is not here nana..."

He yawned and said " I woke up just now, I don't know why"

Me: " you should go back to sleep my love..."

Lutha: " daddy said he's gonna give me a present when he comes back. Where is it mommy?"

It was the sneakers, and I'm very sure someone who was there took it for his/her own child.

Me: " Lutha, daddy will be gone for a little while, he had to go somewhere."

Lutha: " when will he come back? "

I breathed out loud. This was so hard but I tried my best not to be teary.

Me: " I don't know"

I burped Bathi who was falling asleep again and laid him on top of my chest then I put my arm around Luthando.

" Goodnight nana" I said " night mommy" he responded. I kissed his forehead and closed my eyes. He played with my top, he wasn't sleeping, but I pretended to be asleep for the sake of not being asked too many questions about when Buja is coming back. After about 20 minutes later I could hear that he was asleep. Both my kids were asleep in my arms. Without them realizing it, they were comforting me. I looked at our beautiful wedding picture which was placed on the wall.

It was one of the happiest moments of my life. My phone rang while I was still staring at the picture. I tried reaching for it, it was Luzz. I decided to pick up.

Luzz: " I'm outside your house sis'Nox. I don't mind even if I sleep in the car because I need to keep watch over here tonight"

Me: " no you can come in. You can go in the morning because Buja's parents will arrive tomorrow"

Luzz: " Okay....alright.

Me: " wait for a few minutes I'll open for you"

Luzz: " sho-sho"

We hung up. I gently removed my arm from Luthando who was fast asleep and placed Bathandwa on the bed, but he cried immediately. I picked him up again and walked out of the room. I decided to knock on Makheswa's door to let her know Luzz will be sleeping over. " Makhweswa..." I called out knocking. " Come in" she said. I opened the door and she had just gotten out of bed.

Me: " remember Luzuko, the guy who was here with 2 other guys sometime last week?"

Makheswa: " the talkative one?"

Me: " yes Ma, he'll be in this house for the rest of the night to keep watch over us. The people who shot my husband are still out there so we're not safe"

Makheswa: " thiza wam, do you think they might break in and attack us too?"

Me: " no, we have security, but we can never be too careful. Luzz needs to be here. We're females and there's kids around. "

Makheswa: " you're right. I'm so scared now"

Me: " maybe its also best you take a few days off until this thing is sorted out. I don't want your safety to be at risk. But we'll discuss that tomorrow. Let me open up for Luzz"

Makheswa: " okay"

Makheswa was very frightened about this whole thing now, I could see it in her face. I went to take the gate remote and unlocked the door. I opened up for him and he drove in and parked. " Hey boy" he said kissing Bathi who was fast asleep in my arms. He closed the door. He had a small black bag with him.

Me: " you can go and sleep in one of the spare rooms"

Luzz: " no thanx sis'Nox, I've come here to watch you and not take a nap. I'll chill here in the living room"

Makheswa walked in and greeted, he greeted back then they had a random chat. She said she's going back to bed then walked away.

Luzz: " did you tell her she needs to take a few days off?"

Me: " yes, and my in-laws are coming tomorrow. I've informed them about what happened"

Luzz: " I hope they won't sleep over. Noxy, that Khaya is dangerous. As long as he's alive everyone related to Buja is not safe. We are trying to protect you. He's family sleeping over here will just make matters worse"

Me: " I can't exactly throw them out"

Luzz: " okay, don't worry. I'll chat to Tar Sbu, he'll make a plan. Can I hold the baby?"

Me: " sure"

I gave him the baby but he cried immediately when I let go of him. Butha was like a magnet, he just wanted to be close to me.

Luzz: " that's unlike him, he probably feels there's something wrong. "

Me: " I should go back to the room"

Luzz: " goodnight. I'll let you know when I leave"

Me: " sure. If you get hungry, there's some food in the fridge. Feel free okay?"

Luzz: " sharp mfazi ka Tar Buja"

I walked away back to the bedroom then tried to sleep. During the night my baby kept waking up for milk or a nappy change. I eventually drifted to sleep until the morning. My phone rang when I had just woken up. It was Luzz. " Suster, I'm leaving mani nhe.." He said

Me: " okay, I'm coming"

I hung up and went over to him. He had already packed and ready to go.

Me: " thanx for sleeping over. Did you have any protection with you?"

He took out a gun behind his waist and said. " I sleep with this baby even in my own house. "

Me: " and you sleep peacefully knowing there's a gun next to you?"

Luzz: " that's a life of a thug, just like a revenge on an enemy. Gangsters have a lot of hatred Noxy, there's a lot of things you don't know about us. But I'll tell you more some other time. Right now I'll be meeting Vusi, he has something for us"

Me: " okay, bye then"

Luzz: " sharp Nox.."

We hugged then he went to his car, he drove out and left. I went back to the bedroom and cuddled with my kids again. It was just amazing how strong I had been, and everytime I looked at my children who were fast asleep it was giving me the courage to be strong for both of them and for my husband. He was now relying on me to take care of them.

Time passed and Buja's parents and his brother Zwelakhe arrived around 11am. He had also been told. His wife wasn't around though but she did send a compassionate message and also added that her thoughts are with me. I was with Bathi, Lutha and Makheswa in the living room. When they walked in Buja's dad and brother gave me a hug. Buja's mom hugged Luthando and asked to take the baby then sat down. She looked like she didn't sleep a wink. I offered to make them some tea but Buja's mom said " tell us exactly what happened Simthandile. I want to know exactly what happened. Why is my son fighting for his life!" She started crying and Zwelakhe went over to hug her. I told them everything that happened. She didn't want anything but the others wanted some tea. I went to make it for them and gave them something to eat. Lutha looked at me confused. I felt so guilty for lying to him because he was probably wondering what Mama meant.

Mama: " I want to see him"

She gave Makheswa the baby and took her handbag. We all had to rush out because of her. We got into Zwelakhe's car, he had a BMW X6 so we could all fit in. We went to the hospital. When we arrived Buja's mom didn't take things well at all. She was crying so hard when she saw him. " My child shouldn't be here. Why is God punishing me like this. " She cried out. Buja's dad had to take her out of the ward. I realized I needed to be strong and not break down, she reminded me of how I was. I was left with Zwelakhe because the kids weren't allowed in the ward. A tear escaped his eye when he was looking at his brother.

Zwelakhe: " I warned Buja about this. I've always wanted him to quit this dangerous life that he's living. "

He sighed and held Buja's hand " There's one thing that I know about you lil bro, and that is you never ever give up without a fight. I know you're going to fight this and come back to us. I know you hate it when I say this, but I love you lil bro. You need to wake up, your family needs you and you know our mother is nothing without you. You are her pillar of strength, she's not coping, she needs you to make good progress"

We stood there and looked at him. He was still the same, nothing had changed. " We should get going Noxy" he said. We walked out and moments later we left going back to the house. I was the one giving Buja's mom the tissues and water with sugar. Being emotional wasn't even an option for me at that time. She was an emotional wreck and we had to be strong for her, all of us. Surprisingly Lutha hadn't asked me anything. It was like he was even afraid to ask. I got a call from Sbu and he asked for me to buzz him in. I did exactly that then moments later he walked in and greeted everyone then sat down.

Tata: " Sbu, long time no see my child. You have grown up so fast"

Sbu: " hahaha yah tata, I'm even married now. "

Tata: " that's good. Take a wife, you're not getting any younger"

They started having a long conversation before Sbu got to the point of why exactly he was here. He told us about Buja being shot and the enemies who were still out there, then he advised my in-laws that I wasn't safe until these people were found. Mama said " they must pay! They must regret ever doing this to my baby!" She said wiping her tears. Sbu told them that we weren't safe and that I need to stay with them for a few days and explained why. Buja's parents didn't waste time, they agreed. Zwelakhe said " I think the kids need to go as well. "

Mama: " yes, my grandchildren cannot be around this town. We need to keep them safe.

Simthandile, are you're sure that you're not going with us?"

Me: " no Mama, I still have to make a statement to the police then I have to go to my husband's workplace and report what has happened. The most important reason is that I need to go and visit utaka Lutha every single day. I need to see him. I don't want to be too far"

Zwelakhe: " we will check up on you if you're okay"

Me: " okay, no problem"

Well, Makheswa had to leave with them to look after the children. So after about 2 hours they all left. My baby was too young to be without me but I needed to sacrifice a few days away without him, it was for the best. The same day the police came over my house and asked me a few questions. I had to go with them to the police station to make a statement. I told them and wrote down everything that happened in detail. I took Sbu's advice and told them Buja had no enemies that I know off. The aim was not to raise any suspicions about what was planned for Khaya. Buja's car was down at the police station as well, they were inspecting it, but I was advised it was going to return back to my house the following day.

It was now in the evening. I had packed my clothes and the rest of my items and moved in at Sbu's house. I wasn't sure how long I'd be there but I hoped very soon I would go back to my house, but Wendy accommodated me, she said " you don't have to worry about Amanda coming here, she's aware of what happened and she's decided not to come over. I don't want anything upsetting you Noxy"

Me: " okay"

Honestly, Amanda was the last person that crossed my mind. I didn't care whether she came or not, she was actually the least of my worries. Sbu wasn't around, but there was people on the gate and the security that was there was very tight. His kids weren't around though. The house

was so huge yet it was only me and Wendy inside. I decided to sms my mother and Phozi to let them know what happened. Phozi phoned immediately, but as soon as she did the door flew open and Buja's friends as well as his syndicates walked in " I'll call you back mntase." I said to her. She understood then I switched off my phone.

Sbu called me and Wendy over, he removed a painting then entered a password. A secret door slid open. We walked in and so did the other guys. The door slid closed again. Vusi was carrying a folded paper, he unfolded it and placed it on top of the table. Lucky was carrying 5 litres of what looked like petrol. Inside this room all I saw was big guns, and some dangerous weapons. There was no cash stacked inside though, unlike Buja's basement.

Sbu: " Vusi, Joseph. What news have you got for us?"

Vusi: " it was indeed a red vw polo, we got hold of those men. They had been paid R50 000 by Khaya to murder Buja."

Joseph: " the blue car that has been stalking Noxy is Khaya's partner in crime. He is the same guy who was in the get-away trip that Noxy went to with her friends."

Luzz: " we're still keeping him hostage, for now we need to deal with the core of the problem, and that is Khaya"

Sbu: " no later than tomorrow evening, Khaya is leaving the face of the earth. "

Wendy: " what is the way forward?"

Sbu: " We're tracing his every movement as we speak. We'll murder him and his puppets one by one. And I'll make sure it is a slow painful death"

He took about 3 big guns and placed them on top of the table.

Sbu: " these three here is the F-2000 Assault Rifle. Its one of Buja's favourite weapons. This is the gun I'll be using when I make sure Khaya takes his last breath."

Luzz: " Lucky, is the tire deflation also ready?"

Lucky: " standard nja yam. My speciality is burning. I want to be the one setting the car on fire"

Me: " so tomorrow he'll be dead?"

Luzz: " he will be dead. Its either him or Buja and it will definitely not be Buja. While he fights for his life, we'll be getting rid of the enemy for him"

Me: " so there's absolutely no other way except for murdering him?"

Sbu turned to look at me then said " we've tried to give him chances, actually fuck that! Buja gave him chances, while I wanted him to die. Buja is the one that wasn't ready to kill Khaya, the same dangerous Khaya who planned to murder Buja and come after you Noxy. He wanted to murder your husband and sleep with you in his bed then raise his kids. And guess what Noxy? If you refused, he was going to kill you. That was his intentions. Why do you think we're protecting you? Khaya is dangerous and he's forgotten how dangerous I can be. I have no mercy"

Lucky: " Noxy, revenge is revenge. This is the life we chose to live and this is how we we're going to do this. Right now we're fighting for Buja who is on life support. Kuzonyiwa sani...shit is going to hit the fan for him"

Sbu: " and gents, that is why I'll make sure that he burns alive. I want him to see my face when he takes his last breath."

Wendy: " Noxy, let's go love. I think you've heard what you needed to hear"

Me: " he deserves what's coming to him. Make him pay."



Luzz nodded with a smile on his face. I had so much hatred towards Khaya, I was actually starting to become ruthless but not being aware that I'm starting to lose my identity. That was not me, but come hell or high water I was just like Buja's friends - I wanted him dead.

## Chapter 62

" I'll leave you guys to continue with your discussion" I continued.

Luzz: " sharp sis'Nox"

The others chanted " sho mfaz'ka Buja"

Wendy entered the code and the door slid open again we walked out. We went to the living room and sat on the same couch. Wendy turned on the TV, I looked at it blankly. I felt so lost, the future wasn't looking bright in my life anymore. She brushed my hand and said " what are you thinking about?"

Me: " what's ahead..."

Wendy: " don't think too much, Noxy. Try not to over think things."

Me: " how does Vusi know this information?"

Wendy: " Vusi is some sort of tracing agent. He's an expert in digging up information and he has a lot of connections. Joseph sometimes helps him out but he is not as good as Vusi. "

Me: " I see..."

Wendy: " Noxy, I'll be honest with you.. Buja has not exposed you to this life, he has been protecting you from it and as a result you're not used to many things. "

Me: " I'm a quick learner I guess. Here I am wanting Khaya to be killed and I don't have a single doubt in my mind"

Wendy: " Khaya is on his own mission which of course has back fired. He was never a friend to the crew, he actually acted like he is. He once killed a very close friend of Buja and Sbu, and now he wants to kill Buja. "

Me: " yes, Buja told me about his best friend being killed"

Wendy: " well that's him. Khaya will act like he loves you while he has a plan to kill you. "

Me: " he acted so sincere towards me at first. He used to bad mouth my husband and everything he said was true, he convinced me that I should leave Buja"

Wendy: " so you can have a relationship with him right? He forgot that you are not Aviwe, you weren't going to leave your husband and build a relationship with his so called friend"

Me: " yeah.., do you know what exactly is going to happen tomorrow?"

Wendy: " oh well, we are women love, usually they don't want us to know all the details of their mission. All I know is that he is going to be killed and his body will be found in his car, meaning they're going to shoot him and burn him inside his car. That's where he will be discovered. "

I suddenly had shivers. That was so cold and heartless, but what I was sure of is, I was not going to stop them. The guys came out after the long chat I had with Wendy and said they are leaving. We said our goodbyes then we were left with Sbu.

Me: " are your kids coming over tomorrow?"

Wendy: " no, until this mission is over they won't be coming"

Sbu: " yeah, they'll just distract us and its better for them not to be exposed in these things. "

Me: " I miss my kids already, I need to breast feed my son but his so far away. I guess by the time I see him the milk will have dried up. "

Wendy: " maybe, or maybe you won't."

Me: " its just that I breast fed my Lutha until he was 2 years old, and we all know breast milk is more healthier"

Wendy: " it will only be a few days, I doubt you will stop so soon"

Sbu: " okay.... mommy diaries, I'm still here"

Wendy and I both laughed.

Wendy: " let me dish up for us before I forget"

She got up and walked away, " let me help you" I said. We placed everything neatly on the table. Wendy warmed up the food then we gathered around the dinning room table and started eating.

Sbu: " I miss my friend yazi, uBuja-ja.."

Me: " yho Sbu, life is already not the same without him"

Sbu: " Buja brought life in everything. He's presence was always felt when he's not around. Just like now, its not the same without him"

Me: " I wonder when he'll wake up. I miss his laugh, his sometimes sarcastic jokes, I even miss our arguments, then he would always want to cuddle even though I'm not talking to him ' Noxy wam you're sleeping too far' he would say yet there's such a small gap between us..."

Sbu and Wendy laughed. I smiled as tears filled my eyes. I quickly wiped them and said " I want to see him tomorrow morning. I just feel like having a chat with him.."

Wendy said " sure, we'll go with you..."

We continued to chat about Buja. Later on we went to bed. I got into the covers and decided to give Phozi a call. She immediately picked up and said " mntase what happened? I got your message" I told her everything that happened.

Phozi: " I'm so sorry, yini uBuja bethuna. Do you know who could have did this?"

Me: " I have no idea. The police are still investigating"

Phozi: " do you want me to come over?"

Me: " no, not yet because I'm not even in my house. I'm not safe so Buja's friends are watching over me until there is lead"

Phozi: " okay, I'll keep you in my prayers..."

Me: " thanx mntase. Goodnight va, I love you"

Phozi: " I love you too. Stay strong"

Me: " I will love.."

I hung up and called it a night. After a struggled I eventually drifted to sleep. The dream I had was so strange and so painful. It was like Buja and I were in town going to do some grocery, we were holding hands. He was chatting to me and I was concentrating in what he was saying, the next thing I heard was gun shots, when I looked I couldn't see him. I looked down and he was laying on the floor, he was staring at me but he wasn't blinking. There was a man who came out of nowhere with a blanket coming to Buja" what are you doing?" I asked, the man looked at me then looked at Buja, he covered his whole body, he was singing 'ufile kabuhlungu ufile...' (He has died, so painfully, he has died). I screamed and shouted " what are you doing?????" The man looked at me again and said " I'm sorry, but his dead." I screamed so loud. " No!!!" I was shouting on top of my voice.

" Noxy!!!" Someone shouted shaking me. My eyes shot open. I quickly sat up straight breathing heavily. It was Wendy and Sbu. " Its only a dream" she said. I looked at her and burst into tears. " It was so real" I said " the man said my husband is dead, it felt so real". She sat down and gave me a hug. I broke the hug and wiped my tears. When I looked at Sbu, he had this worried look on his face.

Wendy: " do you want me to sleep here with you?"

Me: " no, uhm..its fine. It was just a bad dream. You can go back to sleep"

Wendy: " okay then.."

Sbu: " Buja will be fine Noxy, remain positive okay"

I nodded. They left and closed the door. I laid in bed again and took my phone then looked through all the selfies I took with Buja, sometimes we used to take them when we had just woken up, or I would take a photo of him while he's asleep. I tried to sleep again but thankfully I didn't have another nightmare again.

In the morning after breakfast we took a bath and got ready to go. We went to the hospital, but Sbu had offered to take me back to the house before going to work. Him and Wendy were using the same car. I went in to see Buja. I sat down and looked at him. Words couldn't come out of my mouth. Pain is what I felt when I saw him. " Buja wam..." I said with a breaking voice. " uNoxy wakho uyakukhumbula. Please wake up" (your Noxy misses you.)

I sat there for about 30 minutes and the whole 30 minutes those were the only words I said. I wasn't even sure if he could hear me. I got up and kissed his cheek. The doctor came in to monitor him.

Me: " how is he doing?"

Doctor: " he has been making good progress, I've seen a change in him and there hasn't been any set back, which is a good sign. So let's try to remain positive"

Me: " do you think he can hear me?"

Doc: " I believe so..."

Me: " okay.."

Moments later I left going back to the house.

It was now late in the evening...

Sbu and Wendy were back from work and we had just ate supper. Sbu only ate a light meal though, he told us he doesn't want to be too full. Around 9pm the gang arrived. Wendy and I knew they were coming. Sbu got a call and said " perfect, so far things are going good" I wanted to know what exactly was going on now and how are they going to accomplish their plan. What if Khaya doesn't fall into their trap? I thought.

Luzz wasn't doing much talking this time like he usually does. He was very serious. They took out their weapons.

Sbu looked at Wendy and said " make sure the door and gates are locked. The alarm must be on, please don't forget. I'll be back around 3am. "

Wendy: " okay, goodluck"

Sbu: " we don't need it, we've got this"

They had baraclavas and black gloves in their hands. He went to kiss her and the guys all stepped out. Wendy did as instructed. She went to take an ice cream tub and we went upstairs to a room which was next to the balcony, she opened the curtains and we looked at the stars then sat down and dug in.

Me: " it seems like you used to this"

Wendy: " Sbu and I go way back Noxy, I've seen worse things. Things I doubt you would cope if they ever happened to you. Buja can be cold hearted but so can Sbu. Those two would kill for each other, and that is exactly what Sbu is doing, Khaya was probably planning on a way to get

into Buja's ward. That guy is always on an evil plan"

Me: " I'm so disgusted by him. Let's just stop talking about this"

I dug in the ice cream again.

" That Bongie chick, she looks familiar" Wendy said.

Me: " Bongie?"

I remembered Bongie confessed that she had a one night stand with Sbu. I decided not to say anything to her. I didn't want to be in Sbu's bad books because I wasn't sure whether Wendy knew about it or not. The last thing I wanted was causing a fight between them while they're giving me so much love.

Wendy: " yes, Bongie the girl who got a beat up from Amanda"

Me: " okay, I wonder where you know her from.. "

Wendy: "I can't put my finger on it Noxy. Maybe I've seen her with you"

Me: " maybe..."

I got interrupted by a phone call from my mother. We had a long chat and she tried her best to also encouraged me to be strong. Later on I got sleepy and decided to go to bed. I couldn't help but worry if things were going okay with the guys. I got into the bed covers and looked into space until I drifted to sleep. I woke up at around 4am and couldn't sleep anymore. I decided to wake and wash my face then brush my teeth. I went to the kitchen and made myself some moosley then walked to the living room and watched the cooking channel. After about an hour Wendy walked in. " Hey" she said.

Me: " hey, is Sbu back?"

" Yes I am" he said carrying a bottle of cold beer and went to sit next to Wendy.

Me: " did everything go well?"

Sbu: " everything went according to plan. He's dead"

He drank his beer then smiled " I doubt they'll be able to identify his body quickly though.."

Me: " is he that bad..."

Sbu: " he's burnt beyond recognition. Let me get ready for work, I'll be back early though."

We said okay. He got up and walked away. " He's taking this so lightly" I said to Wendy. " Good riddance to bad rubbish.." She said. I didn't feel bad or sorry. I wasn't shocked, I wasn't scared. I just felt numb. Sbu was dressed all formal and moments later he left, Wendy said she's taken the day off. I chilled with her in the house. I had decided to just stay indoors and go to Buja's work place the following day. I just wanted to take a nap then later on go and see my husband. Around 11am Sbu arrived with the newspaper. " Hehehe look at this shit" he said. Wendy and I checked the front page. Khaya's Audi was badly burnt, I could only see it because of the shape. The headlines were: " TRAGIC DEATH OF A MAN FOUND IN A BURNT CAR"

I read through, it was believed he had an accident and something went terribly wrong in the car causing it to explode. The man was not identified yet. More investigation was to be made. I couldn't believe I was involved in this. Sbu said " they will discover 5 bullets in his body, then they'll look for suspects. We did our research and we planned this murder. We have made 100% sure nothing links back to us."

Wendy: " he has been asking for this for a while now. This time, he went too far. Bye Khaya."

Sbu: " and then....when they finally discover that its him that is dead, we will all go to attend his funeral. Remember he acted like he's our friend, its only fair we act like we were his too right?"

He smiled looking at us. "Of course..." I responded "He acted like he cares about me right? Its only fair I pay my last respects because I cared too..."

Wendy: "we will wear our best outfits to the funeral"

Sbu: "I will gladly watch his coffin going down"

Me: "where are the others? Luzz and the rest"

Sbu: "they went to work. Luzz, Lucky and Jabu will come here later on."

Me: "I want to go and see my husband"

Sbu: "sure, Wendy will you drop her off? Don't worry Noxy, she has a licensed gun and she knows very well how to attack first. You're safe"

Me: "okay. hopefully soon I can drive on my own again"

Sbu: "you will very soon. Let me go back to work. I'll see you ladies later"

Me: "sure"

Wendy: "bye love"

He walked out, I got ready to go and moments later Wendy dropped me off at the hospital. "Call me when you're done"

Me: "okay, will do"

I stepped out and went to see Buja. I got in his ward. I took a chair and sat down next to him again. I held his hand and decided to have a chat with him, maybe he could hear me...

Me: "hey, my love" I kissed his forehead, his cheek and his nose.

I smiled at him and said "I don't want you to lose weight. You need to wake up so that you can eat solid healthy food. I miss cooking for you my love. The kids went to stay at your parent's house. It was for the best, but they miss you, they miss both of us. Lutha is so confused right now, he wants answers. Buja he wants to know when you'll be coming back but I don't know what to say to him. Everything is such a mess, right now I don't know whether I'm coming or going."

I paused and tried my best not to become emotional. "I've changed Buja. Life can be so unpredictable. Life has a way of changing you into becoming something you're not. It makes decisions for you. I've fallen into the dark side. I no longer feel any remorse, I'm so full of anger and revenge, what happened to leaving things all on God? What happened to fighting by the law? I'm no longer a true christian - I have fallen. I have lost faith. I feel God has deserted me and is punishing me, because right now the pain I'm feeling is much worse than physical pain. I feel He doesn't love me. The emotional pain I'm feeling is making me feel so much resentment. But I'll keep my head up high and I will not let this defeat me. I don't know what the future holds, I don't know which other enemy might attack next, but I'll try to be strong and take care of myself and my children. I'll wait for you to wake up and come back to us. Speedy recovery sthandwa sam, your wife loves you. I love you with my whole heart and soul. Maybe one day I'll be a believer again, maybe the Heavenly Father won't give up on me."

I got up "bye Buja wam" I kissed him and left the ward. I walked down the corridor, an old man was sitting down reading a newspaper. I glanced at the cover page, and saw Khaya's burnt car then looked straight ahead again. I decided to sms Sbu "the guy you've held hostage, Khaya's partner in crime. I want to see him tonight" I pressed send. He replied "no problem.". I then called Wendy to come and fetch me. She arrived moments later. I got in and said "please drop me off at my house, I want to drive my own car. I need to go somewhere."

Wendy: " Khaya might be dead but his puppets are still out there"

Me: " fine then, I'll call Luzz. Wendy, I need to do some shooting lessons again, and I want to do them no later than today. There's someone I want to sort out tonight"

She looked at me a bit startled then nodded. " okay, let's go" she said, then she started the car and drove off.

### Chapter 63

I took out my phone and gave Luzz a call. " Noxy, what are you planning to do?" Wendy asked with a concerned expression. I didn't respond to her. My phone was in my ear impatiently waiting for Luzz to pick up. He finally did.

Luzz: " Eita ola"

Me: " Luzz, I'm on my way to your house right now. Are you there?"

Luzz: " yeah, I'm with my chick though"

Me: " is she aware about that secret place inside?"

Luzz: " eish, no yazi"

Me: " are you too busy? I need to come there "

Luzz: " nah its okay, I'll let her know, she'll understand"

Me: " thanx. "

I hung up. I directed Wendy until she arrived. We parked outside the yard and stepped out. The door was open and the yard gate wasn't locked. I opened the gate and we made our way to the door. When we arrived, Luzz was with his girlfriend kissing passionately on top of the couch. Wendy and I looked at each other, she smiled. I decided to clear my throat. They broke the kiss and looked at our direction.

" What happened to being always alert...if I was a hit man you guy would be both dead right now"

Luzz: " hahaha my baby makes me lose focus sis'Nox."

His girlfriend playfully hit him on his chest. " Jokes. I saw you standing there with Mrs Sbu. You guys even looked at each other.

Wendy: " Mrs Sbu? Hahaha into zakho Luzuko. Now how on earth did you see us yet you were busy tongue playing with your girlfriend. "

He got up to open the gate then said " my sensing abilities are too strong. I could feel eyes piercing through my skin. I immediately looked at you both with the corner of my eye then continued kissing ubaby, ulovey wam, ez'ka Luzz..." He winked at her. She had " I'm inlove" written all over her face.

Me:" Ncooooh. You guys are not allowed to be all lovey dovey in front of me until my husband gets better"

They all laughed. Wendy and I were now in the living room. Luzz said " so what do I owe this pleasure of being visited by the wives of iGrootman's"

Me: " I need some lessons on something"

He gave me a look then said " uh... Zee, let's meet later on okay? I'll call you about that date"

Zee: " okay. "

She got up. Luzz went to get the keys then gave them to me. " I'll be back just now" he said.

Wendy and I chanted " sure"

He walked out with his girlfriend. I locked the door and went to unlock the basement. Wendy and I entered and closed it. We went down stairs. I went straight for the silent gun and said " I love this gun, I really do." I opened it and checked the bullets.

Wendy: " do you want to shoot someone?"

Me: " You'll see tonight"

I aimed at the first man drawing and pulled the trigger, I shot repeatedly at the same place just like how Buja showed. I went for the leg and started shooting. I stopped and went to take a hand gun which wasn't silent. I check the bullets, only 5 bullets were inside. I aimed at the 3rd drawing and started shooting. It was making loud BANGS but I wasn't bothered. I ran out of bullets and said " damn it..." I went to place it back on shelf. I looked for a much bigger gun. Something told me to look at Wendy, when I did the expression on her face made me want to laugh. Her mouth was wide open and she looked beyond shocked. " What?" I asked trying hard not to giggle.

Wendy: " yhu!" She clapped once " I seriously don't know this Noxy that's in front of me"

Me: " I can see..."

Luzz phoned and asked me to open the basement. I walked up the stairs and opened for him. He was eating an apple. He sat on top of a table and said " yah sis'Nox, show us what you've got"

I continued shooting. I was actually getting used to this. Wendy took a gun as well and joined me. She laughed and said " I can't believe we're doing this..."

Luzz: "tyooovityoo!! Zicaphukile iladies! Ola ola! This is what I'm talking about hahahahaha!"

He took a bite on his apple and continued laughing until he choked. Wendy and I burst out into laughter. We all just laughed. It was the first time laughing ever since my husband got shot. We all stayed there for a while until we decided to go and take a break. Luzz was filling the guns with bullets the whole time. We went to put the guns away then exited the basement.

Me: " I'm so thirsty"

Luzz: " feel free to get yourself something in the fridge sis'Nox, make yourself at home."

Me: " thanx"

All the doors were now closed. We all went to the kitchen. I took out a Grapetizer from the fridge and gave one to Wendy too. Luzz said he doesn't want anything.

Wendy: " did you see today's headlines, Luzz?"

Luzz: " yeah hahahaha may he rot in hell."

Wendy: " nxa that bastard"

Luzz: " your hubby has no mercy Mrs Sbu, I mean, Khaya was looking at him all blooded before Lucky set the car on fire. Yoh hayi ngekhe he paid, yi sho leyo."

He downed his beer and said " next is that dude that is his partner"

Me: " yes. I need to ask him a few questions before he is killed."

Luzz: " sho-sho, sis'Nox"

Wendy: " I have to go and cook, tomorrow I'm going to take my kids at home, I miss them"

Me: " well my kids are coming back soon. I'm tired of living in fear. I just want my life to be back to normal again"

Later on Wendy and I went back to Sbu's place, he had just arrived from work. I had this urge to go back to my house despite the risk. I was really sick and tired of staying at someone's place when I had my own. Around 7pm I said " Wendy, please give me your car, I need to see Buja"

Sbu: " you can't go alone Noxy"

Me: " I'll be quick. I know I saw him today but I just need to see him again"

Sbu: " we'll go with you. I'm sorry but I won't take the risk of letting you leave alone"

Me: " fine"

We all left moments later and went on Sbu's car. We arrived at the hospital. " We'll wait outside" he said.

Me: " thanx, I need to speak to him alone"

I got out of the car and walked away to his ward. The nurses let me in despite not being the visiting hours, they knew that I'm his wife. The security guards were still there. I entered and went over to him.

Me: " hey, its me.."

I didn't even sit down. I held his hand" I just needed to see you again. I don't know why but I felt this strong urge to see you." I stared at him. I felt his hand move. I quickly glanced at it and said " Buja" my heart skipped in excitement.

" Babe? Can you hear me?" His fingers started moving, it was like he was trying to tighten my hand. Tears of joy rolled down my face.

"Please move my hand if you can hear me." I said. He tried moving it again. I gently loosened it and went to call the nurses. " I think he's woken up, he moved his hand!" I spoke so excitedly. 2 nurses came in and monitored him. 1 touched his hand and said " Mr Giba, if you can hear me please move your hand or fingers" he didn't move. Again she asked the same thing but nothing happened. They checked the drip and monitored other things. The nurse shook her head and said " it was a false alarm"

Me: " no it wasn't! He moved his hand, I saw him."

Nurse: " sometimes these things happen ma'am-"

Me: " you know what?! I haven't got time for this nonsense. I'm not going mad I know what I saw!"

Nurse 2: " please calm down"

I kissed Buja's forehead and walked out. I was upset. I know what I saw and I hated the fact that they were being so negative. I went to Sbu's car and they drove off.

Sbu: " how is he?"

Me: " still the same"

I looked through the window at the street lights. I didn't want to say this to anyone. I didn't understand why Buja didn't move his hand when the nurse touched him but he moved it when I did. " Let's stop by at my house please, there's something I want to take"

Sbu: " sure"

He drove off to there. I unlocked my house and turned on the lights. It brought so many memories of Buja and my kids. I went straight to the bedroom and went to the safe. I unlocked it and took out the gun Buja once gave me then locked it again. I loosened my belt and slid it behind my waist then fixed my top again. I don't know how the guys and Buja got used to this because it was flippin uncomfortable to have a gun behind my waist. I walked out and set the alarm then locked the door and gate. " I want to see this guy, Luzz can show me" I said to them while Sbu was driving off.



Wendy: " we'll go with you"

Me: " yazi I feel like a little kid"

Sbu: " we're not letting you out of our sight"

I was abit edgy. Luzz phoned. I picked up " uphi sis'Nox?"He asked.

Me: " I've just left my house"

Luzz: "I'm with Lucky and Jabu. We're going to this place where we've kept that mother fucker."

Me: "we're going there too"

Luzz: " sure, see you there"

Sbu was driving the whole time. We drove off until we arrived at this place where Buja kept Lumka. I didn't know whether it was their place when they teaching people lessons or what. The silver BMW was there and the lights were off. Lucky was busy having a smoke standing outside of the car. We stepped out. The place was very creepy, it was even worse at night. Luzz unlocked the door and we all went into the room this guy was in. He was on the chair tied in chains.

Luzz: " here's this bastard"

Luzz said as he turned on the lights.

I looked at him. He was with Khaya on the get-away trip. I remembered him.

Me: " so he's the one that has been stalking me?"

Luzz: " yep. That's him. He's the one who looks like a penguin"

Luzz started laughing so loud " fuck! I laughed so hard when Tar Buja told me that story. How the hell were we going to trace penguins? Hahaha it was even worse with the teddy bear. Krkrkr damn only to find out the teddy bear was this bullshit"

Jabu and Lucky were busy chuckling

Lucky: " yho mfethu, I almost cracked my brain trying to figure out how I was going to trace a teddy bear driving a blue car"

Jabu: " hahaha hayi Noxy you must introduce us to this granny."

Everyone chuckled.

Luzz: " hahaha okay, okay. Its time to be serious."

He uncovered the guy's mouth.

Me: " yes. No more jokes."

There was silence in the room again. I glared at this guy and said " what was your intentions? why would you spend the whole day watching my every move like you have no life. What exactly were you planning?"

He looked at me and said " hehehe what makes you think I'll tell you anything? Don't ask me nonsense"

I pulled out my gun and fixed it on his chest. " You still don't want to talk"

He started laughing. This guy was pissing me off and he was definitely under estimating me. I smiled and said " oh...so you think I'm bluffing?"

" Hahaha mxim" that was his response. I aimed for his right leg and pulled the trigger. A gun shot sound filled the room. He screamed in agony. I shot his other leg, his blood splashed on the floor. I had no remorse, yet he cried in so much agony.

Me: " you still think I'm bluffing?"

He didn't respond, he was just crying out loud.

Me: " tell me!!! What was your intentions when you stalked me?!"

Him: " we wanted to kidnap and kill you, but Khaya changed his mind and decided to kill your husband instead. Fuck, I'm in so much pain."

He cried out loud again. "Keep talking!! Tell me everything" I was still fixing the gun on him"

Him: " after Buja's death he was going to go after you, that's why he was out of town, he didn't want people to suspect he was involved. He only came back to be your shoulder to cry on.

Khaya wanted to build a relationship with you. He wanted Buja to turn in his grave. He wanted to spit on his memory"

I was shaking with anger. Lucky shouted " kill this mother fucker!! "

Luzz took out his gun " rha mayife le kaka !! He must follow his friend!"

Sbu wasn't taking his eyes off him while he was talking.

The guy said " I know you're all planning to kill me. I just wonder if Buja won't follow me soon" he smiled even though we could see he was in pain.

I pointed the gun on his forehead " No, Buja will defeat death. But you dear teddy bear, you will not..." I wanted to pull the trigger and kill him, but a little voice in my head said " this is not you Noxy. Don't do it" I closed my eyes. " I can't take a life" I whispered. I slowly bent down and put the gun on the floor. " I can't. I'm not a murderer" I turned around and went to the door. Wendy took the gun and said " we can't leave it behind.

Lucky: " Then let me do the honours, this shit must die. I'll see you in hell boy. In the mean time, I hope when satan welcomes you, he'll make you his new bitch."

I rushed going outside. " Noxy, where are you going?!!" Wendy shouted. I head a gun shot right after she said that. Wendy grabbed my hand. I stopped and turned to look at her. " He's dead." She's murmured.

## Chapter 64

" What's going to happen after this? They just killed someone!" I shouted in panic. A dead person was just in another room, I could have killed him myself just a minute ago, but now he's dead. What has gone wrong with me? I thought to myself. 'I don't know who I am anymore.'

" Noxy, can you hear me??" Wendy called out. " You can't wait in the car, its locked, that's why I was asking where are you going"

Me: " I want to get out of here! I don't want to see his dead body. We are all going to get arrested. Wendy, I might get a criminal record. I can't be an Attorney anymore. My career is ruined. My future is so dark right now. My husband is in a coma. I might not even see my children growing up"

" Noxy, calm down" a voice called out. It was Sbu. He came over to me and put his hands on my shoulders " look at me" he said. " No one is going to be arrested. We will get rid of the dead body. Don't worry about that. We will sort everything out okay?"

Me: " who killed him?"

Sbu: " it was Lucky..."

Me: " okay"

Sbu: " you're strong Noxy. I under estimated you. You're a strong woman and a fighter"

I looked at him blankly and didn't respond.

Me: " please give me the gun. I made a mistake by leaving it behind"

Wendy: " here it is"

I took it. The 3 guys came out of the room chatting like they hadn't just killed someone, they were all chilled and relaxed. Luzz said " okay, alright listen up. You ladies can go home and take a long nap. We've got a good plan on how to get rid of the body and clean up the mess. Don't stress we'll destroy the evidence. "

All I wanted was to just go, I wanted to leave and just be far away from that place. I still had a conscience, and even though everyone acted like what was happening is all normal, to me it wasn't. Sbu suggested we get going. He drove off leaving Buja's 3 syndicates behind.

Me: " I want to go to my house"

Sbu: " Noxy, we've talked-"

Me: " I want to go to my house!! I don't care even if I get killed, I really don't. Just drop me off at my house. I want to be alone."

Him and Wendy both kept quiet.

Wendy: " okay..."

Sbu still maintained his silence. I watched the direction he was going. Moments later he entered my street and parked in front of my house.

Sbu: " please put my number on speed dial. Right now I feel like I'm failing my friend by agreeing to this"

Me: " I'll be fine. Goodnight"

Wendy: " bye"

Me: " bye. I'll call you guys in the morning to confirm that I slept well. "

They both chanted " okay"

I got out of the car and entered my house moments later. I entered the alarm code then locked the house. I walked to my bedroom. I went to the closet and returned the gun to the safe then I undressed and went to the bathroom to take a long shower. I scrubbed myself. The shower must have taken an hour, all I wanted was to be clean. I wanted to wash all these bad things I've been doing away knowing that it wasn't even possible. I finally stepped out of the shower and wrapped a towel around body then went back to the bedroom. I decided to go and take my wedding album then walked out to Lutha's room and took out his photo album. I had a few photos of Bathi, which we had placed on our family album. I went back to the room and sat down on the bedroom couch then looked through all the albums. I missed my family so much, all of a sudden I found myself in a house alone. I found myself being a 'she thug' without even realizing it. I thought about my father, and the morals that he taught me. Why was I losing myself? I was starting to hate the person I had become. I wanted to be the humble Noxy that I was once. I closed the photo albums and placed them on top of the dressing table. I. Lotioned myself and wore my night dress. Before I went to bed I decided to look for Buja's top, I saw his black top that he wore about 3 days before he got shot. I decided to take off my night dress and wear it. It still smelled his cologne. I got into bed and covered myself. His top alone comforted me. I missed my husband so much, I missed my Lutha and Bathi. I got teary and cried so hard. After a while I got out of bed and knelt down to pray " Dear Lord, I come before you as a sinner. I invite you into my heart anew tonight,

and I ask for your forgiveness for all my sins. I repent, Oh Lord. Please take away all this anger, hatred and this grudge I have in my heart that defile me, and replace them with the good things that You desire to grow into my life. Please wash away all my sinful crud and tendencies towards evil and replace them with a hunger and thirst for your righteousness. I need your help, Lord God, for You know what the future holds in my life. Please make my paths straight. In Jesus Christ I pray. Amen" I breathed out loud while tears flew down my face. I slowly got up and felt like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I felt hopeful. I realized that instead of being close to God, I was running away from him. I went to take some tissues and wiped my face then returned back to bed and drifted to sleep moments later.

I woke up in the morning and made myself some breakfast. I sms'd Sbu and Wendy and told them I slept well and that I won't be going back to their house. I had faith that God would protect me. I was just done living in fear and running away from enemies that I don't even know now. It was time to get my life back in order. And after that prayer, I believed I can do it. I took my phone and called Mama (Buja's mom) and I asked how my babies were doing. She told me they were okay but Lutha cried yesterday night because he missed me and Buja. I told her I'll be coming for a visit. I hung up and got ready to go. I decided on driving the GTI. Buja's Jeep had now returned back but the window was not fixed yet. I drove off to Buja's home town, on the way I stopped by at the shop to buy all Lutha's favourite food then drove off. I decided on listening to Kenny Latimore's album. That was Buja's favourite RnB singer. I arrived moments later and parked outside. My son ran over to me with so much excitement in his face.

Lutha: "mommy!!! Have you come to fetch me? Is daddy also coming??"

He had so many questions I didn't know which one I should start answering.

Me: "I'll fetch you soon my nana. Daddy is sick, he'll come back when he's fine okay?"

He nodded smiling at me. I missed his smile so much. We entered the house. Mama and Makheswa were in the kitchen, I greeted them and had a small chat about Buja and how he was doing then I went to take my baby Bathi. He was playing with his fingers making baby noises "hey you!" I said hugging him. I just didn't want to let go. "I love you so much" I whispered "I hope you have been a good boy for mommy" Lutha joined me and I kissed his forehead. "How have you been sthandwa sam?" I asked him. He told me every little thing and the fun he's been having at his grandparent's house then he went on to say he misses school. I promised to take him soon. I only left later on in the evening. I returned back to Sbu's house. Him, Wendy and their kids were around. I packed my bags and thanked them again for their help and support. I asked them what happened to the guy's body, "don't worry about that Noxy, try to forget about it" said Sbu. I decided to just let it go. I drove back to my house assuring them I'll call when I've arrived safely, they said okay. I did just that when I arrived. It was dark outside yet I wasn't even scared. I had grown to be fearless in most things.

Days went by. I kept visiting Buja every single day, even on the weekend and having a chat with him about almost everything. I went to his work place to report what had happened to him. They asked if they could go and visit him but I declined. I advised them that only family was allowed in, they understood. But I promised I'd let them know when he wakes up. I also went to Lutha's school and reported what happened and that Lutha had gone to his grand parent's house for safety. They sympathised with me and encouraged me to stay positive. I hadn't stopped praying. I prayed about everything that has been going on around me and everything that I had found myself involved in. I had decided to restore my faith again.

It was now on a tuesday. I had decided to go and visit Karen, I needed to have a word with her. But first, I decided to call and check her schedule for the day. Rulene answered.

Me: " hey, its me, Noxy"

Rulene: " hey!!! Oh my gosh! Have you given birth yet? Is it a boy or a girl? When are you coming back to the office"

Me: " Its a boy. I'm blessed with 2 handsome boys. I was actually phoning to check if Karen is in. If so, please check her diary I want to know when she'll be in."

Rulene: " first, are you coming with the baby?"

Me: " no sweetie. Next time okay?"

Rulene: " argh man okay. She's in a meeting at the moment out of the office, by 11am she'll be back, though.

Me: " okay by 11 I'll be there"

Rulene: " sure, see you"

Me: " alright. bye"

I hung up and made a sandwich for myself. After I was done I went to run a bubble bath sprinkled with some ginger and citrus flavour bath crystals then soaked myself in. " This feels so good" I said softly. I stayed in the bath for a while then finally decided to step out. I went to lotion myself then opened the closet and checked what to wear. I decided on wearing a camille denim shirt and full length slim pants. I went to check which shoes to wear, I took out my desirae ankle boots. I applied my make up and did my hair. After about an hour of just getting ready I walked out and locked my house door then got into the GTI while the gate slid open. I hadn't drove my car in a while now, I was still enjoying the other car. I drove off to work. When I arrived the staff gave me a hug. They told me Bongie was at Court which was a relief for me because I didn't want to run into her " you don't look like you've just had a baby!" Sis'Linda complimented " are you gyming?"

Me: "not at all. I'm thinking of signing up at gym soon though. Let me go to Karen, we'll chat later" They said okay. I knocked and entered " Noxy! Come on in" she welcomed.

I sat down. She asked about the baby and how I've been. I told her what happened. She was so shocked to hear about Buja getting shot. I said " I'm not sure I can go on with my Articles. I'm thinking of quitting"

Karen: " what? Noxy, I know you've been going through some very hard times lately but that is a mistake"

Me: " I can't, I'm not fit enough to be a lawyer"

Karen: " says who? Noxy I have been very impressed with your performance. You are almost done with your Articles. You still need to register to right your exams. I understand you are going through a lot right now but I don't agree with your decision"

Me: " okay"

I breathed out loud " I've been doing so many bad thing"

Karen: " we are all not perfect. Lawyers don't need to be perfect Noxy. There are Lawyers out there who are christians yet defend their clients whether a crime was committed or not in Court because of their careers. Some of them don't quit. We are known to be tough. We have backbones and we do not give up so easily. Re-think your decision"

Me: " I will..."

Karen: " I hope you will come back to work soon, I don't want you to be too far behind"

Me: " thanx Karen. I will, trust me"

She was so encouraging. My phone rang interrupting us. It was an office number. " Sorry, I need to get this..."

She nodded.

Me: " hello"

Caller: " Good day, am I speaking to Mrs Giba?"

Me: " that's correct"

Caller: " you're speaking to Dr Tyler."

Me: " yes, Dr Tyler."

Dr: " I have good news for you Mrs Giba, your husband opened his eyes at 10:15 , we-"

Me: " Thank you, I'm coming"

I hung up and jumped off the seat.

Me:" Karen, I'll see you soon. I've just received an urgent phone call"

We said our goodbyes. I told the others I had just received an emergency call and rushed out. I had absolutely no time to chat. When I was going to the car, Bongie had just arrived.

Bongie: " hey. wow, nice car"

" Thanx" I said unlocking the car and stepping in. She weirdly stared at me. " Sick bastard" I said as I sped off to the hospital. I just couldn't wait to arrive. I wanted to see it for myself. I arrived and rushed to the ward. When I arrived Buja wasn't there. I went to the Reception and asked which ward he was in. She gave me the number of his new ward. I walked in such a hurry. When I arrived a nurse was monitoring him and so was Dr Tyler. Buja was indeed awake.

Dr: " your husband is a fighter ma'am"

I went over to him and said " sthandwa sam" I couldn't hold back my tears. He looked at me wincing his eyes. He's brown smokey eyes that I had missed seeing so much.

Buja: " Noxy.."

He said in a hoarse voice. " Hey" I sat down and held his hand with both of my hands. He slowly reached his hands for my face and wiped away my tears " don't cry my love. I'm back. I'm never leaving you again okay..."

Me: " there's so much I want to tell you. There's so much that has happened. Buja I was so scared you were going to leave me"

Buja: " iJaja khangе livume babe. I won't leave you. We'll talk about the rest later. For now, I just want to look at you; I want to look at my wife's beautiful face."

I smiled with so much happiness inside. Finally, my Buja had woken up.

## Chapter 65

He winced again, I could tell he was in a bit of pain. " Are you alright?"

Buja: " I'm a tough man, I'll be fine"

I got up and kissed his cheek. " I've missed you so much" I said.

Buja: " I'm back babe. I'll fix things and soon everything will be back to normal"

Me: " I hope so"

Buja: " how did you know I was here?"

Me: " I looked inside the ward you were in but couldn't find you, the security guards are still there though, which is rather confusing. So I went to the Reception to ask which ward you're in"

Buja's facial expression changed from being pleasant to anger. He frowned and glared at the Doctor " that is not suppose to happen, please sort it out now." He looked at the nurse " both of you"

It was barely the whole day since he had woken up yet he was already making orders.

Dr: " yes, ofcourse. That is one thing I forgot to sort out"

Buja: " ask the Receptionist who else has asked for me. Make sure my name still remains on the life support ward. No one must know I'm awake. Send me to another ward, I don't want to take any chances."

Dr: " I'll be on it, Mr Giba"

Both him and the nurse walked out.

Me: " what's going on?"

He sighed and moaned in pain " I need another dose of the pain meds, the pains are getting stronger"

Me: " do you want more pillows?"

Buja: " no its okay, babe"

His voice still sounded hoarse. He cleared his throat and said " I actually wanted to keep silent and just admire your beauty Mrs Giba but it seems this is not the right time. Babe, I didn't wake up today, I did before this morning."

I wore a puzzled expression. " But how can you not tell me?"

Buja: " It wasn't that easy. The nurse that was here is the first one that discovered I was awake. She's the one who reported to Dr Tyler, I needed the doctor to instruct other nurses not to monitor me. Its better I deal with just 2 people in this hospital"

Me: " I see..."

Buja: " babe, I'll be honest with you. The only people I trust right now is you and Luzz. The rest I still want to confirm if they should be trusted or not"

Me: " Khaya is dead"

Buja: " when did he die?"

Me: " a few days back. Sbu and the rest killed him. The guy who stalked me has died as well, I was there when he was killed"

He stared at me for a while and said " so you were exposed to that?"

Me: " I actually wanted to kill him. Don't you trust your other friends?"

Buja: " No. And I don't want them to know I'm awake until I confirm that they're not in on this. Sbu is my best friend, but I have to be sure if I can trust him too. I've made a deal with those security guards. They know me. I want them to stand there in that ward and act like I'm still there. I'm still weak, but I will get much stronger soon. Now sthandwa sam, there's something I want you to do for me."

Me: " I'm listening"

Buja: " get Luzz to come here, don't call him. I want you to see him face to face. I want to discuss something with him. In the mean time, don't raise any suspicions, don't mention anything to the others, tell them I'm still the same. "

Me: " that's exactly what I've been doing, my love. I haven't told anyone."

He smiled and said " good, that's my girl"

Me: " so I guess I shouldn't inform the family"

Buja: " not yet."

Me: " your mother is worried sick about you my love. She's needs to hear the good news"

Buja: " she will, just give me a few more days.

He sighed " I want to change so many things in my life babe. I almost died and left you behind. Where's my children?"

Me: " they went to stay with their grandparents, and Makheswa. It wasn't safe"

Buja: " thanx babe for everything. "

Moments later I had to go before if got late. I got into the car and called Luzz, he wasn't around but advised that will stop by at my house later. I returned back to my place. Later in the evening Luzz arrived. I told him that Buja had woken up but he doesn't want that to be known for now. " What?? Let's go and see him sis'Nox. Yho ibuddah, at last!"

Me: " you can go ahead. Remember, no one must know he's awake. "

Luzz: " yah sho, I understand. No problem"

He left. Days went by and I decided the following week I'll be returning back to work. No one knew yet that he's awake and his family hadn't mentioned visiting him just yet which was good because I wasn't sure how I was going to stop them. They asked how he was doing from me, and I told them nothing had changed. Sbu called and said the burnt body was finally identified as Khaya's and that he was told the funeral is this week on saturday.

" Remember we said we'll be going to his funeral" he added.

Me: " Yeah, uhm. Will we be going with the same car or?"

Sbu: " yah. We'll pick you up."

Me: " sure"

We hung up. The next day I decided to pamper myself. I went to the beauty salon and did a peruvian weave, I then did a manicure and pedicure. They also shaped my eye brows. I went to do alittle shopping after. There's nothing as good as retail therapy, especially if you've had some very stressful days. Later on I cooked a meal for my husband and went to visit him at the hospital. He was now in a different ward again, that only me and Luzz knew about. I didn't trust the other nurses and hoped Buja would be discharged soon. When I entered he was watching TV looking like he's bored to death. " Hey you" I said to him. He smiled and said " my better half. "

I went over to him and kissed him on his lips.

Buja: " ha a baby, I'm not a lil kid, kiss your man properly, don't worry I have been brushing my teeth"

I giggled and kissed him again. The kiss was so passionate. I've missed his lips so much. We broke the kiss and he looked into my eyes. " I hope you've been a good girl"

Me: " you know I have"

He let out a smile. " I can't wait to be out of here. I just want to taste my cookie again. I miss it so much" he bit his lower lip still looking at me. My cheeks felt hot from all that blushing "you're still such a charmer, even after what happened" he laughed but stopped quickly. " Eish, I'm still in pain yazi"

Me: "sorry babe. I've brought you supper. I'll feed you"

He nodded and said " sure"



I took out a spoon and fed him. He chewed for a while before swallowing. It took a while for him to finally finish up. "Thanx babe" he said. "Look how messed up my body is" he opened up to show me where the operation was. It was only 2 parts. "I'll have to cover the scars with tattoos" he said.

Me: "you're not into tattoos"

Buja: "I can't have scars on my sexy body, I need to hide them. I mean, how will I have swim? And then wena baby when you look at me I want you to be wet down there just by the sight of me."

He said rubbing me on the front. I couldn't help but laugh.

Buja: "I love you, mam'Giba. Thanx for waiting for me, for being by my side through everything. I know I made a good choice my marrying you. You are what I call a true wife. I don't see myself messing up my marriage again. That's why I think its time I sorted out my life"

Me: "I'll be by your side no matter what my love."

Buja: "I know you will babe"

He took my hand and kissed it.

I spent the evening with him. I didn't care whether the visiting hours were over. I left moments later. The day before the funeral I visited him again and this time Luzz was also there. He knew it would be Khaya's funeral the next day yet he wasn't even happy. All he said was "I guess the world was just too small for the both of us. Farewell Khaya"

Luzz: "I'm not going to his funeral. I don't give a fuck, seriously."

Me: "I'm going..."

Buja: "yeah go babe. As long as you're with Sbu you'll be fine"

Me: "do you trust him now?"

Buja: "he's my boi, I just wanted to be sure if I could trust him, and the others. But I know Sbu wouldn't betray me. So far it looks like he's been loyal.

I nodded with a little relief.

It was now on a saturday, the day of the funeral. I ate a light breakfast then bathed. I wore my black buckle dress. Black seude pointed heels. I applied my red matte lipstick and powdered my face. I decided on letting my weave loose and wore my stud diamond earrings and necklace. Sbu phoned moments later saying they're on their way. I tidied up so long and waited in the living room. They arrived so I set the alarm on and locked my house. There was another car behind him. The window slid down and someone shouted "Noxy my friend!" When I turned it was Sandi. Vusi was driving "haibo!!" I stood there like an idiot dumb struck "we'll talk my peto!" She winked still giggling. I laughed and said "sure!" I got into Sbu's car at the backseat and greeted them.

Sbu: "hahaha you look surprised to see Sandi"

Me: "yah uhm...I didn't know she was coming but thank goodness she is, I've missed her." My phone vibrated. When I checked it was a message from Sandi "chomy, I have so much to tell you. Me and Vusi have a thing going sana. I told you I wasn't a refrigerator wink emoticon" I laughed, I missed my crazy friend. "And now?" Wendy asked.

Me: "nothing, I've just received a message from a friend."

We arrived moments later at a town Hall where the funeral would take place. It was so packed. We went inside and sat at the same row. Joseph and Lwando were also there, they didn't bring their partners along, thank goodness because I didn't want to be the only one alone. The funeral started. I looked at his casket as different people went to the front to talk about him. Sandi was

next to Vusi. In all of this I couldn't wait for the funeral to be over so that I can have a chat with her. Around 12pm it was time to go to the grave yard. The hearse left and was followed by the family car. 3 cars started spinning on the side. I wondered if that was even allowed but no one tried stopping what was going on. Wendy was next to me. " The guys will be going to the grave yard, we should just go and wash our hands then leave." She said, Sandi came over to me and we hugged.. Sbu kissed Wendy's cheek and said " you ladies can use my car, we'll use Vusi's. " Okay love" she responded. The guys were still with us.

" Hi everyone!!" A lady's voice called out while we were all still chatting. When I turned, I saw Bongie with her friend. I couldn't contain the surprised look on my face, she was the last person I expected to see there.

This girl said " long time no see guys! How have you been? Its so sad to see you all in my ex's funeral. "

Wendy: " Aviwe, I didn't think you would come"

Oh! Aviwe? Khaya's ex girlfriend...the one my husband slept with. I see, so Bongie knew this Aviwe, but she lied and said its Nwabisa. Why though..

Bongie said " uhm, Noxy, I didn't expect to see you here"

Aviwe looked at her and said " Noxy, Buja's wife?"

Bongie: " yes, my friend"

Aviwe: " hi Noxy! I guess you know the history between me and your hubby. Wandixabanisa nomntu wam ke uBuja. I got dumped because of him. May Khaya's soul rest in peace. How is your husband doing? By the way, you look beautiful and elegant, not what I expected, uh... sorry I'm not saying it in a wrong way. I'm so glad to finally meet you!"

Sbu: " ladies, I'll see you at my place okay. We should get going"

Joseph: " yeah, see ya'll later"

He left with the guys, Wendi said " Noxy, Sandi, let's get going"

Noxy: " yeah, let's go dear"

We turned around and left them standing there. Wendy started the car and drove off. " Noxy, I'm so happy you didn't respond to her, she must be feeling like an idiot right now" Sandi said laughing.

Me: " so this Aviwe is Bongie's friend, its not her cousin but her friend. While I was busy opening to her about my marriage problems she was sending all the info to Aviwe. That's why she's not even surprised that I know her. "

Wendy: " leave her Noxy, she just wants your attention. All of what she is saying is in the past. People like her and that Bongie don't want to be forgotten.

Me: " true, I won't let her get to me. My husband and I moved on from that."

I couldn't help but wonder though, how did Bongie know Khaya's ex. I thought deeply while Sandi was having a chat with Wendy. One thing crossed my mind after a very hard time of trying to figure this out. Bongie slept with Sbu, and this Aviwe had a thing with Buja. I wondered if she wasn't this wild friend she smoked and drank with at tertiary. But I didn't know how I was going to bring that up to anyone, because I didn't know whether Wendy knew Bongie once had a one night stand with Sbu

The ladies and I just wanted to leave. We didn't even bother staying a bit longer to socialize, I wasn't complaining though. It was awkward as it is being involved in this persons death then attending his funeral. Think about it, how awkward can it be to kill someone then attend his/her funeral after? That's twisted, but I somehow wasn't judging at all. Khaya was out to get me and Buja. I'm not sure what I ever did to him though to actually even consider killing me in the first place, but I still wondered what the root of the problem was between Buja and him. But since he was now 6 feet under, I didn't really have any hope that Buja would reveal this secret.

Wendy arrived at her house. She was now staying with Sbu and their kids full time in his mansion, and she had left Amanda in her apartment. She parked and we stepped out. I still hadn't mentioned to them that Buja was awake. It was such good news to say to everyone but I had decided keep silent until Buja gives me the go ahead. " After this funeral, I feel like drinking a cold cider" Wendy said as she made her way to the Bar area, Sandi and I followed and sat on the high chairs.

Wendy: " Sandi what do you feel like having?"

Sandi: " Hunters gold will do for me"

Wendy opened the fridge and gave it to her then gave me an Appletizer"

Wendy: " sorry Noxy, this is the only drink we have so far"

Me: " no its cool"

She kicked off her heels and sat down with us. " Lovies, tell me what's really going on with those 2 bitches we saw at the Hall?"

Sandi: " ha ha ha, Bongie is really starting to show her true colours now"

Me: " was that Aviwe trying to be sarcastic or what? Argh, I still can't get over the fact that I was busy opening up to a snake. I seriously can't. Bongie might want to use the info she has against me, but at least she doesn't really have anything solid."

Wendy: " does Buja know you've been opening up to her?"

Me: " not really, he doesn't know I was giving her all the details"

Wendy: " you should tell him when he gets out of the life support. What if she uses the info to turn Buja against you? Think about it, she told Buja you slept with Khaya even though it wasn't true. That alone tells you how much of a twisted person she is"

I swallowed hard. Bongie knew about almost every side chick that Buja had, I told her about them. But what more can she actually do?

" He he he! Noxy sana, do you know that she and I are no longer talking ever since that argument we had? The one that involved Loyz? She's now speaking to Nelisa but not to me. " Sandi said.

Me: " yho heee..."

I seriously don't even know why I couldn't say anything further than that. I was even more surprised there was a person named Loyz in this earth. I had completely forgotten he even existed. I actually wanted to share a chuckle at that thought. I guess I wasn't bluffing when I cutted all ties with him. I had even blocked his number on my WhatsApp. I decided to just change the topic, it wasn't really a good one because we were talking about people's names, and at that moment, Bongie and her friend weren't even worth this conversation we were having.

Me: " so Wendy, did your husband just decide to buy a mansion? I mean, this house is just too huge. "

Wendy: " hahaha not really dear. Sbu is the first born so he is the heir, his father has a lot of

businesses, mostly involving importing and exporting, he is currently running a company overseas but also has 3 other companies here in South Africa. One of the companies are under Sbu's name, which means he's the majority shareholder. You can see he comes from a wealthy family, so he happened to mention to his father that he's planning to buy a house, and guess what happened?"

Wendy: " his father bought it for him?"

Sandi: " Exactly!"

Me: " but why buy a mansion?"

Wendy: " because he's wealthy. Sbu is not very happy about this, everytime when he wants to do things on his own his father comes to the rescue. Sometimes he always says he feels like he's suffocating, its like he is not allowed to be independent. "

Me: " gosh, it must be hard"

Sandi: " I wish his father was my father. I would never ever have to work. I'd be the rich girl, sipping on some cocktails and shopping all day everyday. I'd be daddy's little princess, and BAM!! My future would be totally bright, I'd wake up owning a company that my father has left for me. Just like that. Sbu is just not counting his blessings."

Wendy and I both laughed.

Me: " I hope you do realize a degree is needed to actually handle a big company, you still have to prove yourself to the shareholders. You can't just go there and embarrass yourself in board meetings my being blonde"

Sandi: " hahaha even if I did, my future would still remain bright. Please ask for your father-in-law to adapt me Wendy, say I'm a street kid and I'm in need and hungry."

Wendy and I laughed so hard.

Wendy looked at me and said " sometimes he becomes reckless not because of fun but because that's the only thing that he feels he's father has no say in. " I knew exactly what she's talking about. We heard the front door opening "sssshhh they're here" Wendy whispered, we quickly changed the subject.

" Ladiieeeeees!" Vusi said walking in at the Bar, he went to take out 4 beers and gave them to the others.

Joseph: "you do realize that the after tears have already started?"

Sbu: " we're not going. I'm going clubbing tonight, I'm actually going to dance like there's no tomorrow"

Vusi: " I'm joining you chap, all I want is to party hard this weekend"

Lwando: " Noxy, so we're still not allowed to go and see Buja? But we're more like family to him. "

Me: " nope, only when he wakes up"

Lwando: " sure then"

Me: " guys, I should get going. I'll see you some other time"

Sandi: " let me go with you. Vusi will you drop us off?"

Vusi: " yeah sure"

We said our goodbyes and left. Vusi dropped us off and said he'll call Sandi later. As soon as we arrived I took off my shoes and dress then wore my gym shorts and grey vest then went over to the kitchen to take some chips. " Let's have a chat!!" I said to Sandi as I joined her in the living room.

Me: " soooo..."

She laughed and said " okay, now where do I start??" Her face was literally glowing.

Me: " someone is in love!"

Sandi: " yhu chomy, I don't remember the last time I had this feeling. I was starting to think something is wrong with me. Anyway.....Vusi kept phoning after the shagging we had. So we met again and slept together"

I widened my eyes and gave her the look.

Sandi: " hayi don't judge!"

Me: " I'm not!...anyway..and.."

I took a handful of chips while listening.

Sandi: " and then he confessed that he couldn't stop thinking about me. I told him I have a boyfriend and that this is not right. Don't forget Noxy that I didn't even have a boyfriend, I was single as shit!! You know, when its coming out of the asshole"

Me: " sies!!!! We're eating here"

She laughed and said " I'm joking!"

I got so disgusted and said " yulk! okay and then what happened...."

Sandi: " hahaha yho my friend, haike after that we were seeing each other waya-way. We even went out on dates, we called each other often. Yep, I think its safe to say we're officially dating."

Me: " ncooh, I'm happy for you, all the best my friend"

Sandi: " thanx love. I'm sure you must be missing your man"

Me: " a lot Sandi. I can't wait for him to get out of that hospital."

Sandi: " oh lawd, I'm sure you missing something else now. When last did you get some?"

She laughed, " don't you dare!" I said trying hard to keep a straight face. The phone rang interrupting us. It was Luzz " eita sis'Nox, opening up pweezzz"

Me: " haha sure"

I opened up for him and he entered the house. " Tshini Sandi" he said.

Sandi: " Awu luzz mfethu!"

She got up and they hugged. " Where do you know each other again?" I asked.

Sandi: " We party together. I always see him in this places I go too"

Luzz: " haha yeah, this one is a party freak. Otherwise, nigrand?"

Sandi: " yeah, we went to Khaya's funeral. Shame he burnt to death"

Luzz: " I heard that maan, shame poor guy."

He said that smiling channel hopping " I wonder what's interesting on TV" he said concentrating on the screen. I was staring at him. " Eish sis'Nox, stop looking at me, you're making me shy".

I couldn't help but laugh. They stayed at my house until it got late. Later on we dropped off Sandi at her place then went to see Buja.

Days passed and I returned back to work. It was now my first week back and the work I had missed out on was a lot. I was so much under pressure that I had to start organizing my schedule. I even worked late sometimes. I also registered for the exams I would be writing in a few months time. At least now that was sorted. I went to see my kids and told Buja's parents that he's making good progress. They wanted to come down and see him this coming weekend and I hoped by then Buja will advise me to tell them the good news. Bongie and I didn't speak at work. She tried her best to avoid me, sometimes she didn't even eat lunch with us, she always left the

office during lunch time. I reckoned she was going to her best friend Aviwe because she got dumped by her boyfriend the last time I checked. Buja was starting to get stronger. Dr Tyler advised that he's getting discharged the next day, I was so happy about that. However, Buja was sleeping most of the time. I also had to force him to eat. He wasn't his normal self at all, he's body was still healing. It was now around 5pm and I had visited him after knocking off at work. He then said " I think you can tell people I'm alive babe. Its time"

Me: " its not like you were dead"

Buja: " I was half dead, I was a vegetable"

Me: " haibo sthandwa sam. Anyway, I should actually tell them as in now. I'm going to call Sbu and your other friends"

Buja: " feel free"

Me: "and your mother"

Buja: " call her tomorrow. I'm getting discharged. I know she'll want to be here this very minute."

Me: " haha you know her too well"

Buja: " I miss my children babe, I just want to be with them, maybe that will also brighten up my mood"

Me: " I was planning on fetching them tomorrow"

Buja: " I want to sleep with them in the same bed. I just want to cuddle with all of you"

I smiled at him. I opened my bag and searched for my phone then took his. Its funny how I didn't think of searching through his phone the whole time it was with me. I totally didn't think of that. I had tons of text messages and voicemail messages. I had decided to switch it off that's why. I phoned Sbu and told him the good news " I'm on my way to the hospital right now" he said. I told Buja and he said " nah its cool." It seemed like he no longer had doubts about him. I knew he was probably coming with Wendy.

Me: "you've got so many messages"

Buja: " you can read them and delete those that are not important babe. I can't wait to finish up my course on these medz, I'm forever tired and sleepy"

He said closing his eyes. " You will babe" I responded. I crossed my legs and looked through his messages. He had deleted all the past messages from Lumka and these side chicks. I hadn't read the unopened ones though. I opened them and all of them were work related. I decided to listen to the voicemail messages.

Message 1 was from he's colleague trying to get hold of him regarding a meeting and that he was late, I reckoned it was that time I hadn't informed them about Buja being shot.

I went on to the next voicemail message. "Hey there" a lady said " its me Aviwe, I'm sure you still remember me. I know its been a while because I didn't even have your number anymore. I got it from my friend Bongie, I'm sure you remember her. How can you forget after the wildness and fun we had back in the days. Anyway I was wondering if we can hook up, I'm back in town for a few months. I'll check up on you some other time. Sharp"

I looked at Buja, he was starting to doze off.

Me: " Bulelani..."

He opened his eyes and said " yeh babe?" He could hardly keep his eyes open.

Me: " I'll be back"

I got up and walked out. I took my phone and paged to Bongie's number. It rang for a while until she said " hey"

Me: " Bongiwe, tell me, what is your intentions by giving Aviwe my husband's contact number?"

Bongie: " oh..uhm...uh...well she had it before so I didn't think it would be a big problem"

Me: " are you challenging me, Bongiwe?"

Bongie: " uh..no!"

Me: " I see it was all fun for you while I was crying on your shoulder wasn't it? You twisted everything and said you hate Buja because of what he did to your cousin. Now why are you giving your so called cousin his number if you hate him so much?"

Bongie: " Noxy you know what? I don't have to answer anything to you"

Me: " listen here you snake. It seems like this is not about Aviwe or Buja, its about you and me. I don't know what I ever did to you Bongiwe, because I don't even remember backstabbing or betraying you. In fact I was nothing but a friend to you. "

Bongie: " what's your point??"

Me: "You are one of those people who ruin the true meaning of the word friendship. I can see that you're directly provoking me and maybe this was your plan from the beginning, but I just want to tell you one thing, and that is your little plan will not work. You are just wasting your time and energy."

Bongie: "we'll just have to see about that."

Me: " oh? So you're admitting that you've got some dirty plan up your sleeve"

She hung up. My anger started building up. I wanted to call and swear at her. I saw Sbu and Wendy approaching Buja's ward and decided to go in. I sat down shaking with anger. Buja involuntary opened my eyes. " What's wrong babe?"He asked.

Me: " one of your ex side chicks Aviwe decided to give you a ring, and she got your number from Bongie."

He was about to respond when the door flew open " Nja yam!!" Sbu called out.

Buja let out a slight smile. " The dog is back my nigga. They don't call me hard core for nothing. " He respond. Sbu went over to him and they man hugged.

Sbu: " Ekse! welcome back mfethu"

Wendy: " they don't call you hardcore for shit Buja. Welcome back buddy"

They hugged.

Sbu: " damn we've missed you my nigga! Hahaha I'm so happy I can't even hide it"

They laughed, except for me. This thing with Bongie was really upsetting me. Buja lifted my chin gently. I looked at him " we'll talk about this tomorrow when I get home, okay?don't let this chick get to you, please. I'm no longer into that life anymore. All I want now is to see you smiling"

I sighed and said " okay"

Wendy: " how about a welcome back party?!"

Buja: " oh shit, oh shit. Me being the man of the party?? Fo sho the roof will be on fire, the party will be hotter than the sun I'm telling you Wendy...hahaha but let me get better first, and anyway I just want to be with my family, my Noxy needs to feel my touch, I'm sure our bed has been very cold without me"

He said looking at me. " Oh kodwa Buja" Wendy said laughing

Sbu: " yeah Buja mfethu, she must know that the man of the house is back! She must feel it in all levels"

I looked down and said " my hubby really knows how to make me all shy nhe.." He held my hand with a slight smile on his face while the other 2 were busy laughing. I ended up smiling as well " that's it my love, that's what I want to see" he said staring into my eyes.

## Chapter 67

" We'll just have to see about that" Bongie's words kept replaying in my mind. Why was she in so much of a mission to cause conflict in my marriage . I couldn't help but feel this Aviwe was just pressured by Bongie to phone Buja. It was just so obvious that she was the one pushing this girl to make a move on him.

Me: " guys, I should get going now"

Buja: " so soon"

Me: " I'll leave you and your friends to chat"

Buja: " I'll call you tonight. Tomorrow I'll get discharged in the afternoon, I'm hoping we'll go and fetch our kids."

Me: " we will, I'm taking them tomorrow"

Buja: " okay babe"

I got up and gave him a kiss " bye guys" I said.

Wendy: " you look abit distracted, what's wrong?"

Me: " its just been a long day at work"

Wendy: " okay, maybe you should just rest"

Me: " yes."

I left moments later. I rushed to get to my car and just go to my bed and sleep. I drove off. I was still upset. My blood was just boiling. I arrived at home and drove in my car then went inside the house. I took off my clothes and wore my pj's then got into bed. I didn't even bother cooking. I got inside the covers and closed my eyes. I just couldn't sleep. I sat up straight then took a deep breath. I reached for my phone and decided to call my mother-in-law. It was time I informed the family that Buja had woken up.

"Hello Simtha" she said sounding like she's in a happy mood.

Me: " hey Mama, how are you?"

Buja's mom: " I'm good, how's my son?"

Er....okay, she didn't even bother asking how I was, I didn't even get upset though because I was used to her.

Me: " I have some good news, Mama. He is out of life support. The doctor even said he's getting discharged tomorrow, he can recuperate at home"

Mama: " halala!!!! Thank you Lord! My God never disappoints!!! Thank you Father. "

Me: " hahaha yes, so we'll come over tomorrow and we'll be picking up the kids as well"

Mama: " hallelujah!!!"

She carried on praising the Lord. After a while of listening to her, I asked to speak to my Lutha. She gave him the phone while she spoke in the back ground.

Lutha: " Mommy, I miss you mna"

He said getting all teary. " Daddy and mommy are coming to fetch you tomorrow nana okay?

Don't cry"



Lutha: " okay, its just that I miss home"

Me: " we'll be taking you and baby Bathi tomorrow don't worry boy"

Lutha: " okay mommy"

He sniffed continuously. " I know big boys don't cry, I don't know why I'm acting like a baby" he said. I laughed " you miss your mommy that's why"

Lutha: " yes I do..."

Me: " hahaha bye nana"

Lutha: " bye..."

We hung up. I smiled to myself. Lutha just brought so my joy in my heart. I got up to take 2 bananas then after I was done eating them I went straight to the medicine cabinet and took some pain tablets then went back to bed. At least they made me sleepy. I finally drifted to sleep. I woke up around 11pm and checked my phone. I had a message from Buja " goodnight my love." I put down my phone and tried sleeping again.

The next morning was friday...

I got up a bit late because I was just lazy to wake up. My spirit was a bit low. I took a bath then quickly ate some cereal. After I was done I wore my black jumpsuit with a gold belt, black pointed heels, and a white blazer. I applied my bronze lipstick and let my peruvian weave loose. I took my handbag and rushed out of the house. I arrived at work 1 minute past 8am. I greeted everyone and went straight to my office. There was a knock on the door. " Come in" I said. The Filing Clerk entered with about 6 files. " Karen wants you to do bill of costs on these files. " She said. " Okay put them on top of my desk. I'm sensing a busy day ahead" I responded. She laughed and said " goodluck" then walked out. I opened my laptop and checked my diary. At least I wasn't attending court. I sighed and took the first file and a calculator. I was planning to work through my lunch so that I could knock off early. My door flew open while I was busy, Bongie stormed into my office.

Bongie: " Noxolo, who the hell do you think you are?"

I turned my head and gave her such an ugly look. I glared at her for a while then decided not to respond to her and looked at my file again. She came over to me and closed the file I was busy with. My blood started boiling.

I glanced up at her.

Bongie: " I'm sick and tired of your stinking attitude, Noxolo. Don't you ever call me again and throw one of your tantrums at me. I'm fed up of you! Stop thinking you're special because you're not. You once smacked me and the only reason I didn't return with mine was because you were pregnant. But now you're slowly tempting me to give you one hell of a bitch slap. Don't think you know me because you don't"

Me: " are you done? Because I need to go back to work"

She looked at me fuming with anger.

Me: " oh, and by the way, you should be using all of that energy on trying to win your man back that Amanda took from you, or was it the other way around? "

I pouted staring at her. " You bitch" she said looking at me with total hatred in her eyes. She turned around and left my office. I was starting to get concerned about this feud I had with Bongie. One thing was a real concern to me, and that is we worked together, what if she did something that would land me into trouble? She was suddenly treating me like her enemy. I still had this question in my mind on what I did to her. Why did she suddenly change. I decided to just

concentrate on my work and block this from my mind. I took cheddar snacks and ate them during lunch time while I was still working. Around 15:30 I knocked off and went to the hospital. Buja had already sent an sms saying he's waiting for me. When I arrived I signed all the papers and helped Buja to the car. He got into the passengers seat, at least he was walking properly, its just that he wasn't very fast. I turned on the radio and drove off.

Me: " we'll start at our house, I need to change first. "

Buja: " okay"

Me: " so when are you and your friends doing the party?"

Buja: " maybe in 2 weeks time, babe. At least when I'm better"

Me: " oh sure"

We arrived at our house and I drove in.

Buja: " has my Jeep been fixed yet?"

Me: " No, it doesn't have a side window"

Buja: " okay cool, I'll sort it out"

We got out of the car and he took his bag while I unlocked the house. " Want any help?"

Buja: " nah its okay"

We went to the bedroom. I changed while he laid in bed. " It feels good to be back"he said.

Me: " yeah"

Buja: " Noxy, what's wrong"

Me: " Bongie is what's wrong"

Buja: " why are you even entertaining her bull shit. Just leave her."

Me: " easier said than done"

I wrapped my head scarf in a stylish way. " Let's get going before it gets late"

He took he's phone and paged his number " come here babe" he said. I went over to sit next to him.

Buja: " I'm calling her and settling this once and for all. Tomorrow I'm changing my number. I'll buy a new simcard, my past should remain exactly that, the past." He turned it to loud speaker.

"Hello" Bongie answered.

Buja: " Bongie, ugrand?"

Bongie: " I'm fine thanx Buja, and you?"

Buja: "tell me something, have we ever had any sort of friendship before?"

She kept quiet for a while then said "I'd like to think so"

Buja: " in what way?"

Bongie: " you dated my friend and I dated yours"

Buja: " no, you got fucked once by Sbu and that was it, don't mistake that for a relationship"

She didn't respond. " Who the fuck gave you the right to give away my number? "

Bongie: " she once had your number. "

Buja: " listen here bitch, because that's clearly what you are. Don't mess around with me and stop trying to cause a fight between my wife and I. You-"

Bongie: " if I'm a bitch what makes you then, Bulelani? If Noxy knew what really happened she would have a fit"

Buja: " oh yeah? Then why don't you tell her..."

Bongie kept quiet " didn't think so" he cut the call. " What's going on?" I asked " what happened?"

Buja: " nothing happened, she's making things up"

Me: " she's not!!"

Buja: " she slept with Sbu and that's it"

Me: " is that really it?"

Buja: " she had casual sex, she slept with him in front of us and she didn't mind"

Me: " there's something you're not telling me"

Buja: " like what?"

Me: " you knew this about her but you kept quiet even though you knew she was my friend. I opened up to this girl and talked about my marriage problems to her. She knows almost everything you did to me"

" You did what??" He asked with abit of frustration in his voice. He got up and said " how could you go around talking about our marriages problems, Noxy? Did you run out of things to say to each other?"

Me: " I was hurt, I had no friends but her. I felt lonely because you were busy having an affair with ooLumka. She was there for me when I had no one, not even you. I didn't know she would turn around and stab me in the back. I thought she was a true friend"

He sat down again and rubbed his face. " We were just messing around. Now that I'm thinking things through, I'm disgusted because of my past. I'm not proud at all, Noxy. Things I was doing were very bad. I had some time to sit and think in that hospital, the pain I've put you through. How I thought some things would never come out but somehow you always managed to find out the truth. "

Me: " tell me what happened. I deserve to know because Bongie will tell me anyways. She's on her own mission to bring me down"

Buja: " I was dating her friend, Aviwe because I wanted revenge on Khaya. We should get going, its getting late"

I remained sitting down. " Fine, I'll tell you" he said with so much frustration and panic."

Buja: " they were drunk and high. That night Sbu slept with Bongie, her friend Aviwe was also there"

Again Bongie changed her story because to me she said she was alone while her other friend left with some guy at the club.

Buja: " we kind off did everything in the same room, in the same bed. Babe, I'm not proud of what I did. I hate my past, I thought being a cheater and a player was no big deal because I felt I was on top of things, but life knocked me down. I've changed, I'm trying to build a bright future for us"

Me: " did you sleep with her?"

He looked down and his breathing escalated. He nodded. " So you slept with both of them?"I asked.

Buja: " yes, and Sbu did too. "

Me: " you are so disgusting"

Buja: " we have both changed babe, I promise you. Sbu changed his ways first but to me it took longer to start acting mature and focus on you. Then you worked in the same Firm as her, then you two became close friends. That's when I knew life has a way of teaching people a lesson. I didn't know how I was going to start telling you this. I wanted to die with this secret."

I got up and crossed my arms. " I guess this is the part where I forgive and forget, right? Does Wendy know about this?"

Buja: " I don't know."

Me: "Alright. Since its confession time maybe I should too. I once kissed someone, passionately. I guess I wasn't thinking straight because it was that time you were having an affair with Lumka. Now let's go and fetch our kids"

I turned around. He grabbed my wrist with so much force. I have no idea where he got his energy from because the last time I checked he was still healing. " Leave me alone" I said calmly.

Buja: " who?"

Me: " Loyz"

Buja: " where did you kiss him?"

Me: " at my flat. "

Buja: " you invited him over?"

Me: " yes I did. That was after you threatened him, I wanted to apologize for your bad behaviour. I felt sorry for him."

Buja: " so you comforted him with your lips?? Is that what you're trying to tell me?"

Me: " uh-huh.... Buja you're angry because I kissed Loyz, yet Bongie adds to the list of women I know that you've slept with. The same woman I poured my broken heart to, and of course she comforted me maybe even smiling while I wasn't even looking. I was a joke to everyone before I even arrived in this town. I'm sure everyone was wondering who is this wife that's being cheated on so much. I no longer care to know about your other secrets, I've heard enough. "

Buja: " this was the only secret you didn't know, Noxy. I have nothing else to hide after this. I hope now we can start afresh and forget about the passed because I have changed. "

Me: " its all chilled. Noxy is a forgiver..."

Buja: " did you sleep with him?"

Me: " No. You're still the only man I've ever slept with. "

I took our photo frame which was next to my bed. " After so many women you've slept with, I can't help but wonder how it feels like....sleeping with someone else"

He turned his head so quickly and glared at me. It was almost like if he had a gun with him he'd pull the trigger on me then regret it after"

Me: " uhm..yah, I mean, you're the only man I've ever slept with. I don't know any other man but you, Buja. I just wonder how it would feel like having another man on top of me. If I cheated, would I enjoy having sex with another man. Does it feel good to cheat? Maybe it does because you did a lot of that while still married to me. You would know how hurting it is to sleep in this bed and wait for me to come back home while I'm busy with my side-man.

He got up and came over to me, he grabbed the photo frame from my hand and threw it against the wall, the glass that was on it broke into little pieces. He lifted his hand and clenched his fist, his jaw tightened " how dare you speak to me like that when I'm trying so hard change. Do you even realize how much I want to beat you up right now. I'm trying to control myself with every inch in my body. I will not let what you just said get to me, Noxy, I know you just want to hurt me with those words, but I refuse to lay my hand on you again. "

He held both my hands. He closed his eyes for a while and then opened them again" I have no more secrets, I promise you I don't. So Loyiso decided to go against my threats and make a move on my wife."

Me: " that's in the past, I told him to back off and he did. I think we should just forgive and forget. Its only fair you do too since I've forgiven you in so many things."

Buja: " how do you know this Loyz?"

Me: " through Bongie"

Buja: " now it makes sense. What else are you hiding from me?"

Me: "nothing"

He rubbed my arms, then held both my wrists. He started tightening them, every second he was tightening them even more " you're hurting me" I said " ouch, Buja. Stop" what he was doing was so painful. He stared at me without saying a word. He just glared at me. He pressed his nails in my skin, he pulled me closer to him and said " if you ever, and I mean ever sleep with another man, I will self destruct Noxy. I will lose my ability to reason. Even just by thinking about this is making me lose my sanity. " He slowly let go of me, both my wrists were burning and pink. Small amounts of blood were starting to come out " Lutha and Bathi are waiting for us right now, let's go and fetch our kids." he said. He glanced at my wrists then turned around and walked out of the room.

## Chapter 68

I was left staring at my wrists in disbelief. What the hell did Buja just do to me? It was so painful yet I didn't even have the urge to cry. I might have pushed him over the edge but I felt he needed to hear that I was also capable of cheating, its just that I chose not too. What I had just heard about him and Bongie didn't get me emotional at all, I wasn't teary, I didn't know why but it somehow surprised me that I had no tears at all. I had really grown much stronger. Forgiveness is what I didn't have for him, because his past demons were far from over. I didn't think I'd be able to forgive him this time. Not when I was working with someone who once slept with my husband. Someone who acted like a friend to me knowing what she did, and Buja who of course turned a blind eye and acted like nothing had ever happened between himself and Bongie. This affected me more than he realized it would.

I went to the bathroom and opened the tap, I watched the water as it ran down my wrists. After I was done I wiped myself with the towel and walked out. My wrists felt much better but they were still a bit painful. I took my bag and walked out of the bedroom. I grabbed my keys and locked the door. Buja was driving out the GTI.

I went to my car and got in. He stopped and got out of the car.

Buja: " we're using the GTI"

Me: " no, we're using my car, the Yaris"

Buja: " don't argue with me. I'm not in the mood for this"

Me: " you're the sick one, so please get in my car. We've wasted enough time."

Buja: " who's the man between me and you? I might be sick but don't you shit around with me. We're using the GTI and that's final"

I glared at him with so much anger. This guy just confessed on sleeping with Bongie, but now he was being cold towards me. I drove in my car in the garage and went to his car. He was already driving out. I didn't know how he was planning to be the one driving yet he wasn't even okay physically. When I pressed the gate remote to close he was getting out of the car to sit in the passengers side. I got in without asking any questions and drove off. He turned on the radio and listened to 5FM. All the way to his home we didn't say a word to each other. He was looking

straight ahead with so much anger written on his face. We arrived, after a very long drive with so much tension in the car. We stepped out. Lutha was playing with his friends inside the yard. He ran over to us as soon as he saw the car. I hugged him, Buja picked him up and kissed his cheek then put him down again.

The front door was open so we went in. His mother came over to us in a rush and gave Buja a hug and a kiss " oh mntanam, I'm so happy to see you." She kissed his cheek again and became all teary.

Buja: " you raised a fighter mom, I'll never leave you"

She hugged him again. His dad walked in as well and gave him a hug. Makheswa came over to greet holding baby Bathi. I asked to hold my son. He had grown so big these past couple of weeks. " Bathi ka mama, we're going home my love" I said kissing his cheeks.

I started chatting with Tata and Makheswa. Tata advised for us not to stay for long since we were going with the baby and it was getting late. They said they'll pay us a visit. Makheswa said " I should also pack"

Buja: " there's no need. You can come back on sunday late. I just want to spend time with my kids"

Makheswa: " okay then, can I go back home?"

Buja: " yes you can."

Makheswa: " let me take the kids luggage and put them in the car"

I went to the room to help her while still holding Bathi. She closed the door.

Makheswa: " are those criminals that shot your husband arrested?"

Me: " uhm....yes, there are suspects arrested so I think we're now safe"

Makheswa: " okay atleast. Haike I'll see you next week"

Me: " okay"

I wheeled the suitcase and Makheswa helped with the bag. Buja got up and came over to me " I'm fine" I said before he could do anything. He turned around and sat down on the couch again, "as I was saying my child" his mother said to him with a smile on her face. I walked out of the house and we packed all the bags in the boot. Lutha went to the house to say goodbye to his grandparents. My Lutha was getting so tall, I couldn't believe how fast he was growing. I closed the boot and noticed Makheswa staring my wrists. " What happened to you? "

Me: " it was a little accident. Don't mind it"

Makheswa: " okay"

Her okay didn't sound like she was convinced. We said our goodbyes. I put my son Bathi on the baby seat and Lutha sat at the back too. Buja went to open the door and unbuckled Bathi then got in at the front with him. I hooted and drove off.

Buja: " Lutha, I've missed you boy"

Lutha: " me too daddy, were you sick?"

Buja: " yes boy yam, but I'm better now. "

Lutha: " okay ke!"

He picked up Bathi and kissed his small lips " hey little me" he said. I looked at him then looked ahead again. The last thing I wanted was my son to be a cheater just like his father. He carried on " I love you my boys. There are so many things you have to learn in life. I hope you'll listen to me when I say no. I wished I listened to my parents when I was younger. I've messed up so much"

Bathi was just looking at him. I turned up the radio, I didn't want to hear this conversation he was having. I stopped by at Spur and said " we'll order some take aways" I got out of the car before he could say anything. I made my order and waited. I took out my phone and checked my WhatsApp. I went to Bongie's profile. She had a picture of herself and Aviwe. I blocked her and deleted her number on my phone. I went to Sandi's contact. I decided to greet her some other time and logged out. The food arrived shortly. I left and went back to the car. Buja was rubbing Bathi's back while Lutha was chatting with him. I drove off and arrived at our house. I parked outside and got out of the car. Buja got out and opened for Lutha. I went to warm up the food and dished up for everyone. I only ate the vegetables and placed my plate on the fridge. I went to take off my clothes then took a shower then wore my bum shorts pyjamas. Buja wasn't letting go of Bathi. I went to him even though I didn't want to talk to him " I need to give him a bath" I said coldly. He looked at my wrists as I opened my arms to take my child. He gave him to me. I went to bath him and Lutha got ready as well. Buja switched off the tv and went to the bedroom. He changed to his pj pants and a black night vest. "I want to sleep with them tonight" he said. I ignored him as I was dressing up Bathi. He turned around and went to bed. Lutha got into our bed and said " daddy, grandma told me you were in hospital. What happened? Did you have a flu?"

I carried Bathi and said " here's your son"

He took him and looked at me. I walked out and went to make him a bottle. I returned back to the room and placed it next to him. "You can bond with your kids, I'm not sleeping here" he looked at me without responding. I walked out and went to the spare room. I got inside the covers and turned off the side lamp light.

I thought about my past and what went wrong. Why didn't I reject him when he asked me out. Why didn't I use contraceptives, because I wouldn't have fallen pregnant and end up marrying him. I loved Lutha with all of my heart and soul, but somehow I wished I never fell pregnant with him. Maybe if I didn't I would have saw Buja as the player that he is and dumped him before I could fall in love with him deeply. It was hard to walk away now, I loved him so much, but at that moment I couldn't stand being next to him. I ended up falling asleep.

I woke up in the morning around 7am and went to wash my face. Buja had just walked out of the room. He passed me and went to make himself some cereal. I decided to make breakfast for him and Lutha. He went back to the room and came back with Bathi and ate while he was holding him in his left arm. I dished up. After I was done I said " can I take him" he slowly glanced up at me and said " nah, leave him. I've got this. "

Me: " I need to feed him"

Buja: " I've already fed him. You decided to dump my kids why are you acting like you care now?"

Me: " I only slept at the spare room because I didn't want to sleep next to a man whore"

He got up and came over to me " what did you say?"

Me: " you slept with my colleague, how do you expect me to react? You slept with Wendy's cousin but you still want me to turn a blind eye and act like nothing has happened."

Buja: " I can't undo the past, what do you want me to do? I'm going to change my number. I'm focusing on my family now. What else do you want me to do!"

I walked out of the kitchen and went to the room to wake up Luthando. He got up went to the bathroom. I made the bed and went to take a shower. I dressed up and went to take my car keys.

Buja: " uyaphi Noxy?"

Me: " to get some fresh air."

Buja: " boy, hold your little brother for me, okay?"

Lutha held Bathi. " Come, we need to talk" he said pulling me to the dinning room.

Buja: " where are you going?"

Me: " I'll see when I'm driving. I just want to be away from you"

Buja: " are you going to Loyiso? Or some man you're hoping to sleep with?"

I didn't respond.

Buja: " answer me"

Me: " I said I don't know"

Buja: " you're not going anywhere. So much for a welcome back home from my wife. Yesterday was my first night back home after being shot and facing death yet you decided to sleep in the spare room. I see I wasn't missed"

Me: " bye"

He took the car keys away from me just when I was walking to the front door, he said " you're not going anywhere, Noxy"

He walked away. I went to put my bag down in the bedroom then took out my phone. I wanted to call some, anyone, just to take my mind off things. I logged in on facebook, which is something I never do. My sister had some picture with her friends. " Le good life" was her title. They were wearing short dresses and sunglasses, they had champagne glasses in their hands and it looked like they were at some hotel.

I commented " zi happy igirls"

She replied " zi happy over igirls, ku sweet nekhala mntase. Life's so good!!"

" enjoy love" I replied. Buja walked in the bedroom and took off his top " my back is aching" he said. I didn't respond, I was busy checking some posts on facebook.

Buja: " so for how long will you be cold towards me?"

Me: " until I stop having this image in my head of you fucking Bongie"

He stopped what he was doing and looked at me.

Me: " I chose to stay in this marriage right? I'll stick by you and support you, but I won't be sleeping next to you for a very long time."

Buja: " what do you expect me to do then Noxy? Tell me"

Me: " do what you do best and cheat! Go and get a girl at the dance club. Me and you are so different, maybe that's one of the reasons you kept acting so single. All I was in your eyes is a vulnerable girl that you took advantage off. You saw someone inexperienced, a young girl that you could play around with. I doubt you even loved me."

I walked out and went to my kids. Lutha was playing with Bathi. " Mom, he's just so tiny, he just loves playing with me" Lutha said kissing his lil bro's cheeks. I wore my apron and decided to bake some cookies. After I was done I baked some raspberry tart. This was the only way I could keep myself busy. Buja said " I'll be back just now, I'm going to buy the new sim card" I ignored him. He left and came back moments later. I cooked supper while Lutha was eating the cookies. Buja and I weren't talking for almost the whole day. He watched sports. I dished up for him and Lutha. I didn't have appetite. I fed Bathi and burped him. I looked at my baby, he blinked and smiled at me. I didn't even smile back. I stared at him with a straight face. Buja and Lutha were done with supper " serve yourself the dessert, I'm going to bed" I said. I went to put Bathi down



and wore my night wear. I went to the spare room and got into bed. I took a novel and tried reading but I was reading the same chapter for about an hour; I wasn't concentrating. I turned off the lights. A message alert came in from Buja. I opened it. " Your children did absolutely nothing wrong. They have missed you, at least try to show them some love"

I didn't reply. I closed my eyes. I tossed and turned. I logged in on facebook again then checked new updates, I got bored and logged out. My stomach started growling, I remembered I didn't eat. I tried to sleep, but it was just such a struggle. I checked the time, it was now around 10pm. The door opened after a while, my eyes remained closed. I felt Buja's arms wrapping around me.

Buja: " Noxy...please let's talk about this. Babe, what's happening between us is not good for us and the children. I've just come back from hospital, I don't want to fight with you anymore"

Me: " you're not the one who's going to go to work and face a chick that's bitchy towards me even though she slept with my husband. I will."

Buja: " we'll get through this together."

Me: " I have bruises on my wrists, yet you don't even seem sorry"

Buja: " I am sorry mfaz'wam, but did you want me to clap hands when you said you're interested on sleeping with another man? I lost it. I'm sorry for hurting you but it wasn't intentional. "

Me: " cheating on me was intentional."

Buja: " please allow me to show you that I'm no longer a cheater. Please. Noxy tell me what I have to do and I'll do it, because what I'll never do is give up on us"

His voice was breaking, suddenly he sounded vulnerable. " There's nothing you can do Buja, the damage is done. What is left now is for me to stand up for myself when your one night stands and side chicks attack me"

I turned around and looked at him. "What you and Bongie did is the last straw. I don't think I can ever forgive you, but I won't divorce you. I love you, Bulelani. I've tried divorcing you many times but I just couldn't go through with it. I'll just have to wait and see if you've really changed."

Buja: " what I did with her was long time ago, please let's leave the past in the past."

I didn't respond, he came close and gave me a hug. He's stroked his fingers through my hair. " Please don't say I took advantage of you, I never did Noxy. It was love at first sight. I'll be honest with you my wife, I was not ready for marriage. I married you at the age of 23, I was just not mature enough. That was selfish of me to trap you in a marriage knowing that I still wanted to fool around. I didn't want any other man touching you. I wanted you to be mine, and mine alone. I still do."

He kissed my lips " they all meant nothing to me. I slept with them for fun, not realizing that I'm hurting their feelings too. I know I was cold hearted and cruel. All I'm asking now is for you to be by my side and support me, please babe, don't remind me of my past when I'm trying to be a better man. "

I hugged him back, he continued stroking my hair. I could feel his shaft was extremely hard against my punani.

Buja: " I think you've healed down there now, my love..."

Me: " its still early"

Buja: " andibatwe baby, let's check and see maybe you're fine"

Me: " I don't wanna do anything. I'm still angry and very upset. The last thing I want right now is opening my legs for you and getting pregnant again with your child. Please leave me alone, because as you are busy touching me right now, I can't help but picture you touching all those women exactly the same way. Leave me alone."

I turned around and faced the other way. He got up and walked to the door, he turned on the light then looked at me, his eyes were red, I could see he was extremely hurting. He came close and said " ndiyi kaka Noxy ndiyazazi. I can see now that I'll forever be a cheating husband in your eyes. What frustrates me the most is that I have no idea how I can ever make you forget so that we can start over. "

I looked away. I could feel him still looking at me. " Have you actually reached the point of regretting having my kids as well? Is that why you're being cold towards them"

Me: " you're exaggerating"

Buja: " I can see it, especially on Bathandwa. You're not showing him as much love as you did with Luthando. I know I messed up, and I'm aware my kids come from my balls, kodwa sthandwa sam ndiyakucela, don't take this out on them, they did nothing wrong. Punish me and not my innocent children."

He turned off the lights and said "goodnight" then closed the door.

I closed my eyes and tried my best to fall asleep.

## Chapter 69

I didn't sleep a wink. I tried my best with no success, it was impossible for me. I looked into space for almost the whole night. It was now Sunday in the wee hours of the morning. I got up and went to wash my face and brush my teeth. I went to Lutha's room, he wasn't there. I decided on going to check up on them in our bedroom. Bathi was sleeping on top of Buja's chest and Lutha was sleeping next to him. I closed the door again and went outside and stayed there for about 30 minutes before going back inside. Around 8am Buja and Lutha got out of the room. Lutha greeted and said " mommy, why are you sleeping in the other room now? Did you and daddy have a fight?"

I looked at Buja, he looked at me back. " No nana.." I said. He nodded and ate his cereal.

Me:" We should get ready for church."

Buja ate and didn't respond. An hour later we all got ready. I placed Bathi on the baby carrier then we left moments later. Church was okay, I wasn't concentrating much while the pastor preached. I prayed about this but somehow I wasn't getting any better. And I knew deep down it was because I didn't want to forgive Buja. I refused to forgive him about this. I was still angry. We left early because Bathi couldn't stop crying. Buja drove back to our house. I changed and made Sunday lunch for everyone. Buja wasn't saying much at all. He changed to his white top and track pants then went to the room he used for work outs. I dished up for everyone and went over to call him. He was busy lifting up some weights.

" Lunch is ready" I said. He nodded and continued lifting some weights.

Me: " I don't think its a good idea lifting up weights so soon"

Buja: " I'll be fine"

I went closer to him. " Stop straining your body, Buja. Jog better instead of what you're doing" he put the weights down and said " if that's what you want"

He got up and glanced at me " why did you want to know the truth Noxy? This is one secret I didn't want to confess because I knew you would take it badly. I miss you so much but you're busy pushing me away"

I turned around to walk away but he pulled me closer to him and gave me a hug. " I love you so much, maka Lutha"

Me: " it'll take time to forgive you" I said hugging him back.

Buja: " I'll wait for you"

Me: " let's go and eat"

Buja: " okay"

We broke the hug and went to the dinning room table and ate. Makheswa arrived later on in the evening. We had a lil chat before we actually called it a night. Lutha went to sleep in his room and Buja tucked him in. Makheswa had just given Bathi a bath. I took him and went my bedroom. The baby Cot was still there. Buja walked in and said " I hope you're sleeping here tonight." I nodded. Bathi was now fast asleep. I kissed his forehead and placed him on his cot. I changed and wore my pink silky short night dress then got into the bed covers. He joined me moments later and pulled me closer to him." Thanx babe" he said.

Me: " for what?"

Buja: "for sleeping here tonight."

Me: " sure"

Buja: " we'll get through this, I know"

I didn't respond.

Buja: " if she tries to make your life difficult at work, let me know okay"

Me: " uzokwenzani?"

Buja: " I'll deal with her, in my own way"

Me: " remember, you're trying to be a better man"

Buja: " that's true, but what I'll never do is turn a blind eye while Bongie attacks you. "

He stroked my cheek, I looked up at him. He came close and rested his lips on mine. He rubbed his hand on my thigh and whispered " I want to be inside you so much" he slid down my underwear so fast while kissing me passionately. He pulled up my night dress while kissing my neck, I was so turned on. He played with my clit then started fingering me. I stroked his shaft breathing heavily, he sat up straight and pulled me over to him. I spread my legs and entered him in. He grabbed my butt as I paced up and down on him. We changed positions, he got on top of me and spread my legs wider. He thrust deeper, a bit rougher, I could've sworn he wanted to knock me up again. We came together. After a while of lying on top of me and us kissing he got up and wiped me. I laid my head on top of his chest. He stroked my hair while I was busy listening to his heart beat. We ended up falling asleep. Bathi woke up in the middle of the night, I fed him the bottle and rubbed his back then went back to sleep.

The alarm went off for work on monday. Buja was on sick leave. So I got up and then got ready for work. Makheswa was also getting Lutha ready. Buja got up and washed his face then brushed his teeth while I was fixing my hair. He came over to me and gave me a kiss on the cheek. "I'm planning to fix my Jeep today"

Me: " okay then, I'll see you later on"

Buja: " have a great day at work babe"

Me: " will I? I highly doubt it because I'm working with my new enemy"

Buja kept quiet. I didn't even bother looking at him while I said that. I walked out of the room. He followed behind me and said his goodbyes. Lutha got into my car and I drove off. I arrived at his school and walked him in. " Bye nana" I said. I kissed him " bye mom" he responded. I drove off to work. I was not looking forward to going to work at all. Spending 8 hours of every single day

with someone I considered as an enemy was an absolute nightmare for me. But the trick was not to show her how unhappy I was. I was planning to walk confidently and show absolutely no unhappiness and intimidation towards her. I arrived at work and parked my car. I made a silent prayer to at least have a good day at work. I got out of the car and entered the office. Bongie was there sitting at the front with Rulene drinking some coffee. " Good morning!" Rulene said with the most pleasant smile. " Morning sweetie" I responded. I avoided eye contact with Bongie and went to my office. Karen arrived just after me. Around 9pm I checked her diary, she was leaving at 15:30 for a meeting outside the office. I decided to go and have a chat with her, so I knocked on her office door and entered.

Me: " I hope I'm not disturbing you. I just need to ask you something"

Karen: " I'm listening"

She didn't sound like she was in the best of moods. I think it was a blue monday for her. I hadn't even prepared my speech.

Me: " Karen, Coetser Attorneys has 2 offices. I was just wondering if there isn't an open space for me to work in the other office . I know its a long travel to get there but I will find a way to make it work. "

Karen: " may I ask why?"

Me: " I feel I need to experience working with the rest of the other staff at Coetser Attorneys. The Conveyancing Department is in the other office, I could get much more experience there as well"

Karen: " I'm the one that hired you Noxy, and not my father. You will work in this office so I am declining your request. I will let you know when I feel you need to learn about conveyancing. Don't be one step ahead of me, please"

Me: " I apologize if you felt I was disrespecting you in anyway"

Karen: " its okay"

She concentrated on her laptop. I got up and walked out. I didn't want to work with Bongie, I didn't at all. How was I going to get out of this one. I went to my office and continued with my work. Time passed by very slowly. Bongie knocked once and came into my office with a collections file. " This is due for court on friday. " She threw the file on my desk and walked out. I took a deep sigh and continued with my work. As usual at lunch time I sat in my office and ate my lunch while working. I was starting to isolate myself from everyone. When I went to the kitchen to wash my lunch tin I saw Aviwe and Bongie chatting and laughing at the front. I looked away and went to wash my tin then went back to the office. Time passed, around 3pm Karen left. I checked the social networks just to take a small break then took the file that was due for court. I looked through it but noticed there were some documents missing. I checked on the system and saw that these documents did come in. I got up and went to Rulene.

Me: " Rulene, there's so many documents missing in this file. I see the Section 65A return of service came in a month back on the system but its not in the file. There's no file notes that the collections secretary did as proof that she tried to contact the debtor. Where's the registered slip as proof that the Letter of Demand was sent?"

Rulene: " this file was handled by Bongie while you were on leave, you should ask her."

I turned around and went straight to Bongie. I knew for a fact how I left this file, it was almost like these documents were taken out on purpose. I asked her where all of these documents were.

Sis'Linda passed us while she went to make some photo copies. Bongie's reply was " you have the file in your hand, not me"

Me: " don't tell me that nonsense! This file is due for court on friday, I need these documents"

She drank a glass of water then said " don't make your problems mine"

She typed on her laptop. I shut it down and said " Bongiwwe, we're at work now. Do not bring personal issues into the office"

Sis'Linda: " guys, is there a problem?"

The Filing Clerk and Rulene came over to us as well.

Rulene: " Noxy, we can help you to look for the documents"

Noxy:" Bongie knows exactly where these documents are"

Bongie: " Noxolo, do not bring your stresses of having a cheating husband to the workplace. I'm not the one who asked your husband to sleep around, don't you dare take out your frustrations on me"

She crossed her arms and smiled looking at me. Humiliation washed all over me. Why was she saying this in front of everyone.

Noxy: " what does that have to do with anything?"

Bongie: " obviously because you could have easily asked this in a nice way, you'd swear I forced Buja to have an affair with my friend"

Noxy: " ungenaphi uBulelani kelento???! (Where does Bulelani enter in this???)

Sis'Linda: " girls, please calm down"

Bongie: " tshini, who do you think you are na Noxy? I've sick and tired of you, I'll show you fire my dear. I've been far to kind too you, its time I showed you the other side of me. Now go and look for those documents yourself. As I said before, its your problem, not mine"

She opened her laptop and took her file then continued typing. I felt like jumping on top of her and beating her up to death. I closed my eyes just to calm myself down then I turned around and went to my office then packed my things. I shut down the computer and walked out even though it wasn't home time yet. I didn't care even if she reported me. I stormed out of the office without even saying goodbye to anyone. Rulene shouted "Noxy, wait!!" I didn't care, I had to leave. Bongie hit a nerve, her words cut deep. I forgave Buja before and had decided on giving our marriage a 2nd chance, but people that were surrounding me made it so hard to forget. Some of his side chicks did back off but it seemed like some were in for the fight. The most lady like and humble side chick I know in all the side chicks that Buja had was Zizopho, the one that claimed to have terminated the pregnancy after Buja impregnated her. She never attacked or fought me, she backed off. She showed remorse and asked for forgiveness, she advised that she was unaware that Buja was married, and somehow I believed her because after she told me that, she moved on with her life. I never had hassles from her at all. But the others gave me such a hard time and all of a sudden I was the enemy because I'm 'the wife'. Now Bongie whom I trusted so much with my secrets spilled out all the beans to everyone.

Tears were actually starting to threaten my eyes. I unlocked my car and got in.

"Noxy!!" Rulene said as she came running, sis'Linda was behind her. "I'm so sorry, I don't know what has gotten in to Bongie" Rulene said.

Sis'Linda: " Noxy, my child, come here"

I got out and stood in front of my car. Sis'Linda gave me a warm hug. " Listen my child, I'm far older than you, so I hope you'll take my advise." I nodded.

Sis'Linda" Never go around talking about your marriage problems, never ever make that mistake again. You have in-laws for a reason, you have parents and siblings for a reason. Some people will make your problems a joke and rejoice in your suffering. We enter no where sisi in your

marriage life, we can only give advice and support you. Don't let her get to you, please Noxy. We love you okay?"

Rule: " we love you Noxy. And we're here for you. Look, I have my own relationship problems, so right now I won't even judge you"

Noxy: " thanx guys"

I wiped a tear that was rolling down my cheek. Bongie was still inside the office. " Let me get going" I said. They both hugged me at the same time then I drove off. After a while of driving I parked on the side. My heart felt so heavy, I just needed to let it all out. I reached for my handbag and took out a mirror. I looked at myself then just cried. Why did Buja cheat on me with so many women? Why did Bongie have remind me of that? If she was trying to bring me down it was definitely working. I knew all the side chicks Buja dated. From Zizipho, Amanda, Lumka, to Aviwe and now Bongie. Forget is when you erase that memory from your mind, but how do you do that when there's people like Bongie who go straight to the recycle bin and restore that memory in your mind again. After I was done with all that crying I felt abit better, but my face was now pink and my eyes were red. My phone rang just when I was about to start the car again. It was Buja. I cleared my throat and picked up.

Me: " hey"

Buja: " hey babe, utheni?"

Me: " why?"

Buja: " you sound so down"

Me: " bad day at work"

Buja: " wanna talk about it?"

Me: " when I get home"

Buja: " okay, I was just checking up on you."

I kept quiet. " Baby?"

Me: " yes, I'm still here"

Buja: " I decided to just take a breather today. It gets lonely in this house. I went to my workplace then to fix my car, I'm getting bored sitting around here doing nothing but sleeping. I'm thinking of going back to work nextweek"

Me: " okay, suite yourself"

There was an awkward silence between us.

Buja: " see you soon, my love"

Me: " I'm driving I have to go"

Buja: " sure, I love you"

Me: " I love you too"

I hung up and exhaled. Then I started the car and drove off straight to the most quietest and small shopping mall around town. I arrived then went to the ladies room first. I washed my face and re-did my make up, then I went to a restaurant and ordered some sushi. I was just avoiding going back home. I was trying my best to calm myself down and try to forget about what happened. I took my phone out and paged it so long. " Hey you..." A man voice greeted. " Hi" I responded still concentrating on my phone. I was not in a mood to talk to anyone, all I wanted was to be alone.

" Still the hard to even chat with Noxy that I know. As gorgeous and delicate as ever" this guy said. I slowly looked up wondering who the hell this is. " Sabs??" I called out it total shock.

Sabs: " yeah, its me alright!"

He opened his arms for a hug. I got up and we hugged, a very tight warm hug. I smiled feeling so happy to see him. Sabs real name is Sabelo. He asked me out back in high school - for us to date and for his matric ball, but I declined in both. He had a huge crush on me, and I liked him too but somehow I never gave him a chance no matter how hard he tried. We broke the hug and we both sat down.

Sabs: " What a nice surprise, I was actually about to leave. Let me order a drink, I can't leave, not now. We can have a chat so long. My goodness, I'm so happy to see you. How have you been?"

Me: " I'm happy to see you too. I've been good and you?"

Sabs: " I've been good too. Noxy, when will you ever stop being so beautiful. You have this smile that just makes my heart twerk every time I see you"

I blushed and said " hey, stop charming me"

Sabs: " haha I'm sorry..."

He stared at my left finger.

Sabs: " you're married?"

I could sense the disappointment in his voice.

Me: "yes."

Sabs: " oh..I'm happy for you"

Me: " thank you"

Sabs: " the last time I saw you was when you were in matric, and then I heard rumours that you were pregnant with that guy who drove a GTI's child. Noxy, I had a crush on you since you were in grade 10, you didn't even care about the roses and chocolates I gave you on valentines day"

I laughed, I couldn't help it. " I can't believe you're bringing high school stuff up" I said.

Sabs: " and then this guy driving a nice car comes out of no where and all of a sudden I hear he's dating Noxy. What the hell?? He took you away from me. Was it because I didn't have a car? Its because I took a taxi in high school and tertiary wasn't it? Ndihamba nge 2 series yam caba I was gonna give you a slow down"

I was laughing hard, " Sabs you're killing me, and no it wasn't about the car okay. I fell in love"

Sabs: " hahaha yho Noxy, I almost committed suicide every time I saw you in that car. I asked myself why-why-why. Why would a humble girl who is forever studying and indoors date a party animal and ladies man. They called his car a panty dropper! That alone says it all. It just didn't make sense. Why would he go after my Noxy when there were so many fly chicks who wanted him."

Me: " oh well, my heart chose him."

My order arrived and he ordered a drink.

Sabs: " we share childhood memories, Noxy"

Me: " yep. anyway thanx for the good laugh, I needed it."

Sabs: " its a pleasure. So who's the lucky guy?"

I looked at my ring and said " its the GTI guy"

" You kidding, right?"He asked looking startled. " Yes, we're married with 2 kids - boys" I ate.

He's drink arrived shortly.

Sabs: " I guess its true when they say the bad guys are the lucky ones"

Me: " don't say that. And anyway, you're still quite a looker, are you dating anyone?"

Sabs: " I'm not dating anyone. I did though, with the mother of my child, but we broke up a few months back. After the child was born things were never the same between us and then the long distance was also straining the relationship"

Me: "I'm sorry to hear that"

Sabs: " yeah, I'm just concentrating on my career for now. So what do you do for a living?"

Me: " I'm doing my last year in Law practice at Coetser Attorneys. "

Sabs: " wow I'm proud of you, Noxy. I see being a pregnant teenager didn't slow you down. "

Me: " no it didn't. What about you? I remember you said you wanted to study medicine"

Sabs: "I'm a qualified medical doctor."

Me: " ncoooh, I always knew you would make it"

Sabs: " you always believed in me. I wish I knew why you never gave me a chance"

I looked down and concentrated on my sushi. " Are you happy in your marriage?" He asked.

Me: " yes"

Sabs: " look at me, please"

I glanced at him.

Sabs: " does he make you happy? is he faithful to you?"

Me: " yes, we're happy"

Sabs: " is he faithful, Noxy?"

Me: " I don't have to answer anything to you"

Sabs: " Noxy you know how much you meant to me, you know that my love for you was real.

Just think for one second if you gave me a chance where we could've been. I wish I was the one you got married too. I really saw you in my future, and funny enough, I had just recently searched you on facebook but couldn't find you, I guess its because of your new surname. All I wanted was to look through your pictures. I missed you. How I wish you weren't taken."

Me: " well I'm a married woman now, and I'm not much of a facebooker"

Sabs: " are you still into reading? Your favourite novel was ' The Last Song' I still remember"

Me: " my gosh! I can't believe you still remember"

Sabs: "hahaha Noxy you were my first love, its a pity we never got into a relationship, and its sad that you got married before we even had a chance. I hope his treating you good, because I sure know I could have"

Me: "he is."

I started playing with the sushi. Tears filled my eyes because I was lying. I tried hard not to blink but it was too late.

Why didn't I give him a chance? I thought. Maybe I could've been more happier if I got married to him. Or at least gave him a chance instead of falling in love with Mr Wrong. I had so many "what ifs" in my mind. I tried my absolute best to just get rid of these thoughts because they weren't exactly going to change anything.

I lifted up my head and caught him looking at me with so much worry in his eyes. He reached for my hand " Noxy, you know for a fact that I care a lot about you. Please don't tell me he's hurting you. Do you want to talk about it? I'll understand if you don't."

Me: " nothing is going on. I just had a bad day at work."

I fixed my eyes on my plate trying so hard not to look at him again.



## Chapter 70

"Noxy, I know you well enough to know when there's something wrong" he added with a concerned tone.

I called the waiter and asked for the bill. "Look, my husband is waiting for me at home, I'm sorry to cut this short but I have to"

Sabz: "Wait. I know you're trying to run away or avoid the subject but I can read between the lines. He still hasn't changed has he. I know you knew nothing about him back then but at least now he has shown you his true colours."

The waiter arrived. "I'll pay don't worry" he said taking out his wallet.

Me: "No its fine. I'll be paying"

I took out my debit card and swiped.

Sabz: "I'm sorry if I'm coming across as a pusher. I was just worried about you"

Me: "you don't have too"

Sabz: "okay, can I have your number then? Don't stress I won't phone often, I'll just check how you're holding up"

Me: "sure"

I took his phone and saved my number. He buzzed me and said "that's mine" I also saved his. He paid for his drink then we both walked out.

Sabz: "I wish we could have a long chat. Are you really in a hurry? I'm so keen to have a long convo with you"

Me: "next time, okay"

Sabz: "you can tell your hubby we're friends, he'll understand. Well, if it was me I would, his a different story"

Me: "bye Sabz"

Sabz: "I'll walk you to your car"

Me: "okay"

We arrived, he gave me a hug and said "we'll keep in touch"

Me: "it's good seeing you"

Sabz: "you don't know how happy I am to see you. I'm the happiest man alive right now"

I laughed and got into my car. He went over to his while I drove off. On the way home I decided to stop by at Spar and do some grocery shopping - not that I needed too, it was just one of my other reasons of avoiding to go home. I took a trolley and shopped for Bathi's milk formula, then I picked all the veggies I wanted and some meat. I went to the till and paid then went to pack all the shopping bags in the boot. I sighed and thought of another place to go too. I took my phone and saw 3 missed calls from Buja. I was planning to call Sandi but changed my mind. I started the car and drove off back home. I arrived and drove in. I opened the boot and took out the bags. Lutha came out running to me and helped me with the shopping bags. Buja walked out carrying Bathi. He took the shopping bags as well then went to place them on top of the kitchen counter. Makheswa greeted and helped me unpack the food. I gave Lutha some chips and said "gosh, I need to start cooking, what's the time?"

Makheswa: "its 6pm. I've already started."

Me: "its okay I'll finish up, just concentrate on the kids."

I defrosted the meat and checked what was on the stove. Makheswa walked out. I went to the bedroom and took off my stilettos and wore my push-ons, I rushed to the kitchen. Buja walked in and sat on the high chair.

"Where were you?" He asked with his deep yet calm voice.

Me: " I lost track of time. I went to eat some sushi at-"

Buja: " since when do you eat sushi? You don't like that kind of food"

Me: " I wanted to be alone, that's the lightest thing except for a salad I could order in that restaurant"

Buja: " oh...."

Me: " then I met an old high school friend, Sabz. He was doing matric when I was in grade 10"

I glanced up at him. He was concentrating on what I was saying, squinting his eyes like he was thinking deeply while listening at me.

Me: " yeah, then I did some shopping"

Buja: " Sabz? Is he not the one who studied medicine after matric?"

I looked at him puzzled. How on earth did he know him.

Me: " how do you know him?"

Buja: " he once said I must stay away from you. I never took it seriously though, I took him as an obsessed guy who has a huge crush on my woman"

Me: " he is a really nice guy"

I said smiling thinking about how caring and nice he was. " I hope you told him where to get off." He said with a straight face.

Me: " we exchanged numbers. I don't see anything wrong with that he-"

Buja: " why the hell would you do that? What are you trying to achieve?"

Me: " he is just an innocent guy, its not like he'll flirt. We were just talking about the good old days, so he's just a guy who had a crush back in the days, Buja. Nothing more. Chill."

Buja: " okay, so what happened at work"

He got up and went to the fridge then poured himself some milk.

Me: " I don't want to talk about it. It will just ruin my mood completely"

Buja: " what did she do?"

Me: "she told everyone at work what kind of a cheater you are, only because I confront her about my file that I was working on that she handled while I was away. She took some documents out just to land me into trouble."

Buja: " she's bitter babe, don't let her get to you. "

I stopped what I was doing and went over to him " if you faced a sarcastic and rude man who slept with me every single day at work would you just ignore it?"

Buja: " He'd be dead right now."

He drank the milk then wiped the side of his mouth.

Me: " at least you have the guts to kill someone"

Buja: " I did, but not anymore. Let's concentrate in this part about the file. When is it due for Court?"

Me: " on friday"

Buja: " babe its not your fault the documents are missing. Bongie is just too stupid, in fact she's dumb. I'd hate to have her as an Attorney handling my matter."

Me: " elaborate please"

Buja: " the file was with her, now its all messed up. Its her fault and not yours babe. Go to your boss and report this matter. Get her into trouble instead of looking like a fool in Court in front of the Judge"

Me: " you've got a point. I'll stand up for myself"

Buja: " that's it, my love"

He let out a slight smile. I continued cooking while Buja talked about his Jeep, it was being fixed so he'd get it the next day. The food was finally ready so I dished up and called everyone over. I looked around the table, when I arrived in that house we were 3 but now we were 5 including Makheswa. I smiled thinking that my family was growing. We chatted while eating our supper. Makheswa offered to wash the dishes. Later on we all called it a night. Buja and I cuddled in bed. The rain was pouring outside, he said " how are you feeling now, babe" while we were laying in silence.

Me: " I'm okay..."

Buja: " you always say you're okay even though I can see you're not"

Me: " is there a way to change the situation that I'm in?"

Buja: " you mean that we're in?"

Me: " no, that I'm in. I'm the one suffering here and not you. "

He breathed out loud then kissed my forehead. I ended up drifting to sleep. The next day I woke up and got ready for work. Buja also took a bath and dressed up " I'll be sending you to work babe, I'll use your car for the day"

Me: " no problem."

I wore my black and white striped hugging dress and lace up black heels. I tied my hair to a bun and wore my white pearl earrings. Buja watched me as I dressed then got up and came over to me. " You have curves in all the right places yazi sthandwa sam" he held my waist and kissed the side of my neck. " I've gained abit of weight though, I should stop delaying and just go to the gym" I responded.

Buja: " you look perfect. You're a yummy mummy" he winked. I smiled and said " let me check on Luthando."

He was almost ready. I made a quick sandwich for myself and him then we walked out. Buja dropped Lutha off and then sent me to work. When we arrived sis'Linda had just arrived too. Buja came close and kissed me " bye babe, I love you"

Me: " bye.."

Buja: " so I'm not loved anymore?"

He made a puppy face. " You know you are" I said. We kissed again then I stepped out. He hooted and drove off. I went to my office, Bongie hadn't arrived yet. Around 8:30 I went to Karen's office to discuss the file with her. I explained to her what was going on and that Bongie gave me the file with missing documents then when I asked her about it she became sarcastic.

" Damn it, that Bongie!" She said tightening her jaws. " Can you tell me where she is now?" She asked beyond irritated. I checked the time, it was 08:40 and she was not at work. " I have no idea" I responded.

She breathed out loud and said " she didn't call, again. Noxy, we'll have to postpone this matter if the documents are not found. We'll ask for a copy of the served section 65A to the sheriff, that

will be more sheriff fees to us. I'll ask Sindy (the Filing Clerk) to try to search for the documents as well, but when Bongie arrives I'll have a word with both of you."

Me: "okay"

Karen: "you can leave that file here"

I did that and walked out then went back to work.

Lunch time arrived. I went to the kitchen to make myself some coffee. When I was going back to the office Rulene said "no, no, no! You are joining us Noxy. No more isolation from you tshini!" She said pulling me. "Okayyy!" I responded going to the lunch room with her. They were all sitting there. Bongie didn't pitch up for work at all.

Sis'Linda: "how are you feeling Noxy? I hope you slept well yesterday"

Me: "yes, I'm okay. Uhm....I spoke to my husband as well about this, I don't know guys. I'm being strong that's all I can say"

Sindy: "don't let her get to you, we have a feeling she's hiding those documents, I'm planning to look on her desk and drawers"

Me: "yes, Karen will deal with this. We just have to do damage control. "

Rulene: "I just want you to know Noxy, we will not judge you and your life at all. We actually feel Bongie is the wrong one"

I sipped my coffee and said "Bongie is behaving like this because she slept with my husband. Since you know that he cheated on me, I feel I should tell you the whole story. She had a 4 sum with my husband and his friend. Her friend Aviwe was also with them. Apparently that happened while she was doing her 3rd year at tertiary"

Sindy and Rulene went "yho!!"

Sis'Linda: "what's that na?"

Me: "its group sex, she slept with both my husband and his friend at the same time. Then her friend Aviwe did the same. Uba how that happens, I don't know"

Sis'Linda: "yhu! yhu! yhu!!! What is wrong with the children of today. That is sick, its actually porn!"

Sindy:" hayini uBongie"

She covered her mouth.

Sis'Linda: "what about diseases Noxy? My lawd, its amazing what we put up with in these marriages. What was your man thinking, Lord have mercy"

Me: "sisi, I went with him to test and I was hiv negative. Before I gave birth to my son I got tested again and was still negative. I thank God everyday for protecting me. "

Rulene: "Sis'Linda and Sindy!! Remember what I told you about her? That Bongie has a bad reputation I'm telling you. Look guys, I don't want to come across as a gossip but I need to tell you this Noxy because I told the others. 3 weeks back we decided to go partying with Bongie. I was with my boyfriend and his friends. She arrived with her friend Aviwe. Yho! My boyfie and his friends refused to go clubbing with them. I asked my boyfie when we were alone together what's up, apparently they can be loose hey, like they do extreme stuff...."

Me: "I trusted her more than I trusted you guys. She acted like a saint to me"

Rulene: "well we know the truth now"

Me: "let's just stop talking about her, please"

Sis'Linda: "let's stop nyani. Guys my niece is having a baby shower nextweek"

Well, that was our new topic. After lunch we went back to work. I worked okay with the rest of the staff, I expected them to give me looks and judge me but they did the exact opposite. Bongie's plan did not work, instead she definitely looked like the bad guy in all of this. Home time arrived and Buja came to pick me up. Before we went home I asked to see the doctor " I need to get injected again" I said to him " and he's closing at 17:30 so there's still time"

Buja: " sure babe"

He drove off " how was your day?"

Me: " very good, Karen came up with a solution regarding that file, but she wants to see both Bongie and I tomorrow"

Buja: " okay, I knew this was going to work itself out"

I nodded looking ahead. We arrived at the doctors office and luckily only 2 people were sitting down. We were called in 30 minutes later. I got injected with the contraceptive then we went home.

Buja: " I bought us some take aways babe. I need to have a word with you and anyway I reckoned you're tired"

Me: " oh...okay"

We got inside the house and went to the bedroom. We sat down on the couch. He took out a business card from his wallet.

Buja: " I want us to go for marriage counselling. I think we should start on monday, after work."

Me: " why? I'm dealing with all of this in my own way. I don't want to relive the past"

Buja: " but my past is affecting you. This will do wonders for our marriage, we're still very young babe. I want us to deal with everything that happened so that we can move on"

Me: " I'll think about it"

Buja: " I know you don't like to open up to people, you always say 'I'm okay' and 'I'm fine' even though I can see you're not. Its all my fault babe, that's why I want to make things right"

He held my hands " will you go with me on monday after work? I have no idea what to expect but I feel this is the right path for us"

Me: " okay, I'll go"

Buja: " thanx my love"

We hugged. I wrapped my arms around his neck. We broke the hug and stared at each other. A message alert came in on my phone. I opened it. It was from Sabz " hey....I'm just thinking about you nothing much. -Sabz"

Buja: " who is it?"

Me: " its Sabz checking up on. I should go and dish up"

He gave me a look that made me uneasy then said " sure" we got up and walked out of the room. Makheswa was dishing up for us. Buja ate a few spoons then said " excuse me" he got up and walked away. I took my Bathi and said " you're getting more handsome and so big!! How's mommy's boy doing?" I kissed his lips. He opened his mouth and gave me the most cutest smile.

"What about me?!" Lutha shouted crossing his arms. Makheswa and I looked at each other and laughed " you know you're the best nje wena Lutha!! You are mommy's big boy" I said smiling. He came over and gave me a hug.

Me: " finish up your food nana"

Lutha: " okay..."

We ate up. I cleared the table after I was done. I decided on going to check up on Buja. He was laying on his back staring into space. I went to sit next to him.

Me: " and now?"

Buja: " I'm just feeling tired"

Me: " need a massage?"

Buja: " nah, I should be the one giving you one"

Me: " no its fine, let me change then I'll be on it."

He nodded. I took off my clothes and wore my pink pj top and pj bum shorts. I went to take an ointment. He took off his top and laid on his stomach. I massaged his back. " Mmh, this feels good" he murmured and let out a moan of pleasure. He turned around and faced me. I massaged his shoulders and poured some more ointment. He looked into my eyes. I stared at him back " what?" I asked smiling at him, he rubbed his hands on my thighs and said nothing. Buja was acting strange lately. He wasn't much of a talker like he used to.

Me: " I'll be back, I just need to wash my hands"

Buja: " sure"

I got up and went to the en-suite bathroom and washed my hands then walked back to the room. My phone was ringing next to the bed. Buja reached for it, he glanced at the screen then said " hello"

I went to lie next to him.

Buja: " did you check the time boy?"

I glanced up at him then looked away.

Buja: " why the fuck are you calling my wife at this time? You have guts nhe...No, don't tell me that bull crap."

My heart started accelerating. I just knew he was talking to Sabs. " Listen here jou shit, this is the last phone call you'll ever make to Noxy, call her again and I'll hurt you boy, I'll hurt you badly. She was your high school crush, it ends there. Get yourself a bitch to fuck with because my woman, my wife is a no go zone. Dlalela kude kuye ntwana or else. Do not test me."

He hung up. I moved away from him. " Delete his number" he said giving me the phone. He closed his eyes and rubbed his chin with his index finger. I took the phone and deleted his number. He looked at me then said " I hope this is the last time you'll ever give away your number to another man. I've changed my number, maybe you should too"

Me: " stop ordering me around"

Buja: " I don't want to fight with you...come closer my love"

I came closer. He gazed into my eyes and licked my lower lip " sweet" he said. He licked it again and bit it intensely. " Why did we stop sleeping naked?"

I gazed at him back and said " because most of the time we were fighting"

Buja: " I want to see my wife naked."

Me: " I should go and take Bathi"

Buja: " later on, not now"

We started kissing passionately, one thing led to another and we.....

So now it was the next morning. I woke up in Buja's arms. We were both naked. His rod was touching my butt. " I'm so lazy to wake up" I said stretching myself.

Buja: " I'll send you to work this week. I'm thinking after work we should go and sign up together at the Gym"

Me: " copy cat!"

I pulled out my tongue.

Buja: " there's no way I'm letting you gym alone. We'll go together, in fact, I'll be your personal trainer"

He winked. "Argh you can be so possessive" I said shaking my head.

Buja: " hahaha I know"

We got up and went to take a shower together. I dressed up in my high waist black pencil skirt, my silver grey blouse and black open toe heels. I applied my lipstick and straightened my weave. Buja wore his black muscle shirt, he's blue denim jeans and black sneaker boots. " I'll stop by at my office" he said " I need to have a discussion with my partners since I'm coming back to work."

Me: " alright lovey"

I took my baby who was yawning non stop, I kissed him and gave him to Makheswa. Lutha walked out first and we went to the car. This time Buja drove out the Grand Jeep Cherokee. " It looks new doesn't it?" He asked.

Me: " it somehow reminds me of that awful day"

Buja: " I survived, that's what matters babe"

He helped Lutha in then he drove off. We dropped Lutha off. He kissed both Buja and I's cheeks then said "bye mom and dad!" We waved at him as he walked away. Buja drove off then arrived at my work place. " Have a great day, my love"

Me: " you too, hun"

He kissed my cheek and I stepped out. I walked in looking forward to the day. I greeted everyone and went to put my bag down in my office. Karen was with a client so I went to Rulene and had a chat with her. Sis'Linda came in as well and Sindy. After about 15 minutes we decided to get serious and start working. I heard Karen saying her goodbyes to the client. My office door was open so I could hear everything.

While I was still concentrating on my work Sindy rushed in my office " come look! Uyaphoswa"

I raised my eyebrow " what's up?" I got up and we walked out. Karen was at the front shouting at Bongie who had just walked in. Rulene came over to me " she smells of alcohol, its like she didn't sleep a wink. That Aviwe friend of hers is a very bad influence, look at her" Rulene whispered.

Karen: " I'm sick and tired of this! Come and see me in my office"

She walked to her office. Bongie followed behind her wearing her formal clothing, she almost bumped into the table next to her and went into Karen's office. We could see she was still drunk. They closed the door. Sis'Linda came over to us " what is going on with this child? Heee" she had a worried look on her face.

Rulene: " hehehe yerrre she's kak drunk" she said with her coloured accent. " lyhooo and its not the first time, ever since that Aviwe arrived Bongie hasn't been in Karen's good books, this all started when you were on leave" she added.

" I wonder...." That's all I could say. I wondered if it wasn't karma dealing with her, because it seemed like her cool friend was starting to get her into a lot of trouble without her even realizing it.

Chapter 71

I decided to go back to work, the drama was over for me. Moments later I heard the door opening. I didn't even bother to go and check how Bongie was. I saw Sindy passing my office door with documents, I'm sure she was just acting busy because her curiosity was on Bongie. I decided to look through the office blinds and check Bongie's car. She unlocked it, she struggled to get in. Karen walked in my office and said "do you know of anyone who can come and fetch Bongie? I don't think she's even in a good state to drive."

Me: "No, I don't know anyone"

Karen: "alright"

She turned around and left. I went back to the window and watched her as she left. I then went back to my desk and continued with what I was doing. Before I went to court I got a call from Karen asking me to go to her office. I got up and did just that. I entered and closed the door.

Karen: "okay, Noxy, I need for you to handle Bongie's files for a few weeks. I'll get another Candidate Attorney to take over from our other offices. I just want to check if you'll be able to cope first considering that in 3 months time you'll be writing your exams"

Me: "yes, I'll cope"

Karen: "thanx, I'll instruct you on what you have to do on the files. When will you be going to court?"

Me: "right now but I'll be back before lunch time"

Karen: "okay then, you can go"

I got up and walked out. Karen was discreet and very professional, that's what I liked about her. But I figured that Bongie had been suspended. I went to court and came back at lunch time. Time passed and finally home time arrived. Buja came to fetch me. I said my goodbyes to everyone, Rulene shouted "that's what I call unbreakable!" I reluctantly smiled said "hahaha bye" then went to the car. We went to the gym near to where we stayed and both signed up "when should we start?" Buja asked.

Me: "let's start next week. I still need to buy some gym clothes"

Buja: "sure no probz, babe"

We walked out and went home after that. I didn't even have the interest to tell him about what happened to Bongie. The day ended. On the weekend Buja decided to do a tattoo right where the scar he had was. I didn't think he was serious about this until he said "its either a scar or a tattoo, which one is more sexy?"

I laughed and said "no comment." He ended up doing an anchor tattoo. I was reading a magazine while he was busy doing it. After he was done he said "do you know what they say about guys with anchor tattoos?"

Me: "nope, what?"

Buja: "they're solid"

He winked. "Hahaha oh!!" I said sounding startled. But it looked pretty good on him.

We walked out and did some shopping for some gym clothes, or should I say I did because he was just helping me choose outfits "it must not be too short babe" he said as I picked some very short shorts. "I don't want guys checking you out" he continued.

Me: "argh I should have come alone"

Buja: "okay then take it...but you'll only wear it when you're with me"

I looked at him but decided not to respond. We went to go and pay then left. We then went to buy a new sim card for me then drove off back home.



Me: " I don't see the point of changing my sim card yazi. Its not like I have a history of different ex's that call me"

Buja: " you gave your number to that Sabz. I don't want him contacting you again"

Me: " he won't, he got the message"

Buja: " I don't care, you're changing your number."

Me: " but I don't want to change my number. Stop forcing me, you the one that needs a number changing and not me"

Buja: " so you enjoy it when this guy calls you, is that it?"

Me: " mxim. Can you stop being so insecure. When have I ever cheated on you??"

Buja: " yazi Noxy, I don't want to argue about this. Have you forgotten that you once kissed that mother fucker Loyiso? Because I haven't forgotten about that at all. Did you not say you wonder how its like having sex with another man?"

Me: " I was trying to upset you, I was just angry. "

Buja: " now change your number. And you better not give your number to any man. Your clients at work will call you on the office number"

Me: " so I'm not even allowed to have any male friends?"

He didn't respond. I also kept quiet with a lump in my throat. I felt like a prisoner. It was like Buja was watching me like a hawk all because of his insecurities. We arrived at home. On sunday we all went to church, including Makheswa. The weekend ended and all the time I spent it with my family, Buja didn't even visit his friends. When they asked to come over he said next time. Somehow he wasn't even in the mood to see them.

Monday we decided to go in separate cars to work but at 5pm we had decided to meet in the marriage counselors office. I wasn't keen at all on going. I actually wished I could change my mind. Home time I knocked off. I felt nervous, I wasn't ready for this marriage counseling, I just wasn't. Opening up to a stranger about my feelings was just not me. Buja phoned and said he'll wait for me outside the counseling office. So I drove off to there. I arrived and parked my car abit closer to Buja's then stepped out. He also stepped out of his car and came over to me. He gave me a hug and we walked in together. We were told to go inside because the counselor was already waiting for us. We walked in. There was a man inside. He got up and gave us both a handshake " Mr and Mrs Giba, good afternoon" he said. We greeted back then Buja and I sat on the same couch while he sat on the single couch. He had a big and spacious office. He looked at both of us then said " I'm Sam Luphuzi, but I'll prefer for you to call me Sam, I'll be your marriage counselor so I want both of you to feel comfortable to talk to me. I want you to open up to each other about your feelings."

We both looked at him while he was talking. " Have you been in marriage counseling before?" He asked.

Buja: " No, we haven't"

He nodded and took his note pad.

Sam: " Mr Giba, may you please sit on the opposite couch. I want you and your wife to be separated from each other while we start with our first session. I usually do things a bit differently but believe me when I say you will thank me later"

I shifted my position then crossed my legs. I had no hope that he could change anything. Buja went to sit opposite me while Sam remained on the single couch.

Sam: " marriage has its ups and downs, and I'm aware that the mere fact that you're here is because your marriage might be hitting a rocky point. Its either you want to save your marriage or you want to call it quits. Which one is which?"

Buja: " we want to save it"

Sam looked at me. I cleared my throat and said " yes, we want to save our marriage. Can I have a glass of water, please"

He got up and gave me a jug of water and a glass. He went to take a box of tissues and placed it on top of the table. I poured myself a glass and downed it until it was half full.

Sam: " Alright. The first step is opening up about your feelings. Mrs Giba, I'll start with you"

I stared at him. I didn't want to start, in fact, I didn't even want to talk. I did all of that in the family meeting I went to, how will this marriage counseling be any different.

Sam: " I want you to open up about everything and anything. This is strictly confidential, everything you are about to say should stay between the 3 of us. Your husband needs to hear things that have been bothering you, what makes you upset, angry, happy, excited. But first let's start about the root of the marriage problem. How are you feeling right now? Are you happy at this very moment?"

I shook my head. " No, I'm not"

Sam: " is your marriage part of the unhappiness?"

Me: " Yes."

Sam: " tell your husband why are you unhappy?"

I looked at Buja, he looked at me back. I suddenly couldn't utter a word.

"Look at me, Mrs Giba." Sam said. I turned my head and looked at him.

Sam: " let's start by you telling me what made you fall in love with your husband?"

I let out a smile thinking about what exactly made me fall for him.

Me: " he first came across as a charmer, I gave him a hard time because I didn't trust him, I tried my best to push him away but he didn't give up. He was caring, showed a lot of interest in things I liked. He was interested in the life I lived even though it wasn't even exciting. I started having feelings for him. He was so romantic, he did things that made me happy all the time"

Same: " how do you feel now compared to what you felt when you started the relationship?"

Me: " I'm not happy at all. I want to explain how but there's so many things I want to say I don't even know where to start"

Sam: " let's make it this way: tell me why you are unhappy. You don't have to look at him. Complain if you have too, shout, curse, do what ever. And as you are doing this, Mr Giba I want you to listen very carefully to your wife. You can take your time, but remember, it does help opening up everything that has been bottled up inside."

Silence filled the room. I took a deep breath.

Sam: " we'll wait for you"

Me: " I'm full of regrets, Sam. If I could go back to my past there's so many things I would change. Firstly, I feel that my husband deceived me. He portrayed a different person to me and not who he really is. I knew nothing about him, the signs that he wasn't good were there, the way girls talked about him were one of the signs but to me he always said I should just ignore them.

He took advantage of my innocents. I think when he first laid his eyes on me he saw this girl who he could make his puppet. "

Buja: " babe i-"

Sam: " No, Mr Giba. Remember, you must wait for your turn. Don't try to stop her, she has to say everything she's feeling. Our aim here is to make her open up on everything that she's kept inside. "

Buja: " I'm sorry.."

He kept quiet again and listened.

Me: " I'm constantly unhappy. No matter how hard I try to make myself happy or laugh deep down I have this sadness in my heart. I have so many questions in my mind."

I glanced up at Sam and said " he acts like he owns me, sometimes I fear him. He treats me like a child and he orders me around. I sometimes feel I have no say in anything, I have to do what he asks whether I like it or not. He just bullies me around"

I sighed and took the glass and drank the water. My hand was starting to shake. I didn't even want to look at Buja. I placed the water on top of the table. Sam was listening attentively.

Me: " I feel so disrespected by him as his wife. I don't trust him because of so many things he's done. I trusted him so much. My son and I were so excited to come and stay with him. I was counting the days to finally be with my husband. Little did I know that he was busy cheating on me all this time. "

Tears started filling up my eyes. " My heart has been ripped apart by him. With every woman he has slept with he has diminished my trust, love and connection to him. I even suggested we use protection but he refused, he told me he used a condom with all these women, but how do I believe that? As I said before I sometimes fear him because when he wants something he wants it and his word is final. It even comes to the point whereby he doesn't care how I feel. He tells me almost all the time that he loves me, but how do you love someone and still hurt that person so much? He had a 4 sum while I was staying with his parents, being married didn't even cross his mind. He clearly didn't regret it because he had an affair again while I was staying with him. He has humiliated me in front of his friends, colleagues, and family.

I took a tissue and wiped my cheeks

Me: " I started to be less confident in myself. I questioned my abilities as a wife. I felt I wasn't good enough. I went to the elders and they tried to convince me to fight for my marriage, why when he didn't even respect me to begin with. I've had mental break downs and panic attacks because of him. I'm surrounded by ex side chicks, the very same women who he has slept with while busy cheating on me every where I go. I'm expected to be strong for my kids, I'm expected to smile and act happy. But sometimes it becomes too much. I sometimes even think about suicide, but I can't do it. My children still need me. My marriage almost broke me, but here I am today still married to the man who's hurting me so much. My husband who's killing me spiritually, who's abusing me emotionally and physically, all because I love him. Even if I were to divorce him, I don't think I'll ever be able trust another man again. What his done to me has left me with emotional scars that will never heal. "

By this time I was wiping my nose and face because I just couldn't stop my tears from streaming down. My voice was breaking. Sam made a deep sigh and said " thank you so much for opening up. This is the first step to healing."

" Mr Giba, did you listen to every word your wife said?" He asked. I glanced Buja. He was looking at me. " Mr Giba?" Sam called out. " Yes, I listened" he breathed.

Sam: " Mr Giba, tell me what attracted you to your wife? What made you develop feelings for her?"

Buja: " her innocents." He said gazing it me. I looked down and played with my wedding ring.

He continued: " She was so down to earth, humble. She was different from all these other girls around me. I wanted to get to know her, I couldn't stop thinking about her. I loved her the very first time I saw her crossing the road going to her father's car wearing her school uniform. She was coming out of the library. I've loved her ever since. She's my everything"

Sam: " is there anything that makes you unhappy about her?"

He shook his head. " No. She completes me" he said.

Sam: " please tell her what could be the problem? What went wrong, Mr Giba? "

Buja: " you know, ever since I was young I had always been involved in mischief. I grew up like this. I had everything I wanted - from cars, wealth to every chick. I was treated like some sort of celebrity. I was regarded as one of those "cool guys" together with my crew. I never even worked hard to get a girl because my status did it for me. Chicks threw themselves at me, and things like those became an addiction. I became full of lust which has become my major problem ever since. Nothing changed when I became married. Nothing was ever wrong with my wife, it was just this unending greed I had to fulfill my promiscuous behaviour. It became something normal between my friends and I to change women. I knew Noxy was with my parents, I knew she was my wife and raising my child but I had that mentality that what she doesn't know won't hurt her. "

He stared at me for a while. I looked at him back. " I'm so sorry Noxy for everything that I've done to you. I've hurt you so much, I'm sure when your father walked you down the aisle and handed you over to me he wished only the best for his child, but instead I've treated you like trash. After I almost died I thought about these things, I thought about the reckless life that I've been living, how I've put you and our children in danger. I've thought about the numerous times I've cheated on you yet I didn't want to let you go. I've been so selfish, I know I've been thee most terrible husband to you. "

Tears filled his eyes. " Noxy..." He said, " my love, my wife. I've failed you" he closed his eyes then paused. After a while he opened them " I love you so much, God knows how much I love you. But I think its time I stopped thinking about myself for once in my life. Sthandwa sam, If you want to walk away and leave this marriage I'm no longer going to stay in your way. I've listened and I've heard. You need happiness in your life, and that's something I've failed to give you. I've got anger problems, I'm done being a womanizer but I feel I need to fix myself so that I can be a better person, for you and my children. There's no other woman I'll ever love, not the way I love you. I want you by my side so that we can fix our marriage, but my past is coming back, the things I thought will always remain a secret have revealed themselves to you. I've watched you hurting because of me. If you want to leave me, I'll understand. "

Me: " will you?"

He didn't respond.

Me: " will you leave me to move on with my life and not get in my way? do you promise not to interfere even if I happen to get into a new relationship."

He stared at me for a while. Silence loomed in the room.

Buja: " No."

Sam: " Meaning you're not willing to give up on your marriage"

Buja: " I'm willing to change for her. I'm willing to let her go and find peace while I work on being a better man, meaning working on my anger and having self control. But what I'll never accept is seeing her with another man. She is my wife and no one else, that is something that I don't think I'll ever be ready for. "

Sam: " Mrs Giba, do you want to leave your husband and find yourself new love?"

Me: " No."

Sam: " so this means both of you want to fix your marriage. You have both taken the first step of humbling yourselves, seeking help, and exploring the faults in your relationship. What is the major problem in your marriage? its infidelity, possessiveness and emotional and physical abuse. In our next session we will find ways to deal with these problems. I think this is enough for the day. Thank you both for coming"

With that being said we stood up and said our goodbyes. On my way to my car Buja stopped me. I turned around and looked at him. He came close and gave me such a warm and comforting hug. I returned with mine. We hugged in silence until I whispered " we should break the hug, I'm sure people are watching"

Buja: " let them. This is not about them. Its about us"

## Chapter 72

" When you love someone, even if there is a million reasons to leave, you'll always find one reason to stay"

That quote reminded me of myself. I had made up my mind, I didn't want to leave him, I had hope and faith in my husband, that he is really willing to changed, despite what we've been through. As we hugged each other, I felt the connection I've always had to him grow. I felt his warmth and his love for me. At that moment, I didn't think about any of his faults, I focused on the love I felt for him. We slowly broke the hug. He stroked my cheek and said " let's go home, my love"

Me: " yeah, its getting late"

We gazed at each other. " You're so beautiful, inside and out, don't ever forget that, okay"

Me: " why thank you. You're not too bad yourself"

He raised his eye brow " uhm...so I'm ugly but not too ugly?"

I chuckled and said " you're my beast"

He let out a smile and said " sexy beast, right?"

Me: " sexy and handsome man. My man"

He smiled and planted a kiss on my lips. " Let's get going" I said. " Sure" he responded, then we went to our cars. I drove out first and he followed behind me. We arrived at home moments later and stepped out. Lutha came to us. I greeted Makheswa who was feeding the baby and we went over to the room.

Me: "I'll prepare some supper quick. Or maybe Makheswa should start cooking for us if I happen to arrive late."

Lutha walked in our bedroom and jumped up and down on the bed.

Buja: " ha a my love, you know I don't trust other people's cooking. How about take aways then?"

Me: " hahaha I'll cook babe don't stress. I was just saying..."

Lutha was singing and making such a noise while jumping up and down our bed. Buja turned and said " boy, stop that" Lutha stopped immediately and got off the bed " did you buy anything yummy for me? Dad? Mom?"

Buja: " no sorry my boy, tomorrow okay?"

Lutha: " aaah man!"

He walked out of the room sulking. " He'll be fine" Buja said " I think we need to start teaching him that he can't get everything he wants."

Me: " true."

Buja: " babe...."

Me: " yes..."

Buja: " thanx for opening up today, I feel this counseling will improve many things in our marriage"

Me: " yes, as long as we both put in the effort we'll have a very happy life"

Buja: " injalo sthandwa sam"

Me: " let me change and cook then"

Buja: " take aways are still okay"

Me: " I don't mind, cooking is one of my hobbies remember?"

He smiled and kissed my cheek " sure babe"

I changed then went to the kitchen. I decided on cooking stiff pap and lamb stew, a nice african dish. Makheswa walked in with Bathi " sisi....may I please go home this weekend, my daughter seems to be sick and I've left her alone in that house. I need to check up on her"

Me: " of course, that's not a problem. What could be wrong with her?"

Makheswa: " ey I'm not sure. She phoned and said she's having a running stomach and vomiting. I think it must be some kind of food poisoning"

Me: " did she go to the doctor?"

Makheswa: " she went to the clinic. "

Me: " okay, you can go on friday then come back on sunday evening."

Makheswa: " thank you so much Noxy"

Me: " its okay, can I hold my nunie"

I took my Bathi and kissed his cheeks until he looked irritated " I'm so sorry my angel. Kaloku you too cute nje"

He started making baby noises and reaching out for my nose.

Me: " I love you, I love you!" I said hugging him " let me dish up Makheswa, you can take him again" she did just that. I placed the cutlery and plates neatly on the dinning room table.

Moments later I called everyone to eat. Buja and Lutha were spending time together in the living room, it was the play station again " come guys!" I said because they just couldn't put that game down. I blessed the food and we dug in. I told Buja Makheswa will be leaving this weekend and that her daughter is sick. " Its okay" he said " speedy recovery to her"

Makheswa: " thanx, a lot. I promise I'll be back on sunday. "

I finished eating while we decided to chat about random stuff. After we were done Makheswa offered to clear up the table and wash the dishes, I took my baby and decided on giving him a bath.

While bathing him in his small bath tub, I decided on having a chat with him. " I want you to grow up to be a wise man, Bathi wam. You can only start dating when you are over 21"

I giggled thinking how impossible that is these days. " No sex before marriage, okay?" I took him out of his bath tub. He cried. My baby just enjoyed staying in the water. Buja walked in while I was lotioning him. He wrapped his arms on me from behind and said " is the lil one giving you a hard time?"

Me: " no, we just fight when he has to get out of the water. At least he loves water, that's a good thing"

Buja laughed and picked him up and kissed his lips and said " I'll dress him up"

Me: " let me check up on Lutha"

Buja: " he's watching tv in his room. "

Me: " oh sure then"

Bath was already starting to sleep. I went to take a quick shower then walked out with a towel wrapped around my body. Buja had just placed Bathi in the baby cot. He came over to me and said " about what we talked about earlier in the marriage counseling. If you want me to sleep in the spare room or move out, I can do that babe. "

Me: " this is our room and we are both willing to fix things together. You can stay"

Buja: " as long as you okay with that my love"

He took off his clothes and wore his night wear. I also wore my night wear then we both got into the bed covers. We cuddled with each other.

Me: " I feel so much better after opening up about my feelings. I under estimated this"

Buja: " me too, babe. Uhm..."

He breathed out loud " can I asked you something? "

Me: " yes"

Buja: " remember we went to test and we both came back clean"

Me: " yah..."

Buja: " I've thought about what you said and how you don't feel comfortable about not using protection with me. Babe, I think maybe its best we use protection until you feel you can trust me. We can even go and test again. I want to prove to you that I'm still clean"

Me: " I can accompany you because I did test already 2 months back before giving birth. Do we even have condoms in our room?"

He shook his head. " I'll get a box tomorrow"

Me: " okay then"

Buja: " Goodnight babe, I love you"

Me: " Goodnight. Are you okay?"

Buja: " not really babe, but I'll be okay. I'm just kicking myself right now for everything I've been doing to you"

Me: " after this session I'm willing to forgive you and forget. You don't have to beat yourself up about it"

Buja: " thanx babe"

I came close to him and we kissed, moments later we drifted to sleep.

The days passed. Our sessions were going to be 2 times a week, on Monday and on Wednesday. So Buja and I had decided to go to Gym on tuesdays and Thursdays, other days were optional. But it was clear that we weren't going to arrive at home the usual time we arrived in the passed. However, we were now going to arrive together. We even considered starting to use the same car, because Karen had suggested I use the company car to go to Court. On tuesday was my first time after a very long time doing a work out. Buja was with me and we had started on doing a cardio workout, by the time I went home my whole body was in pain.

"I don't think I'll go back, my body is aching" I said as I rubbed myself. Buja didn't have a thing, he was fresh and full of energy. I reckoned it was because he was used to working out.

Buja: " I hope this work out is just to stay in shape, I love your body just the way it is, please don't go on a diet and get all thin on me"

Me: " hahaha I'll just have to see about that. "

He gave me a stare " I'm joking, its just to keep heathly and in shape"

Buja: " hehe good"

We left and went home later. Both our phone numbers had changed. We had alerted our close friends and family though, so they saved it. I even changed my WhatsApp number to my new one. On Wednesday it was the counseling session again, and this time we talked about emotional and physical abuse. Buja advised that he can be short tempered especially if someone messes with him, but he was concerned that he was doing it to me too. He said the last thing he wanted was physically hurting me. Sam gave him a task to do for anger management, his comment was " it'll take some time to actually train myself to control my anger, but I'll try my best to defeat this problem" we were now sitting next to each other. Myself on the other hand I was advised to start opening up. That was one of the huge problems for me. I wasn't very good at expressing my feelings and I tried to avoid an argument by saying I'm fine even though that specific issue was eating me up.

We later on went back home. Sbu had a chauffeur to pick up his kids every day, so we had actually asked him to pick Lutha up on monday and wednesday because of the counseling we were attending but we had no problem picking him up before going to gym. No one knew about this marriage counseling that Buja and I were attending. We didn't see the reason of telling it to the whole world.

So now it was friday in the evening. Makheswa had decided to go very early on Saturday morning, we didn't mind though. While her and the kids were in the kitchen, I got a WhatsApp message from Sandi and also Wendy. " You're so scarce!! Haibo I see we've been dumped" Sandi said. I replied " lol never. "

Sandi: " can we meet tomorrow? Wendy has already said yes. Let's have a girls day out"

Me: " sure. I'll bring the lil one along with me"

Sandi: " okay love"

I also sent Wendy a text letting her know. Buja walked in the living room while I was busy chatting and sat next to me. "Babe" he said. I placed the phone in my pocket. " I have the condoms with me, a whole box of them" he whispered.

Me: " oh...so it will be the first time we're using it together. Mmmmh..exciting"

Buja: " how about we check if they're good or not. I mean, to you....."

Me: " they're good, I know they are"

Buja: " maybe its time for you to experiment"



He gave me a look that made me want him that very moment.. I smiled and said " okay, let's go" We got up and rushed off to the room. " Hey, why are you guys in a rush?!" Lutha shouted as we passed the kitchen. He enjoyed chatting to Makheswa and asking her questions about everything. " I'll explain later nana!" I responded. As soon we got in the room we closed the door and stripped each other. Buja picked me up while we kissed. I wrapped my legs around his waist. He placed me on top of the bed and went down on me, I missed what he was doing so much. I became so wet in an instant. He reached for the drawer and took a condom, tore the wrapper and slid it in. I watched him as he did it and said " you gifted nhe?"I winked at him. " Yayazi nje baby" he responded. It wasn't long before we did the deeds. After we were done we laid in each other's arms.

Buja: " how was it"

Me: " Good, different, but still good. And to you?"

Buja: " it feels unnatural to use a condom with you babe. I guess this is part of the punishment I get for what I've done"

Me: " its not punishment"

Buja: " okay, let's use it and see where it takes us"

Me: " yep"

After we wiped ourselves we got up and dressed then decided to go and watch tv because it was still early. Makheswa went to bed while we bonded with our children.

So now it was saturday.....

Makheswa left early in the morning, I gave her a lift to the taxi rank and wished her daughter a speedy recovery. I was very keen to meet up with the ladies, it had been a while since I did some catching up and I had now considered Wendy as my friend. She and Sbu were there for me in the most darkest time and ever since that happened Wendy and I became close again. I chatted on WhatsApp with both her and Sandi and we decided to meet and 1pm at Primi Piatti restaurant. I decided to take Bathi along with me while Buja decided to go with Lutha to Sbu's place.

Me: " so what will you be up to with Sbu?"

Buja: " we'll just have a few drinks and have a chillaz with the gents. The kids will be playing around the house as usual. There's plenty of rooms and games for them"

Me: " mmmh okay"

Buja: " and you ladies?"

Me: " well...we'll have our girl talks"

Buja: " you mean, you'll be talking about us?"

I laughed " oh please! Don't flatter yourselves. There's lots of things we can talk about like make up, fashion, the latest celebrity gossip...I mean..."

Buja: " why are you so defensive? Haha you know I'm right"

I hit his chest "hey, you're abusing me" he said.

Me: " mxim"

He laughed and said " I'm just pulling your leg my love" he kissed my cheek. "Let me get going with my boy. "

Me: " see you later..."

Buja: " sure..."

I wrapped my arms around his neck, he stroked my butt while we passionately kissed. Moments later he left with Lutha. I checked what to wear and decided on wearing my V-neck shirt dress and white sandals. I took my handbag and baby bag then went to put it in the car. After I dressed up my son I locked the house and placed him on the baby seat. Sandi phoned while I was on my way to the restaurant. " I've just arrived, you'll see me on table three"

Me: " sure"

I hung up and arrived shortly after the call. I took my baby and the bag then made my way to Sandi. I arrived. She waved at me as I got in. She got up and took Bathi immediately when she saw him.

Sandi: " he's such a cutey!!"

Wendy arrived shortly and we hugged and all sat down. We ordered what we're going to eat then Sandi said " haisana Noxy, you and your husband have been hiding yourselves vha. Maybe you've been making up for all the days he's been in hospital. " She gave me a naughty smile. Wendy laughed and said " I have to agree with you, Sandi, she and her hubby have been so scarce lately ningo 'can't get, can't tholakala."

Me: " hahaha we've just been spending a lot of time together with our kids that's all. I can see we've been missed"

Wendy: " yes! You have"

Sandi: " yeah, you can say that again."

Me: " enough about me now, so how have you guys been?"

Our orders arrived. Sandi was still holding the baby.

Sandi: " My relationship with Vusi has become stronger and things are getting more serious. He introduced me to his family last week"

Me: " what?? Oh my gosh...I sense some wedding bells coming"

Sandi: " oh please, I don't want to get my hopes up. Considering the way we started the relationship I highly doubt it"

Wendy: " how did the relationship start again? Sorry, its just that I don't remember you telling me"

Sandi: " I slept with him the first night we met. What was suppose to be a one night stand ended up being a relationship"

Me: " maybe you guys were meant to meet"

Sandi: " yah but I'm concerned about the relationship, what if he develops some trust issues? Maybe these are some of the things we should talk about"

Wendy: " true hey, otherwise I love you guys, Vusi has never been this serious about someone..."

Sandi smiled.

Me: " how about you and your hubby, Wendy?"

Wendy: " we're still okay. I'm just so happy next week I'm taking off this makoti outfit. At least I can get back to going clubbing, with him of course"

Me: " you're still going to continue with clubbing?"

Wendy: " yes, we both love partying. So we decided not to just stop everything although we won't do things the way we're used to. Right now I just cannot wait for Buja's welcome back party!"

Sandi: " me too. I here it will be off the hook. You're husband is loved by his friends hey. Its next week right?"

Me: " I don't know, we didn't even discuss it..."

Wendy: " its actually for both Noxy and Buja. It was suppose to be a surprise but we ended up on

deciding to tell you guys just in case you have other plans."

Me: " hahaha I feel so special"

Wendy: " both of you guys are to us..."

I drank my juice " I've got my own lil party I'm planning for my hubby" I said with a huge smile on my face.

Wendy: " I wonder what kind of party is that."

Sandi: " that makes the 2 of us"

They gave me the look. " Let's just say its my own welcome back party. I know its long over due and he no longer has any hope of me doing anything for him. But...what I'll do for him will take him by total surprise..."

I smiled and winked at them.

Sandi: " is it a party for two? Hahaha my imagination is going so wild right now"

Wendy: " hahaha all I can say is I'm excited for him"

" Okay ladies..." I said as I looked at both of them " I'll give you a hint. Sandi, you're right, its a party for two. They'll be some sexy lingerie involved, some music, some romance...uhm!! let me not go any further, but all I can say is...I'll be revealing a side of me that only he knows. He is my husband after all...and..."

I gave them a naughty smile " by the time I'm done with him...nc..nc..nc...that's all I have to say."

They went " ooooooh!!!!" I laughed and so did they.

Wendy: " hahaha oh gawd....you go Noxy!"

Sandi: " hahaha yhu, I'm so excited right now, good luck my friendoooo"

Me: " thanx ladies. So Wendy, I'll need your help on something. I want Sbu to distract Buja. On friday he must not come back home quickly. And I need for the kids to be at your place, we'll pick them up later on. "

Sandi: " that's if you'll pick them up at all!"

We all cracked in laughter.

Wendy: " I'll be on it! Let's make a toast to us and long lasting friendship"

We took our glasses and made a toast. Sandi: " we should also make a toast to Buja and the naughtiness that's coming his way. Oooh boy oh boy..."

Sandi had this excited expression on my face.

Wendy: " we should actually all go and buy some very sexy lingerie, how's that?yho, the things I feel like doing to my Sbu when I get home..."

We burst into laughter. I didn't know where this friendship was going to take us, but I had a very good feeling that it was definitely going to last.

## Chapter 73

" I'm sure you're tired of holding baby Bathi" I said to Sandi because she was eating while still holding him. " Its okay, I just love him because he's not afraid of people" she responded " iboyza!" She said stroking his cheek.

Wendy: " its my turn to hold him now"

Sandi: " later Wendy mani. I think I'm ready to be a mommy"

Wendy: " hahaha are you sure?"

Sandi: " babies are adorable, but I'm thinking maybe next year. I need to party for the last time. Kaloku the only sleepless nights I know and used to is dancing and partying the whole flippin' night"

Me: " you guys are such party freaks"

Sandi: " we're still young and enjoying life kaloku sana. Ungazoba serious!"

Me: " hahahaha mxim"

We continued to chat while eating. We then paid the bill and left. I placed Bathi on the baby carrier then we left and went to do some lingerie shopping. I took about 4 different ones, I was just so undecided on which one to wear on that day. Sandi and Wendy picked a few as well, we bought some thigh-high stockings and some matching garter belts fore some sexy addiction. My baby was behaving I must admit. He wasn't even scared of people. I ended up buying some cute clothing for him, being a mom you'll never leave the shopping mall without seeing a cute item for your lil one. Lutha was going to go for some clothe shopping with his dad any way. We continued having our girl chats and talking about other things until we decided to call it a day and go our separate ways. I arrived at home around 17:00 and got bored instantly. The house became so quiet although Bathi was starting to cry because he was sleepy. I called Buja and said " I'm back my love, and I miss you..."

Buja: " I'll be back babe, I hope you had fun"

Me: " yeah I did. I'm thinking of having another meet up with them"

Buja: " ewe nhe, okay love, what's Bathi up too?"

Me: " he's sleepy, in fact, he's fallen asleep now"

Buja: " okay, ndiyeza ke vha"

Me: " sure"

Buja: " uyathandwa ngu Buja wakho"

Me: " I love you too"

We hung up and I placed my baby on top of the bed and covered him with his baby blanket. I took the shopping bag with the lingerie I bought and hid it.

Buja only arrived at around 8pm with Lutha.

Me: " sana, you always look sober yet you had a few drinks with the gents. You don't even look tipsy"

He laughed and said " I don't drink to get drunk, I get tipsy but you'll never see me. Izpha baby" I came closer to him. He held me then his hands slowly went to my butt, he spanked it and said " am I wrong to think about my wife's ass while I'm with my boys" I giggled and said " haibo...." Looking away.

He lifted my chin with his index finger " look at me, babe" he said in a chilled voice. I glanced up at me. He gazed into my eyes, I got lost into the moment. His eyes had this seduction in them. Lutha walked in while Buja and I were busy having our moment.

Lutha: " I had such a great time at my friend's place. Dad we should go again next week! Mom where did you go with my lil bro?" He climbed to the high chair and reached for a pear that was on top of the counter.

Lutha: " Mom, dad, stop looking at each other please. I'm talking..."

Me: " nana, you're interrupting us"

Lutha: " hahahaha but mom you and dad were just looking at each other. I wanna tell you about something very cool that happened earlier today."

Buja went to sit next to him " I'm all ears" he looked at me and shook his head " he's such a chatter box lately" he added.

Lutha: " dad, I can hear you!"

Buja: " but I wasn't whispering"

Lutha: " you're talking to mom behind my back"

Buja: " but I'm right next to you"

I laughed. They continued having their lil argument. We ended up ordering something for supper.

The weekend ended, which was very quick because it was a very good one. Even Buja was starting to enjoy and get used to going to church. At first he always looked bored and kept making excuses but at least now he was starting to become dedicated. But I knew very well I had to be patient and not pressure him into changing. Everything does happen in good time. Makheswa arrived later on in the evening, she said her daughter was getting better so she was just going to check up on her over the phone.

The new week started and Buja and I went to the counseling sessions and gym. I was actually enjoying these new activities we were doing together. On Wednesday while we were on our way home he said " so babe did Wendy tell you about this welcome back party they're doing for me on saturday?"

Me: " yeah, but she didn't confirm on the day"

Buja: " well they said its on saturday, its for us...."

Me: " you don't sound excited"

Buja: " I am, but I'm not sure what the guest list will be like. We don't want some unwanted guest in our party, right?"

Me: " like..."

Buja: " okay, Sbu told me that Amanda wants to come, but I said no. "

Amanda was not a threat to me anymore. I somehow believed she won't longer be in my way or cause any trouble.

Me: " she was very distant when you got shot. Maybe she's really moved on with the X-man guy. Maybe she should come"

Buja: " nah babe, I don't want you to be unhappy there"

Me: " She can come. I choose to trust you. The only thing that will make me unhappy is betrayal by you"

Buja: " ok then"

We arrived at home. I wasn't feeling insecure, not anymore. So later on in the evening Makheswa was in her room getting ready to sleep. I knocked and entered then closed the door.

Me: " Makheswa, I need to speak to you about something"

Makheswa: " okay..."

We sat down on the bed.

Me: " you know my husband was on life support and all so we've gone though some really rough and hard times together"

Makheswa: " yes, thanks to the Almighty for protecting him."

Me: " true. So I'm thinking of doing something special for him on friday. I need a favour from you"

Makheswa: " I'm listening"

Me: " can you go and stay with the kids at Sbu's place until we come and pick you up later on. I want it to be just the two of us"

Makheswa smiled and looked down.

Me: " and now?"

I asked with a straight face.

Makheswa: " mmmmh romantic something I see"

She said with a slight smile. I couldn't help but chuckle.

Makheswa: " hayi sisi I don't mind. Just give me a call when you done. Is there a nanny there?"

Me: " yes, she's about your age"

Makheswa: " oh haike!! Akho problem sisi"

She looked away still smiling. Argh, I got up and said " thanx and nyto"

Makheswa: " night"

I walked out of the room and went to night. When I got in Buja was sitting on the edge of the bed talking on the phone " Yah mjita, that's perfect. Let me know if everything runs smoothly. Sharp" he said in a very seriously tone. He hung up and said " that's Joseph, he just wanted an advice on some business he's doing"

Me: " business?"

Buja: " yeah, our special kind of business"

Me: " corruption..."

Buja: " don't say that word babe, remember we have eli oledi in the house. I don't trust her, she must not know anything about what I do."

Me: " yeah, you're right."

Buja: " anyway, enough about that let's get ready for bed.."

He got up and walked away. I decided to just leave this topic, but I did notice that ever since Makheswa arrived he had been very discreet about this in the house. Even when Luzz and his other syndicates came over they didn't raise any suspicions, instead, if they wanted to talk about serious stuff they preferred meeting up at Luzz's house. I wanted to have a chat with him about this corruption and when he'll actually leave it, but I decided on another time. That was something that we couldn't even talk about in the marriage counseling since it wasn't legal.

So now it was friday, the day before this big party. I WhatsApped Wendy asking if she spoke to Sbu " yes, everything is covered. He'll give you a call during the day" she replied. I said okay and went to work. I was so keen for my plan I wasn't even concentrating. I got a call from Sbu after 2pm. " Hi there" I said as I made circles in some scrap paper with my pen.

Sbu: " Noxy, how are you?"

Me: " I'm good and yourself?"

Sbu: " I'm okay, hehe I hear I need to distract my boy today, there's some surprise(nyana) in store for him. "

I laughed and said " are you in on it?"

Sbu: " I've already called him for some drinks after work, he gave me a hard time at first but he finally agreed"

Me: " Thanx. But I hope you won't go hard on the booze, I need him to be in his sober senses"

Sbu: " hahaha ekse! So what's up ma'am?"

Me: " hayi tshi Sbu, its a secret"

Sbu: " oh well at least I tried"

There was an incoming call. it was Buja.

Me: " Sbu, my hubby is calling, I gotta go"

Sbu: " okay sharp then"

He hung up.

" hey babe" I said answering Buja's call.

Buja: " sthandwa sam, how are you?"

Me: " good and you?"

Buja: " I'm okay, uh...babe, Sbu, Vusi and Lwando want us to meet for a few drinks, I'm just checking if its okay with you. I'll be back abit later"

Me: " its not a problem love.."

Buja: " thanx babe, see you later then"

Me: " sure, bye"

Buja: " bye."

I hung up with a grin on my face and decided to concentrate on my work again. Finally it was time to knock off. I got into my car and went straight to Woolies and Checkers to buy all Buja's favourite food. I arrived at home moments later and placed the shopping bags on top of the kitchen counter. Makheswa and the kids were all ready waiting for me. I called Wendy and asked if she's arrived yet and she said yes. Sbu, Buja and their other friends had left. So I went to drop the nanny and the kids " I'll give you a call" I said to Makheswa. She said okay and stepped out. Lutha helped her with the bags while she placed Bathi on the pram. I returned back at home. I began preparing Buja's favourite meal, I topped it up with tangerine, chocolate and vanilla salad. I then went to the living room and decided to do alittle rearranging. My phone rang. It was him " hello" I answered.

Buja: " babe, wenzani? Eish Sbu is insisting on me playing pool with these fellas. I'm not in the mood, I just want to be with you"

In the background I could hear them saying " aaah come one mfethu! Its friday, what's wrong with you."

I giggled and said " take your time my love, I'll call you when I miss you, in fact I'll call Sbu so that he can let you go"

Buja: " Yah, Sbu is a problem. We need to sort him out"

I laughed "ftsek Buja!" Sbu shouted. " Byieeee" I said " sharp babe" he responded then hung up. I went to take a shower, after I was done I lotioned myself and blow dried my hair for some volume before I wore my lingerie and went to the living room. I decided it was the perfect place for Buja and I to spend our evening - a place different and least expected, not our bedroom. We had the whole house to ourselves after all. I turned on some soft love songs, the music was indeed relaxing. I did some little decoration with some beeswax candles which were more natural bringing a softer aroma. I turned the lights to dim mode. I phoned him, he was in a noisy place. " Babe, please come back now" I said.

Buja: " I'm on my way love"

Me: " let me speak to Sbu, please"

He laughed and said " sure"

Sbu: " mfaz'ka Buja."

Me: " hey, you can let him go now..."

Sbu: " haha alright, no problemo. I'll tell Wendy."

I laughed and said " bye" then hung up. This thing was starting to be alil funny, playing with Buja like that. I went back to the bedroom and decided on wearing my red lingerie with a hint of lace on the side. I then wore my black heel stilettos with it and applied my lipstick. I sprinkled my perfume and checked myself in the mirror. I went to the closet and took out my trench coat, I felt like teasing him by making him think we were going out to some special restaurant or occasion. I wore it and went to place the food on top of the table. On one of the plates I wrote down " Noxy loves you" with icing then placed some red wine and a bottle of alcohol free champagne for myself. The music was still playing softly. It wasn't very long before I heard Buja unlocking the door. I went over to him and said " hey babe" giving him a kiss on the cheek. He had this confused look on his face. He raised his eye brow and said " where are you off too my love?"

I held his hand and said " well, I just planned a quiet evening for us...." He looked around the living room and said " mmmh babe, now this is a nice surprise"

Me: " let's sit down"

He took off his tie and unbuttoned two of his top buttons. He looked around with a smile on his face.

Me: " now this babe, is my welcome home lil party for you....just the two of us"

I winked, he bit his lower lip and said " ave ndithandwa yazi" ( I'm so loved)

Me: " yes, of course you are"

I smiled. He took out his phone and placed it on top of the table. I took both his phone and mine then switched them off.

Buja: " no visitors, no nothing. Just the two of us, right?"

Me: " you've got that right"

Buja: " where's Makheswa and the kids?"

Me: " at Sbu's place"

Buja: " oooooo hahaha, tshini that fucker! Now it makes sense why he just didn't want me to leave"

I laughed and said " well, yeah..." I'm sure he was wondering why the hell I decided to wear a trench coat but we weren't even going anywhere. He kept checking it out. Before he could say anything I said " I've cooked all your favourite food"

Buja: " I see babe, what did I do to deserve this?"

Me: " you're special to me, you're my hubby and the father of my children. I'm just officially welcoming you back home."

Buja: " aaah babe, I thought you didn't care"

Me: " Me? Never"

I dished up for him and poured him a glass of red wine. I ate a few spoons while watching him.

He looked at me and said " when did you plan this? I didn't expect it at all, I'm sorry babe, but after the fights we've had, I really didn't"

Me: " that's in the past....let's forget about it. Is it me or is it getting hot in here?"

Buja: " let me help you take off this trench coat"

Me: " its fine love, I'll hang it in the hook just now"



I got up and slowly took it off. He stared at me with his mouth slightly open. I flicked my weave and said " I'll be right back. "

" Dammmn!! He said clenching his fist and covering his mouth with it. I almost cracked into laughter. He licked his lower lip squinting his eyes " fuck babe, shit..." He got up with his eyes fixed on my body. He came closer.

Me: " ha a, don't touch,,,,behave babe" I went to hang my trench coat cat walking all the way to the hook. When I turned to go back to him he was still staring at me checking me out. I could see he was no longer in sober senses.

I went to the table and opened the bottle of wine then poured him a glass again.

"Come here, Noxy" he said. " Wait, babe. I still wanna have a chat with you" he looked at me with that ' I don't have time to chat' look. I said " here's your glass" he also poured a glass of wine on the empty glass then said " have some too, at least its wine"

Me: " yeah, why not"

Buja: " you're only drinking it because you're with me. And anyway its just one glass, but never do this without me, please babe"

Me: " sure, Buja."

I drank the wine leaving my zero alcohol champagne chilling there. He placed the glass back on the table, with his concentration straight on me, looking at every place in my body. " Babe, I don't want to talk anymore" he said, his eyes looked so hungry, " I want you, and I want you now" he added as he unbuttoned his shirt. I got up and placed my glass on the table as well then stood in front of me. " You can have me" I said " but bare in mind that I'll be in control" he stopped and had this slight smile on his face. I got on top of him spreading my legs in between his waist still wearing my heels. I feathered kisses down his neck to his collarbone while unbuttoning his shirt. I took it off and his vest as well. He held my buttocks as we started tongue playing. As I looked at him shirtless, it was good that I was on top of him because I could feel my knees getting weak. My man was so damn sexy. I pushed him a little bit back and got up to open his belt, he helped me in a hurry. I knelt down and slid my hand inside pants, found what I was looking for and gave him an insistent squeeze. He closed his eyes with so much anticipation " shit, Noxy....." He breathed. I slipped his formal pants down his legs, he kicked off his shoes. I stroked his shaft and chanced a quick look up. He was staring down at me with such a look of want and lust. I looked at him, running my hands up his bottom and grasping the back of his boxers firmly. I circled my tongue on the head of his shaft, then took it into my mouth..fully. He groaned, his hands tightening themselves on me, bringing himself deeper into me. I felt the hardness of him back of my throat. He was perfect and huge and smooth and rock hard. " Noxy what are you doing to me" he moaned quietly. I answered " I'm sucking your dick" that answer was unexpected from me because he opened his eyes and gazed at me looking a bit startled. I closed my eyes feeling embarrassed. Unexpectedly he picked me up and placed me on the couch, before I could say anything he spread my legs and inserted his finger inside me, I moaned loudly and said " Bujaaa...." He continued fingering me,he took his finger out and licked it. Oh lawd, he pulled my hips more closer to him. He sunk down so that his face could be level with mine. We hungrily kissed each other. I felt his shaft enter me, so hard and powerful. I held him tight as he paced up and down on top of me, his hands gripped my hips, angling me so that I was completely vulnerable to him. I shivered as multiple orgasms came. His cum met mine. He laid on top of me as we breathed heavily. I kissed his forehead, my legs were now wrapped on his.

" Babe" he said softly. " Mmmmh" I answered thinking about this evening and when we'll find the time to actually pick up the nanny and the kids because it was far from being over.

Buja: " we didn't use protection"

Shit. I had completely forgotten about it. " Oh no..."I murmured.

Buja: " we both forgot, babe. But we'll talk about that tomorrow, don't stress okay."

I nodded. He moved up and our foreheads met. " You're not just my love, you're my heart" he said. I came closer to him and we started kissing passionately all over again while his fingers entwined with mine.

## Chapter 74

I love this man so much, would it be possible for me to ever walk away from him? I don't think so. Those thoughts were running through my mind as we were intimate, physically proving our love for one another. The love I had for my husband was pure. My body knew him, and him only. I'm sure the food was now completely cold, but Buja didn't even care about it.

Me" do you think I should warm the food up for you?"

Buja: " no babe, all I want to eat now is you"

I giggled "maybe we should call the nanny and let her know she'll be sleeping over. "

Me: " yes, let me call Wendy first"

I reached for my phone and switched it on again. I called Wendy " hi love" she answered.

Me: " sweetie, I think the nanny will have to sleep over, we'll pick her up tomorrow morning"

She laughed and said " I knew it"

Me: " hahaha yeah...."

Wendy: " no problem, I'll see you guys tomorrow then"

Me: " sure"

We hung up. " Wendy will let Makheswa know" I said. It wasn't long before Buja and I picked up where we left off.

It was now the following morning....

My lingerie was on the floor and so were Buja's clothes. The previous night had been a success, exactly how I imagined it would be, although we really didn't get much sleep. Buja and I were cuddling. I got up and wore his shirt. Then went to the en-suite bathroom to clean myself up. He walked in shortly with a towel wrapped around his waist. " Good morning" he said as he wrapped his arms around me kissing my neck and my left cheek. " Morning to you too" I responded, he looked at me in the mirror as I was brushing my teeth. I rinsed my mouth and asked " what's up?"

He turned me around and said " thanx for last night, it was great. I wish I could rewind"

Me: " its a pleasure. Let me prepare breakfast, or just warm up the food from last night"

Buja: " ayt..."

I went to the kitchen. I decided on making breakfast instead. I fried some eggs and bacon, I sliced some tomatoes and took out the cheese as well. " Babe!!" I shouted. Buja walked in moments later and said " yeah..."

Me: " do you know where is the venue of your party?"

Buja: " you mean our party?"

Me: " argh love, you were the one on life support and not me"

Buja: " It's our party, my love."

I smiled as I dished up for him and myself. I poured some 100% fruit juice for us and we sat down and dug in.

Me: " about using protection. Remember our idea was to get used to using it, I can't believe I completely forgot about them. Its actually my fault"

Buja: " the idea is not working. Maybe we should just stop"

Me: " No..."

Buja: " Babe, I'm done with cheating, I really am. My focus now is on you and my kids. I wish you could fully trust what I'm saying. Actually, you did say that you now trust me"

Me: " I do, but sometimes it becomes hard. I've been disappointed too many times to just completely forget. I already feel guilty for not using it with you last night"

Buja: " you don't have too. On monday I want you to go with me to do a quick HIV test, you don't have to do it, I'll do it alone. And anyway, its too late to use it now, maybe we should just throw the box away"

I looked at him raising one eye brow.

Buja: " what?"

Buja just hated this idea. " Nothing" I said as I continued eating. After we were done I cleared the table and placed the dishes in the sink. While I was preparing to wash the dishes he said " come here, Noxy wam" he held my hand and made me sit on the high chair. He entered in between my legs. " I won't break what we have by cheating on you again. "

I nodded not fully convinced. " I'll see by your actions" I responded. " Okay sthandwa sam" he said. We kissed, he gently removed his lips from mine " did I mention that sex with you is the fucking best?" He asked stroking his index finger on my bottom lip. " Uhm...nah" I said softly with a slight smile.

Buja: " I just cannot get enough of you" Me: "the feeling is mutual"

We started kissing then had a quickie in the kitchen, the intercom phone rang, we ignored it until we were done. " I should get that" I said because it kept ringing for a while now. Buja carried me to the bedroom and wiped me clean " whoever it is can wait" he said as he planted a kiss my punani, I blushed. His phone also rang. He went to check, it was Luzz calling . " We're coming" he said as he answered. He wore his track pants and went to open the front door half naked. I wore my silky gown and slippers then went to the living room to do some cleaning up. Luzz, Lucky and Jabu walked in talking out loud and greeting Buja. They greeted me as well.

Me: " hey..."

I said we a polite smile. " Hehe! It looks like it was a hectic night" said Luzz as he threw himself on the couch.

Me: " what ever!"

Luzz: " I'm juuuuust saying..."

Lucky: " ey Tar Buja, great tattoo you have there" he said looking at it. Jabu wasn't much of a talker. I went to put the things away and came back with some drinks for them.

Luzz: " awu sis'Noxy, we've missed you...where's that nanny?"

Me: " she's at Wendy's place with the kids."

Luzz: " good, very good"

Buja came to sit next to me. "so what news have you got for me"

Luzz: " we managed to get half a million buddah, and there was no hiccups."

Lucky: " Yah sho, but we'll give you the details later on"

Jabu: " I also managed to get what you asked for"

Buja rubbed the back of his neck then said " so everything went smoothly? Did Joseph help you with that Jabu? "

Jabu: " sho boss...."

Buja: " okay, boys I see that you guys have become perfect in doing this. I'm actually considering stepping down in this business."

They kept quiet.

Buja: " I'll also have a word with the rest of the gents...look man, I've trained you and you're alert in many things now. I don't think you need me any more"

I could see panic on their faces.

Jabu: " but Tar, we need you. You can't just step down"

Buja: " the last time I checked I was the one doing the decisions and not you, Jabu"

Jabu: " I mean, we need you, we really do. Yah we good at doing this but you a pro Tar Buja. We even needed you in this mission. Without you we won't be confident enough. And the last thing we want is doing mistakes and getting arrested."

Luzz: " yho Tar Buja, what you're telling us is devastating. If only Tar Code was still alive maybe he would be able to convince you not to step down. We're making good money out of this. "

Buja: " I make good money out of my legit job too. Look guys, Tar Code taught me well, and I took over, I trained you and Luzz you are my right hand man, maybe its time you took over my position"

Me: " guys, who on earth is Tar Code?"

Buja: " he's the guy who trained me and the rest of my friends in this business, I became he's right hand man. But he was killed."

Me: " killed?"

Buja: " yes babe"

I was even afraid to ask how, there was so much killing in gangsterism I just didn't understand why Luzz and the rest didn't want to leave this life. It was dangerous and they were obviously gambling with their lives " Look Buddah yam, we're not trying to disrespect you or anything, but we think you should re-think about your decision. I doubt that your friends will agree with you" Lucky said. Buja didn't respond to them. Luzz said " we'll talk some other time about this, in private Tar B"

I just knew he meant when I'm not around, it was clear that they knew I was the one who influenced his decision.

Me: " Luzz, why don't you guys want Buja to step down? If I come across as being nosy then I apologize but I want to know what's the big deal when you all know how to do the job perfectly"

Luzz: " sis'Nox, its not easy to just quit and Tar Buja knows that. We have clients that trust him and only him, some of them don't have much confident in us"

Buja: " it'll take time for me to quit completely, I know we have clients that won't make any deal if I'm not involved but I'll have a word with them"

Luzz: " sure, we hear you"

Jabu: " sis'Nox you won't understand, there are a lot of things that will be at stake here if Tar Buja just quits. Its just not that easy"

Buja: " boys, we'll chat some other time. "

They stood up and Buja walked them out. I remained sitting down thinking about this. Buja came back and closed the door.

Me: " who are these clients you guys are talking about?and how did this Tar Code get killed?"

Buja: " babe, we'll talk about that later. Not now, please"

Me: " Okay, so I guess you friends won't want you to leave gangsterism as well"

Buja: " I will, its just that before I can actually completely stop I need to make sure there's no trust issues involved. "

Me: " okay, I understand"

Buja: " thanx my love"

I tidied up the house then we went to take a shower and got ready to go and fetch our kids. On the way there Buja said " I hope there's another surprise coming my way. Hahaha eish I can't stop thinking about last night." He stroked my thigh. " Hahaha I'm not saying anything" I said " but you didn't even finish up your food"

Buja: " how could I? The food was delicious don't get me wrong but yhoos baby, you were too damn hot"

I laughed and said " I know I am"

Buja: " yeses..."

He bit his lip. I giggled blushing like a teenager. " I just love how naughty you can be, my love."

He continued. My phone rang, it was Makheswa.

"Hello" I answered.

Makheswa: " hello, I'm just checking up on you"

Me: " we're on our way to fetch you"

Makheswa: " okay maka Lutha"

We hung up. Buja arrived and gave Sbu a call, the gate slid open and he drove in. Buja knocked once and we entered. I doubted they could even hear us. When we walked in the living room, Makheswa was picking up Lutha and Bathi's bag, Amanda was carrying Bathi standing next to Makheswa and Bomikazi was sitting down drinking a bottle of ciders. Sbu and Wendy walked in, before they could even greet Buja went straight to Amanda and took Bathi from her" Sbu mfethu, ni grand?" He said as he went over to them. I greeted the others and asked Makheswa where's Lutha. " He's coming just now" she responded. Amanda looked at Bomikazi with speaking eyes then at Buja.

Amanda: " Hi Noxy. Bulelani its not like I was going to steal the baby, how can you just grab him from me like that"

Buja didn't respond, he concentrated on chatting with Sbu, they walked away together. I decided not to say anything about this. Wendy came over to me and said " hey you" we hugged. " Hi" I greeted back.

She looked and Amanda and said " will you be sleeping here or at your place tonight?"

Amanda: " I'm not sleeping, I'll be having fun the whole night then in the morning I'll crash at Bomi's crib. I don't think I'll be going to this welcome back party"

Bomikazi: " speak for yourself chomy, I'm going, Noxy you don't mind right?"

Me: " who's the organizer?"

Wendy: " Sbu and I are, but Buja's friends are also helping. The venue is ready"

Amanda had this pissed facial expression " Noxy, am I even allowed to be in this party? Because by the looks of things Bulelani does not want me anywhere near you or his children. I've moved on! He should relax, I have my own man! Nxa, how dare he treats me like this"

Bomikazi: " chomy, calm down"

Amanda: "No, I won't calm down. I have shown him that I've moved on with my X-man, I don't want him! We should just let bygones be bygones. What else should I do to show him that I'm not into him anymore!"

Bomikazi laughed and said " Amish, my friend we've heard you the first time. Why do you keep repeating what you're saying?"

Just then Buja walked in again with Sbu and Lutha, he was still carrying the baby. Amanda said " well, I'm not going to this party anyways, I have better things to do!" loudly so that everyone could hear.

Wendy cleared her throat then said " Noxy, let me walk you out"

Buja: " babe, is everything ready?"

Me: " yeah, Makheswa, you've packed everything right?"

Makheswa: " yes, I have"

I walked out with Wendy.

Wendy: " I'm sorry about what just happened, Amanda has a tendency of being too dramatic."

Me: " I can see.."

Wendy: " she came to tell me about having a fight with her man, she even asked when last I saw Bongie. She suspects he's cheating on her again and this time, she wants me to get Bongie's flat address, Amanda wants to pay her a visit"

Buja walked out carrying the bags and Makheswa got in the car with the kids. I carried on chatting with Wendy.

Me: " well she won't get anything from me. As much as I dislike Bongie right now, I won't get involved. Then why was she reacting like that about Buja?"

Wendy: " I really don't know, its like she doesn't know how to react when he's around. I would ban her from coming here if I could, but I can't. We're related, she just came to see me unexpectedly"

Me: " I gotta get going"

Wendy: " I'll see you later on. I hope your lil party went well"

Me: " it was perfect"

I couldn't contain the smile on my face. "ooooo!! Where's Sandi?! " She said, we laughed then I went to the car, Buja hooted and drove out.

Buja: " what were you and Wendy talking about?"

Me: " girl stuff..."

Buja: " hahaha oh. Look babe, I was just telling Makheswa not to let just anyone hold our baby. I don't like what happened inside there"

Makheswa: " I'm sorry taka Lutha, I didn't think it would be any harm"

Buja: " don't let it happen again"

Me: " uhm..yes, please don't let it happen again"

Makheswa: " It won't. Wow that house is too big. The living room alone is big enough to be my own house. Hayi, I would get lost if I lived there"

We laughed, she carried on talking until we arrived. While Makheswa went to change Bathi's nappy, I asked " what happened there?"

Buja: " what do you mean?"

Me: " the way you reacted when you saw Amanda holding Bathi. I didn't like it when I saw her holding him too but I just want to know why you acted that way. "

Buja: " I don't want any of the girls I screwed holding my children. What happened to Luthando was a big lesson to me, I don't want Amanda holding Bathi at all. She should just continue keeping her distance from us"

Me: " well she said she's no longer coming to the party, she was pissed. I also think its best she doesn't. She's too dramatic."

He laughed and said " that's great news, babe. Minus one bitch" I gave him a stare. " Sorry for the bad lingo, but ke we don't need her there anyway." he added with a smile on his face.

I called Luthando over then he sat in between me and Buja. Makheswa must have known that something happened between Buja and Amanda by the way she was shouting but she didn't ask me anything about it.

It was now later in the evening after we finished supper. Buja's phone was buzzing with phone calls, on mine it was Wendy and Sandi phoning. Phozi phoned while I was about to take a bath," open up my lovey!!!" She said " we're outside" I screamed and ran to the door. I've missed my sister so much. I buzzed them in and they drove in the car. She got out with her boyfriend Athi " surprise!!!" She shouted. We both screamed and hugged each other. " Oh, women though" Athi said as he went to greet Buja. We all went inside the house. " We're also coming to the party!!!" She said.

Me: " how did you know?"

Phozi: " your hubby called us, you know I never say no to paties"

She winked, I laughed and dished up for them. "I'm going to take a bath" I said. She said okay while they continued having a chat, Phozi was now holding the baby, " yhu! My nephew is growing so quickly!" She said admiring him. I went to take a bath then checked what to wear. I wasn't even sure what time we were going and the time was already 20:45 yet everyone was so relaxed. Remember, I wasn't really used to this whole partying stuff but I had to go this time because it was for my man. I dressed up in my high waist denim jean, my boob-tune top, gold necklace and white strap heels. I placed my make up kit on my clutch bag and sprinkled my perfume. Buja walked in to take a shower in the en-suite bathroom while I was still getting ready then he dressed up as well. I walked out of the room. Athi was holding Bathi chilling with Makheswa in the living room. " Mommy you look so wow" Lutha said. "Where are you going?"

Me: " out, with daddy and aunty Phozi"

Lutha: " okay, enjoy"

Me: " thanx nana"

Everyone got ready.

Buja and I got into the GTI while Phozi and Athi drove out first. They waited then drove behind us. Sandi phoned while I was chatting with Buja. " Girl, niphi?"She asked.

Me: " we're on our way to the venue"

Sandi: " okay, I'm with Nelisa, she had to come chomy remember she's still our friend and don't worry she won't do anything funny just because she kissed Sbu. She can behave you know her..."

Me: " its okay..I can't wait to see her"

Sandi: " she's right next to me"

"Chomyyyy!" Nelisa shouted in my ear.

Me: " hahaha hey wena!"

Nelisa: " I'm ready to get drunk my friend!"

Me: " as long as you'll behave"

Nelisa: " nakanjani! I'll be on my best behaviour, dunk or not!"

I laughed and said " sharp"

We hung up. " Who was that?" Buja asked.

Me: " Nelz, my other friend. I forgot to give her my new number yazi"

Buja: " mmmh okay..."

His phone rang. I decided to chat to Phози on whatsapp so long. We finally arrived in this venue, my goodness it was so packed, that's something I didn't expect at all.

Me: " are these all your friends in here?? I was expecting something small"

Buja: " yeah, its people I know....I think."

Me: " uh..okay"

We found parking and so did Athi. We got out of the car, there was a red carpet all the way to the entrance. Talk about a party of class, was it still a party? Oh yah, it was an event. The security guards let us in. Phози and Athi were behind us. "Mntase, wow I'm so excited for tonight!!" She said behind me. Buja was holding my hand. We walked in " here's Mr and Mrs party!!" A man shouted on the mic. All eyes were now on us.

"Buja skhokho sam!!" People shouted as they came over to greet him. They greeted and hugged me too. " Gents and ladies, meet my better half, Mrs Giba" he said as he introduced me to these guys I didn't even know.

Sandi and Nelisa came over to me and gave me a group hug. I introduced them to Phozisa, before I knew it Phози was dancing and in with the vibe. We were served some drinks. I took an alcohol free drink while Phози downed a shot raw. I looked at her.

Phози: " not now mntase please, I'll go with the more softer drinks later, right now I want to be tipsy"

I nodded holding in my laughter. Wendy was with Sbu all cozy. I waved at her and she signaled that she'll be coming over to me. We went over to the other section outside. There was a small stage. Sbu, Vusi, Joseph and Lwando went over to the stage and said " everyone may I have your attention"

The music stopped. Sbu spoke first " I won't be too long with the speeches because I know everyone just wants to get wasted!" Everyone laughed. " This is for my boy, my best bud, iskhokho sethu, uBuja-ja!... Boy yam, we almost lost you not so long ago and we fought for you to come back to us, we made sure that we protect you no matter what. This is for you Buja mfethu, just to show you that you are loved by us impintsh'zakho. Noxy, you are your husband's pillar of strength. Thank you for also coming here to celebrate with us." Buja went over to the front and took the mic " Olaaaa!" He said, everyone cheered. I stood there with my drink watching. " Guys, I appreciate this, a lot. Its good to know that there are so many people who love me. I actually thought I had nothing but enemies!"



" Esheeee!!" The crowd shouted. He laughed and said " let's get this party started!! And remember, drink, smoke and sniff responsibly!!"

The crowd cheered and clapped hands. The music started playing and people danced. Champagne was opened and splashed in the air. I spotted Luzz smoking with Lucky and Jabu, his girlfriend was also there.

Buja came over to me, I held his hands then said " Haisana, I didn't realize you know so many people"

Buja: " hahahaha well yeah, some are not from around here and some are my former business partners."

Vusi called him over so I went to the ladies in the mean time. Phozi was talking non-stop to Nelisa, and Sandi was busy dancing with Wendy. " Aiboouo!" Wendy shouted pulling my arm. I ended up joining them in the dancing. I must admit I was really enjoying this night life. I was now getting to know Buja's other side of life that I knew nothing about.

Sandi: " Noxy, you not sleeping tonight we going to make sure, and your sister agrees with me"  
Me: " hey, I've got a baby bare that in mind. I don't think I'll make it through the whole night"  
Sandi: " nonsense maan, we'll see about that."

Phozi was drinking a dashed shot after another. I wasn't even sure where Athi went to. She took out a cigarette and a lighter. She smoked and Nelisa smoked with her as well. Sandi was now doing the booty dance and throwing her hands in the air, talk about a very stressed free woman, that's her. " May I have a smoke?" a lady said from behind me, when I turned it was Amanda, and she was talking to Phozi. Didn't she say she won't be coming anymore?

Wendy: " Amanda? I thought you weren't coming"

She was with Bomikazi and 2 of her friends

Before she could answer Phozi said " isn't this the bitch I smacked at the beach na Noxy? What the fuck is she doing here? I hope you not best buds with her"

Me: " No, and I thought she wasn't even coming. "

Amanda: " guys, I'm sorry but I knew this was going to be a good party, I had to come. "

Phozi: " hehake!! Buja needs to throw her out then. I won't have my sister in the same party with her husband's side chick. She has to go!! Rhaaa, what the fuck? Tshiiii" she smoked and glared at Amanda.

Amanda looked at Nelisa then Sandi.

Amanda: "aren't you Bongie's friends???? You two need to show me where the hell she stays or give me her number. Right now I'm more than pissed, that slut needs to be taught a lesson, it seems like my smacks and punches weren't good enough the last time."

Phozi: " slut? You're a fine one to talk about sluts. You were sleeping with a married man and harassing his wife not so long ago, remember??"

"Please excuse me" I said trying to excuse myself from this. " You're not going anywhere Noxy"  
Phozi said pulling me next to her. " Wendy where are you?" Phozi asked.

Wendy: " I'm here"

Wendy was busy chatting to Sandi.

Phozi: " I don't care whether this bitch is your cousin or not. I don't even care even if this is not my party, but Amanda is not staying here. She needs to leave, make a plan ke sisi"

She sipped on her glass. Amanda crossed her arms and looked at her. When I looked at Wendy, she had this annoyed expression on her face.

Wendy: " Amanda, you know we talked about this, uyazithanda nawe izinto. You're intruding in this party. You not suppose to be here knowing your history with Buja. He even asked for you not to come, I'm tired of arguing about this. "

Amanda: " eshee Wendy, Noxy and I are so over that. I'm sure one day we'll even become friends"

Me: " what? no dear, don't get it twisted. I might have forgiven you and my husband about what you did, but one thing we'll never build is friendship. This is not a fairy tale world, its reality."

She glared at me " fine, I'm leaving, let me go and say bye to the people I know first" she said glaring at me, then turn around and left. Her friends laughed and said " yho...." then followed behind her.

Wendy: " I'll be back, I just want to know which people she's talking about, because the last time I checked there's not much people she knows in this party except for Sbu's friends."

She walked away following Amanda.

Sandi: " can we continue having fun please. For a moment there I thought there was going to be a cat fight"

Nelisa: " maybe we should give her Bongie's number just for fun"

They laughed and started dancing together.