

## ALL THE IFs

### Season 1

I took a very deep breath as I pushed my stomach in, so my sister could zip the back of my dress. It was going to be a long day, a long day of speeches, dancing, photos, whatever else they were yet to do. It was already a drag. Waking up was a drag, I wanted to find a place to hide in. A hole to hide in but I couldn't. I had to be strong, take in what was happening at that moment and just do what I had to.

"I think you look stunning" Banele said.

"I don't feel that way unfortunately"

"learn to be happy Tshiamo" she said.

I loved her, in fact, I adored my friend but at times I didn't quite get how she was. She had practically been a part of my life since I was 3, she had to sense in the air that I wasn't fine. That I was a bit broken, that I was not myself,

my stomach turned at the thought of what I was about to do. I hated every moment of it. I hated every little detail, I hated the shoe on my foot, the earrings I had on, the underwear I had on, the vintage piece on my neck, the lipstick, the makeup. I hated everything, but my every own best friend was too blind to see, perhaps all the wine she had been drinking since 5:30 had clouded her vision. Maybe I was being too hard on her. Maybe just a little too hard.

“and you are now ready to be Mrs Kananelo Tefo” my sister, Tshepang said.

“how about we just this over and done with?” I said in annoyance

“well the nerves must be kicking in. you want wine?” Banele asked.

I ignored her. I was angry at her, although I knew it was unfair of me to be, but I was. Maybe the nerves were kicking in. Maybe it

wasn't going to be so bad. Maybe.

All the ifs

#1

Kananelo: are you sure?

Me: Im fine

I gently removed his hand from my thigh. We were listening to the MC announce where the food station was.

Kana: come.

I wanted to die. I kept cursing in my mind.. It had been the longest day of my life! The longest. Defintely not how I had imagined life would be at 23. A misery! As if Mum passing on when I was 16 wasn't miserable enough. I was stuck with my aunt who had me marry her Best friend's son..all because he was rich. He was 11 years older than me. 34. My father....my father was useless. Not a drunkard no. He was well

off but he had married another woman. He and mum were married but got divorced when he impregnated another woman and ended up marrying her after the divorce was finalized. This all happened when I was 5 but mum was lucky enough to meet another man and that's how Tshepang came into the picture. My little sister. I loved her so much. She was 7 years younger than me. Still in grade 11 but loved beauty. She wanted to be a beautician. Ask how mum passed on? She and Tshepang's dad were bikers. That's what took them. We had been living with the aunt that had managed to take everything that was left to us coz we were still young. Title deeds had her names and pretty much everything! I hated her! She had me drop out of varsity when I was doing my second year and told me I had to look for work. To take care of my sister. I worked as a promoter. You know how that works, I had to wait for them to call. Finding work was difficult. We had tenants

living in the outside room so that brought in about R5000 a month but my aunt was a greedy woman. Her plan was that Kananelo would marry her daughter Lerato but she wasn't his type. Instead he had his eye on me and every time Mrs Tefo, Kananelo's mother would randomly mention how he wanted me to be her daughter in law whenever I passed her going to the shop. I really thought she was kidding.

Me: I'm not hungry.

Kana: Oh come on.

Me: I'm really not hungry.

Kana: drink?

Me: I'm fine.

I was trying to hide my disgust. I was literally forced! I mean forced. I just woke up one Saturday morning, was given a new traditional dress and hours later, people were shouting at

the gate. I had no idea! I just saw myself in it. I had no chance to try and escape it coz it was on that same date that they decided to "bring together ancestors" which was still wrong coz mum was married to my father and in cultural fact, I didn't belong to my mum's ancestors. The people that were suppose to accept the money were the Monarengs, my dad's family coz although he fucked up, he did things according to the book..even when mum got married to Tshepang's father, I remained a Monareng.

Kana: my friends want to meet you.

He had the biggest smile on his face. He was happy. Very happy. I mean really! You could see in the way he carried himself, he acted as if he had won lottery. To stop him from annoying me further, I got up and he reached for my hand. I had a beautiful Setswana dress on. We had decided to have both the traditional and white wedding on the same day. I had opted for that

coz I didn't! Want to suffer for two days besides, the necessary traditional stuff had been done right after the negotiations.

Kana: You looked very beautiful in your white gown. You look more beautiful in this one.

Me: Thanks

I faked a smile.

Kana: You've decided where you want to go for honeymoon?

Me: No. I have a little sister to look after. I can't be going on honeymoon.

Kana: don't worry about Tshepang, we have people that will look after her and the house.

I kept quiet. I just felt like screaming but I kept my composure. I had to. He introduced me to his friends who also looked like they were rich..wonder why I was only meeting them at the wedding? I had my bestfriend Banele as my

bridesmaid and he had his cousin brother as his best man. Everything was rushed. Wedding 3 weeks after the negotiations. I was also introduced to the wives. They were divas you could tell. One of his friends was single though.

Amanda: that dress is stunning.

She was one of the wives. To give you an idea:

Amanda belonged to Lindani

Nombulelo to Sthembiso

Thembisile to Fezile

Moratua to Lebohang.

Katleho to Bongani

Gift to no one. He was the single one.

Me: thank you.

Moratua: You know where you want to go for your honeymoon?

Kana: She said she doesn't want one.



Fezile: a woman that doesn't waste money.

Baby take tips

Thembi: oh no! You work, I spend.

Katleho: Oh yes.

Moratua: In this circle, the ladies are the queens.  
The men work.

I told you they were divas. They all looked like  
were dressed in foil. Their outfits were just loud.  
Except for Nombulelo's. She looked stunning in  
her peach dress. She looked absolutely  
stunning..she was very pretty as well. Natural  
like me..just lipstick, mascara and she was  
good to go. I only had make up on coz the  
beautician told me to or rather forced me to.

Nombu: Don't listen to them.

Amanda: Oh no she has to.

Sthe: Okay "Queens" you can all calm down now.

Tshiamo welcome to the squad.

They raised their glasses to toast to me! I had nothing to raise.

Me: Thank you for that. Can I be excused?

Lindani: no problem..I'm sure you need to talk to the guests.

Me: I do. Yes. Thanks for coming once again.

Lebo: we had to witness our brother getting married. We didn't believe him when he told us about you. Thought he's lying.

Bongani: Can't trust a man who waited 34 years to get married.

Laughter.

Moratua: All the best guys!

They toasted again and I went to find Banele. She was a bit sober thankfully. We stepped outside.

Banele: You look so tense.

Me: Seriously?

I was still irritated.

Banele: A few hours into marriage and you are already like this?

Me: You know why.

Banele: Oh I thought we spoke about this!

Me: We didn't speak about anything.

Banele: You will learn to love him.

Me: Banele you are suppose to be on my side.

Banele: This is a situation we couldn't control.

Me; You know that evil Woman Celia whom I call my aunt is only looking at making Kananelo her cash cow.

Banele: you'll probably learn to love him.

Me: you know who I love.

Banele: You need to let Lungelo go.

Me: I love him.

I had a boyfriend who was in the army. Lungelo, Loved my swati dearly. We had met when I was doing my first year when he was still trying to make his way into the force. If I hadn't been treated like a prisoner for the three weeks that were spent preparing for the wedding, I would have found a way to escape this all. Maybe he would have been able to come back and help me out but my aunt had taken my phone and my sister's phone. She had this all planned out. So planned out.

Banele: friend, this is your reality now

Me: A sad one.

Banele: he'll give you a good life.

I felt like slapping her. How could she be so stupid!

Me: How am I expected to face Lungelo after this?

Banele: I'm sure he knows by now.

Me: what makes you say that?

I was hoping he didn't. We didn't live in the same place.. He lived in Tembisa and we lived in Molapo, Soweto. Quite a distance. Besides he didn't know anyone in Molapo. Had family in Tladi, Soweto and in Protea but that was it.

Banele: I'm just saying. You know news travel fast.

I kept quiet.

Banele: It won't be so bad.

Me: It already is. When he touches me my skin...argh!

Banele: you already in it.

Me: That witch made sure that I don't escape

Banele: And now she's coming this way. Later.

She walked away from me while I waited for my

aunt.

Aunt: look at you.

Me: Doing what?

Aunt: you look beautiful Tshiamo.

Me: I hate you.

Aunt: No. I did what was best for you. Now you and Tshempang's futures are secured. You'll stop doing your part time jobs that bring in close to nothing and you'll live lavish

Me: There's a decorated seat for you in hell.

Aunt: You'll thank me later.

I clicked my tongue and she slapped me. I still kept my composure coz if I was to slap her back, I'd end up in jail. It wouldn't just be a slap. It would be more.

Aunt: Now you will be a wife to Kananelo. Do you understand? I've worked too hard to let you ruin it all. Stop sulking and pull yourself

together!

All the ifs

#2

She walked away from me and I went back inside after about 5 minutes. I bumped interested Tshepang who pulled me aside coz she wanted to talk to ke

Tshepang: Sis.

Me: Babe.

Tshepang: What's going to happen now?

Me: What do you mean?

Tshepang: I mean you going to move in with Kananelo and what's going to happen to me?

Me: you go wherever I go.

Tshepang: You sure?

I nodded

Me: Come Here.

She did and I put my arms around her.

Me: You know you are my ride or die.

Tshepang: Thanks sis. I miss mum.

Me: me too..

Tshepang: So will I be forced to marry a rich man?

Me: Never. I'll make sure nothing of that sort happens to you. I was too blind to see.

Tshepang: I'm sorry it happened to you.

Me; Life happens.

Tshepang: She gave me my phone back.

Me: she gave me mine too.

Tshepang: Bloody witch!

Me: It's okay.

Tshepang: You have a plan up your sleeve?

Me: not yet



Tshepang: or maybe he's your soulmate.

Me: Don't make me slap that mouth of yours.

She giggled.

Tshepang: I'm sorry sis.

Me: Its okay.

Tshepang: Where are we sleeping tonight?

Me: At home. In our mother's house.

Tshepang: Aren't you suppose to be with your husband?

Me: Nope.

Tshepang: why?

Me: The families are having lunch tomorrow.  
That's when we'll officially move out.

Tshepang: You sure Kananelo will accept me?

Me: he has no choice.

She giggled again.

Tshepang: I forgot how crazy you can be.

Me: You are my handbag baby.

Tshepang: Can I ask another question?

Me: Yho! 16 year olds and questions.

Tshepang: you know I'm not young

Me: Still young.

Tshepang: I got my ID 2 weeks ago

Me: okay fine..ask.

Tshepang: so you going to have to...you know

Me: Have to what?

I wanted her to be free around me. She was my Friend. She had a lot of respect for me. A lot! So she watched what she said around me even though I had told her to be free.

Tshepang: you know?

Me: No I don't.

Tshepang: To have sex with him

I sighed.

Me: That creeps me out.

Tshepang: Me too

I laughed.

Me: What are you so stressed about?

Tshepang: Your happiness.

Me: Don't stress about that.

Tshepang: You are my mother's child

Me: Okay listen...

Tshepang: I'm listening.

Me: Stress about maths and physics.

Tshepang: but I cant.

Me: Okay?

Tshepang: this is you forcing me to let it go?

Me: Yes.

Tshepang: Okay.

Me: Good..

The celebrations went on and till late and I shared a bed with my sister as usual. The next day, we had to pack our bags.

Aunt: where's she going to?

Me: She's coming with me.

Aunt: For what?

Me: Coz you might just pimp her out.

Aunt: Kananelo wont allow that to happen.

Me: Really?

Aunt: Yes.

Me: We'll see.

Aunt: I'd unpack if I were you Tshepang.

Me: Ignore the witch.

Aunt: She'll be back.

Me: I'm sure.

We finished packing and I was getting ready for yet another long day.

We all left with the family to go to Kananelo's for the post wedding lunch. After we were welcomed, I Got a call from the man I called my father.

Me: Lucas.

Dad: Call Me dad.

Me: Really?

Dad: Why didnt you tell me that you are getting married?

Me: I didnt see the need to

Dad: Tshiamo I'm your father.

Me: Really?

Dad: why do you hate me so much?

Me: I don't hate you.

Dad: Then?

Me: You just have no place in my life.

Dad: I thought we spoke about this.

Me: You spoke about it..I listened.

Dad: Can I Come see you?

Me: No.

Dad: Tshiamo!

Me: Fine Lucas!

Dad: 14:00

Me: Fine.

Dad: Okay babygirl.. I love you.

Me: Thank you.

I hung up and as I turned Kananelo was watching me. I tried to avoid contact with him but he stppped me.

Kana: Can I get your approval?

Me: On?

Kana: Come with me.

Me: where are you taking me?

Kana: please.

Me: right behind you.

Kana: not right beside me?

Me: Right beside you then.

We walked to his car and he opened the door for me. Got into his seat and started the ignition.

Me: Where are you taking me?

Kana: You'll see.

He drove for about 40 minutes and we got to some house. It looked beautiful..no lies..

Kana; Welcome to your house.

Me: My house?

Kana; Yes.

He gave me the keys.

Kana: The access code at the gate is 4765.

Me: You've been living in this big house alone?

Kana: No..I've been living in a townhouse. I bought this house for you and Tshepang.

Me: For us?

Kana: Yes. I know how close you two are.

Me: This is really unnecessary

Kana: It isn't. Please follow me.

I did..he led me to the garage.

Kana: Your car.

Me: I can't accept this.. You not expected to do anything for me. Really.

Kana: I am

Me: Who said so?

Kana: I was told to provide.



Me: You Don't have to.

Kana: Tshiamo, I know this is a bit difficult to adjust to.

"Bit difficult" was an understatement.

Kana: I know everything happened so fast but I just need you to trust me. You are my wife and I'll do all I can to make sure you are happy..

Please accept all that I give to you...my love and everything I have to offer you. Please.

All the Ifs

#3

I didn't know what to say. I didn't even want to look at him. He kept his eyes on me all the time and didn't know what he expected of me.

Kana: Can we just try?

Me: can you give me time to adjust?

Kana: sure. Good enough for me

Me: thank you.

Kana: accept the car. I don't want you to use taxis. I know how unreliable they can be. You can use this to drop Tshelang off at school.

Me: okay. It is going to be quite a distance for her.

Kana: So for now yes.

My sister's brains had landed her at a private school with a fully paid scholarship. She was very smart. Why she chose to be a beautician out of all things beat me or maybe I had expected her to be like me. After all, I had dropped civil engineering. No I was forced to drop it.

Me: Okay.

Kana: Want to see your house?

Me: Why not?

I was uncomfortable with him calling it my

house but I just let her be. He led me to the other door and I unlocked. The house was stunning. Something I had only seen on movies and magazines.

Kana: You can make changes if you want.

A wall dedicated to just pictures had some of my pictures, some I was with Tshepang, others alone and he had also put up about two of his. He must have gotten my pictures from social media.

Me: This is pretty.

Kana: Do you like it?

Me: yes. It's very pretty.

That was probably my favorite part of the house. I looked around and loved everything. It was perfect but was it going to be a happy home? The most difficult question.

Kana: You sure you don't want to make any

changes?

Me: no.

Kana: Okay.

He led me to the other side. There was a gym, an indoor pool, library, study, a computer centre, a gaming room and a relaxing room. Tshepang was going to force the love out of me I tell you. When we were done touring on the inside, he took me outside, another pool, a very nice lapa for shade, Garden umbrellas and chairs as well and a lot of space for whatever I guessed

Me: the house is beautiful.

Kana: if you happy with it I'm good. Will Tshepang like it?

Me: oh that one likes anything with fun

Kana: I'm glad. Think we should go back to the parents'?

Me: We can..

He locked up and we drove back home to be with the family, he had hired a bakkie for our luggage so when the lunch was over and it was time for us to start our new lives, we went to "my" house.

Tshepang: Yoh!

She was astonished.

Tshepang: I now live here?

She kept touching everything.

Tshepang: Palesa is going to be so jealous.

Kananelo had let me handle the tour.

Tshepang: where's my bedroom?

Me: Look for a door with your name on it.

She was so excited. I followed her as she kept looking and when she finally opened the door, she couldn't keep it all in. She kept screaming and crying. It was crazy to watch.

Me: Calm down.

Tshepang: You mean this is all mine?

I nodded.

Tshepang: I get a laptop, a tablet and a new phone? Plus a TV in my bedroom?

Me: Yes Snuggles.

Tshepang: You must force yourself to love him

She whispered.

Me: Shut up! Just unpack okay?

Tshepang: Can I go thank him?

Me: you should

Tshepang: Okay.

I followed her to the lounge where Kananelo was. He was connecting the TV to the decoder. It was still a new house after all

Tshepang: Abhut'Kananelo.

Kana: Nana

Tshepang: Thank you for the bedroom and everything in it.

Kana: Do you like it?

She nodded.

Tshepang: I love it

Kana: It's a pleasure.

Tshepang: Thank you once again.

Kana: Okay Nana. If you need anything tell me.

He didn't know what he was getting himself into. 16 year olds needed a lot of things they didn't need.

Tshepang: I'll do unpack now sis.

Me: Okay do that.

Tshepang: Bye.

Me: bye.

She left us there.

Me: Do you want me to make you something to eat?

It was the only question at the top of my head.

Kana: No I'm fine.

Me: You sure?

Kana: yes. Our chef will start tomorrow so don't worry about cooking and cleaning. We have people who'll do that

Me: What am I expected to do?

Kana: make sure that they are doing their jobs, look pretty and take care of Tshepang.. Me: That's not how I was raised.

Kana: I believe you've been doing domestic work since your mother passed on.

Me: Yes that's true but I also did this and that when she was still alive.



Kana: And I'm asking you to not do anything.

Me: I can't promise you that.

I loved doing house chores. I was used to it after all.

Kana: Okay just don't overwork then.

Me: Okay.

Kana: please sort out Your bank cards tomorrow.

Me: Sort out my bank cards?

Kana: Yes. Open two more. You have one right?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Just go open two more. All In your names.

Me: Don't tell me you want to give me money.

Kana: I don't expect you to keep asking me for money..you need to have your own.

Me: Kananelo look...

Kana: Can we not debate about this?

I kept quiet.

Kana: And I'll also give you a list of schools to choose from.

Me: For Tshepang?

Kana: Yes.

Me: No she's fine where she is. She's happy.

Kana: In a township school? She can't go through what we went through.

Me: She's at a private school. She got a scholarship.

Kana: Really?

Me: yes.

Kana: that's better.. I was worried about the kid going through what we went through.

Me: and please don't offer her an allowance. Pocket money for school is enough.

Kana: You are being hard on the teen.

Me: oh no. I know her. So please.

Kana: Okay then

Me: Thank you. I'll go check up on her.

I went back to Tshepang's room, I stayed with her till she was done packing her clothes in. It felt strange that I wasn't going to share a bed with her anymore. I showered with her though in her bathroom and we changed into our pjs. I was going to unpack the next day.

Me: I love you.

Tshepang: I love you too sis.

Me: I'm confiscating Your phone tomorrow.

Tshepang: Haa!

Me: No. Let's not fight. You get it on Thursday nights.

Tshepang: My grades are good.

Me: I know.

Tshepang: So?

Me: I want them to be greater.

Tshepang: Fine sis.

I kissed her forehead and went to the main bedroom. I didn't know what to expect. Kananelo was reading something from his tablet when I slowly got into bed. He put it down. I wasn't sure what was to follow. I put my head down on the pillow and he put his Down. Only his side lamp was on which he turned off. He only kissed my forehead to my surprise.

Kana: Sleep tight okay?

Me: You too.

The next day, he left for work early and I took Tshepang to school. She loved the car. Teens and material things! I went back to welcome the chef and the people that were going to help

around the house after that I took a shower and went to meet with Lucas at some restaurant.

Dad: Why wasn't I told?

Me: What are you again?

Dad: Tshiamo!

Me: Its a question.

Dad: I'm your father.

Me: No..you are your 3 children's father. You deserted me remember? Remember when I asked if Tshepang and I could move in with you and you told me "no?"

Dad: It was impossible to.

Me: so why was I suppose to tell you then? So you could get the money?

Dad: oh nonsense! I have my own money.

Me: Yet you couldn't give me some for school. I had people funding for me. All I needed was a

coupon and pocket money. You couldn't do that could you?

Dad: I am sorry.

Me: That's not good enough Lucas. Why did you call me here?

Dad: I want is a relationship with you.

Me: Why?

Dad: Because I've been trying to reach out to you for 2 years now and you've been ignoring me.

Me: let's continue in that manner..you father your 3 kids you forget you have a fourth.

Dad: Lily please.

No my second name wasn't Lily. He called me that coz from a young age, I loved lilies. From the age of 2 I was told, so that became a name he gave me.

Me: Lucas, I lost my father when he married and

impregnated another woman. He died when I asked him for money to go to school and he shut me out. So don't tell me all these things you are telling me. You lost me when I was 20 doing my second year.

Dad: Tshiamo...

Me: Don't you ever call me again! Don't SMS me, just don't! The only parent I have is God. The ones that brought me on this earth are dead and gone! Goodbye Lucas!

All the ifs

#4

Dad: Tshiamo.

Me: Please Lucas.

Dad: I'm really sorry

I took my bag, left the restaurant and went to Banele's house, I found her getting dressed.

Banele: Hey there.

Me: Hey babe.

Banele: How are you my friend?

Me: Im okay.

Banele: You look exhausted.

Me: I am.

Banele: are you fine?

Me: Why are you asking me that?

Banele: You disappeared on me on Sunday.

Me: Oh! I was with Kananelo. We went to see the house.

Banele: House?

Me: yep..we moved into a new house.

Banele: You didn't tell me why?

Me: Because when I came back you were gone.

Banele: Oh yes.

Me: I'm sorry.



Banele: Like the house?

Me: Its pretty.

Banele: Just pretty?

She wanted to see the house. I could tell.

Me: Its nice.

Banele: Can I see?

Me: Finish getting dressed.

Banele: so did you?

Me: did I what?

Banele: Did you have sex with him yet?

Me: No

Banele: why?

Me: Should I?

Banele: Yes.

Me: Banele stop it.

Banele: I think he's a good guy

Me: yes probably..

Banele: Negativity

Me: No

Banele: Are you going to accept him?

Me: Can you just get dressed?

Banele: Okay.

Me: Thanks.

She finished getting dressed and we left the house. I was suppose to go to the bank but I didn't.

Banele: Tshiamo!

She started screaming as soon as she saw the car.

Banele: jackpot my friend.

Me: I found it unnecessary

Banele: Really?

Me: Yes..

Banele: Just be grateful.

Me: Im not used to this life.

Banele: You will be.

Me: I dont even know why we are discussing this..let's go.

Banele: Okay fine.

We got into the car and before I could start the ignition.

Me: Where's Sphume?

She had a 2 year old daughter.

Banele: with her dad.

Me: Just say "At Mzwandile's" or "At my man's."

Banele: We aren't dating anymore.

Me: Doesn't matter.

Banele: Can we go?

I giggled.

Me: okay then.

Off we went to The house and she went crazier.

Banele: Wow!

One of the helpers asked what drinks we wanted and minutes later, we were out on the patio.

Banele: Beautiful house friend

Me: Thanks babe.

Banele: I think I want to move In.

I laughed.

Banele: Just kidding..but I'll always be here though.

Me: I figured.

Banele: Just give him a chance.

I sighed.

Me: That's a bit difficult.

Banele: it will get easier.

Me: Let's not talk about that.

Banele: Okay.

My phone rang and I was suddenly happy.

Me: Baby.

Lungelo: queen of my heart.

Me: How are you my baby?

Lungelo: Missing you.

Banele rolled her eyes.

Me: missing you too.

Lungelo: Good news.

Me: Yes?

My heart was suddenly full of joy again.

Lungelo: Just arrived.

Me: What? You serious?

Lungelo: Yes baby.

Me: I can't wait to be with you.

Lungelo: Lets meet tomorrow.

Me: Your place?

Lungelo: yes.

Me: Okay then .

Lungelo: Love you.

Me: Love you too baby.

Lungelo: Bye my love.

Me: bye baby.

I hung up.

Banele: You are cheating.

Me: No I'm not

Banele: Does Kananelo know about Lungelo?

Me: No.

Banele: that's cheating.

Me: Look, I know you've never liked Lungelo but we have been together for Years now.

Banele: But you are married to Kananelo

Me: Banele stop it

Banele: You are playing a very dangerous game

Me: I'm not playing any.

Banele: You are

Me: Let's talk about something else.

I quickly changed the topic and at around 14:00, we drove to Tshepang's school and went to drop Banele off at her house. I helped Tshepang with her maths homework when we got home and we pretty much had our study session as usual. We welcomed Kananelo home when he came back and he looked tired.

Me: Long day?

Kana: Very. Did you sort out your cards?

Me: not yet. I had to meet with my father so I'll do it tomorrow.

I was going to delay the process.

Kana: That's okay..let me not disturb.. Good luck with maths Tshepang.

Tshepang: thanks Abhut'Kananelo.

He left us and we finished pretty late coz we moved on to about 2 topics. When I went to bed, Kana was already asleep.. The Next day, I took Tshepang to school and told her to use a taxi back. I also used one to go to Lungelo's. Took my ring off and made sure it was in my purse. I ran into his arms as soon as I saw him and kissed him

Me: I missed you.

Lungelo: I missed you too.

Me: You look so good.

Lungelo: You too.



Me: How has work been?

Lungelo: It has been Okay. But let's not talk about that

Me: What do you want to talk about?

Lungelo: Our future....our Lives...

I kept quiet as I waited for him to complete his sentences.

Lungelo: Tshiamo please marry me.

All the ifs

#5

Words failed me. I didn't know what to say or how to respond to that.

Lungelo: hello there

Me: Hey

Lungelo: You want to say "yes" already?

Me: I can't.

Lungelo: what do you mean you can't?

Me: I'm still trying to find myself.

Lungelo: Find yourself?

Me: Yes. Trying to get educated again and you know find my feet again.

Lungelo: So you think you won't be able to do that if you are married to me?

That was a lame excuse. I just couldn't bring myself to it. I couldn't talk.

Me: Okay but marriage is like a part time job.

Lungelo: That's not true.

Me: I feel like it is.

Lungelo: stop finding excuses

Me: Okay okay. I'm not ready.

Lungelo: That was simple wasn't it?

Me: It was.

Lungelo: I understand baby.

Me: Do you?

He nodded.

Lungelo: I understand.

Me: Thank you..

Lungelo: We'll deal with marriage later

Me: Thank you.

Lungelo: How's the make up artist doing?

Me: she's fine.

Lungelo; Still great?

Me: She is..

Lungelo: Tell her I miss her. How about we go pick her up today at school?

Me: I told Her to use a taxi.

Lungelo: Taxi when I have a car?

Me: you don't have to.

Lungelo: I want to

Me: Okay then.

Lungelo: And I think we should go out now

I didn't want to.

Me: Nah..I'm fine.

Lungelo; You love going out.

Me: Not today

Lungelo: Is everything fine?

Me: I'm just tired. I slept late helping Tshepang with her homework.

Lungelo: Still on that tip?

Me: Have to help her.

Lungelo; Sorry big sister.

Me: I'm used to it

Lungelo: but she'll be done soon and you can focus on yourself.

Me: I can't wait

Lungelo: You need to start putting yourself first.

Me; I can't do that. You know it.

Lungelo: Try.

Me: When she matriculates.

Lungelo: That's enough for me.

Me; I'm hungry.

He giggled.

Lungelo: I said we should go out.

Me: mince kota?

Lungelo: You and that mince of yours.

Me: You know its good.

Lungelo: I know that but experiment a bit baby.

Me: You mean I should try new things?

Lungelo: Yes.

Me: I'll see.

Lungelo: Just do it.

Me: Okay Nike fine!

He laughed.

Lungelo: I missed you.

Me: I missed you too. You know...

My phone rang. It was Kananelo.

Me: sorry baby.

I quickly answered.

Me; Hey.

Kana: Hey.

Me: You good?.

Kana: All good, listen, the friends want to come over today is that okay?

I didn't know how to feel about that.

Me: Its okay

Kana: Please ask the chef to prepare enough

Me: Okay I will.

Kana: Thanks babe.

Me: Cool.

Kana: See you later.

Me: no problem.

I hung up.

Lungelo: Is everything okay?

Me: I have to go.

Lungelo: go?

Me: The promotions company called. They want us to come in at 14:00

Lungelo: ah come on.

Me: I'm sorry.

Lungelo: let me drop you off then.

Me: Just drop me off at the taxi rank.

Lungelo: You sure?

Me: Yes. I want to go past Banele's house first.

Lungelo: Okay.

Me: Thanks baby.

Lungelo: This means I'll see Tshepang another time?

Me: Yes I'm sorry.

Lungelo: its okay.

We drove to the taxi rank and I kissed him. He waited for me to get a taxi but I got out of it as soon as he drove off and got into the right one. When I got home, I told the chef what Kananelo said and he started preparing the good. Would have been much easier if I had his numbers but I didn't and besides I was very uncomfortable with Lungelo after his big ask. I wasn't going to stress myself about what to wear. A jean and top would do. I smsed Tshepang and told her to not take a taxi anymore and she was so happy about it. My little sister was tired of taxis I



guessed.

Me: How Was school?

Tshepang: Long.

Me: I'm sorry

Tshepang: Why did you tell me to get a taxi in the morning.

Me: I thought I was going to take time.

Tshepang: Where?

Me: No. Don't ask me such.

Tshepang; Okay I'm sorry.

Me: Right. We have guests.

Tshepang: Who?

Me: Kananelo's friends

Tshepang: The ones that had alot of expensive alcohol at the wedding?

Me: yes

Tshepang: The wives look like snobs or are they girlfriends?

Me: Wives. They are .

Tshepang: Could tell..I'll be in my room.

Me: wish I could be with you.

She giggled

Tshepang: unfortunately.

Me: you can say that again.

We got home and I assisted her where I could and the friends came an hour after Kananelo came.

Nombu: This house is so pretty.

Thembi: I agree

Sthe: Hey Tshiamo.

Me: Hey Sthe how are you?.

Sthe: All good. Beautiful house.

Me: Thank you.

Moratua: Can I get a glass of wine please!

Kananelo: Feel free.

Amanda: I'll join you. Baby what do you want?

Lindani: Whiskey.

Amanda: Okay.

They went to find an ice bucket with wine. The starters were with the drinks.

Katleho: You still don't want to go away for your honeymoon?

Bongani: Let it go baby.

Katleho: I was just asking

Lebo: Let it go Katly.

Fezile: beer please baby.

Thembi: Okay my love.

They all looked so free. You'd swear they were

in their own houses. I felt out of place as I watched them get drinks.

Gift: Ms Tshiamo.

Me: Hi Gift.

Gift: Bathroom please.

Me: Second door on your right.. Just down the passage

Gift:: thanks

Me: Pleasure

Kananelo was talking to His gents when I figured it would be best if I checked on my sister coz the divas were all looking at Amanda's phone. Probably fashion or weaves I didn't know.

Tshepang: Are they gone?

Me: they just got here

Tshepang: Please bring my food in here.

Me: Okay snug. How's that chemistry going?

Tshepang: Not going. I really need your help.

Me: Willing to sleep late?

Tshepang: I am.

Me: Okay. We'll do it.

Tshepang: Thanks sis.

Me: I'll bring your food then.

Tshepang: thank you.

As soon as I walked out, I got a call from Lungelo.

Me: Hey

Lungelo: Hi. You got home safe?

Me: I did.

Lungelo: Your husband found you at home?

Does he know that you leave your ring at home?

Does he know that he married a conniving bitch?

Does he Tshiamo?

All the ifs

#6

Me: Lungelo please listen to...

He hung up, I tried calling him again but he had switched his phone off. I went to the bathroom to cry but pulled myself together and washed my face. I went back to the dining room.

Amanda: You've graced us with your presence again.

I ignored her.

Nombu: Are you fine?

Me: I am thanks.

Nombu: sure?

I nodded.

Nombu: Can I offer you a drink?

Me: I'll just get juice.

Nombu: Okay.

I went to Get a glass of juice and we settled when the chef told us that our food was ready.

Kana: Are you fine?

He whispered.

Me: I'm fine..

Kana: you sure?

I nodded.

Kana: you know you can tell me if you not right?

Me: I'm fine..please believe me.

Kana: Okay.

Thembi: So we were thinking...

That's what drew us back to the table.

Fezile: Baby everytime you say that I know it involves money.

Thembi: Yes it does.

Lindani: what now ladies?

Amanda: Don't make it sound so bad my babe.

Lindani: I know it is

Sthe: Out with it.

Nombu: We are thinking of having a trip.

Katleho: Yes. We found a really nice place.

Moratua: And besides we haven't done something as couples in a while

Bongani: So what are you thinking of?

Amanda: we'll still decide

Lebo: Tshiamo?

Me: Yes?

Lebo: You are awfully quiet.

Fezile: You don't want to add on to the demands?

Me: No. I'm not thr demanding type.

Gift: a different one finally.



Sthe: You can say that again.

Amanda: Oh she'll be like us soon.

Lindani: But are you okay with it?

Me: Are you up for it?

I asked Kananelo.

Kana: I need the break.

Me: I'm up for it then.

Lebo: Okay then ladies, find the place.

Bongani: check the weather first though.. I hate cold places.

Katleho: I'll make sure that's its good weather babe.

Bongani: Thank you my love.

Kana: Right... Can we dine now?

Gift: Please.

Amanda blessed the food and I dished up for

Tshepang who was still scratching her head.

Tshepang: What's wrong?

Me: With?

Tshepang: You. I know when you not okay.

Me:: Oh.

Tshepang: So?

Me: So?

Tshepang: what's wrong?

Me: Lungelo knows.

Tshepang: oh oh!

Me: What do you mean?

Tshepang: It means he's friends with Lerato

Me: Elaborate

Tshepang: that evil aunt's daughter posted pictures

Me: wedding pictures?

Tshepang: And videos.

Me: Why didn't you tell me?

Tshepang: I just saw this minutes after you left.

Me: Oh Crap!

Tshepang: I'm sorry.

Me: I'll deal with it.

Tshepang: How?

Me: I don't know.

Tshepang: I'm sorry sis.

Me: I'll be fine.

Tshepang: You should have told him.

Me: Yes I should have babygirl. Eat okay?

Tshepang: Okay

I went back to the dining room and listened to the divas still making demands. I didn't quite get them except Nombu..maybe I was being

judgmental. I was glad when they left though.

Kana: Are you still okay?

Me: Just tired.

Kana: You didn't say much.

Me: I'm still trying to get to know your friends.

Kana: Understandable.

Me: Maybe as time goes on.

Kana: I know this is hard on you but...

Me: Let's not do this now.. We said we going to go with the flow right?

He nodded.

Kana: Yes.

Me: Let's do just that please

Kana: Okay.

Me: I have to go help Tshelang with her chemistry. Is that fine?

Kana: I think we should get her a tutor.

Me: I would actually appreciate that coz I sleep late because of her.

Kana: I'll find a few and let you interview them.

Me: Thank you.

Kana: Its a pleasure. You should probably go help Her.

Me: Okay.

I went to help Tshepang and we slept at around 2. The next day was the same. Drop Tshepang off and I decided to go visit my cousin Bonolo. We were quite close.

Nolo: You know you should have told him right?

Me: Please dont lecture me.

Nolo: Sorry but its the truth.

Me: Yes it is.

Nolo: so?

Me: So?

Nolo: What are you going to do?

Me: thats why I'm here.

Nolo: ask nicely.

Me: Please advise me.

Nolo: Okay.

I listened.

Nolo: You are going to take those keys.

Me: Yes?

Nolo: Drive to Tembisa and explain to him.

Me: Should I?

Nolo: yes..but the fact that he called you a bitch makes me dislike him.

Me: He was angry.

Nolo: Doesn't matter. Doesn't justify the way he reacted.

Me: Okay.

Nolo: So just do that

Me: Okay then

Nolo: Go on.

I hugged her and drove to Tembisa. I took a deep breath before I could go in. I knocked gently and he let me in.

Me: Hey.

Lungelo: What do you want?

Me: To explain?

Lungelo: Oh today you have the ring on

Me: I was forced to get married.

Lungelo: Ah smart one!

Me: I'm telling you.

Lungelo: And you couldn't say "no?"

Me: I was tricked into doing this.

Lungelo: I had to see it on Facebook.

Me: I didn't know what to say to you.

Lungelo: I know exactly what to say to you...

Me: Please forgive me.

Lungelo: You are a gold digger that is what you are. I thought you were different but you are pathetic. You disgust me so much!

Me: Please don't say that.

I was tearing up.

Lungelo: I'll say it again. You are disgusting and I never want to see you again.

Me: Please...

Lungelo: Get out and never come back again!  
The love I had for you has now turned into hate.  
Leave Tshiamo!

All the ifs



#7

Me: Just hear me...

Lungelo: Leave!

Me: Okay.

He wasn't having it, maybe it was time for me to let go. Really. I walked out and got into the car then left. I drove back to the house and cried myself to sleep and woke up when I was gently patted

Kana: good evening.

Me: Evening?

Kana: It's 17:00

Me: Oh crap! Tshepang is probably...

Kana: Tshepang is in the study preparing for her test. She used a taxi.

Me: I Just passed out.

Kana: Were you crying?

Me: No why?

Kana: Eyebags

Me: I usually get them when I dont get enough sleep.

Kana: and you dont. Thats not right.

Me: I agree.

Kana: Helping Tshelang out tonight?

Me: She's preparing for her English test?

Kana: That's what she said.

Me: She only needs my help if it's maths or physics

Kana: Can I take you out for dinner?

Me: That's what I need..a bit of fresh air.

Kana: Can I?

Me: Yes

Kana: Okay then. I'll let you get ready. We'll

leave at 18:00

Me: okay cool.

I got up from the bed and fixed it. I asked him What to wear And he said anything as long as it was comfortable so after taking a shower, I settled for an off shoulder body suit, a nice denim and heels. I had only 4 pairs of heels by the way. I looked cute.

Kana: You Look nice.

Me: Thank you.

He had also taken a shower and changed into denims, a nice tight golf tee and a pair of sneakers. He looked Nice.

Me: You also look nice.

Kana: Thank you.

Me: Can I just go check on Tshelang before we go?

Kana: No problem.

I found her in the study.

Tshepang: You look pretty.

Me: Thanks sis. I'm sorry I didn't fetch you.

Tshepang: I figured you sleeping coz your phone was off.

Me: I'm going out with Kananelo okay?

Tshepang: Without me?

Me: without you yes.

Tshepang: Ouch!

Me: You'll be fine.

Tshepang: I'll be fine with my books.

Me: Yes.

Tshepang: Sis?

Me: Yes?

Tshepang: Abhut'Kananelo is a nice guy. Give him a chance.

Me: How do you know this?

Tshepang: I spent an hour talking to him before I started studying.

Me: I hear you.

Tshepang: Have fun.

Me: Thank you baby .

I went to find Kananelo and we went to some restaurant.

Kana: I'm guessing you are delaying the card issue.

Me: I am yes.

Kana: Why?

Me: I think I need money. I have everything I need.

Kana: Really?

Me: Yes..

Kana: You dont need clothes?

Me: Maybe but it's a want not a need

Kana: I'm taking the day off tomorrow.

Me: But why?

Kana: To accompany you to the bank.

Me: Are you serious?

Kana: Yes Ma'am.

Me: I would like to see that.

Kana: You will definitely see that.

Me: why would you miss work coz of that?

Kana: Coz I want you to have bank cards.

Me: I already have one

Kana: And I asked you to get two more from different banks.

Me: I'll go. Just go to work.

Kana: I don't trust you. I'm taking the day off.

Me: You should just say "I'm tired" don't use

cards as an excuse to miss work..

Kana: Okay fine. I'm tired

Me: The truth will always set you free.

Ironic...I know right?

Kana: True.

Me: I think I'm ready to order.

He called the waitress and we placed our order.

Kana: Tshiamo?

Me: Hey...

Kana: Can I ask you for a favor?

Me: I don't like the sound of that.

Kana: Just listen.

I kept quiet.

Kana: You should focus on yourself as well.

Me: What do you mean?

Kana: Tshepang. You've put your life on hold

because of her. She thinks you are overprotective And worry a lot about her that you've forgotten that you need to live as well.

Me: That sounds like Tshepang..

Kana: Coz it is Tshepang and she's right.

Me: She's all I have.

Kana: I'm here now.

Me: I know but I've spent 7 years taking care of her that it's become a norm.

Kana: When are you going to focus on yourself? Live a little. Go out. Travel. Have fun? When?

Me: I don't know. When she's graduated?

He smiled.

Kana: When will you graduate? I know much you love school..

Me: I do. Alot.

Kana: Then go for it. There's nothing stopping



you.

Me: You Dont want me to "sit and look pretty anymore"

He shook his head.

Kana: I didn't like the look you gave me when I said that.

Me: I was annoyed.

Kana: I could tell.

Me: I'll do just that then.

Kana: And I'll fully support you.

Me: Thank you.

He wasn't So bad really. He was good company. Was judgmental again! I mean I thought he was those guys that looked really handsome but didn't have the personalities to match the face.

Kana: I was just so used to ladies like Amanda and the rest.

Me: I can tell

Kana: You don't like them do you?

Me: I don't have a problem with them. I'm just not used to them. I think they are spoilt.

He laughed.

Kana: And you can't stand that?

Me: No. If I were to be that spoilt I'd try to hide it.

Kana: Its quite impossible.

Me: Discipline

Kana: To?

Me: oneself.

Kana: okay that's true.

Me: But I think they are nice though.

I had managed to block out Lungelo from my mind.

Kana: You not just saying that to me right?

I giggled.

Me: no..I mean It.

Kana: its the first time I've seen You smile since the negotiations.

Me: things have been quite heavy on me.

Kana: Understandable and I thought they would be.

Me: How do you feel about this?

Kana: The arranged marriage?

I nodded.

Kana: I don't believe in arranged marriages.

Me: But you are in one.

Kana: I have good reasons.

Me: Okay...

Kana: I've always found you attractive. You know this. From the 2 minute conversations we always had whenever I came to fetch my

mother at your place, I always found you very smart and picked it up that you have a good heart.

I paid attention.

Kana: And another thing is, I've witnessed how badly you and Tshelang were treated so when my mother proposed this, I thought it would be better if I set You free from the devil's claws and give you two the lives that you deserve. You can't suffer for 7 years.

Me: So because Celia thinks she hit the jackpot what now?

Kana: the only jackpot she hit were the negotiations coz I'm sure she sat on the money and didn't share it with anyone besides her daughter.

Me: Obviously.

Kana: now that was the end of her reigning era and the beginning of yours. You deserve a bit of

happiness don't you think?

All the ifs

#8

His words touched me. No one had ever said that to me..not even Lungelo.

Me: we all do.

Kana: Exactly.

Me: That's very kind of you.

Kana: Just stating what needs to be stated

Me: No need to be modest

He giggled.

Kana: its one of my traits.

Me: Really?

Kana: Yes.

Me: I don't know about that

Kana: can I ask?

Me: Okay.

Kana: your boyfriend?

Me: You know about that?

Kana: Lerato had to bring it up during the negotiations

Me: And you still married me?

Kana: Go getter is one of my traits as well.

Me: Well he called me disgusting, pathetic and a bitch.

Kana: What?

Me: yes sir.

Kana: And how do you feel about that?

Me: I automatically lose respect for someone who doesn't respect me..I've automatically lost the love I had for him. Its the little thing that puts you off you know?

He nodded.

Me: So yes

Kana: Im sorry

Me: I'm over it.

Kana: you sure?

Me: Yes.

I was starting to. I wasn't going to bother myself with him..insulting me was enough.

Kana: I'm sorry

Me: But tell me, what if he was understanding?  
What would you do?

Kana: I knew he wouldn't be.

Mw: You knew?

Kana: Yes.. He feels betrayed..

Me: That's true.

Kana: And its normal but insulting you is not justifiable.

Me: let's not talk about it please.

Kana: Okay.

Me: But can I ask about your girlfriend?

He laughed.

Kana: You know about her?

Me: You were driving around with her in your car last month.

Kana: We also broke up the day before we exchanged our "I do's" she found out through Gift's insta.

Me: That's bad. The ex also found out through Lerato's posts.

Kana: We've both broken Hearts

I giggled.

Me: Unintentionally

Kana: Yes.

Me: But did you love her?



Kana: I guess so.

Me: Not broken hearted?

Kana: Can I just tell you something?

Me: listening.

Kana: Rather you than her.

Me: Don't give her a bad image.

Kana: I'm not but she was a bit too much at times.

Me: And you still went for her.

He laughed.

Kana: Looks can be deceiving.

It was my turn to giggle.

Me: That's true.

Kana: But it's all in the past.

Me: Yes that's true..

Dinner was lovely and when we got home,

Tshepang was asleep, we went straight to bed and the next day, I drove Tshepang to school..

Tshepang: So?

Me: So eng?

Tshepang: how was your date?

Me: that is None of your business.

Tshepang; So it went well.

Me: Tshepang behave.

Tshepang: I told you he's a nice guy.

Me: My goodness..stop asking questions.

Tshepang: Did you kiss him?

Me: I'm about to slap you.

She giggled.

Tshepang: I'm sorry.

Me: ready for your test?

Tshepang: very.

Me: That's good. Ace it.

Tshepang: I will.

Me: Good girl. Right....good luck.

I said as I packed in front of her school gate.

Tshepang: love you sis.

Me: love you too baby.

I watched as she went in, drove back and found Kananelo in the kitchen making breakfast.

Me: Morning.

Kana: Hey.

Me: So you not going to work?

Kana: told you I'm accompanying to the bank.

I smiled.

Me: You weren't kidding?

Kana:Nope.

Me: And now you are making breakfast.

Kana: This is the only meal I can prepare and I'm a braai master

Me: That sort of works. Where's the Chef?

Kana: It's his day off.

Me: Oh yes..he did say.

Kana: So I guess we'll have pizza tonight?

Me: How about I just cook?

Kana: You don't mind?

Me: I really don't mind.

Kana: here you go.

Me: No love potion in this?

He laughed

Kana: I'm lovable I don't need to use that.

I looked at him.and giggled. He really wasn't so bad, I guess all I needed was time. I was still getting to know him.

Me: Confidence!

Kana: You know.

Me: Thanks for breakfast

Kana: No problem.

It was almost 9:30, although I always dropped Tshepang off at 7:30, I was always stuck in traffic. I needed to find new routes. We had breakfast and we then got ready and headed to the banks to open the accounts. We then went for drinks then drove home.

Me: Happy?

Kana: more than happy

Me: So I've decided to take your advice and start taking care of myself too.

Kana: So you going back to school?

Me: Yes I am. But I've decided to study HR management..

Kana: Lost love for engineering?

Me: I have.

Kana: anything.

Me: And I dont expect you to pay.

Kana: That's not fair.

Me: it is.

Kana: I thougjt we spoke about you letting me provide.

Me: Kananelo...

Kana: Let's not fight about this.

Me: fine.

Kana: Thanks.

When we we got to.the house there was a car parked outside

Me: That's Uncle Benson's car.

Kana: Come.

We got out of our car and the people in the other got out.

Me::what now?

Uncle Benson wasn't in the car, Lerato and her mother came out of the car.

Me: How did they know where the house is?

Kana: Mum I'm thinking. Come.

He took my hand and we walked towards them.

Kana: Dumelang

Lerato: Kananelo dear.

Aunt C: We came to see your house.

Kana: You've just seen it haven't you? Here.

Aunt C: Can we come in?

Lerato: We have to see where my cousins are.

Kana: You can go.

Aunt C: Kananelo you weren't like this.

Kana: no. I was always like this I was just sweet coz I wanted something from you and I now have it. If you know what's good for you, you won't set foot here again.

All the ifs

#9

Aunt C: Kananelo...

Kana: Leave

Aunt C: We are family.

Kana: you are mum's family.

Lerato: Did she turn you against us?

Kana: Leave. I repeat Leave!

His voice was very threatening. I didn't even know he had that side to him. He was getting angry you could tell.

Kana: You still standing there?

Lerato: Mum let's go..



Aunt C: You are a little witch Tshiamo.

Kana: She must have Inherited from you.

She kept quiet and walked away. I was relieved.  
I watched as they drove off and sighed.

Me: Thank you.

Kana: Are you fine?

Me: I am

Kana: sure?

I nodded.

Kana: okay then.

I opened the gate and walked in while he drove in. Opened the doors and went to get whiskey for him..I knew what he liked and I got myself a glass of juice. I wasn't a fan of alcohol. I drank occasionally.. He walked in minutes later and I gave him his drink.

Me: Thank you.

Kana: Are you going to stop thanking me?

Me: No.

Kana: Its okay Tshiamo.

Me: Thank you though.

He smiled.

Kana: Enough now.

Me: Okay okay.

I got a text from Tshepang stating that she would be late coz of the maths extra lesson that was going to take an hour so she said she'd use a taxi.

Me: She says She'll be back late and doesn't want me to fetch her. I don't know how I feel about that.

Kana: let the kid be.

Me: I don't know hey.

Kana: listen to me. Let her be.

Me: Okay fine.

Kana: Better..

Me: you don't like Aunt Celia do you?

Kana: I think she's evil.

I nodded.

Me: She is.

Kana: And she annoys me. I'll have to talk to mum about this.

Me: Don't do that

Kana: No. Its wrong.

Me: just let it go.

Kana: I didn't like it.

Me: please.

Kana: Fine then.

Me: thank you.

Kana: thanks for a great day.

I felt myself grin.

Me: it was a great day indeed.

Kana: should we do it again soon?

Me: I would love that. But somewhere quiet.  
maybe a picnic?

Kana: We can do that

Me: okay then.

Kana: I meant what I said when we were having drinks. I'm okay with being your friend. You can totally forget that we are married.

Me: I think I have a ring on my finger.

He laughed.

Kana: You can always take it off.

Me: thanks for being so patient with me.

Kana: I read somewhere that love is patient.

Me: Somewhere?

Kana: Yes. Shakespeare play or something.

I laughed.

Me: You are hopeless.

Kana: Where is it from?

Me: The Bible.

He laughed.

Kana: I'm embarrassed.

Me: you should be..shame On you!

Kana: You can teach.

Me: oh no.

Kana: Then I'll never know.

Me: I think you are an amazing person

That was so random. How it got to the tip of my tongue, I didn't know but I meant it. I saw him blush and I smiled too.

Kana: Thank you.

Me: Its my pleasure.

Kana: I think you also amazing.

Me: Really?

He nodded.

Me: Well you said it genuinely so I'll take it .

Kana: You are so observant.

I laughed.

Me: I've had it too rough to not be.

Kana: Makes perfect sense.

Me: So you want to tell me what you want to eat?

Kana: Surprise me.

Me: I will most definitely do that.

We went to the kitchen and still had a lot to talk about..he was very interesting.. We also had a few okay...a lot in common..politics, business news, listened to deep house music and a bit of Hiphop and RNB here and there.. Tshepang

found us laughing when she came back.

Tshepang: oh! So its like this when I'm not around?

Kana and I laughed.

Me: you might as well go back to school

Tshepang: Tjoh!

Kana: She's kidding. How was school?

Tshepang: Fine. Long..boring.

Kana: and your test?

Tshepang: It was okay.

Me: I hope so. You have any homework today?

Tshepang: no Just need to start working on the life science assignment. Its a lot.

Me: Get started then.

Kana: So your sister and I are thinking of getting you a tutor.

Tshepang: is she tired of helping me out?

Me: No. I've decided to go back to school

Tshepang: What! I'm so happy for you

She came to hug me.

Tshepang: I'm so proud of you.

Me: So I take it that's fine?

Tshepang: Absolutely. You can also stop babying me.

Kananelo gave me that "you see?" look. I ignored him.

Me: I don't baby you

Tshepang: You do..can I get snacks?

Me: Sure.

She got her snacks.

Tshepang: I'll be in my room

Kana: Have fun.



Tshepang: I wish I was old.

Kana: Bad wish!

Me: Very bad wish. anyway go start working on that assignment.

She walked away from us and I finished up, Kana washed the dishes and at around 19:00, we had dinner. Tshepang washed the dishes and went back to her room to work on the assignment.. We spent about two hours watching TV and when Kana decided he wanted to watch Soccer, I went to take a bath. He took his shower after the match, he found me reading a few articles on News24.

Kana: Anything interesting?

Me: crime stories.

Kana: Ah what's new?

I put the phone on the pedestal.

Me: You can ask that again.

Kana: Anyway, goodnight okay? My team lost so I'm depressed.

I laughed.

Me: I'm sorry

Kana: I'll be fine.

Me: Next time.

He kissed my forehead and our eyes locked, soon our lips met and I felt tingles in my body..I was getting hot, it was a feeling I had never experienced before, not even with Lungelo. He kept his warm hands on my waist still kissing me..he was taking off my PJ shorts still with his lips on mine.. I kicked them off and took off his boxers. As soon as he discovered that I had no underwear on, he started massaging my clit and I could feel myself getting wet. Where had he been all my life? I had 5 minute sessions with Lungelo.. Nothing exciting in the bedroom. He took me under him and found himself in

between my legs, I opened widely so he could deep in. When he finally found his entrance, he kept my hands locked with his, he ordered me to go in rhythm with him without even saying a word. He moved in and out softly and changed his pace as the energy increased, it felt good as he kept getting in deeper. My body tightened around as we both reached the climax. My breathing was fast so was his. He got off me but pulled me closer so he could get inside of me again..he hadn't had enough. I got my leg around his waist and our warm bodies were pressed. He kept moving in slow motion and when pulled out, I Just dozed off. The next morning, I woke up and got my robe..went to the bathroom and found him rinsing his mouth. He had just brushed his teeth.

Me: Good morning.

Kana: Hey good morning

Me: You okay?

Kana: No.

Me: Why not?

Kana: I'm sorry if I rushed you into doing...

Me: Please stop.

I didn't know why he felt bad.

Me: You did nothing wrong and everything Right. If we going to do couple stuff like going out for drinks, picnics and get intimate like we did last night then we might as well declare ourselves as a couple. We are married after all aren't we Mr Tefo?

Kana: Well I guess we are Mrs Tefo. You very nice.

Me: Then have me for breakfast.

All the ifs

#10

He pulled me closer and picked me up, he then

pressed me against the wall Still untying my robe and he got out of his. He thrust in and out for about 5 minutes, pulled out and put me down.

Kana: Hold on to the basin.

I did as I was told and he came in from behind. I remember screaming for air to breathe and that's when he let me go.

Kana: satisfied?

He kissed me as I nodded. He got into the shower as I brushed my teeth and he pulled me in when I was done and we made love in the shower. After that, he got ready for work and I got into my tracksuit pants and he passed me his shirt.. I still had to take Tshepang to school

Tshepang: I've been waiting! For 20 minutes now.

Me: I'm sorry..I overslept.

Tshepang: Okay.

Me: let's go.

Tshepang: Okay.

Kana: Bye Tshepang.

Tshepang: bye Abhut'Kananelo.

Kana: Drive safely babe.

Me: You too.

Gave him a quick kiss and I left with Tshepang.

Tshepang: What Is...

Me: none of your business.

Tshepang: Just like that?

Me: Just like that.

Tshepang: So you two have decided to try things out?

Me: Yeah

Tshepang: that's good news.

Me: That's all you need to know.

Tshepang: I'm fine with that.

Me: Good..done with that assignment?

Tshepang: Just one part of it left

Me: That's good. How's Palesa doing?

Tshepang: She's so jealous.

Me: Of?

Tshepang: My new life.

Me: why?

Tshepang: She's just so jealous. I showed her Pictures of the new house and your car..she was just sour.

Me: Let her be.

Tshepang: I'm going to stop being friends with her.

I laughed.

Me: I'm sure you can work it out.

Tshepang: Maybe.

Me: Even if she's jealous..she can't take it away from you moe..she's from a wealthy family what's her problem?

Tshepang: beats me.

Me: Let it slide.

Tshepang: I'll just stick to Dineo.

Me: Do what makes you happy.

Tshepang: I will.

Me: right go on!

Tshepang: Bye sis.

Me: Bye babe.

I hugged her and she got out of the car and went in..I managed to find my way out of the usual traffic and when I got home, I just got busy with researching about HR management.



Me: hey.

Nolo: Haibo!

Me: Oh I'm sorry cuz..

Nolo: How are you?

Me: I'm fine.

Nolo: What are you doing today?

Me: Nothing why?

Nolo: I want to come see you.

Me: My house?

Nolo: Your house..

Me: Okay.

Nolo: Direct me.

Me: okay.

Nolo: cool

I sent her the location as soon as she hung up and went to take a bath.. She came an hour

later and I had to give her a tour of the house.

Nolo: Beautiful!

Me: thanks cuz.

Nolo: I'm glad he's treating you right coz if he wasn't...

I laughed

Me: We are fine.

Nolo: Are you two fine?

Me: We are.

Nolo; You even blushing.

I wasn't even aware

Me: We decided to make it out.. He's a great guy Nolo.

Nolo: Someone's falling for Kananelo.

Me: I am. It's not a bad thing Right?

Nolo: he's your husband.

She rolled her eyes.

Nolo: You suppose to fall inlove with him

Me: Okay yes.

Nolo: So Lungelo?

Me: He can really go to hell.

Nolo: It didn't go well did it?

I shook my head.

Nolo: But you happy right?

Me: I'm with a great guy.

Nolo: You've never said that about Lungelo but you were with him for years..you never gushed about him like this

Me: maybe he wasn't worth it

Nolo: Oh yes..congratulations cuz.

4 weeks later, I was madly in love with a great guy.. We had alot of dates and fought over the smallest things but it was all good. We were

happy.. I know I was. The divas were still planning the vacation and couldn't decide between Djerba and Nosy Be. I wasn't even interested really. I was getting close to Nombu she wasn't a diva.. She had invited me for lunch about 3 times and even bought me a wedding gift..I liked her.

Kana: Okay Fine.

Me: do you want to go?

Kana: yes..we need to go on a honeymoon.

Me: But why?

Kana: Coz we have to..

Me: That's not a good reason

Kana: it is.

Me: No.

Kana: Okay, coz I feel like taking you somewhere.. You always running the household.

Me: That will Come to an end soon. I mean the new academic year begins in 3 months.

I had applied right on time.

Kana: I'm taking you on a honeymoon

Me: You forcing me?

Kana: Yes.

I laughed.

Me: That's not going to work.

Kana: That's going to work. Here.

He handed me a travel mag.

Me: You serious?

He nodded.

Kana: Go on and choose a place

Me: Okay Fine..if it's what you want.

Kana: we both need it

Me: okay fine.

Kana: Let's talk about a more important issue.

Me: why do I have a bad feeling about this?

Kana: Coz important issues cause people to fight.

Me: Good answer.

Kana: can I just dive into it?

Me: Yes.

I said as I drank my juice.

Kana: You need to forgive your father.

I quickly downed my drink.

Me: What?

Kana: You are so angry at him Its not healthy.

Me: I thought we said we'll never talk about this again.

Kana: You thought.

Me: I dont want to forgive that man.

Kana: How long are you going to carry this grudge?

I got up from the couch.

Kana: Tshiamo I'm still talking to you. Please sit down

Me: I'm not going to sit here and...

Kana: Tshiamo sit down!

He was half snapping, half calm.. I didn't quite get it. I sat down again.

Kana: I'm not going to let you destroy yourself with this anger. I can't live with that. You might be containing it now but you are going to lose it one day and you'll take it out on the wrong person. I am not about to have a bitter wife and I'm not going to negotiate with you..You can hate me now but you'll thank me later.. I've hired a therapist to be a mediator.

Me: for what?

Kana: You and your father are reconciling tomorrow.

All the ifs

#11

I couldn't believe I was being told what to do..honestly!

Me: Excuse me?

Kana: You heard Me.

Me: Who gave you the right to meddle into matters that don't concern you?

Kana: Are you my wife?

I didn't want to answer that

Kana: Are you my wife or not?

Me: I am.

Kana: Then your matters concern me. You can now go to wherever you wanted to go. I told you what I wanted to tell you.



I looked at him, still angry and I got up from the couch, went to put my glass in the kitchen then to the garden. I missed Tshepang but she was at her friend's for the weekend. Yes Palesa, they had worked things out. Teens though.

Apparently Palesa was scared that Tshepang would change. Such unnecessary drama. I decided to call Banele.

Banele: Stranger

Me: Hey friend.

Banele: you have been scarce.

Me: I've been making my marriage work.

Banele: Is it?

Me: It is.

It was. It was starting to feel like one. He was now involved in Family drama, I once resolved an issue he had with his brother Fenyang who was 2 years younger than him. They were

fighting about money. I don't know how it began but I resolved it.. We had our own little fights as started before, we did a lot of planning together so it was starting to be one.

Banele: Can I come?.

Me: Ah no! I have a dinner date with the hubby. Can I come tomorrow?

Banele: No problem

Me: Still good though?

Banele: Absolutely

Me: How's Sphumelele doing?

Banele: she's just naughty.

Me: I miss her..I'll see you tomorrow though.

Banele: Okay friend. Have fun.

Me: Lo...

She hung up before I could complete my sentence but I figured it must have been the

network. I didn't call her back so I just spent my time in the garden then got ready for the date I had with the hubby.

Kana: You look beautiful

Me: thank you.

I was 50% mad at him..50% not.

Kana: Ready?

Me: Yes

Kana: Okay then.

He switched off the TV and we left. He opened the door for me to get in and we drove off to his Favorite Restaurant.

Kana: So I guess your silent treatment is you telling me that you mad at me?

Me: you should have told me. I thought we said We'd communicate

Kana: I tried.

Me: Not hard enough.

Kana: This is killing you inside.

Me: And how would you know this?

Kana: Coz you get mad every time I bring it up and you try to stop Your tears from coming out.

Lucas' issue always made me Emotional.  
Always.

Kana: Baby I apologize for going about it the wrong way and trust me, I didn't want to do it this way but if it doesn't happen now then it never will.

Me: Fine!

Kana: Just try.

Me: If it doesn't work out then don't ever try it again

Kana: You know he's still your dad Right?

Me: So you say. Can we not talk about him till

tomorrow?

Kana: Okay

We scanned through the menus and finally ordered.

Me: I think Banele hung up on me.

Kana: You think?

Me: Yeah..she asked If she could Come and when I told her that we going out she just sort of hung up. Maybe it's the network.

Kana: Maybe if it was just the network you wouldn't be this worried.

Me: Why are you so analytical?

I asked Giggling.

Kana: I don't know baby but you don't mention something unless if its important to you. I mean look at the worry in your face.

Me: maybe I said something wrong without

realizing it. Maybe she feels like I've pushed her to the side. I haven't been spending time with her.

Kana: Maybe.

Me: Why do you sound like that?

His "maybe" sounded very suspicious.

Kana: Maybe you right. I just get bad vibes from her.

Me: Why?

Kana: I don't know..she's too envious.

Me: Of who?

Kana: You.

I laughed

Me: No baby..

Kana: I'm telling you.

Me: Banele is not that type

Kana: really?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Okay baby.

Me: You reading too much into this.

Kana: Well maybe I am..

Me: Maybe you are baby.

Kana: I'll let it slide.

Me: Thank you.

Kana: Its a pleasure.

I didn't realize how hungry I was until my food came.

Me: So I have a spa date with Nombu.

Kana: You two get along don't you?

Me: We just connect.

Kana: See...I get no bad vibes from her.

We laughed.

Me: You are something else.

Kana: I think she's a nice person.

Me: she is.

Kana: And you don't get along with rest?

Me: I mean, I don't have a problem with Katleho, Amanda and Thembi. I really don't get Moratua..she's too much.

Kana: You know, Nombu once said that too

Me: that's news to me.. Maybe coz we don't even talk about them when we together.

Kana: Well I'm glad you won't feel left out anymore.

We had a great evening and the next Saturday, we had breakfast after we took a shower together.

Me: what time are they coming?

Kana: At 11:30.



Me: In 30 minutes?

Kana: Yes ma'am.. James is preparing something for them okay? Dont stress

Me: Are you going to sit in?

He shook his head.

Kana: I'll be watching soccer in our bedroom

Me: You should be with us

Kana: No baby.. You should do this alone. I've played my part.

I nodded.

Kana: On the same page?

Me: Yes.

Kana: great then.

We had our breakfast and Marina the Therapist and Lucas arrived at the same time.

Kananelo got the intros out of the way and he left us.

Marina: Tshiamo can you tell me why you so angry at your father.

I told her everything..even up to the last time we met.

Marina: You Don't think you must forgive him?

Me: I cant bring myself to it.

Marina: Would you like to have a relationship with your daughter?

Lucas: Of course. I love her.

Me: Then why weren't you a father to me? Why did you treat me the way you did.

Lucas: I have no reason for it but I acknowledge that I am wrong and I really need your forgiveness I might be too late but I want to fix this.

Our session with Marina went on for about 3 hours and when we were done I felt as if something had been lifted off my shoulders.

Lucas: Thank You son.

Kana: No problem sir.

Lucas: Bye Lily.

I hugged him

Me: Bye dad.

Lucas: You don't know how long I've been waiting for you to say that. I'll keep in touch. Please unblock my number.

Me: I have.

Lucas: Thank you.

Marina looked happy.. I also hugged her and she and dad left at the same time going in different directions.

Kana: I take it everything went well.

I nodded.

Me: light heart now

Kana: Shout again.

I laughed

Me: Thank you

Kana: Anything for you.

Me: I think you are a blessing.

Kana: I am one.

His phone rang and he excused himself. I heard him say "Gift" as he answered..a text came through mine a minute later.

Lungelo: "Can we meet? Please"

All the ifs.

#12

I didn't even reply.. I just stared at the message.

Kana: Mrs T.T

I laughed.

Me: hey.

Kana: What's wrong?

I sighed and passed him my phone.

Kana: Ah!

Me: Yes sir.

Kana: Go meet him.

Me: He said he doesn't want to see me again

Kana: Maybe he's Come back to his senses.

Me: and I don't care.

Kana: so you not going?

Me: for more insults?

He smiled.

Kana: I've got an idea.

Me: Okay.

Kana: Video call him

Me: That's a good idea.

Kana: since you don't want to meet him

Me: Want to join me?

Kana: I don't like looking at ugly faces.

I laughed.

Me: Who said you good looking?

Kana: I am good looking..I mean who doesn't like caramel? Who?

I smiled.

Kana: What was a beautiful lady like you doing with that vanilla looking guy?

Me: what am I doing with you?

Kana: Touché baby.

Me: I was just asking

Kana: That actually hurts.

Me: Sorry baby. Let me just.

Kana: Good luck

Me: I don't need luck.

Kana: Okay then

I video called him and he picked up after 5 minutes. Kana was on the other side though.

Lungelo: Babe

Me: "bitch" is the word you looking for

Lungelo: Eish. Tshiamo, I Just wanted to meet with you.

Me: Can you see me?

Lungelo: Yes.

Me: And I can see you..this is as good as in person

Lungelo: So you don't want to meet with me?

Me: No..

Lungelo: I want to apologize

Me: Do it now.

Lungelo: let's just meet.

Me: I'm married..I cant be meeting with exes.

Lungelo: Okay Fine. I jusy wanted to apologize.

Me: Thanks.

Lungelo; Are we cool?

Me: Lungelo you know what? I still would have lived without your apology. I'm cool without it. You can just...

I was getting angry coz everything he had said to me was making my blood boil.

Me: Have a good life okay?

I hung up and Kananelo was staring at me

Kana: Are you okay?

Me: I'm fine..can we go out?

Kana: To?

Me: The movies.

Kana: You are paying..

Me: With your money.



Kana: what's that suppose to mean?

Me: It means we using your card.

Kana: Oh no.

Me: Oh yes.

He chased to the bedroom and caught me before I could grab his wallet.

Me: a man needs to provide.

He chuckled and gave me that "who the hell is talking coz it's definitely not you" look.

Kana: Really?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Never ever say that to me coz I know you don't mean it.

Me: but you still paying though

Kana: Watch me go on strike.

Me: You wouldn't dare.

Kana: Watch me..let's go.

I grabbed my bag and he put his wallet in his pocket and we left. We both enjoyed action movies so that's what we agreed on. When we got the lady at the paying point he Just stood there.

Me: Baby pay.

Kana: No

Me: Baby...

Kana: you invited me here.

Me: You suppose to pay.

Kana: Thats like inviting me to a party then expecting me to pay for the food and drinks.

Me: what kind of a husband are you?

Kana: what kind of a wife are you? I told you I'm going on strike.. Okay let's go to McDonald's, Buy McFlurrys, ask for the WiFi password and download the movie.

The lady and I laughed. He was so serious.

Me: So you really not paying?

Kana: no.

Me: But I paid for the last...okay.

I paid, luckily there were no other people In line behind us..we sat on the couches as we waited..our movie was going to begin in 30 minutes. I was just all over him.. Not in a bad way though.. I just had my arm around his, my leg in between his.

Me: okay so what do you think?

Kana: About that place?

Me: Yes.

Kana: it's nice.

Me: Okay settled then.

Kana: Happy with it?

Me: Yes.

Kana if you are I am.

We continued laughing and chatting, went to get drinks and popcorn and enjoyed our action movie..when we got home it was just alot of sexing! Alot of it. We went to church the next morning and Banele asked to come over for lunch, Kana decided to leave.

Me: You leaving?

Kana: Have fun okay?

Banele was in the lounge.

Me: Okay fine then.

Kana: see you later.

Me: Bye babe.

We kissed and he left.

Banele: Aren't you in love?

Me: I am hey.

Banele: That's good..

Me: So Lungelo "apologized"

Banele: You met with him?

Me: Never.

Banele: why?

Me: He's not worth it.

Banele: You should have given him a chance

Me: Nah

Banele: you good though?

Me: I am..Come let's get food and we can chill outside.

Banele: I'm starving.

We went to the kitchen and as we dished up, I heard my phone ringing in the lounge..

Me: please finish up friend.

I quickly ran to get it.

Me: dad!

Dad: Can daddy take you out for breakfast tomorrow?

Me: Okay dad.

Dad: You okay?

Me: 100%. You?

Dad: I'm fine. Do you want something? Kit kat maybe?

I laughed.

Me: Im not 4 anymore dad..but chocolate would be nice.

I was surprised he still remembered.

Dad: Okay then. 9:30?

Me: Okay dad. You'll let me know.

Dad: okay Lily..love you.

Me: love you too dad.

I hung up.

Banele: Which Dad?

Me: Lucas.

Banele: You two made up?

Me: Yes.. Snuggles reconciled us.

Banele: Snuggles?

Me: Kana.

Banele: Oh..here you go.

She passed my plate of food.

Me: Thank you but Eish Nele, for the 100th time now I don't eat pumkin.

Banele: I keep forgetting..sorry.

Something about the food looked offish..like dry dry yellow turned grass had been put in the food or maybe pieces of fine wood. I scanned her and I saw a piece of newspaper and wrapped around with wool peeping out of the pockets of her jean.

Me: Banele.

Banele: Friend?

Me: are you trying to kill me?

All the ifs

#13

Banele: Why would I do that?

I put my plate down and snatched the newspaper out of her pocket. The same grassy things fell off.

Me: What the hell?

Banele: Me?

Me: You know what Kananelo did say you envious but I didn't...

She suddenly snapped.

Banele: That's what made me want to poison you! Kananelo this! Kananelo that! "I can't see you. I've got a date with Kananelo" you are



annoying!

Me: Oh?

Banele: Why must you get everything? Why? Awards, Tshiamo! Head of prefects Tshiamo, Varsity, Tshiamo! Boys! Tshiamo! Promotions head Tshiamo! Beautiful wedding Tshiamo!

I was listening coz I wanted to get where the root of the problem was.

Banele: Fancy car! Fancy house, rich husband! Chef! Helpers! Tshiamo! Why?

Me: And I thought you my best friend.

Banele: you thought wrong! I tolerated you

Me: Wow!

I was hurt. Very hurt

Banele: why do you always get everything? Why?

Me: Maybe you won't get everything I have coz you are an evil person. You are so so evil! You

have such an evil heart

Banele: Yeah right!

Me: Leave!

Banele: Damn right I will.

Me: Don't you ever come back here

Banele: You think I have time?

She grabbed her bag and I opened the gate for her to leave. I was so hurt, shocked! I tried to cry but nothing came out. I just wanted to see Tshepang but too bad she was only coming back the next day after school. Her little genius self would have been able to comfort me. I was in disbelief. I didn't even think Banele would do me like that. I drew the food out and washed the dishes. I wasn't going to press in charges. I was going to let God deal with her. I ended up chilling on the couch and was very Happy when Kana got back

Kana: I thought you'd be in the garden drinking.

I shook my head

Kana: Baby what's wrong?

Me: You were right..

Kana: about what?

Me: Banele.

Kana: What do you mean?

Me: She tried to poison me.

I showed him the poison.

Kana: What?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Through what? Your food?

I nodded

Kana: You didn't eat any food right?

Me: No. I saw it before I could Even eat

Kana: you should have listened\_

Me: I didn't think she'd do this..

Kana: well she almost killed you. Are you going to press any charges?

I shook my head.

Me: Her child needs her.

Kana: No child needs a mother whose a murderer.

Me: Let's not deal with her.

Kana: you want the universe to?

Me: yes.

Kana: that's still a plan.

He came to sit next to me and started playing with my hands. He loved doing that. Every single day! I had gotten used to it. If not my hands my toes or he'd just run his fingers in my hair but every time he did that I knew I'd just end up naked and breathing fast.

Me: Please don't run your fingers in my hair.

He laughed.

Kana: I'm giving you a break today.

Me: Thank you. My body still hurts.

Kana: you might as well get used to it.

Me: Get used to sex bruises, fast breathing rates and a body that hurts? I feel like pricks had been put under my skin. I'm not complaining though

He giggled and looked at me.

Kana: You are such a freak!

Me: You made me one

Kana: Deep within you, you've always been one you just needed another to help you take it out

I smiled

Me: Maybe..so Dad called.

Kana: is he fine?

Me: he wants us to meet for breakfast tomorrow

Kana: and?

Me: I agreed. I just hope we don't fight over something. We always fighting

Kana: No you won't

Me: And he booked two more sessions with Marina.

Kana: He's keen on making this work hey

Me: He is. I thank God for you everyday.

I looked at him with so much love. Funny how things work out. I was mad at him a few weeks back for forcing himself on me but it was all a blessing in disguise.

Me: If this is what really love feels like then I don't want any other feeling. I love you.

Kana: I love you more baby. More than you can imagine. Can I annoy you?

Me: Oh no! No don't you dare switch Channels.

He laughed

Kana: can I watch soccer?

Me: No!

Kana: Baby you not being fair. I watch your E! Channel.

Me::coz it's nice.

Kana: How is watching BOTCHED nice? And those Miami girls of yours.

Me: WAGS

Kana: Doesn't matter. How is it nice?.

Me: Its better than watching old man chase after one ball.

Kana: I'm offended

Me: Fine watch your soccer then.

Kana: Watch it with me..

Me: No.

Kana: Quality time

Me: Don't you dare pull that on me.

Kana: you going back on our agreement..we entertain each other's interests.

Me: Including soccer?

Kana: yes.

Me: Oh crap! Fine!

Kana: I tried out cycling with you remember?

I laughed coz he totally hated that..totally!

Me: it was fun.

Kana: You think?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Yeah right. I think it's okay for couples yes but don't make it a habit.

Me: Then we should probably make a list of all



the things we'd both like doing.

Kana: That's a good idea.

Me: I'll go get a paper and pen.

Kana: No...after that match. You trying to distract me.

I didn't understand how he just learnt almost everything about me in just weeks. Was I that simple? We watched the match and created our list..we went to bed late. He went to work the next day and it felt weird not having to drop anyone off at school. Dad called to ask if we could change breakfast to dinner coz he wanted me to meet his family. He asked me to come with Tshepang and Kananelo but I explained that K couldn't make it coz he had a 8pm meeting. Disappointed but he understood. I spent the day lazing around and ignoring Banele's calls and texts..I ended up blocking her number and every other number she tried calling me with. I went

to fetch Tshepang after school and we got ready for dinner.

Tshepang: You know I'm proud of you sis. I think parents mean everything. I've never quite felt that gap coz you were always there and when we lost mum and dad I was only in grade 4 still a bit dumb and didn't understand death.

Me: every time you tell me you proud of me, I'm always inspired to better myself for you.

Tshepang: I love you.

Me: I love you too. Come.

We drove to Dad's and he introduced us to his kids, Lesedi, who was 18(boy), Resego(16) (girl) and Bontle(7) they looked happy to see us. Dad had told them about us so Lesedi said. Resego was more than happy to get us drinks..they had a helped who had prepared the meal.

Apparently the wife was just around the corner coming back from work. She arrived 5 minutes

later...

Lesedi: Mum! Our sisters are here.

Resego: Tshepang is my age.

Bontle: Tshiamo looks like me.

Resego: She doesn't.

Bontle: She does. Look at her eyes.

I giggled. She was adorable.

Dad: Right Lily and Tshe, this is Priscilla.

Priscilla these are my kids. You know Tshiamo, this is Tshepang.

Priscilla: Did I not say I don't want them here?

Me: Why? You the one that wrecked...

Tshepang: Shhh.

Dad: You don't?

Priscilla: I don't

Dad: Then maybe you should pack your

belongings and leave!

All the ifs

#14

Priscilla: Are you serious right now?

Dad: Does it look like I'm kidding?

She went past us mad.

Dad: Okay. Your mother's not joining us for dinner..everyone take a seat

Bontle: Take it where?

Me: He means sit down.

Bontle: Why didn't he Just say that?

She thought she was whispering but kids!

Bontle: Can I sit next to you?

Me: Of course!

We all settled down and dad said a short prayer then we started eating. I couldn't believe I was a

sister to 3 teens and a little diva.

Lesedi: I think we should have a family vacation.

Resego: we can leave mum behind.

Dad: That's a good idea Lesedi.

Bontle: We going to Disneyland?

Lesedi: You have money to travel to the states?

Bontle: Do you have money Lily?

She had opted for that name.

Me: I don't think I do.

Bontle: You don't think you do? Tshepang do you have money?

Tshepang: No I'm still at school.

Bontle: Dad will take us then.

Dad: They told you I'm rich?

Bontle: They told me you have bank cards.

We laughed. She reminded me so much of

Tshepang when she was her age. She just said whatever was on her mind and I had to deal with her and puberty at the same time!

Lesedi: Aus'Tshiamo you have any ideas?

Me: how about you 3 come up with a place

Resego: Okay. We'll come up with a fun place.

Dad: I asked who's paying.

We all said "you dad" at the same time and all giggled. I was going to love them I could feel it especially Bontle. She was just so adorable and so cute and just so young and silly in a very cute way.

Dad: Fine! Fine. How does Mozambique sound?

Me: Oh my goodness!

Dad: What is it?

Me: You dragged mum and I there every December! Well when I was 4 and 5

He laughed.

Dad: You've got a sharp memory.

Me: But its a good vacation spot I guess.

Dad: and we are driving there.

Bontle kept clapping. I figured she liked long distanced trips.

Lesedi: So when? Aus'Tshiamo you decide. You the oldest.

Me: When schools close. We spend one week there and come back for Christmas here.

Resego: We can go to Granny's for Christmas..

Me: Gran is still alive?

Bontle: Yes. She's 4-7 years old

Lesedi: 7-4! 74.

Me: Dad how's she doing?

Dad: She asks about you every day I call her.

Me: Is Grandpa still alive?

He nodded.

Me: wow!

Lesedi: So is that settled?

Dad: Yes it is.

We continued eating but my heart wasn't at ease, I realized that I had made other people suffer coz my dad. I just cut them off. In fact, if I hadn't let myself fill up with anger, I would have easily took Tshepang and we would have lived with them but again I didn't want to always bump into dad at the grandparents' house. I felt horrible. When I cut dad off I cut everyone else off. We finished eating, Priscilla still hiding in the bedroom, Tshepang, Lesedi and Resego went to wash the dishes..Bontle had fallen asleep right after dinner and I was with dad outside.

Me: what kind of a grandchild am I dad?



Dad: This is all my fault.

Me: you didn't tell me to stop visiting my grandparents

Dad: I understand why you did it. You didn't want to constantly see me.

Me: I became mad at you and even madder at them For bringing you into this earth.

Dad: I understand that.

Me: Really dad?

He nodded.

Dad: Rejecting you was the most dumbest thing I've ever done.. I would have probably done the same.

Me: And Gran always gave me the little that she had.

I had tears in my eyes.

Me: Will they forgive me?

Dad: Hey don't cry!

Me: Dad I'm a horrible person!

Dad: No you not..come here.

He put his arms around me and tried to comfort me.

Dad: Go see them.

Me: Will they still remember me?

Dad: Your gran asks about you everyday.

Me: are they still in Daveyton?

Dad: Yes. They live with your cousin  
Gratitude.pass me your phone.

I did and he typed the directions down under notes for me.

Dad: they'll be happy to see you.

Me: I don't know dad.

Dad: Trust me.

Me: okay then.

Dad: Let's go in for ice-cream

Me: I'm full dad and it's getting a bit late.

Dad: has the husband started calling you?

I laughed.

Me: No..he's not that type that calls a million times. In fact, he doesn't even call me that much..is that normal?

Dad: It means he trusts you.

Me: Well I guess you know best.

Dad: Exactly.

Me: So why's your wife so sour?

Dad: Dont worry about her that one. She'll leave soon.

Me: Dad, if we are causing trouble then its best if...

Dad: Nonsense

Me: you sure?

Dad: I've neglected you for years now. You are now married and will probably have kids soon, I don't want to miss all of that.

Me: Even if it means it messes up your marriage?

Dad: You now come first.

Me: That means a lot coming from you.

Dad: I want to make it work and although Tshepang isn't my biological child, I don't want her to feel that gap of not having parents. This is a conversation I'll have with her though.

Me: Thanks dad.

Dad: No need to thank me.

I hugged him.

Me: So what do you want for your birthday? It's in 2 weeks right?

Dad: You remembered?

Me: You still my dad.

Dad: Anything nice

Me: so if I see nice heels I should get them for you?

He laughed.

Dad: No Lily. Anything Nice for dads!

Me: See that makes sense you need to be..

"Can I talk to Tshiamo?"

We turned, It was Priscilla.

Dad: Where are your bags?

Priscilla: Lucas please.

Dad: You want to?

Me: Its okay dad.

Dad: Okay then.

He walked away from us.

Priscilla: You've grown into a beautiful young woman.

Me: Thanks.

Priscilla: I was wrong earlier on. I shouldn't have. You are right, I wrecked your mum's home but here you are not hating my kids. They adore you. I was watching you all during dinner and I'm wrong Tshiamo. I don't know what got over me.

Me: What did? Have you been keeping dad away from me?

Priscilla: Yes and that was wrong.

Me: Why?

Priscilla: I really don't know.

Me: are you happy with yourself?

Priscilla: No

Me: Okay..

Priscilla: But I want to reassure you that you

and Tshepang now have a home, if you need anything don't hesitate to come to me, I'm not going to stop a father from loving and being there for his kids anymore. See me as a mother figure to you and Tshepang now. I'm accepting you both. I at least owe this to the woman whose home I destroyed.

All the ifs

#15

Me: if you say so Priscilla

Priscilla: I mean it.

Me: Thank you. We need to get going.

Priscilla: you not sleeping over?

Me: Oh no.

Priscilla: weekend then.

Me: Okay.

We walked back to the house in silence.

Tshepang was having fun with Lesedi and Resego.

Me: Time to go.

Tshepang: Now?

I nodded.

Tshepang: Oh man

Dad: you'll come back soon.

Tshepang: I will. Bye guys.

She hugged them then I did.

Me: You guys make my heart melt.

They did. Alot.

Lesedi: can we come over?

Resego: Make your heart melt more?

Me: You can come after 2 weeks.

Resego: why two weeks?

Me: Coz I'm going away this Friday and the next



Friday

Resego: To?

Dad: You ask alot

Me: She does. Bye guys

Lesedi: Bye Aus'Tshiamo.

Dad walked us out and we said bye to him then left.

Tshepang: that was fun

Me: it was wasn't it?

Tshepang: and you almost attacked the poor woman

Me: Oh I had to.

Tshepang: Sis you are something else

Me: She apologized.

Tshepang: Do you think she meant it?

Me: I dont know.. I only trust 4 people

Tshepang: Being?

Me: You, Nolo, Nombu and my husband.

Tshepang: Banele?

I chuckled.

Me: She tried to kill me.

Tshepang: What?

Me: yesterday, she put some grassy things in my food and forgot to hide the rest of it well in her pocket.

Tshepang: wow!

Me: I think I'm over it

Tshepang: Really?

Me: Yes. But obviously I feel betrayed

Tshepang: Understandably so.

Me: Right so how was your weekend?

Tshepang: It felt good paying for movies and

food.

I laughed.

Me: Really?

Tshepang: Yes .I always felt had when Palesa always paid.

Me: Well if you had fun I'm happy

Tshepang: I had alot.

When we got home, she went straight to bed and I found Kananelo watching soccer.

Kana: Welcome back.

Me: Hey baby.

Kana: Hello my love.

I crawled up to Kidd him after I took my shoes off.

Kana: How was dinner?

Me: Dads wife has drama.

Kana: A lot?

Me: sort of. She made a big fuss about us being there, dad told her to leave and later she came to apologize.

Kana: Chancer.

Me: my thoughts exactly. How was your meeting?

He didn't look okay

Kana: I'm frustrated

Me: Why?

Kana: I'm going to have to put in extra hours with the team. They are doing a terrible job. Had it not been for the good relationship I have with Johnson, he would have taken his business elsewhere.

Me: That bad?

Kana: Nothing I can't fix though

Me: You sure?

Kana: Yes baby

Me: I'm going to bath okay. Want to join me?

Kana: Already took.my shower babe but I'll wait.

Me: Okay then..I'll be quick.

Kana: Do that. I want to hear about your dinner date with your family.

Me: Okay then..don't fall asleep.

He smiled.

Kana: I won't.

I went to take a nice warm bath and when I went back to him, he was asleep. I pulled only his shirt over my naked body and switched the lights off and got into bed. I figured he needed the rest. I also fell asleep shortly and I woke up felt two fingers trying to make way inside of me.

Me: What are you...

Kana: Make way.

I did and he slid them inside of me. I gasped for air to breathe and when I turned uncomfortably, I realized it was only 3:45am. He kissed me and only slid them out when he realized I was wet and slid himself in, he had pulled my legs apart roughly and had my hands pinned against the bed, he was rough, it was very rough and I couldn't move coz his body had mine restrained. I was going to wake up with a very sore body. He kept thrusting in and out deeply and when he was done, I went to the bathroom to wash my sweaty face.

Kana: You okay?

Me: Are you that stressed?

Kana: did I hurt you?

Me: I think you broke my rib cage.

Kana: I'm sorry

I didn't answer him.

Me: Can we rest now?

Kana: baby...

Me: Kana, its okay.

Kana: Is it?

I nodded even though I could barely feel my ribcage

Me: let's just sleep.

He pulled me close to him, I wanted to resist, turn the other way and sleep but I didn't. I guess he was just trying to distress. I didn't know.

Me: Are you angry at me?

Kana: no. Why?

Me: it felt like you were

Kana: I was taking out my frustrations on your body. Something I've never done before and I'm so sorry

Me: I don't mind the frustrations part what I do mind though is my ribcage. I really can't feel it.

Kana: I'll come around 14:00 to take you the Doctor.

Me: I'll be fine. You have work don't you?

Kana: That's not more important then you.

Me: its okay. I'll be fine..let's just sleep.

We did and we woke up again at 5:30, I took Tshepang to school, I was quiet all the way to her school coz I was my body was really sore, especially my hands. I listened to her stories and said a quiet "thank God" after I dropped her off, I asked her to use a taxi back home coz I just wanted to rest. When I got home, I got out of the tracksuits and just slept till I was woken up by a ringing cellphone.

Me: hello Mzwa

Mzwa: Hey Tshiamo. Can we meet?



Me: If you trying to ask me to forgive your baby mama then no..she tried to kill me.

Mzwa: I need to talk to you..it's about Banele.

Me: Okay.

Mzwa: Let's meet at around 13:00, there's a restaurant just across my workplace.

Me: Okay cool.

Mzwa: Thanks.

I hung up and decided to get ready, at 12:30, I drove to the restaurant he said we should meet at and ordered us drinks.

Me: Will juice be fine?

Mzwa: Yes. Absolutely. Congratulations on being Mrs Someone.

I laughed.

Me: Thanks Mzwa.

Mzwa: Kananelo is a good guy.

I had seen them talk a couple of times before.

Me: he's great.

Mzwa: Look at you blushing.

I giggled.

Me: Sorry..

Mzwa: Its okay. Listen, I need you to tell me who's Banele's baby daddy.

Me: Aren't you Sphume's dad?

He shook his head.

Mzwa: My mother always suspected it and I thought she was just being dramatic coz she doesn't like Banele so to shut up I had tests done.

Me: Why didn't you ask Banele?

Mzwa: I did. She claims your husband is her baby daddy.

All the ifs

#16

Me: are you serious?

Mzwa: Very.

Me: What is wrong with that girl?

Mzwa: Did something happen between you?

Me: She tried to poison my food

Mzwa: what?

Me: She confessed that she's jealous of me

Mzwa: So this might not even be true.

Me: I guess we'll have to find out.

Mzwa: Will you take it from here?

I nodded.

Me: Thanks Mzwa.

Mzwa: don't worry about it. You look good by  
The way.

Me: Thank you.

Mzwa: Marriage life is treating you well?

Me: It is.

Mzwa: let's just make this lunch?

Me: Okay cool.

He called the Waiter to bring the menus.

Mzwa: And why didn't I get an invite?

Me: I asked Banele to tell you and I sent you a text.

Mzwa: bad way to go about it and I was out of town.. Work stuff.

Me: well you owe me a gift

Mzwa: I knee that was coming. You'll get your gift but I'm glad you found a bit of happiness now T.

Me: Hey!

Mzwa: I know the struggles you went through. You deserve it.

Me: Thanks Mzwa.

Mzwa: And how's your little sister doing?

Me: she's okay.

Mzwa: if you two are fine. I'm happy.

We placed our orders and spoke about general stuff.. I had fun catching up with him and I went back to the house after lunch, got there at around 14:15

Me: Baby?

Kana: Hey. You okay?

Me: I am. What's up?

Kana: I'm going to be back late today.

Me: Oh?

Kana: Yes my love.

Me: Work stuff?

Kana: Yes

Me: Okay.

Kana: Will you be fine?

Me: I will be.

Kana: did you go to the doctor?

Me: No. I'll be fine.

Kana: Baby please just...

Me: Kananelo stop it. I'm Fine.

Kana: Okay I'm sorry.

Me: I'll see you later okay?

Kana: Okay baby.

Me: I love you.

Kana: I love you too.

I hung up, I had a lot of questions. What if Sphume was his? What if he was being blackmailed? What if his real frustrations weren't worked related? I had a lot of "what ifs" I curled up on the couch and slept again. I was

woken up by Tshepang.

Me: Is school out yet? What time is it?

Tshepang: Tuesdays schools ends 13:30. It's 14:50 by the way.

Me: Oh.

Tshepang: you need to take me to Palesa's.

Me: Why?

Tshepang: We having a study session.. I told you

Me: Oh yes. Are your bags packed?

Tshepang: not yet.

Me: you know you could have easily packed last night, took your bag with to school and instead of coming back here....

Tshepang: I know. I just wanted to see you sis.

Me: Really?

She nodded.

Me: well thats very sweet of you.

Tshepang: are you fine? You look sick

Me: just tired.

Tshepang: makes sense..we came back pretty late last night.

Me: that too. Go pack and I'll take you to Lesa's.

Tshepang: Okay sis.

She went to her bedroom and I went to our bathroom to freshen up, I waited for her to finish packing and we left.

Me: behave.

Tshepang: I always do.

Me: Good.

When we got to Palesa's, I went in with her, spent about 30 minutes with Palesa's mum and went back to the house to curl up on the bed this time around and I watched TV.. Kananelo



arrived at 18:30.

Kana: Baby.

Me: Hey. Didn't you say you working late?

Kana: I did. We managed to work things out after our call and Johnson is pleased.

Me: That's good.

Kana: Are you good?

Me: Can I talk to you?

Kana: Okay.

He sat down.

Kana: Baby Is everything fine?

Me: I need you to be honest with me okay?

Kana: Okay.

Me: you know how this works right?

Kana: We communicate.

Me: Yes..so I got a call from Mzwandile this

morning.

Kana: Ncube?

Me: Yes.

Kana: okay.

Me: And he asked if we could meet so I went there and he told me that His daughter isn't his.

Kana: the daughter he has with Banele?

Me: Yes.

Kana: okay so he wanted you to tell him who the baby daddy is?

Me: yes well sort of.

Kana; You not making any sense.

Me: Banele claims you are the baby daddy.

He laughed.

Kana: I'm sorry..what?

Me: Have you ever had sexual relations with her?

Kana: baby are you serious right now?

Me: baby I just had to ask. I mean, you came back frustrated last night, you made love to me as if you were angry at someone and you don't like her so when Mzwa told me I just completely switched

Kana: Work is what frustrated me and I apologized for hurting you this morning.. Baby I can't stand your ex friend.. From ages ago. All I've ever said to her was "hi" nothing else.

Me: I just had to ask baby

Kana: and I understand that, let me do this.

He passed me his phone.

Kana: please call Mzwa and tell him to get Banele to his house, he shouldnt tell her that we coming.

Me: Okay

I called Mzwa while he changed.

Kana: and?

Me: he said in an hour

Kana: okay. I know you told me to not fuss but I got you pills.

Me: You are so fussy.

Kana: I caused the pain, let me ease it.

Me: Well I'll take 2 before we leave

Kana: And we should leave now..baby come on.

Me: Do we have to?

Kana: I have to set the record straight..I don't have time to entertain bullshit.

He said it with alot of disgust. I changed into my shoes, took the pills and we left. When we got there Banele was surprised. very surprised.

Banele: what are they doing here?

Mzwa: I called them here..you have baby dad's issues don't you?

We sat down.

Kana: have I ever slept with you?

Banele: I...I...

Kana: Yes or no

Banele: No.

Mzwa: So you lied?

Banele: Yes

Me: who's Sphume's dad?

Banele: That's none of your business.

Me: Well it is now coz you dragging my husband and my marriage into your shitty life! Now an innocent soul is suffering coz of you. What is wrong with you!

Banele: Nothing's wrong with me and I won't stop until you back on the same level as me again.

Kana: And I'll stop at nothing to make sure you

lose every little thing you think you have, if you don't stop your childish games. Try me!

All the ifs

#17

Me: It's time to wake up!

This was the morning after we had a meeting at Mzwa's.

Kana: I'm not going to work.

Me: Really?

I was excited. I didn't even know why.

Kana: yes baby.

Me: Well I'm glad.

Kana: Come closer.

I wrapped my leg around his waist and cuddled up close to his chest.

Kana: That's it. Now we sleep. I'm very tired. It's still 5:30?

Me: 5:31

He giggled. He was still very sleepy though.

Kana: Baby let's just sleep.

Me: Okay.

We both fell asleep again and woke up at around 9:30.

Kana: Good morning.

Me: Hey baby.

Kana: Slept well?

Me: I did.

Kana: How do you feel after what happened yesterday?

Me: I don't know really. Is Banele mentally disturbed?

Kana: Banele is jealous.. There is no mental disturbance there. She is just showing you her true colors now. It happens you know?

Me: Really?

He nodded.

Kana: she didn't think you'd get here and now she doesn't know how to deal with it so she's doing all she can to ruin it for you.

Me: baby, lets not talk about this anymore.

Kana: Okay then.

Me: We should probably go brush our teeth.

Kana: you should probably let me snack on you first.

Me: Oh no.

Kana: Oh yes.

He kissed me and got me under him, snacked on me till I told him to stop coz I couldn't take it anymore.

Kana: Did I hurt your ribcage?

Me: No. I just think you are beast



Kana: Am I?

Me: You are.

Kana: Good..It means you won't go hunting...

I laughed.

Me: I would never.

Kana: Baby are you sure you fine?

Me: I am baby why?

Kana: You have no been okay since yesterday.

Me: I'm just really tired. I think the exhaustion is only taking over now.

Kana: Can I take you to the doctor? Don't say no.

Me: Fine.

Kana: Thank you.

We took a bath together, went down to have breakfast and we went to the doctor.

Kana: You going in alone right?

Me: no..come.

Kana: Okay fine.

We both went in. She ran a few tests, including pregnancy test, took my BP etc. The pregnancy test came back negative. I knew that though coz I never ever forgot to get my shot. I always made sure it was planned out.

Dr: okay you Need to rest.

Kana: What's wrong with her?

Dr: She is dehydrated and her blood pressure is really low. You just need to rest.

I was glad when we finally went home and my husband was nurse for the day, he made me mushroom soup, made me drink alot of water.

Kana: Babe.

Me: Love.

Kana: you know we have our honeymoon this weekend right?

Me: I know yes.

Kana: so Tshepang?

Me: I spoke to Palesa's mum. She said she can stay there till we back.

Kana: Okay but it would be nice to take her with.

Me: on our honeymoon?

Kana: yes.

Me: No.

Kana: okay fine..I'll send her and Palesa somewhere for the next holidays.

Me: you mean the December holidays?

Kana: Yes..

Me: just the two of them?

Kana: And two of their friends.

Me: Where?

Kana: We'll send them to Durban.

Me: I'm not sure about that.

Kana: Mom! We'll obviously have a guardian to take them

I laughed.

Me: Don't call me "mom!"

Kana: you behave like one.

Me: I've been one to her for the past 7 years.

Kana: I know baby. Its time for you to live now.

Me: am I not living?

Kana: No.

Me: how am I suppose to live?

Kana: When last did you go out?

Me: I last went out with you to the movies.

Kana: I mean partying.

Me: I can't remember.

Kana: Exactly.

Me: Well I can't just decide I'm going out.

Kana: Who's stopping you?

Me: I've got a household to run now.

Kana: Fair enough but that's not a very good excuse.

Me: Okay baby, I'm not the partying type.

Kana: I figured.

Me: so I'm okay with the dinners, picnics, lunches and movies.

Kana: Really?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Well okay If you feel that way..

Me: I do.

Kana: okay then baby.

Me: are you hungry?

Kana: Don't get up

Me: Why not?

Kana: Coz James is here.

Me: I wanted to prepare you something to eat.

Kana: James is preparing lunch..

Me: you know you married me not James right?

Kana: You know I didn't marry you so you could clean up after me, cook for me and basically be my slave you know?

Me: Well I'm your sex slave.

Kana: don't make it sound so bad.

Me: I wasn't making it sound bad. I was just saying..

Kana: is it a bad thing that I like making love to my wife?

Me: I was just saying Baby.

Kana: Is it a bad thing?

Me: No..

Kana: I thought it was.

Me: no.

Kana: you still stressed about your grandparents?

Me: I still feel bad

Kana: I would too. You are a terrible grandchild.

Me: Did you just say that to me?

Kana: Its the truth.

Me: Don't make feel so bad.

Kana: I'm not making you feel bad..

Me: I'll go see them.. Anyway who told you about the grandparents?

Kana: Tshepang mentioned it.

Me: That loudmouth..

Kana: she said you felt bad.

Me: Well I do.

Kana: why didn't you tell me?

Me: You fell asleep

Kana: oh yes.

Me: Now you a terrible husband.

He laughed and we immediately heard the door bell

Kana: I'll go get it.

Me. Okay baby.

He did and minutes later, I heard his mum's voice.

K"s mum: so why wasn't I invited to see this house?

Kana: Its not yours ma.

K"s mum: Kananelo!

Kana: No really. I'm not 10 anymore. I dont have to run things past you.

K's mum: So rude..where's your wife?



Kana: I'm taking you to her ma.

K's mum: Oh Hey Tshiamo.

Me: Dumela mama.

I got up to hug her.

K's mum: Are you sick?

Me: I'll be fine..

K's mum: Oh good then.

Kana: What's that suppose to mean?

K's mum: I'm here to fetch her..she has to go to  
Lehurutshe for her bridal duties.

All the ifs

#18

Kana looked at me, looked at his mother and  
laughed.

K's mum: Kananelo!

Me: Baby stop it

He found it amusing.

Kana: Okay sorry....what did you say ma?

K's mum: Tshiamo needs to report to  
Lehurutshe for her bridal duties

Kana: which Tshiamo?

K's mum: This Tshiamo.

Me: Baby...

K's mum: No baby. Hold on.

I kept quiet.

Kana: my wife?

K's mum: Yes

Kana: my wife's not going to the bundus to cook  
for 15 family members everyday, wash for them,  
do all that nonsense you want her to do.

K's mum: Lehurutshe is not the Bundus.

Kana: It feels like it

K's mum: Its tradition.

Kana: Whose tradition?

K's mum: Our tradition Kananelo.

Kana: Well tell your tradition makers to forget it!  
My wife's not going back in time. The nerve you  
have ma! You are literally telling me to give you  
my wife so you can take her to the Northwest  
so you can turn her into a slave?

K's mum: Why are you like this?

Kana: Coz she's my wife!

Me: Kananelo...

I finally said softly.

Kana: Tshiamo. Not now.

He was angry at his mother.

K's mum: Well the family is waiting.

Kana: Tell them to get on the nearest mountain  
and jump.

K's mum: Kananelo!

Kana: I'm done. Do you want something to drink?

K's mum: Nonsense! I'm leaving..

Kana: okay

Me: Ma...

Kana: Tshiamo let her go.

His mum got up from the couch and she left.

Me: Why did you talk to her like that?

Kana: Tshiamo, don't get on my nerves too.

He turned to start walking...

Me: I'm talking to you. Kananelo!

He stopped and turned.

Kana: Open your eyes! They are trying to make you suffer!

Me; What are you talking about?

Kana: This has your aunt's name! We don't have

"bridal duty" things. We don't practice that. So why should you be the first to do it? Why wait for over 4 weeks? I mean you were suppose to go do your bridal duties right after the wedding right?

He made sense.

Me: I guess you make sense.

Kana: You not going anywhere.

Me: okay.

Kana: Now please rest.

Me: I didn't like how you spoke to your mother

Kana: I'll apologize

Me: And apologize to me too.

Kana: I'm sorry Baby.

Me: You should get on your knees

He did and I giggled.

Kana: I'm very sorry Mrs Tefo.

Me: no chocolate? No Flowers? Nothing.

Kana: Well I've got kisses.

Me: Oh no I'll pass.

He laughed.

Kana: I won't bite..

Me: Damn right you won't! You can get up now.

He got up and pulled a blanket over me again.

Me: It's 28°C outside. Will you stop pulling this over me!

Kana: It's light..

Me: Doesn't matter baby.

Kana: Okay I'm sorry.

He took it off.

Me: But thanks for being a great nurse though.

Kana: husband duties.

Me: You doing them quite well.

Kana: As I should.

I smiled.

Kana: packed and ready to go?

Me: Ready to go yes! Packed no.

Kana: Well...

My phone rang.

Me:sorry baby.

Kana: Its okay.

I quickly answered it.

Me: Ms Nombu dear.

Nombu: Ms Tshia dear, mind opening the gate for me?

Me: in a second.

Nombu: Okay.

I hung up.

Me: Nombu's at the gate.

Kana: okay.

He got up to open it.

Kana: Go she's Here to take you from me?

Me: Basically.

Kana: Wow.

Minutes later, Nombu came in.

Nombu: The hubster is here. Hello K.

Kana: Nombu how are you?

They hugged.

Nombu: I'm okay. How are you?

Kana: I'm fine..how's Sthe doing?

Nombu: Working hard. As always.

Kana: You make it sound like its a bad thing.

Nombu: Well it is. Make time for your wives! I mean really how do you...

Kana: Okay, Baby, I'll be in the entertainment



room.

Nombu: Run Kana.

I giggled.

Me: Nombu leave my husband alone!

Kana: Thank you baby. Have fun ladies.

He left the room and Nombu sat down.

Nombu: Tshia, are you fine?

Me: I'm fine apparently my BP is low.

Nombu: really? Will you be able to go on your honeymoon?

Me: we leave tomorrow.

Nombu: Well I got you something for that.

She gave me The giftbag she had. Lingerie and cuffs

Nombu: Have fun.

Me: I will. Thank you.

I said giggling.

Nombu: are you sure you fine my babe?

Me: I am fine my babe

Nombu: You sure? I'm not staying. I just came to drop these off for you. I need to go cook

She rolled her eyes.

Me: babe are you fine?

Nombu: let's save that for lunch after your honeymoon okay? Go enjoy yourself.

Me: And I'll video call you every hour.

Nombu: I'll make sure I rejected your calls coz the only thing you should be doing on your honeymoon is your husband.

I laughed.

Me: Nombu you are something else.

Nombu: I know. Come walk me out. I want that bottle.

Me: You want that bottle of whiskey?

Nombu: Yes.

Me: Take it..but drink it when you get home.  
With your husband.

Nombu: Fine mum. Tell Kananelo. I said bye

Me: Okay. I will.

I walked her out and watched as she drove out.  
I went back to find my husband..we watched TV  
till 20:00 and when Kana got a call to open the  
gate.

Kana: Come.

Me: Where are we going?

Kana: Baby lets go to the gate.

I followed him out. It was his Elders. His 3 aunts,  
2 uncles and Mother.

Kana: You back?

Aunt 1: we have to take her.

Kana: Okay.

He let the dogs out.

Kana: Come take her.

Aunt 2: Kananelo...

Kana: I said come take her! I swear if you dont jump over that electric fence to come take her. Im opening the gate. For the last time now...Come and take her

All the ifs

#19

Me: Kananelo just...

Kana: Baby I'm not telling you to keep quiet again.

Me: Okay.

I was defeated.

Aunt 3: Kananelo!

Kana: Aren't you climbing over?

K's mum: Kananelo open the Gate!

Kana: Okay.

I quickly snatched the remote coz the bulls were already barking. Ready to attack.

Kana: Give it back!

Me: Stop it!

Kana: Tell them to leave then..

Me: elders please leave.

Aunt 1: Without you?

Me: yes Rakgadi. My husband is against me going to Lehurutshe

Uncle: its not up to your husband.

Me: I'm his wife.

K's mum: Ao? Did you forget how you two got married? It was all because of me!

Kana: and I've shown a lot of appreciation but you need to accept that your role in this

marriage has been played. You all need to go now. Baby come!

He took my hand and I walked back to the house unwillingly. I sat on the couch and he sat on the one opposite me and started switching channels.

Me: Don't you ever do that again! Those are your elders!

Kana: Do you see evidence of that in the way they behave?

Me: Kananelo...

Kana: do you?

Me: That's not the point!

Kana: then what is?

Me: You should have treated them with respect!

Kana: Well go pack your bags and follow them to Lehurutshe then. I'm trying to protect you from them coz I know what's going to happen

and here you are attacking me for it!

Me: I'm not attacking you in any way, I was just...you know what! Never mind.

I was getting dizzy and I didn't want to argue any further.

Me: I'm going to pack.

As I got up, I fell back on the couch again and he jumped up to help me rest on the couch again. He lifted my legs up and fixed the cushion and pillow I was leaning on.

Me: I'm fine..

Kana: You Not..

Me: Kana, I said I'm fine.

Kana: This is not on. Here.

I drank up the water he passed me and I took the pills afterwards. I had never felt that way. It just put me off. He kept his eyes on me for a few minutes waiting for me to say something.

Me: I'm okay.

Kana: Stop lying to me.

Me: I'm not lying to you.

Kana: I'm taking you to the hospital .

Me: Kananelo I said I'm fine.

Kana: I'm taking you to the hospital.

He went to get the car out and came back to get me.

Me: I don't know Why you fussing..

Kana: maybe coz you my wife.

Me: I'll be fine.

He got me in, got into his seat and took me to the hospital. Did the admin and I was shortly in the doctor's room who also ran a lot of tests.

Dr: Your blood pressure is fluctuating. We keeping you for the night..

Me: no I'll be fine. I feel fine..



Dr: you not fine.

I was admitted shortly. I hated hospitals. Alot.

Me: I hate you..

Kana: For saving your life?

I didn't answer him.

Kana: What's stressing you out?

Me: nothing.

Kana: Baby talk to me.

Me: I think what I've been through is only getting to me now

Kana: I'm with you now. You'll never go through that again .

Me: I know baby

Kana: You need to rest.

Me: You sleeping on that couch?

Kana; Yes

Me: The bed is big enough for you and I.

Kana: is it?

Me: Come.

The ward was very warm coz I had said I was feeling cold and he had been smart enough to grab a warm blanket before we left for the hospital so we were pretty warm.

Kana: Would I be kicked out for trying to get it on with you here?

I laughed coz I knew he was just being stupid. He hated hospitals as much as I did.

Kana: Still hate me?

Me: no.

Kana: I'm sorry about the little argument we had

Me: I'm also sorry

Kana: just trying to protect you.

Me: I know baby and I appreciate that.

Kana: we good?

I giggled.

Me: More than good. You can now help me get out of here.

He laughed.

Kana: we are sleeping here.

Me: we have to leave tomorrow..

Kana: Our flight leaves at 15:00

Me: well okay..

Kana: Relax.

Me: I'm trying..

Kana: Try harder.

Me: fine. Fine.

We fell asleep shortly, well I did coz the medication was starting to take full control of my body. When I woke up, Kana was in clean clothes and had my overnight bag next to him.

Kana: Hey beautiful.

Me: hey Caramel.

He chuckled and came to kiss me.

Me: When did you leave?

Kana: at around 5am. How are you feeling?

Me: Better than yesterday. Thanks for bringing me the bag..

Kana: I woke I didn't pick What you won't like. I settled for tracksuits.

Me: and your shirt?

Kana: no.

Me: Then you should go back home and get it.

He laughed.

Kana: not happening.

Me:bad husband..

Kana: Yeah right!

He helped me get off the bed and I went to the bathroom to freshen up. I just changed into my tracksuits to show the doctor that I wasn't planning on sleeping another night. I forced the terrible food down my throat and at 10:30, I was discharged. When we got home, we started packing and later left. An amazing weekend. It was heaven on earth. I spent most of my time naked coz someone wouldn't let me rest. He was careful enough to not hurt my ribcage and I enjoyed every minute of our passionate love making coz it got better every time! It was mind blowing. My body was his. He just took ownership and did whatever he wanted to do when it suited him. I was fine with it really. On Monday, we flew back in. Got home at around 21:00 and just slept. I missed Tshepang and Nombu though. On Tuesday, he decided to take me out for breakfast and a bit of grocery shopping..snack shopping to be specific, he filled the trolley with all sorts of junk food.

When we got home, Mirriam, one of the helpers, was with Kananelo's mum

Kana: Ma, I'm not in the mood to fight with you please. What are you doing here? I gave you your allowance didn't I?

K's mum: I'm not Here to fight with you..

Kana: Then?

K's mum: I came to apologize.

Kana: Oh?

K's mum: Yes

Kana: ma, what is it?

K's mum: Celia and I have been blackmailing each other.

Kana: what does she have on you?

K's mum: Fraud.

Kana: Fraud?

K's mum: I did a few things in the past.

Kana: what things?

K's mum: I have been helping people get things that weren't rightfully theirs.

Me: What are you saying ma? Is my mother's house one of those things?

K's mum: Yes. I helped her get that.

Kana: And what do you have against her?

She kept quiet

Kana: mama!

K's mum: she killed your parents Tshia.

All the ifs

All the ifs

#20

I felt my head spinning. I had always suspected it but I always let it slide. I felt my blood boil and I turned to Kananelo's mother.

Me: I'm sorry what?

K's mum: your parents were going to make it. They were going to be fine coz the injuries weren't so bad.

Me: She went to finish them off?

K's mum: Yes.

Me: How?.

K's mum: she suffocated them.

I felt the tears on my cheeks..my own mother's sister had killed her. Her own flesh and blood. She had killed her to get things that didn't belong to her .things she had never worked a day for. She made my own sister and I suffer all because of what? Money, cars and a house?! How cruel could one get? What kind of an animal was she? I quickly wiped the tears off my face .

Kana: so you are an accomplice

K's mum: Kananelo please understand



Kana: There's nothing to understand.

K's mum: I'm sorry

Kana: Really?

K's mum: I mean it

I had no words

Me: Can I be excused?

Kana: Baby...

Me: Please. I just want to be alone

Kana: Okay

I went up to the bathroom. and I just locked the door, I cried till I felt my voice fade. I wasn't screaming but I could feel my voice crack and fade. Couldn't mum fight? Couldn't Tshepang's dad fight? How did she pull it off? I had a lot of questions but I had no one to answer the mum. The culprit was in the house of the ones she killed. When I finally got the strength to get up from the floor about 30 minutes later, I washed

my face and when I left the visitor's bathroom to go to my bedroom, Kana was in the bedroom waiting for me.

Kana: Here

It was my pills and a bottle of water. I slowly took them and drank up.

Kana: Are you fine?

I shook my head. He was asking a stupid question

Me: Where's your mum?

Kana: She left.

Me: Okay.

Kana: How are you feeling?

Me: Are you seriously asking me that?

Kana: I really don't know what to say to you baby.

Me: maybe you shouldn't say anything at all

then.

Kana: Oh okay.

He got up from the couch and left the room.. I curled up on the bed and put my head down. I only got up when I heard Tshepang's voice and that was at around 16:30.

Tshepang: Hey sis.

She was in a happy mood

Me: Hey you..

Tshepang: You good?

She and Kana were making milkshakes in the kitchen.

Me: I'm okay.

Tshepang: did you get me anything?

Me: Yes. Its in your bedroom.

Tshepang: Oh thank you very much.

Me: its a pleasure. Had fun at Palesa's?

Tshepang: A lot actually.

Me: I'm glad you did.

Tshepang: And I'm glad you had fun on your honeymoon.

Me: I did..

Tshepang: let me go see my gift. I'll be back Abut'Kananelo.

Kana: Okay nanas.

She left us.

Kana: Milkshake?

Me: I'm fine .

Kana: sure?

I nodded .

Me: I'm sorry.

Kana: For?

Me: Speaking to you the way I did in the

bedroom.

Kana: Shoot a man for caring Baby.

Me: I'm really sorry.

He kept quiet and gave me a milkshake anyway

Kana: It was made with love..hope it will make you feel better

I took a sip.

Me: It tastes good.

Kana: Think I should open a milkshake business?

I giggled .

Me: No..

Kana: way better..

Me: What is?

Kana: seeing a smile.

Me: I'm trying.

Kana: are you going to tell Tshelang?

Me: do you think I should?

Kana: no..she has final exams coming up I don't think you should.

Me: Ever?

Kana: Till she's old enough.

Me: I guess you right

Kana: Going to have her arrested?

Me: do I have enough evidence?

Kana: Maybe.

Me: Maybe not.

Kana: I'll talk to our lawyer

I shook my head.

Me: We should probably let the universe deal with this as well.

Kana: You give the universe a lot of credit don't you?

Me: Bad deeds catch up with us .

Kana: that's true

Me: So I'll just let the uni....

"Thank you so much"

We were interrupted by a grateful Tshepang.

Me: Like them?

Tshepang: Oh yes. Can't wait to rock these dresses

Me: do the most.

Tshepang: Can I have my milkshake? I don't want to be the candle holder

We laughed

Me: Your time will come.

Kana: I'll kill that boy. You not suppose to date until you 35,

Tshepang: Haaa!.

Kana: Rules

Tshepang: Unfair rules..

Kana: You'll thank me later.

We laughed again and she left us.

Kana: To the universe?

Me: Yes. I'll just leave it to the universe. I can't say I'm not hurt though

'Kana: You and I both. You think you know someone and then they just prove you wrong.

Me: Are you talking about your mum?

Kana: Yes

Me: She probably had her reasons

Kana: Greedy and selfish reasons. I don't condone criminal acts.

Me: Did you ask why?

Kana: I'm not interested.



'Me: So you want to get her arrested?

Kana: That's totally up to her. She'll see how she deals with Celia.

Me: I guess so.

I tried to avoid the truth but it kept me up the entire night. I was Happy when the sun rose coz I knew I was going to get distracted a bit even though it would stick at the back of my mind that my parents were killed by a selfish old bitch. I dropped Tshepang off at school and Kana was back work. I forced him to go. I went back to change and had a few errands to run. Tshepang had extra lessons so I had told her to use an uber back home, Kana got home 30 minutes earlier than his usual time. He was on the phone.

Kana: Sure sure Ernest....sharp.

He hung up.

Kana: hey baby.

Me: hey.

Kana: That was Ernest?

Me: The one that lives two houses away from the house that Celia stole from us?

Kana: yes. He says the house burnt down. They can't even recognize what's what.

Me: oh?

Kana: Your universe worked for you.

Me: my petrol and matchbox worked for me.

All the ifs

#21

Kana: Wait... What do you mean?

Me: It means I went to get petrol and matches then set the house on fire.

Kana: Baby are you drunk?

Me: Do I look drunk?

Kana: Maybe you not understanding what you saying.

Me: I am.

Kana: You sure?

Me: I am.

Kana: You burnt the house down?

Me: What's so difficult to understand?

Kana: Didn't you say the universe will...

Me: I changed My mind.

Kana: Baby have you any idea how much trouble you could get in?

Me: I don't care.

Kana: Did anyone see you?

Me: I used the gate at the back.

Kana: Oh!

Me: So no one saw me if that's what you stressed about.

Kana: So you proud of what you did?

Me: I think I deserve an award.

He shook his head.

Kana: Baby is this you talking or is it the hurt?  
I'm getting worried now.

Me: what I did was therapeutic. Im fine now.

Kana: Tshia, you...

Me: I told James to not stress about dinner.  
What do you want to eat?

Kana: Is this you terminating the conversation?

Me: Yes it is

Kana: okay then. Anything is fine.

Me: chicken it is then.

Kana: I'm going to take a shower.

Me: Have fun.

He got up from the couch and went to the bathroom, I headed to the kitchen to start cooking and minutes later, the little sister came in.

Tshepang: How did you make it through high school again?

I laughed

Me: I held on.

Tshepang: I'm losing my grip..

Me: You better not.

Tshepang: How are you sis? You look way better than you did this morning.

Me: I feel better

Tshepang: Did something upset you?

Me: something did but its over now...

Tshepang: I wonder.

Me: Keep wondering.

She grabbed a bottle of water and a carrot.

Tshepang: Is Abhut'Kananelo home?

Me; He is.

Tshepang: nice! Let me go change.

Me: Do that. Your tutor is going to start coming in from next week..

Tshepang: best news ever!

Me: Yes. I'll stop sleeping late too. I'm so happy..

She laughed.

Tshepang: Good sisters Don't mind.

Me: I've been your teacher for years now. From Primary. I need to retire.

Tshepang: you sort of deserve the rest.

Me: I do

Tshepang: You leaving again this week right?

Me: Yep..

Tshepang: You sound so enthusiastic.

She was being sarcastic.

Me: I know right?

Tshepang: can I go to Ntate Lucas' for the weekend then?

Me: I don't know.

Tshepang: But why?

Me: I don't trust Priscilla.

Tshepang: I'll be extra careful.

Me: I'll think about it.

Tshepang: Do you have to?

Me: yes.

Tshepang: I'll be fine.

Me: I said I'll think about it

Tshepang; okay fine.

Me: Fine.

Tshepang: I'll be in my room.

Me: Do That

She took her bag and left me to continue with my cooking. I got a call from my dad.

Me: speak of the father and the father shall call.

He laughed

Dad: How are you Lily?

Me: I'm okay dad. How are you?

Dad: I'm fine..listen, I'm taking the three out this weekend.. Probably to Magalies. I was hoping Tshepang could tag along.

Me: And she just asked if she could come there for the weekend. I said that I'll think about it

Dad: what's there to think about?

Me: I don't trust your wife.



Dad: Fair enough but my wife will not be coming with us.

Me: Okay then

Dad: when are you and Kana going away with your friends?

Me: Friday morning.

Dad: we'll Come fetch Tshepang tomorrow.

Me: okay dad..

Dad: is that Fine?

Me: Its okay

Dad: See you tomorrow then

Me: Bye dad. Love you.

Dad: Hey, before you hang up, I heard your mum's house was left in ashes.

Me: I heard too.

Dad: You have anything to do with it?

Me: What's that suppose to mean?

Dad: It means did you finally see it fit to get your revenge on your aunt?

Me: No dad

Dad: I hope not coz you should get into trouble for this.

Me: Don't worry.

Dad: Okay then.

Me: Okay dad

Dad: love you too baby.

Me: Love you dad. Bye

I quickly hung up and continued cooking. I was hoping nothing would disturb me now..I wanted to pay attention to what I was doing but I had a husband who loved being around me.

Kana: Someone at the gate..want to answer?

I did.

Me: Yes?

Aunt: Please let us in.

Me: Okay.

I opened up for them.

Kana: Who is it?

Me: Celia and Lerato.

Kana: you let them in?

Me: Yes sir. Let's accommodate the homeless for a night or so. They can use the caravan.

Kana: You are something else.

Me: I know baby.

We waited for the doorbell and when they finally came in with overnight bags as I had suspected they would, Kana welcomed them.

Aunt: I know you said...

Me: It's Okay Mamogolo, Ernest called and told us what happened.

She looked like she was in tears. So was Lerato.

Me: I'll make you something to drink..

Lerato: thank you.

Me: I'll ask Tshepang to take your bags to the caravan

Aunt C: Thank you Tshiamo. Thank you Kana

Kana: Sure.

Me: was the house insured?

Aunt C: Luckily yes.

Me: That's better.

I called Tshepang to help them take the bags to the caravan while I made them tea and finished cooking. I was very civil. I sympathized with them. Tshepang and Kana were were shocked but kept Cool..we all went to bed at 21:00 and the next morning, Kana decided to take Tshepang to school and I made my guests breakfast..

Me: Morning..

Lerato: Good morning.

Me: Slept well?

Aunt: We did..thank you.

Me: Breakfast.

Aunt: Thanks Tshiamo..

Me: It's a pleasure. Listen Mamogolo.

I sat down.

Me: Your insurance is going to pay out right?

Aunt: Yes.

Me: And you going to build another house?

Aunt: Yes. I have to.

Me: well I have an idea. When you build that house, make sure the title deed has my name and Tshepang's name on it.

Aunt: What do you mean?

Me: I know you killed my mother. I know that you got that house and money through corruption, I know everything you did.. So either you go to jail or you do the right thing, which is build Tshepang's house and hand her the keys afterwards.

Aunt: You did all that didn't you? You set the house on fire!

Me: No I didn't. I set the bad memories you created in my mother's house on fire. Build a new one so my sister and I can create happy ones. I'll get you a shack in the mean time and don't you dare try to get smart with me coz if you do, you'll be the next thing in ashes.

All the ifs

#22

Me: Finish eating and leave my house!

Lerato's mouth hung open.

Me: What?

Lerato: When did you get this evil?

I ignored her and looked at her mother.

Me: Why did you kill my mother?

Her eyes quickly shifted from me.

Me: I won't ask again.

Aunt: I didn't kill...

Me: Why did you kill my mother!

She kept quiet..

Me: Your own flesh! Your own blood! What kind of an animal are you? What kind of a monster are you?

Lerato: my mother didn't...

Me: Shut up!

I threw the apple at her and she ducked.

Me: Shut the fuck up!

She quickly buried her face in her plate of food.

Me: Celia are you going to answer me?

She kept quiet again.

Me: Okay. I'll give you two minutes to think about it.

I checked my messages from Nombu and after I finished playing with my phone, I put it down.

Me: Why?

Aunt: I didn't mean to.

Me: Then why?

Aunt: I was jealous of her..

Me: So you decided to take her life?

Aunt: I wanted to have everything she had..

Me: so you decided to snatch our mother from us? From a 16 year old and a 9 year old?

She had tears on her face.



Me: Wipe that nonsense off your face..

She did.

Me: Are you happy?

She shook her head.

Me: Are you?

Aunt: No

Me: Bring her back then

Aunt: Tshiamo...

Me: If you not happy with what you did then bring her back. Have you any idea how much you've hurt me? You've continued doing so even after you killed my mum! You killed Tshiamo's father! You made me drop out! You made me work while your daughter continued enjoy her life. You made a slave in my own mother's house! Have you no heart! What kind of a person are you!

Her face was wetter .

Me: I told you to wipe that nonsense off your face .

Lerato: I'm not going to sit here and let you talk to my mother like that! Enough!.

Me: Get out! Both you and your mother.

Aunt: Tshiamo...

Me: Get out!.

They quickly got up and left my house. I watched as they got their things from the caravan and walked out. I went to take a bath and went to meet with Nombu..she wanted to go bathing suit shopping.

Nombu: nice enough for the island?

Me: Its just water Nombu.

Nombu: No. Sthe must see me.

I giggled.

Me: He sees you everyday

Nombu: You know.what I mean.

Me: Are you two still not fine?

Nombu: I don't know.

Me: He'll come around

Nombu: He bring work home.

Me: Okay no that's bad.

Nombu: You see?

Me: Now I understand why you so mad.

Nombu: getting any?

Me: Any what?

Nombu: Bathing suits.

Me: You going to force me to anyway

Nombu: I am. Pick.

I picked up about 3 and we went to have drinks  
coz we weren't hungry

Nombu: where's your friend?

Me: Banele?

Nombu: Yes that one.

Me: She tried to poison my food.

Nombu: What?

Me: for real.

Nombu: What kind of a friend does that?

Me: She apparently feels jealous and blah blah  
blah...

She laughed.

Nombu: You are so uninterested.

Me: I just Don't have time to entertain petty  
stuff anymore

Nombu: I'll drink to that.

Me: How's Siya doing?

She had a 3 year old son. I adored him. Cute  
little thing.

Nombu: He's okay. That naughty one..he was asking about you.

Me: I love your son.

Nombu: take him please..

Me: With Pleasure.

Nombu: When can I bring him?

Me: After the trip. I'm not looking forward to spending time with the others you know?

Nombu: You mean the divas?

Me: The divas yes.

Nombu: One person annoys you.

Me: Okay true. Moratua is too much. Lets not even talk about her.

We had our drinks and continued shopping. Shopping and shopping. I was tired when I got home, Tshepang was more than excited when dad came to fetch her.

Kana: So many bags.

Me: Nombu.

Kana: Excited about the trip?

Me: I feel okay.

Kana: Just okay?

Me: Just okay.

Kana: whats wrong?

Me: I'm really tired. I'm never going shopping with Nombu again.

He laughed

Kana: I don't think you mean that.

Me: Watch me baby.

Kana: I'll do just that.

Me: foot massage?

Kana: oh come on.

Me: Do your husband duties.

Kana: Okay come then.

I got comfortable and he started massaging me.

Me: that feels so good.

Kana: Pay me.

Me: Never. I told Celia to sign the house over to us

Kana: Will she do that?

Me; she has no choice

Kana: How do you plan on doing that?

Me: I recorded her confession.

Kana: When?

Me: this morning.

I made him listen to it.

Kana: Baby!

Me: I'm tired of people hurting my sister and I.

Kana: So How do you plan on doing this?

Me: She'll build The house, give it back to its owners and I'll get her a shack

Kana: You have this all planned out don't you?

Me: I do..

Kana: And if it doesn't work out that way?

Me: Either it's my way or the highway.

All the ifs

#23

Kana: This is not the way to do it

Me: Then what should I do?

Kana: You were going to let the universe do the work. What changed?

Me: Hurt

Kana: I understand that you hurt but...

Me: You don't understand anything. You didn't lose a parent when you were just 16, you didn't have to drop out, find work, be a slave to an evil



aunt. Don't tell me you understand coz you don't.

I took my phone from the couch and left him there coz he was annoying me. I went to start packing for the trip I wasn't even looking forward to.

Kana: Don't you ever do that again!

He was standing at the door.

Kana: I don't walk away when you talk to me. I listen to whatever you have to say and try to see what's what! Didn't we say we'll communicate.

Me: I don't like that you not supporting me.

Kana: Just because I'm your husband doesn't mean I have to support everything you do. Couldn't you have just asked her to sign the house back to you and Tshepang?

Me: I did what I felt was right.

Kana: Even if it could get you into trouble?

Me: It won't.

Kana: How do you know that?

Me: Baby it won't.

Kana: okay Tshiamo.

He wasn't on the same boat as me. I understood his concerns but I needed his support.

Me: what should I pack for you?

Kana: don't worry about it.

Me: So you mad at me?

Kana: I'm mad at what you becoming.

Me: That woman deserves everything I'm doing to her.

Kana: you are playing God.

Me: And She didn't?

He kept quiet

Me: Let me deal with this..

Kana: Goodluck..

Me: thank you.

Kana: I hope you know what you doing.

Me: I do.

Kana: Okay Tshiamo.

He grabbed one of his bags and started packing, we weren't talking to each other. Just questions and answer till we eventually went to bed. The next morning, we took a shower together coz we were running late and Fezile was coming to fetch us in his microbus.

Me: Can you atleast talk to me?

Kana: will you listen?

Me: As long as it's not about Celia.

Kana: okay. Are you hungry?

Me: Kananelo please.

Kana: you have everything you need. What do

you want?

Me: My mother's house..

Kana: you burnt it down.

Me: That's still my mother's property though

Kana: If you wanted a house, I would have easily gotten you one..you have a house! You live in it. Its deed has your name. Baby what should I do to help you move on and heal?

Me: Just let me do this please! It will give me peace.

Kana: Will it?

I nodded.

Kana: Okay then. if its what you really want to do.

Me: still mad at me?

He smiled.

Kana: A little

Me: I'll fix that.

Kana: Will you?

Me: Yes.

Kana: How?

Me: How about we get to Nosy Be first.

Kana: let's get there then.

5 minutes later, Fez was parked outside. We fetched Amanda and Lindani then headed to the airport to catch our flight to Nosy Be. The divas were so excited about it. Nombu and were chilled. We sat next to each other coz we didn't have time to entertain the divas.

Me: Will they be this demanding until we get to Nosy Be?

Nombu: you have no idea. They wanted a private jet.

Me: From who?

Nombu: their husbands.

Me: so spoilt. These men are just well off not trillionnaires if there is such.

She giggled.

Nombu: You are a fine one to talk.

Me: I dont know what that means.

Nombu: you have a loaded husband.

Me: So do you.

Nombu: He's the wealthiest of them all.

Me: Really?

Nombu: Really. Which rock do you live under?

Me: Kananelo's rock.

Nombu: yet you know nothing about him?

Me: I'm not interested in his wealth.

Nombu: Is that why you want to further your studies?

Me: I want to be my own person.

Nombu: I wish I had your strength.

Me: I wish I had yours too. You just seem like the perfect wife.

She smiled.

Nombu: I have a very demanding husband. I sort of have to be...

Me: I think I need lessons on that.

Nombu: You'll get used to it?

Me: Really?

Nombu: You'll see...

A great flight to Nosy Be. Well atleast they chose a great place.. Very beautiful. We went to settle in our rooms and I decided to change into a short dress and cute sandals. The hubby changed into denim shorts and a cute tee.

Kana: when are you going to make it up to me?

He ran his fingers up my thighs and I moved uncomfortably.

Me: please stop it.

Kana: Why?

Me: Coz you about to slide your finger inside of me and I don't...

He pressed me against the wall and had me whatever way he wanted to. I had to fix myself up when Sthe called him to inform us that they were waiting for us. We walked down to them for drinks.

Amanda: cute dress Tshiamo.

Me: Thank you. Cute shoes.

Amanda: Thanks.

The guys were seated at their own table..they were having beers and we had settled for cocktails.

Nombu: I found a table for two.



Me: okay.

Nombu: later ladies.

We left then and that's pretty much how we spent the weekend. Nombu was such an amazing soul. She reminded me of Nolo. Funny, loving and fun!

3 months later, I was ready to start school in February. Well part time. A great festive season with the family. Had finally met the grandparents again and Priscilla and I were fine. Grandma didn't like her though. She and granddad would always come over to my house..I loved her visits. So did Kananelo..

Nolo: You are glowing!

Me: I am happy.

Nolo; And pregnant..

Me: No I'm not.

Nolo: Yes you are.

Me: Nolo how many times must I tell you...I'm on contraceptives!

Nolo: Okay then.

We were having lunch when a call came through from Celia telling me to come over. We finished eating and I drove us there.

Nolo: Look at this. Your people did a great job on this house.

Me: They did didn't they? Mum would be so proud.

Nolo: It looks complete.

Me: They called to tell me this morning.

We walked in. It was beautiful.. We just needed furniture.

Celia: Tshiamo.

Me: Celia.

Celia: I hope you happy.

Me: More than happy.

She passed me the keys. I had made sure she had followed procedure for the title deed.

Me: Your new shack awaits you!

All the ifs

#24

Kana: Baby?

Me: Mmm

Kana: wake up!

This was the day after Celia had handed over the keys to me.

Me: What time is it?

Kana: 7:30

I struggled to open my eyes but I officially did..

Me: Why aren't you at work?

Kana: I'm working from home today.

Me; Oh okay.

I sat up straight and he got the continental pillow for me to lean on

Me: Thank you

Kana: pleasure.

Me: so now because you working from home you disturbing my sleep?

Kana: I have every Right to.

Me: Says who?

Kana: marriage book.

I giggled.

Me: Lies!

Kana: Truth.

Me: oh give it up.. You just missed me.

Kana: I did. I'm sorry I gave you half of me last night.

Me; You were busy with work.. I understand.

Kana: All good?

I nodded.

Kana: still going furniture shopping with Nolo?

Me: Yes. At 10 though.

Kana: how long will you take?

Me: I have no idea. Let me go brush my teeth.

Kana: Okay then.

I made my way there. I didn't have a teenager to take to school anymore. Why? Tshepang lived with Dad and Priscilla. She loved it apparently. I was against it but dad and his wife sat me down and told me to let them do the parenting and that I should worry about my husband and my own studies. They came every second weekend but I always went there to check on them. Lesedi was taking a gap year. Resego and Tshepang were both doing matric so they

were helping each other and dad had gotten them another tutor..My little half sister Bontle was in grade 2. I finished brushing my teeth and washing my face then went back to Kananelo.

Me: Coffee?

Kana: I'm making you some today..

Me: Well well...

Kana: Come.

Me': Can I fix the bed first?

Kana: Okay youll find me In the kitchen.

Me: okay then.

I did what I had to and found my coffee waiting for me.

Me: Tastes good.

Kana: A master at that too.

Me: You are a master at a lot of things.

Kana: When you good, you good.

Me: Oh whatever!

Kana: so who's going to live at the house?

Me: Nolo, her sister Keneilwe and Her son

Kana: Doesn't Nolo live with Vusi?

Me: Well they broke Up a month ago.

Kana: Vusi and Nolo broke up?

Me: Yes. Apparently they've always had issues but Nolo was hiding it.

Kana: That's bad.

Me: Life

Kana: So where has she been living?

Me: some flat.

Kana: And she agreed?

Me: Well she didn't want to But I don't think flats are ideal places to raise a 4 year old. Especially those without play areas..

Kana: Makes sense.

Me: So you know her. She's decided to buy beds and pedestals for the other Bedrooms.

Kana: makes sense.

Me: Since the house had fitted wardrobes and kitchen cupboards.

Kana: And When can I come see it?

Me: We can go after we shower.

Kana: That's fine by me.

Me: This is really coffee by the way.

Kana: thank you.

Me: Love you..

Kana: love you more baby.

After coffee, we went to take a shower then went to the house.

Kana: This is beautiful.



Me: Right?

Kana: 4 bedrooms?

Me: Yes. 1 for me, one for Nolo, Tshepang and Keneilwe decided to share one and the other is a guestroom.

Kana: its beautiful

Me: Thank you baby.

Kana: You keeping the tenants outside?

Me: I am. I almost burnt the rooms down too but they didn't do anything so...

Kana: I would have had you arrested myself.

Me: You wouldn't.

Kana: I would. You can't drag people into war they didn't start.

Me: I know.

Kana: Are you happy?

I took a deep breath.

Me: Absolutely.

Kana: got your closure?

Me: I am actually.

Kana: where's Your aunt now?

Me: In her new shack.

Kana: You really got her a shack?

Me: Don't look at me like that.

Kana: Okay fine.

Me: Yes..I did her a favor.

Kana: How?

Me: I got her shelter.

Kana: let's not dive Into it now.

Me: That's a good idea.

Kana: Think we can get food around here?

Me: we can. Jabulani mall baby

Kana: Let's go

Me: okay.

He locked up and we went to get breakfast.  
Nolo fetched me from the house at 10 and we went to some furniture shops near Emmarentia.

Nolo: What about these couches?.

Me: I think they are beautiful.

Nolo: very stylish.

Me: I agree. That coffee table would go well with it.

Nolo: oh yes

Me: We should get it.

Nolo: sure?

Me: One hundred percent..

They said they'd deliver and we later proceeded to get kitchenware, lounge carpets and a whole lot of things. We went to pack the things in and because Nolo was hungry...so was I, we went

back to JB mall for a late lunch.

Me: We did a good Job.

Nolo: I agree.

Me: what time is Sabelo coming back from School?

Nolo: he's at Vusi's for the week..

Me: coz we busy this week?

Nolo: Basically..

Me: Makes sense.

Nolo: I know.

Me: can't you and Vusi get back together?

Nolo: I've had enough of him. I tried.

Me: Oh Nolo.

Nolo: I've been through the most with that guy. I've had enough.

Me: That bad?

Nolo: That bad.

Me: you deserve happiness.

Nolo: And I am now.

"I thought that I was you"

We both turned.

Lungelo: Hey!

Me: Hey.

Lungelo: Nolo.

Nolo: Hi.

Lungelo: I was going to call you hey.

Me: Why?

Lungelo: To deliver an invite.

Me: An invite?

Lungelo: Yes.

He took it out from the bag he was carrying.

Lungelo: Here you go..

Nolo took it, opened it and chuckled.

Nolo: You must be kidding.

Me: What is It?

Nolo: He's inviting you to his wedding.

Me: so what's so funny about that?

Nolo: He's getting married to Banele.

All the ifs

#25

Me: Lungelo is getting married to who?

Nolo: Banele.

She was still laughing about it.

Me: Congratulations

Lungelo: Thank you.

Nolo: does she know who the baby daddy is now?

Lungelo: Sphume is my daughter .

Me: What?

Lungelo: I've always known

Me: Wow Lungelo! Wow! You know what you two deserve each other.

Lungelo: RSVP.

Me: I'll make sure I'm at the front row.

I shot a smile at him.

Lungelo: Enjoy your lunch.

Nolo: See you at your wedding!.

Lungelo: You not invited Nolo.

Nolo: Oh my ass is coming to this Popeye thing you call a wedding.

I cleared my throat. Nolo could be so extra at times..

Nolo: Go on

Lungelo moved on from us and I looked at Nolo.

Nolo: And then?

Me: Why did you do that?

Nolo: Do what?

Me: Be so rude

Nolo: To what!

Me: To the groom.

She laughed again!.

Nolo: Can we just eat?

Me: Please

We had lunch and I had to uber home

Me: Dumelang Ntate Tefo!

Kana: Well someone had a great day.

Me: I did

I said kissing him.

Kana: How did the shopping go?

Me: Very well..



Kana: Got everything you needed?

Me: And more

Kana: Well that's great.

Me: It is. So I bumped into Lungelo

Kana: Your ex?

Me: Yes. And he gave me this.

I gave him the invitation card. He scanned through it and laughed.

Kana: what?

Me: I've RSVP'd

Kana: Is this a joke?

Me: No.

Kana: The friends you have.

Me: Had.

Kana: Same thing baby.

Me: No past tense. Didn't you do English at

school?

He laughed.

Kana: You need an outfit?

Me: Yes

Kana: another shopping spree?

Me: Yes! You coming with to the wedding?

Kana: Nope.

Me: Why not?

Kana: I'd rather be out drinking Heineken than attend this nonsense.

Me: Baby be nice. My ex best friend is getting married to my ex boyfriend. Its not nonsense.

He giggled.

Kana: you loving this aren't you?

Me: If people want to act like clowns, watch them! Entrance to the circus is free so why not? Besides I'm black. I like free things.

He closed his laptop and just laughed again.

Kana: you know, if there's one thing Celia did right, it was leading me to you.

Me: I'm with you on that

Kana: we should buy her a gift..

Me: Who? Celia?

Kana: Yes

Me: Nope. I'm not with you on that one.

Kana: Okay fine. So you know what you want to buy the couple?

Me: no .

Kana: Get them something they need.

Me: like?

Kana: Brains.

I laughed

Me: Good one baby. I'm serious though.

Kana: Anything baby .

Me: like?

Kana: I don't know.

Me: Okay I'll think of something. By the way, Lungelo is the baby daddy.

Kana: What?

Me: He's Sphume's dad

Kana: Those two deserve to be together, I just feel sorry for their daughter.

Me: I know right?

Kana: Let's talk about somethings else..

Me: I don't feel Like talking .

Kana: What do you feel like?

Me: You..

He tried to suppress his smile.

Kana: I need to work.

Me; On me.

I moved the files and his laptop to the couch he had in his office. I sat on the table and took his shirt off.

Kana: Here?

Me: Now

We kissed passionately and he had me clinging on to the edges of his desk, he went in deep it felt like he was right up my abdomen. I couldn't even tell him to stop coz I loved and hated it at the same time. I caught my breath when he got out.

Kana: Can I work now?

Me: I think....

I was still trying to catch my breath.

Kana: I can't hear you.

Me: I think you can work now..

Kana: In peace?

Me: Yes. That felt good

He blushed

Kana: You felt good too.

Me: I'm going to cook..

Kana: I'll be with you in a few..

Me: Okay then.

I fixed my dress and went to the kitchen to start cooking. He came to the kitchen after 25 minutes or so. He sat with me as I finished cooking, we had dinner, went to relax in the tub together then slept, the next day, he went to work and I had to go to Soweto. Nolo had taken the week off from work to help me.

Me: I'm getting tired of seeing your face

I said jokingly and we both laughed.

Nolo: I know you love my company..

Me: Of course .

Nolo: So the beds are here. I bought the linen.  
The pedestals people are coming. They called.  
They are about 15 minutes away

Me: That was quick.

Nolo: you know me, I do things real quick..

Me: Probably seduced...

My phone rang. It was a number I had never  
seen before.

Me: Hello?.

"Hey Its me"

Me: Who?

"Banele"

Me: oh God what now! I told your fiancé that I'm  
coming to the wedding.

Banele: He told me. I know.

Me: Okay so?

Banele: I was hoping we could meet.

Me: We really have nothing to meet and talk about.

Banele: We do.

Me: We do?

Banele: I'd like you to be my maid of honor.

All the ifs

#26

Me: Hello?

Banele: Tshia.

Me: Are you listening to yourself?

Banele: Yes.

Me: What Did you say?

Banele: I asked you to be my maid of honor..

Me: What am I to you?

Banele: Tshia, I was hoping we could put the



past behind us and move on.

Me: I've moved on. Listen, ask someone else to be your maid of honor. I'm really not interested.

I hung up and Nolo's eyes were fixed on me.

Nolo: Maid of honor? For who now?

Me: Lungelo's fiancée

She laughed till tears came out. She could barely even breathe as she kept trying to massage her stomach. She finally clapped her hands when she calmed down.

Nolo: You need to be cleansed.

Me: Nolo be serious.

Nolo: I can't! Has Banele forgotten what she did to you a few months ago?

Me: Puzzles me

Nolo: I mean, it's bad enough That she has a child with your ex, she tried to poison you, she

claimed your husband is her baby daddy, she's getting married to your ex and now she wants you to be her maid of honor? Banele is trying too hard.

Me: I don't need these kind of things in my life now.

Nolo: Exactly! We going there as guests.

I laughed.

Me: Ready?

Nolo: We are going to slay!

Me: Oh you already have an outfit?

Nolo: I'm Bonolo cuz! I'm always ready!

I laughed again! She was such a Darling!

Me: Slay girl!

Nolo: Always!

Me: I'll have to look for one.

Nolo: You have enough clothes.

Me: A woman never has enough clothes. Dont you ever say that!

My phone rang again.

Nolo: Oh it's the mad one again.

I giggled, shook my head and answered my phone.

Me: Baby .

Kana: hey you, how are you?

Me: I'm okay. You good?

Kana: Just tired..

Me: How's work?

He sighed.

Kana: I need a holiday

Me: now?

Kana: Yes.

Me; You can go Alone.

Kana: I'll never do that.

Me: You know I start school soon right?

Kana: In 2 weeks and you are part time.

Me: Okay fine..

Kana: Is that a yes?

Me: It is..

Kana: thank you. I'll see you at home..

Me: Kananelo...

Kana: Baby?.

Me: you are about to hit the "book" option now aren't you? Is that why you called?

He giggled

Kana: I needed the wife's permission first

Me: Sleek!

Kana: You love me anyway. do I have it?

Me: You do my love

Kana: thank you. I love you

Me: I love you too.

We hung up at the same time and Nolo and I continued settling in. Kana had made bookings for Friday so that meant we were going to spend a week away from home, he really needed it coz he was drained! Believe it or not. Usually people were rejuvenated after the festive season not my husband. He had been taking everyone's bonuses the entire December. It was time for him to just relax.

Me: So we are leaving in two days? Is that what you telling me?

Kana: Yes. If you not okay with...

Me: its fine.

Kana: you'll be back in time for the wedding right?

Me: I guess so.. Banele called me

Kana: for what now?

Me: To be her maid of honor.

He laughed.

Kana: Is Banele on drugs?

Me: ask again.

Kana: what did you say?

Me: No obviously.

Kana: That's good..I think she's trying to lure her way back into your life.

Me: Well she has another thing coming. I'm good without her.

Kana: I still don't like her.

I laughed.

Me: That's very clear. I don't like her too. So where to this time?

Kana: My favorite place.

Me: Let me guess...Praslin?

Kana: Yes ma'am

Me: What's so special about that place?

Kana: Well for one, it's Seychelles. Secondly, it has a population of about 6,500 people and I know you'll love it.

Me: Well I can't wait.

Kana: Just 48 more hours.

Me: Fair enough.

+48 hours later, we were in Praslin, I understood why he loved the place. It was gorgeous. And he just got so relaxed the minute we arrived. You could tell it was his place of serenity. We spent the week doing fun stuff. Fun activities. I didn't even want to go back home.

Kana: Baby hurry up.

Me: I'm trying to zip the bag

Kana: Stop lying. You trying to make us miss our flight

I laughed.

Me: Fine. I don't understand why we catching a Thursday flight.

Kana: Because I have a meeting tomorrow and you have to Get to the wedding on Saturday.

Me: Okay fine then.

He zipped up and we left the hotel.

Kana: We'll come back..

Me: When?

Kana: Anytime.

Me: Tomorrow after your meeting.

He laughed.

Kana: Besides tomorrow.

Me: okay then fine.



We made our way to the airport and caught our flight back home. When we got home, we just slept and the next day he went to work and I just lazed around. Nombu was on her family vacation so I couldn't go visit her. My sister was too busy for me. Dad always had something planned for them when they weren't studying. The next Saturday, I got ready to go to the wedding. We were giving Nolo's car a break so we took mine.

Me: Looking pretty cuz.

Nolo: You look hot in that dress..

Me: Thank you..let's go get people married.

She laughed.

Nolo: You even bought them a gift?

Me: yes..

Nolo: You have money to waste..

Me: oh Nolo stop hating.

Nolo: Imagine! Drive.

I giggled and drove to the church. We watched as she walked in, she looked stunning. So did Lungelo and the bridal party. We watched as They exchanged vows and when they went to take pictures, Nolo and I drank the wine we had in the car..after the pictures, we went to Banele's home for the Reception. I was on the programme and I gave a two minute Speech. At around 17:00, Nolo and I decided it was time to leave. Banele came to us.

Banele: Thanks for coming.

Nolo: Pleasure.

Me: good luck okay?

Banele: thank you but we don't need it

Me: Well then okay.

She kept playing with her wedding ring.

Banele: We can share marriage stories now.

Me: Just because I came to your wedding doesn't make us friends.

Banele: how about we just fix things?

Me: How about we don't? Congratulations anyway. Do enjoy the leftovers though.

All the ifs

#27

Nolo and I left the wedding to get more wine and snacks then we went to the house to chill.

Me: I'm sleeping here tonight.

Nolo: does Hubby know?

Me: no. Not yet. I think I need to call him now.

Nolo: go on.

I went to dial him.

Kana: Hey Maid of honor.

I Giggled.

Me: hey baby.

Kana: You good?

Me: I'm fine.

Kana: How's the wedding going?

Me: I'm at the house.

Kana: your other house?

Me: Yes sir. I'm having wine And snacks with Nolo

Kana: Was the wedding that bad?

Me: It was uninteresting.

He laughed.

Kana: Ouch!

Me: It was.

Kana: you'll tell me all about it when we get home

Me: well yes but...

Kana: But?

Me: I'm not coming back home

Kana: Why?

Me: I want to spend the night with Nolo

Kana: And me?

Me: I spend every night with you..

Kana: so you spoilt me and now you ditching me?

Me: I'm not ditching you.

I was giggling.

Kana: You are..

Me: No I'm not..I'll be back in The morning.

Kana: Okay baby. Have fun

Me: Don't miss me too much.

Kana: I already am

Me: You'll be fine.

Kana: I'll check on you.

Me: Okay.

Kana: Dont drink too much.

I laughed again.

Me: Okay Mr Tefo.

Kana: I love you

Me' I love you more.

I hung up and went back to Nolo.

Nolo: and?

Me: and what?

Nolo: are you staying?

Me: Yes Nolo..

Nolo: good..here you go.

She had a pair of shorts and a shirt out for me.

Me: Thank you very much! You know I'm not bringing these back.

Nolo: oh No Tshiamo.

Me: oh yes Bonolo!

Nolo: you bringing my clothes back or else go back to your husband.

I chuckled as I changed into the shorts

Me: You are such a bad cousin.

Nolo: no I'm not. And you must drink juice. No more wine for you.

Me: Why?

Nolo: Because Pregnant women shouldn't drink..

Me: Bonolo don't start with your speculations please. I know you want to be an aunt but not now!

Nolo: Well you not drinking any more wine

Me: If you want to drink it alone, you must just tell me.

Nolo: I was once pregnant remember?

Me: Really? Oh yes.

Nolo: So I know.

Me: Well Dr Bonolo. I'm not pregnant but I'll let you drink the wine alone coz Kana asked me not to drink too much.

Nolo: Thank God!

Me: yeah right.

Nolo: so tell me...

Me: yes?

Nolo: Are you happy with Tshepang living with Priscilla?

Me: she's happy.

Nolo: I'm talking about you..

Me: I'm accepting it..I can't exactly defy my dad.

Nolo: Listen to you

Me: That man is a tough cookie.



Nolo: really?

Me: He is..dad's strict.

Nolo: But not when it comes to you.

Me: Because we've had our Fair share of ups and downs.

Nolo: But you look close now.

Me: We are. I think I love him.

She smiled and shook her head.

Nolo: You have to. He's your dad

Me: is uncle Sam still mad at Vusi?

Nolo: that's another loose one. My dad's crazy!

Me: for the right reasons..

Nolo: You think?

Me: absolutely..Vusi wasted your time.

Nolo: That's true.

Me: But I'll commend him for one thing...he's a

great dad to his son.

Nolo: That's very true. But let's not talk about Vusi now.

Me: case closed.

We had a very great night. Kana kept checking on me And in the morning we had fatcakes for breakfast with a lot cheese and special. We cleaned up And at around 12, I went back to my house. Kana was working.

Me: your wife's back!

Kana: finally!

Me: how are you?

Kana: missed you..

Me: missed you too.

Kana: Alot?

Me: not used to sleeping without you.

Kana: Then don't go sleeping without me again.

Me: See that...

My phone rang.

Me: Gran.

Gran: Tshiamo.

Me: Hello koko. How are you?

Gran: I'm not fine..I was suppose to come sleepover this weekend..come fetch me.

Me: what time koko?

Gran: Anytime. You know church is out.

Me: Okay koko.

Gran: my bag is ready.

Me: Coming.

Gran: Okay. Hurry.

My gran was very Demanding. Especially when it came to spending time with us, her grandkids. She always said "I might wake up dead tomorrow, allow me to spend time with you

kids". I let her hang up and K and I went to take a bath together and we went to fetch her. He was happy..they got along.

Me: Where's Granddad?

Gran: with Tryphina. I suspect she's trying to take my man. Always inviting him for Hunter's Dry and Castle lite...

My husband and I laughed.

Me: So did you tell him that you are sleeping over?

Gran: Yes. Gratitude will tell him though.

Me: where is she by the way?

Gran: In that white car outside.. You know your cousin loves men.

Kana tried to stop himself from laughing..

Me: Let's go Koko.

Gran: Okay.

We listened to her all the way back. When we got home, I cooked us something and we listened to Gran's funny stories until she eventually went to bed.. We on the other hand, had quite a magical night.. One which resulted in Side lamps on the floor coz I was trying to get a grip of the sheets but somehow ended up knocking my side lamp over. The next morning, Kana forced himself to go to work and when I went to make coffee, Gran was already up.

Me: Hello Koko.

Gran: Tshiamo.

Me: Koko?

Gran: what were you and Kananelo fighting about last night? Things kept falling in your bedroom.

She must have heard us coz her room wasn't far from ours.

Me: We weren't fighting.

Gran; Then?

I kept quiet!

Gran: Sies man Tshiamo!

Me: Koko...

Gran: No. You two need to be taught!

Me: Taught what? We are married.

Gran: no one said you not Married. Don't you know that you can't have sex while you pregnant? I need to have a meeting with you and Kananelo!

All the ifs

#28

I looked at her confused. She was telling me what Nolo had told me. I was getting annoyed a bit.

Me: koko?

Gran: Tshiamo.

Me: Who told you I'm pregnant?

Gran: My eyes. You don't know? You can't feel it?

Me: What makes you think I am?

Gran: I'm not thinking. I know it. I've lived for 74 years. I know better than you.

Me: okay Koko.

I left my coffee there and went to the bedroom to get my phone so I could make an afternoon appointment with the doctor. It was set for 12:30. I went back to Gran who was still sipping on her tea.

Koko: why do you look so sad?

Me: I'm not sad.

Koko: You happy?

Me: I just want to be sure first..

Koko: so you Dont trust me?

Me: I don't trust your eyes. You've lived for 74

years you did say.

Koko: Voetsek!

The way she said it made me laugh.

Koko: You'll see..

Me: Well we'll see

Koko: I think you'll make a great mother.

Me: Really koko?

Koko: Of course.

Me: I'm glad you think so coz you'll be babysitting.

Koko: Such madness! Was I there when this baby was conceived? I'll babysit my child.

Me: Your child doesn't need babysitting. Your great grandchild does.

Koko: Go make me breakfast I need to take my medication.

Me: What do you want to eat koko?



Koko: What would you make for that child you carrying?

Me: Bacon and eggs.

She laughed

Koko: you are going to be a terrible mother. I've just changed my mind about it.

Me: but you asked koko

Koko: Mabele porridge will be fine for breakfast..

Me: Okay then .

Koko: Still know how to make it?

Me: Kananelo loves porridge so I don't have a choice but to know how to make it. Mum taught me when I was 13

Koko: That's why I asked you to make me some. I wanted to see if your porridge is as good as your mum's.

I giggled.

Me: okay koko. You can relax and wait for your porridge.

Koko: Patiently waiting...

I went to make her porridge and she loved It

Koko: just like your mum's..

Me: the Apple didn't fall far from its tree

Koko: absolutely not.

Me: you want to come with me to the doctor Gran?

Koko: You want to take me with?

Me: I do. To prove you wrong.

Koko: Let's bet. R500

I laughed.

Me: Okay. Don't cry when I take your pension money. This is a bet.

I was disturbed by an incoming call. I quickly answered it.

Me: Baby.

Kana: Hey baby you good?

Me: I am.

Kana: I need your help.

Me: Okay..

Kana: Please pack my overnight bag..

Me: Where to now?

Kana: Capetown

Me: For what?

Kana: we having an urgent meeting there so I need to fly out in 90 minutes so can you just do that for me?

Me: What do you want?

Kana: Suit, a pair of shorts and jeans and shirts. Something to sleep in.

Me: Okay baby.

Kana: Are you okay with it?

Me: Will you be back tomorrow?

Kana: I'll make sure I am.

Me: Then That's fine.

Kana: Thanks baby. I'll be there soon.

Me: Okay my love.

I hung up.

Koko: hey! Let's seal the bet.

We did. I explained to her that I needed to go pack Kana's bag and he came to fetch it. Koko didn't mention anything about her meeting. I was happy coz we needed to confirm

Kana: You good?

I shook my head.

Kana: Baby I'll be back

Me: When?

Kana: can I find you at the airport at 16:00 tomorrow?

Me: okay

Kana: You'll be Okay.

Me: Will you?

Kana: Come with me then.

Me: I'd love to but I've got a doctor's appointment.

Kana: Are you okay?

He put his head on my forehead and I removed it.

Me: Baby I'm fine. Just check up.

Kana: Oh Okay then..I love you okay?

Me: I love you too.

Kana: I'll check on you every hour okay?

Me: Okay baby.

I kissed him and watched as he drove off. I went back to Gran and then got ready for the appointment.

Gran: Is Nolo at home?

Me: I'm not sure. You miss her?

Gran: Yes..you know I've always loved that child.

I dialled her.

Nolo: Cuz.

Gran: Bonolo

Nolo: Oh hey Koko.

Gran: Are you at work?

Nolo: No koko. I'm going back to work tomorrow.

Gran: Okay. I want to come see you. Your Aunt's child is still going to The doctor.

Nolo: Is she fine?

Gran: she's just pregnant. She'll be fine..

Nolo: Oh so she finally admits?

Me: I'm here you know?

One would swear Nolo was Gran's granddaughter. Biologically I mean. I listened to them talk about me until we got to the doctor.

Doc: 4 weeks. Congratulations.

Gran: Pay up!

The Doctor and I giggled.

Doc: Come for your regular check ups and this should guide you.

She gave a little booklet for pregnant women.

Me: thank you.

Doc: No problem..

After the appointment, we drove to Molapo.

Gran wanted to see Nolo..

Gran: When will you pay me? I'm saving up for my false teeth.

Me: You have teeth.

Gran: Just in case. I'm getting old, I must always be prepared.

I laughed and for the door for her after I pulled over.

Me: we are here koko.

Koko: thank you.

She got out of the car and walked in as I was fixing the mat. I suddenly heard someone shout out my name.

Me: Oh What now!

Banele: Hey! I was going to call you.

Me: How many times must I remind you that we not friends?

I didn't even understand what she was doing in Molapo coz she was suppose to be at her marital home.



Banele: I know.

Me: so?

Banele: I just don't know who to turn to?

Me: turn for what?

Banele: The wedding just pushed me off the edge and My husband's still fixing his medical aid stuff and we sort of low now.

Me: say what you want to say and get off my case please!

Banele: Can you just give me R300 for Sphume's monthly check up?

All the ifs

#29

Me: excuse me?

Banele: please.

Me: where's Sphume?

Banele: she's at home.

Me: I'll take her.

Banele: Just give me the money and I'll take her.

Me: Bring the child. All the necessary things and I'll take her

Banele: Oh okay.

Me: You'll find me here.

Banele: Okay.

Me: Don't think you coming with though. I'll tell them I'm the aunt.

Banele: thanks Tshia.

Me: Is the check up today?

Banele: They said we can come anytime this week

It sounded really weird to me but after all It was just a check up I guessed!

Me: Just bring her please.

Banele: Thank you.

She tried to hug me but I stopped her.

Me: Don't.

Banele: I'll be back.

Me: Okay.

I went in and found Gran and Nolo chilling in the garden.

Me: You bought garden chairs and umbrellas?

Nolo: You know me.

Me: They are so nice.

Nolo: you like?

Me: I do..

Nolo: So?

Me: so?

Nolo: What did the doctor say?

Me: Apparently I'm 4 weeks pregnant.

Nolo: Really?

She was just rubbing it in.

Me: you were right Nolo.

Nolo: what was that?

Me: You were right Bonolo.

Nolo: I told you.

Me: Fine. I'm taking Banele's child to the doctor.

Gran: Why?

Me: They had a big fancy wedding and forgot to leave some money for the kid's check up.

Nolo: So where do you fit in?

Koko: Let her help her.

Nolo: Really koko?

Koko: yes. Go on Tshia. She's just a child.

Me: My thoughts exactly.

Nolo: are you going with Banele?

Me: No. She'll think we friends again..I'm going

to get water.

I went to get water and when I came back out Banele and Sphume were outside. She was very happy to see me..I was too. I loved her little happy self.

Me: How are you?

Sphume: I'm fine.

Me: Ready to go?

She nodded.

Me: lets go.

I took the things I needed from her mother.

Me: I'll bring her back.

Banele: thanks Tshia.

Me: Yeah sure.

I made my way back to the car and took her to her doctor.. We were in and out and then I took her to McDonald's.. We had our fun and I took

her back to her mother

Me: She'll be Fine.

Banele: Thank you so much.

Me: okay. Bye nana.

Sphume: Bye Aunt Tshiamo.

I hugged her then went back to Gran and Nolo.

Nolo: was the kid sick?

Me: she was due for check up.

Koko: Atleast she wasn't lying.

Me: we'll give her that..

Nolo: Your phone's ringing.

I ran to get it.

Me: Hello there.

Kana: Baby.

Me: How are you?

Kana: I'm fine.

Me: everything fine?

Kana: All Good and you?

Me: I'm Fine..don't know how I'll survive the night without you.

Kana: That addicted to me?

Me: Very

Kana: I promise to handle things as soon as possible.

Me: Okay then.

Kana: I Love you

Me: I love you too.

Kana: bye baby.

Me: bye my love.

We spent about an hour with Nolo and we had to leave coz Tshepang said she was at the house waiting for me. She was another one I was happy to see. I missed her.

Koko: hello Nana.

Tshepang: Hello koko.

Koko: You okay?

Tshepang: I am.

Koko: Is your dad coming to fetch you?

Tshepang: Yes he said he'll be here at 18:00.

Koko: And where are the others?

Tshepang: I think Rea and Bontle are at home and I don't know where Lesedi is.

Koko: Okay then. Please switch the TV On for me.

She went to help Gran then came back to me.

Tshepang: Sister!

Me: Hello

Tshepang: I missed you..

Me: I missed you two my baby.



I hugged her.

Tshepang: You look so beautiful

Me: Really?

Tshepang: yes.

Me: well thank you.

Tshepang; its a pleasure.

Me: How's school going?

Tshepang: hectic.

Me: Tshepang you better do well.

Tshepang: I'm trying.

Me: Try harder.

Tshepang: we don't even sleep. Dad makes sure we don't! Is this even normal?

Me: you know I hardly slept coz I wanted to make it into Engineering. Sacrifice.

Tshepang: I'm so tired.

Me: Too early to be tired kid.

Tshepang: Enough about me. I saw the pictures.. Where were you? you looked so pretty.

Me: I was at Banele's wedding.

Tshepang: What?

Me: I know right?

Tshepang: Did you have fun?

Me: It was okay.

Tshepang: Who in their right minds would marry Banele?

Me: Lungelo.

She laughed..

Tshepang: Okay. no I think we can talk about something else now

We did and I was sad when dad came to fetch her but I had a great evening with Gran.. The next day, Grandpa came to fetch her coz he

missed her and I ended up not fetching Kananelo coz he had decided that his car wasn't spending another night at the office's parking lot coz they had taken one of the company cars to get to the airport. I was happy when he walked in, I ran up to hug him and he followed me back to the kitchen.

Kana: and what do we have here?

Me: watching some talk show episode on youtube.

Kana: you and this talkshow.

Me: I didn't watch a few episodes.

Kana: How?

Me: Because you were always taking me out making sure I missed this.

Kana: Interesting topic?

Me: it is. They always have interesting topics

Kana: Today's?

Me: Pregnancy and motherhood.

Kana: o-kay.

Me: Keng?

I asked giggling.

Kana: It just really feels like you really into it.

Me: I am.

Kana: I just hope you don't trap me just yet coz of that episode. I'm not ready to be called "dad" akere?

All the ifs

#30

I tried taking what he had just said but it was hard to.

Me: Are you saying you don't want a family?

Kana: Not now

Me: Why not?

Kana: I'm not ready..

Me: Oh okay

Kana: besides, you have other things going for you right?

Me: Right.

I said as I shut down my laptop.

Kana: Where's Gran?

Me: She's....

I swallowed hard. I couldn't get over what he had said

Me: Grandpa came to fetch her..

Kana: Oh man! And I was looking forward to being with her..

Me: Her doors are always open.

Kana: True.

Me: How about you go change? Are you hungry?

Kana: Very.

Me: this will be ready in 10

Kana: Thanks baby.

I watched as he walked away from me and I touched my belly. I swallowed the lump in my throat.

Me: Your dad thinks you are a trap baby.

I said to the little thing inside of me. My hand was on my belly for about 5 minutes and I did the last check on food and dished up. I didn't know how to feel but I was not going to kill my child. Not at all. I was sad, I mean, we had sex all the time! Obviously this was bound to happen. Okay, Maybe I was being unfair, he didn't even know I was pregnant.

Kana: smells good..

Me: Here you fo.

Kana: home cooked meal. I missed you.

Me: I missed you too.

Kana: Baby are you fine?

I nodded.

Kana: Check up?

Me: It was fine..

Kana: What Did the doctor say?

I didn't want to tell him. I didn't even know what to say.

Kana: Baby!

Me: I'm sorry hey.

Kana: What did the doctor say? Are you Fine?

Me: She said I'm 4 weeks pregnant.

He dropped his spoon on his plate and gave me the most...I don't know how to describe that look but it pierced through my heart. It completely shut me down..

Kana: You kidding right?

I shook My head

Kana: Damnit Tshiamo! You stopped taking your pills?

Me: I think I missed some days.

Kana: What happened to your shots?

Me: I got off the shot and got on the pills.

Kana: Well clearly the pills didn't work. What do you want me to do now?

I kept quiet.

Kana: I Just told you I'm not ready to be a father. You not ready to be a mother too. You have school in a few. Have you forgotten? Or are you just going to drop that too?

Me: I'll make it work..

I could feel the tears in my eyes.

Kana: Will you? A baby needs attention! 24/7!

Me: Don't make me feel bad please.



Kana: No you should.. This is not what we planned.

Me: we didn't plan anything.

Kana: really? Didn't you plan school?

Me: I told you I'll make it work.

Kana: I'm not ready for a child.. I can tell you that much!

He got up from the chair, left his food there and headed to his study..I tidied up with tears in my eyes. My child had no dad. It was heartbreaking. I went to curl up in bed after I finished washing the dishes and cried silently. He didn't even sleep in our bed, left early in the morning and I was just heartbroken. I dialled him and when he picked up all he said was...

Kana: Tshiamo I'm driving to work

Me: Why didnt you sleep in our bed last night?

Kana: I was working.

Me: Or trying to avoid me?

Kana: Tshiamo not now please.

Me: so are you going to run away from this?

Kana: I'm not running away from anything.

Me: Then?

Kana: It's a bit to early to talk about this.

Me: Oh okay. Okay then.

I hung up and just decided to laze around. I was heartbroken.. I ended up asking dad to take me out for breakfast.

Dad: And now?

Me: hey dad..

Dad: you asked me to take you out for breakfast and you come in sweatpants and an oversized shirt? Your old man is in a suit.

Me: Im sorry dad.

Dad: what's wrong?

Me: nothing I can't handle.

Dad: is it Kananelo?

Me: Dad no please.

Dad: Tshiamo you come here looking like a mess! Don't tell me "no"

Me: I'm fine..

Dad: Really?

me: I'm just sick.

Dad: Your Gran told me you went to the doctor with her.

Me: Yes. Your mother took my R500

Dad: Why? You and your grandmother.. I'm not getting involved.

I giggled.

Me: We had a bet. She said I'm pregnant.

Dad: Oh! now I see and she won.

Me: you having your first grandchild.

He smiled. His face just lit up!

Dad: That is great. Is that why you sad?

Me: I'm not sad dad.

Dad: You dont look happy..

Me: I am happy..Just sick.

Dad: Okay makes sense.

Me: so how is everyone doing?

Dad: All good. Your brother wants to be a rapper

I laughed.

Me: So what's wrong with that dad?

Dad: are you serious Lily?

Me: if he's passionate about it then okay.

Dad: What if doesn't work out?

Me: Tell him to find something to fall back on just in case but don't stop him

Dad: so I must let my son rap about bitches and their bums?

I laughed.

Me: it's not about that..

Dad: It is and you know it.

I wasn't going to argue with dad about it but he did brighten up my mood. I went back home to just curl on the couch while reading pregnancy magazines. I was excited about it. When Kana came back I felt it was time for us to just iron things out.

Kana: Mrs Tefo..

Me: Hey you good?

Kana: I am. How was your day?

Me: It was okay

Kana: That's good.

Me: And work?

Kana: Work was fine..just hectic.

Me: can we talk?

Kana: Okay.

He sat down.

Kana: yes ma'am..

Me: I really don't like how things ended between us last night.

Kana: I know..

Me: But I'm pregnant now and there's nothing you can do about it

Kana: so What are you saying?

Me: I'm saying it's time we revisited our future plans. One with a child in it.

Kana: One with a child in it?

Me: yes..

Kana: you need to stop forcing me to be what you want me to be. I said I'm not ready. I mean

I'm not ready! Damnit Tshiamo man! Get off my back!

All the Ifs

#31

For a few seconds I thought my ears didnt hear right.

Me: Baby what did you say?

Kana: I said I'm not ready..stop forcing me.

Me: baby I have a life growing inside of me. I have accepted it. Please do too. There's absolutely nothing we can do about it.

I kneeled in front of him

Me: Please. We can make it work. Tell me what you so afraid of and we can work it out.

Kana: Tshiamo get off your knees.

I did.

Kana: I said I'm not ready. Get it through your

thick skull. I'm going to take a shower then work.  
Can I not be disturbed?

He got up from the couch and I watched as he walked away from me. I curled up on the couch again and cried silently. What was so hard to accept? I mean, as a woman one of my purposes was to bring life! I was fulfilling it. Was I not doing what was expected of me? Was I not doing my duties as a wife? I battled to find the answer And I cried till I fell asleep. I woke up on the bed though at around 2:30 And Kananelo's eyes were fixed on his laptop. He was still working, I went to pee, got out of the pants I was in and jumped into bed again.

Me: thanks for carrying me.

Kana: pleasure

Me: okay.

I closed my eyes but struggled to fall asleep. I kept playing with my feet under the sheets.



Kana: Babe, please stop it.

Me: sorry..

Kana: Thanks

I kept my eyes closed still thinking about my unwanted child and the thought of it just pissed me off so much that I ended up going to the guestroom to sleep there. I didn't even say a thing when I left the bedroom, he probably thought I was going to drink water or something. I locked myself in there and finally slept again at around 4.

Kana: Tshiamo!

I was woken up by the knock. When I checked the time, it was 6:30. I forced myself out of bed and went to unlock.

Me: Hi

Kana: Hey. So we don't sleep in the marital bedroom anymore?

Me: I couldn't sleep with all the light from your laptop.

Kana: I'm sorry.

Me: it's okay. Have a great day at work..

Kana: have a great day too.

Me: Thanks.

I closed the door again and went back to bed. I woke at 12:00 when Nombu called to say she's coming so I had to quickly freshen up.

Nombu: hello there.

Me: hey Nombu.

Nombu: Are you fine?

Me: Yes I am. You look beautiful..

Nombu: Thank you.

Me: how was the family vacation?

Nombu: so great. Spending time with my son and husband is always so great.

Me: that's good to hear. Can I get you something to drink?

Nombu: just juice

Me: okay

I went to get us juice and snacks and I asked to see the pictures. They were so beautiful, it looked like they had tons of fun.

Me: Siya is so adorable.

Nombu: that naughty one but atleast soon he'll have someone to play with..

She said touching my belly.

Me: Nombu how did you know?

Nombu: I'm always with you.

Me: So you also knew that I'm pregnant?

Nombu: Didn't you?

Me: No..I didn't know until my cousin and Grandma hinted.

Nombu: well I saw it even before I went on this vacation, I was waiting for you to tell me but you haven't.

I giggled.

Me: I'm sorry.

Nombu: You don't look so excited..

Me: I am..

Nombu: Don't lie.

Me: I am really. The dad isn't.

Nombu: What?

Me: Kananelo is not so happy about it.

Nombu: No Kananelo must just man up and accept this. When you have sex babies happen! Which planet does he live in? He thought babies grow on trees?

I laughed. Nombu was such a breath of fresh air.

Nombu: I'm asking..

Me: You asking the wrong person

Nombu: No it's annoying! What's his reason?

Me: He said he's not ready to be a dad.

Nombu: Oh? How many people are ready to be parents? How many? He needs to grow up and be there for you!

She was so pissed

Me: Please calm down..

Nombu: No Tshia! You know I don't like seeing you sad..

Me: He'll come around

Nombu: You think?

Me: Yes he will.

Nombu: He better..

Me: Let's not talk about this anymore...

Nombu: Okay then. You ready for school?

Me: I am actually

Nombu: Wish I could join you

Me: So why don't you?

Nombu: I've missed that train.

Me: Nombu, you can still go back to school.

Nombu: Well it would be useless coz Sthe wouldn't allow me to work a day in My life.

Me: These husbands! Why?

Nombu: He likes providing.

Me: But he won't stop.

Nombu: You know how dumb men are. He doesn't see it that way.

Me: This life thing can be quite sad hey.

Nombu: Tell me about it!

Me: I still think you should do what your heart tells you to do.

Nombu: I think I was born to complete high school, be a housewife and a mother to my kid or kids coz Sthe wants more.

Me: well if you are cool with that my friend then...

Nombu: let's not depress ourselves any further...

We changed the topic and James made us something to eat. She left an hour before Kananelo came back coz she feared she was going to lose it and didn't want to stick her nose in our business.

Kana: Hey

Me: Hi.

Kana: How are you?

Me: I'm fine. How are you?

Kana: I'm good. Had a good day?

Me: I did. Should I make you something to eat?

Kana: Please.

Me: Okay.

I went to fix him something to eat it then took the food to him. He already had his laptop and a few documents out which meant, he had brought more work home. Again!

Me: Here you go..

Kana: Thanks babe

Me: okay...

As I turned to walk away he stopped me...

Kana: please sit down.

I did.

Kana: have you thought about what you want to do?

Me: What do you mean?

Kana: About the baby

Me: You not saying anything.



Kana: After yesterday's conversation. Are you still keeping it?

My jaw dropped.

Me: what the hell Kananelo!

Kana: I was just asking

I got up from the couch.

Kana: Tshiamo!

I left him there as he kept calling out my name and went to get everything I came with after we got married. Whatever I got from him, I left. I zipped my bags and made My way out after calling Nolo to come fetch me. I told her she'd find me at the soccer fields.

Kana: woah and now?

I threw the wedding ring at him.

Me: You can go jump! Go hop or even go to hell for that matter! My child and I don't need you! Watch as I walk out of that door and forget that

I was once a part of your life!

All the ifs

#32

Nolo: so you and Kana don't talk?

Me: No.

This was a week after I had left my marital home.. Kana and I had not spoken since.

Nolo: You two need to fix this.

Me: okay.

My bump had grown.. Just a bit.

Nolo: I'm serious..

Me: Nolo?

Nolo: Tshia.

Me: I love that man! God knows I do but I tried and I'd choose my child over him anytime!

Nolo: I know that but he probably didn't mean it

in a bad way..

Me: You know what! He did. Please stop it! I'm trying to read my book.

I had gotten a few books.. On pregnancy yes! I wanted to be fully prepared. I had to be.

Nolo: So you not going to listen to me?

Me: no.. Kananelo doesn't care Nolo!

Nolo: He does

Me: Yeah right. You know what! I'll move!

I went to my bedroom to go read in there for about two hours and at 17:30, I started cooking.

Me: I've got a interview next week..

Nolo: what do you mean?

Me: I've been applying for jobs this past week and finally one responded.. Sales consultant job at Key west mall.

Nolo: That's great.

Me: I know. I hope I get it. It's going to be good money and you know I slay sales.

Nolo: your calling.

Me: Absolutely.

Nolo: So school?

Me: I've opted for distance learning.

Nolo: makes sense.

Me: It does.

Nolo: So you ready to work?

Me: I've got a child coming!

Nolo: You are such a mother..

Me: as I should be Nolo.

"Dumelang my sisters!"

Keneilwe had just gotten back from school.

Me: hey kid.

Kene: how are you Aus'Tshia?

Me: I'm good baby how are you?

Kene: Im okay.

Nolo: Why are you so late?

Kene: We had a study group thingy going on.

Nolo: I repeat, why are you late?

Me: Nolo just give the kid a break. She told you where she was.

Nolo: She's lying.

Kene: I'm not lying sis.

Nolo: who's that boy you were with?

She kept quiet.

Nolo: so you want to fall pregnant Keneilwe? Is that what you want? Is that what you want for yourself?

Kene: We just...

Nolo: I will slap you!

Me: Kene go on.

Nolo: Tshiamo this...

Me: chill..go on kid.

She went to the bedroom.

Nolo: Why did you do that?

Me: she won't listen if you scream.

Nolo: Why is she with boys?

Me: I'll talk to her.

Nolo: Or else I'll kill her.

Me: Fine..just relax. Pots.

Nolo: Fine.

I went to find Kene.

Me: Hello there.

Kene: Aus'Tshia.

Me: you good?

Kene: no.

She had tears in her eyes.

Me: You know your sister's right, right?

Kene: How so? She's always shouting at me!  
Always screaming forgetting that Sabelo is her  
child and not me.

Me: That's where you get it wrong..very  
wrong..you not suppose to do that. You are  
suppose to go to school and forget about  
dating, you'll see that after. Your sister's looking  
out for you

Kene: more like trying to control me.

Me: You need to focus on your studies.

Kene: But I love him

Me: tell him to wait for You.

Kene: will he?

Me: If he really does then he will.

She nodded

Me: Nolo Just wants the best for you.

Kene: well atleast you not screaming at me

Me: I'm not suppose to .

Kene: I'll do as you say Aus'Tshia.

Me: and stop coming back late. I really can't take your sister's screaming.

She giggled.

Kene: I promise.

Me: That's good. Book time.

Kene: please assist me with Maths.

Me: Oh God! And here I was thinking I'm done Being a tutor coz Tshepang is gone.

She giggled.

Kene: You are about to be a tutor for the rest of your life. You have a little one coming.

Me: Tell me about it. Just freshen up, grab something to eat and we'll start.



Kene: Okay.

Me: Good.

I left her to freshen up and went back to the kitchen

Me: Please stop shouting.

Nolo: I'm not shouting.

Me: You are screaming! We really don't need the noise.

She giggled.

Nolo: I'm sorry.

Me: Thank you.

I finished cooking then went to help Kene..we didn't take time doing her maths homework and I had a very early night coz I was very tired. The next day, Nolo was off so I couldn't bury myself in pregnancy books but I had an assignment to complete so I woke up at 5 to do it and was done at 8:45.

Nolo: morning bookworm.

Me: hey Nolo

Nolo: So what are you doing up so early?

Me: Just completed my assignment

Nolo: Woah! Will you be able to juggle work and school?

Me: I have to Nolo.

Nolo: You are your mother's child..

Me: Oh I know that very well.

Nolo: breakfast on me?

Me: We going out?

Nolo; yes..so let's go bath.

I packed my things and 45 minutes later, we were out and about.. We went back to the house at around 14:00.

Nolo: Don't bury yourself in pregnancy books

Me: I can't! You not giving me the chance to.

Nolo: good you not supp...

There was a knock. She told the person to come in. They greeted us

It was Kananelo's mum and 2 other women, I had seen them at the wedding. I was told they were aunts.

K's mum: Tshia.

Me: Dumela mama.

K's mum: How are you?

Me: I'm fine ma.

K's mum: I was told by your helper that you moved out from your house.

Me: Yes ma.

K's aunt: What happened?

Me: Kananelo told me to abort his own child. Indirectly.

K's aunt: Kananelo has quite a few issues that are maybe causing him to behave this way.

Me: I begged him to speak but he didn't.

K's aunt: so you left?

Me: yes.

K's 2nd aunt: That's not how married woman behaves. You are suppose to persevere.

Me: I'm forced to?

2nd aunt: Yes. you are a Tefo now. You need to pack your bags and go back to your house.

Me: I'm not going to do anything. If Kananelo cared he'd be here not you. Forgive me for not being your ideal bride but I choose my child over Kananelo and at this point, I don't care about him. He can deal with his issues alone. I'll deal with my child..

2nd Aunt: Tsh...

Me: Another thing, if he ever comes back to his

senses, tell him to not come near me or my child.. He killed his..he has no right to claim mine

All the ifs

#33

Me: I'm trying Mike!

Mike: Try harder Tshiamo.

Me: I'm really trying but I keep getting hungry.

This was too months after I had moved out of the house. Still no communication between my husband and I. My child was developing quite well. Mike? Mike was one of the guys I knew. He worked as a Samsung consultant, just opposite my shop where I worked as a Mtn consultant. Worked at a mall. I made good money, Nolo dropped me off every morning coz she worked literally 10 minutes away from the mall. Mike was a good friend. He had a girlfriend who he loved dearly and a 3 year old

daughter. I had made a friend who I worked with, Winnie. Such a chubby and happy soul. I always finished her lunch coz I was always hungry but she understood.

Mike: Tshia, you need to stop eating too much coz if you don't, you'll end up with extra baby fat.

I giggled.

Me: How does that work?

Mike: I have no idea either.

Me: My goodness Mike!

Mike: But listen to me..I have a child.

Me: Right!

Mike: Don't I?

Me: You do.

Mike: Exactly.

My alarm rang.

Me: Okay! My lunch hour is over.

Mike: I'll come check on you and Winnie.

Me: Bring sweets.

Mike: Fine!

Me: Bye Mikey!

Mike: Bye Tshia.

I went back to the shop to reach my targets! My experience as a promoter helped quite a lot coz I was always at the top. Well I had to coz I had baby coming and I needed every cent.

Winnie: Tshia.

Me: Winnie.

Winnie: want to go out on Saturday after work?

Me; You mean tomorrow?

Winnie: Yes.

Me: Well I would if I could but my friend is throwing a party for her son tomorrow.

Winnie: Nombu?

Me: Yes.

Winnie: So you going to a kiddies' party?

Me: I'm the Godmother.

Winnie: how boring.

I giggled.

Me: next time?

Winnie: Next time you'll be changing diapers! Oh how I hate that.

Me: But you went on and had your second and third kid.

She pinched me.

Me: Ouch!

Winnie: don't be mean

Me: I'm being truthful

Winnie: just a bit.

Me: Just a lot.



She laughed.

Winnie: I have never seen someone as excited as you.

Me: About having a baby?

Winnie; Yes.

Me: I think it's exciting.

Winnie: Well I had kids coz my husband wanted kids.

I couldn't help but laugh at her facial expression

Me: So you didn't want to have kids?

Winnie: I did but not three.

Me: Why not?

Winnie: Its a lot.

Me: And hubby?

Winnie: We have three more to go Tshia.

Me: Woah!

Winnie: Being a married woman is hard..I sometimes miss my freedom. Don't get me wrong, I'm happy but sometimes the conditions that come with marriage aren't so easy to deal with.

Me: I feel you.

Winnie: But you on the other hand...

Me: It's not so easy trust me.

Winnie: Well you've never said anything about your boyfriend/baby daddy.

Me: Boyfriend you say?

Winnie: you engaged?

Me: I'm separated.

Winnie: Huh?

Me: I'm married.

Winnie: Tshia! I've known you for 2 months!

Me: I Don't like talking about it.

Winnie: hurts?

Me: Yeah.

Winnie: Okay let's not talk about it then.

Me: thank you.

Winnie: I think its time to work.

Me: Oh yes it is

Three people were making their way into the shop. We assisted them and from 13:00 we got super busy! People just kept flooding in. I was glad when I actually got a break.

Winnie: Woah!

Me: I know right?

Winnie: month end hey! Do people need phones so much?

I giggled.

Me: Yes.

Winnie: No I'm tired.

Me: You'll be strong.

Winnie: Aren't you?

Me: Winnie, I can never be tired.

Winnie: I wish I had your energy. I have a man to satisfy when I get home.

Me: thank God I'm not you.

Winnie: You can say that again.

"It's the perks of being married"

We both turned as soon as we heard the voice. I was a bit startled coz I knew it.

Kana: Ladies.

Winnie: Hello sir.

Kana: How are you ladies doing?

Winnie: Quite good.

Me: How can we help you?

Kana: I need a upgrade.

Me: Winnie can you assist him?

Kana: I'd like to be assisted by you.

Winnie: snatch him!

I rolled my eyes at her.

Me: this way please

He followed me.

Me: what kind of a phone are you looking for?

Kana: Formalities.

Me: I am at work.. I need to be formal.

Kana: How are you?

Me: Im fine. What kind of phone do you want?

Kana: Suggest one.

Me: What's wrong with your current one?

Kana: I don't like it anymore..

Me: Look Kananelo, just look around and call me when you've made a decision okay?

Kana: Then you wouldn't be doing your job.

Me: I would be. I said call me when you've made a decision.

Kana: Tshia...

We were disturbed by a loud Mike

Mike: Winnilish! Tshialish

Winnie: Mikeylish.

Mike: You good?

Winnie: All good you.

Mike: very good..your snacks

Winnie: Thank you.

Mike: your sweets ma'am

I laughed and thanked him

Me: Why do you like giving us such names?

Mike: cute right?

Me: Hell no!

Mike: Be nice. I buy you whatever you crave.

Me: Thanks Mike..

Mike: Okay see you two tomorrow. I've knocked off.

Me: Bye!

Winnie: Bye Mikeylish.

Mike: Bye winnilish..Tshialish.

Me: Bye Mikey.

Mike: sorry for disturbing bra yam.

Kana: no stress

We said goodbye to him and he went out again.

Kana: Can we step out?

Me: No I'm on duty

Kana: So you have other men buying you stuff?

Me: Well my husband isn't quite on board with the fact that I'm carrying his child, other men

know that when they have unprotected sex babies happen and know how to treat a pregnant woman. You should take notes for the next person you'll impregnate, now which phone do you want?

All the ifs

#34

Kana: So we really doing this?

Me: choose a phone

He did and I did what I had to. Minutes later, he was out and I could breathe again.

Winnie: so?

Me: So?

Winnie: Did he take your number?

Me: No.

Winnie: He is handsome.

Me: Right!



Winnie: You Don't think so?

Me: he is Winnie

Winnie: And he asked to be assisted by you

Me: so?

Winnie: My goodness! Can't you see?

Me: Winnie.

Winnie: Tshiamo.

Me: Let's just clock out please

Winnie: Okay fine

We knocked off and I decided to catch a taxi home.

Me: hello Kid.

Kene: Hello Aus'Tshiamo

Me: How are you?

Kene: I'm good..you look tired.

Me. I'm very tired..

Kene: Nolo said She'll get takeaways.

Me: Okay that's good. I'm going to take a shower.

Kene: Okay.

I went to take a shower and decided to check on my little sister.

Tshepang: Sissy.

Me: Hello little one.

Tshepang: How are you?

Me: I'm okay you?

Tshepang: Hanging In there..

Me: How's school going?

Tshepang: yho!

She sighed

Me: That bad?

Tshepang: Why wasn't I warned?

I giggled.

Me: feel what we felt.

Tshepang: Horrible sister.

Me: Oh I love you too..listen, come here after your Saturday class.

Tshepang: will dad allow me to come?

Me: he has to.

Tshepang: Please call him.

Me: Okay.

Tshepang: I can't wait to see you

Me: I can't wait to see you too..where's Resego?

Tshepang: Out with her friends.

Me: Out?

Tshepang: Yeah. They just standing here at The gate.

Me: Not going to join them?

Tshepang: I don't like them

Me: who do you like?

Tshepang: Thuto and Palesa.

Me: Oh yes.

Tshepang: please call dad now.. I really need to get a break from books.

Me: Okay I'll call you back.

Tshepang: Okay sis.

I hung up and called dad.

Dad: You want Nandos again?

I laughed.

Me: Hi dad.

Dad: Hey Lily.

Me: how are you dad?

Dad: I'm Fine..how's my grandchild doing

Me: Perfectly fine.

Dad: is it?

Me: Yes sir.

Dad: okay bother me already.

I giggled again.

Me: Can I have Tshepang tomorrow?

Dad: Tomorrow?

Me: Yes dad. After her Saturday class.

Dad: Don't you have a party to go to?

Me: I do but she can stay with Nolo and I won't spend alot of time there.

Dad: Okay then

Me: Is that okay?

Dad: Yes it is.

Me: and Resego is more than welcome to come visit her big sister as well.

Dad: Okay big sister

Me: Okay Grandpa.

Dad: good!

Me: Bye dad.

Dad: Bye babygirl.

I called Tshepang again to tell her what dad said and was happy when Nolo came back with our food

Nolo: were you that hungry?

Me: I'm always hungry.

Nolo: Clearly.

Me: Yeah right. Where's Kene?

Nolo: she's outside.

Me: She's having her meal outside?

Nolo: No..she's with her friend.

Me; Oh okay

Nolo: How was work?

Me: Kananelo came.

Nolo: for?

Me: To get an upgrade..he got angry when Mike Brought me a packet of sweets.

Nolo: That must have difficult.

Me: He tried to start and I called him to order.

Nolo: Oh Tshia!

Me: I can live without him

Nolo: He's still your husband.

Me: That means nothing.

Nolo: Tshia give him a chance.

Me: No.

Nolo: You'll regret this.

Me: I don't recall turning my back on my child.

Nolo: You are so Stubborn and its so unnecessary.

Me: you don't know what you talking about.  
You've never been in my shoes.

Nolo: Fair enough.

Me: Yeah! Thanks for the food.

I ate up and went to bed. The next day was work as usual and at 14:00 I knocked off, went to change and took Nolo's car so I could go to Nombu's for Siya's birthday party. He was very excited to see me..I was too. I was quite happy to see the wives as well believe it or not.

Amanda: congratulations Tshia!

She said brushing my belly.

Moratua: Pregnancy looks good on you.

Me: Thank you.

Moratua:

Nombu: Okay this way ladies. Tshia, Juice for you okay?



Me: Okay mum!

We followed her to the tent that was set up and the party began, Siya was very happy and that's all that mattered. When we went to dish up, Kana pulled me to the side.

Kana: can I talk to you?

Me: Not now..

Kana: Can I come over later?

Me: no.

Kana: Please

Me: please stop annoying me.

Kana: allow me to come over first..

Me: fine.

Kana: I'll be there at around 20:00

Me: fine.

I went to join the ladies and I left at around 19:00 coz I was exhausted.. Siya didn't want me

to go but my gift did the trick. When I got home, Nolo was with Tshepang, Resego and Kene.. They were having cocktails.. Really!

Me: So you don't want the kids to date but you give them alcohol?

Nolo: Let them date alcohol.

I laughed.

Me: Hey you two.

I hugged them.

Tshepang: you are so pregnant.

Resego: And so pretty.

Me: Thank you Resego. She can go back to dad's.

Tshepang: Not today.

Me: Let me go shower and I'll join you.

Kene: For a nonalcoholic drink.

Me: oh shut up!

We all giggled and I went to take a shower, got into my PJs and As I was still having fun with the sisters, Kana called me to step pit.

Me: Yes Kananelo!

Kana: Baby I'd like to apologize please.

Me: Why now?

Kana: I wasn't in my right state.

Me: really?

Kana: yes.. Look Tshia, I've never quite had a great father figure in my life. he was always in and out In my life..I'm not sure if I'll make a great dad or not.

Me: Oh?

Kana: The feeling of being a father scares me and being my father's son has it's effects, that man was not someone to look up to. He had demons that he took out on us and because of that I said I'd never have kids.

Me: Oh so kids were never a part of your plans?

Kana: No.

Me: so you lied to me when you said you "not yet"

He kept quiet.

Me: So you took out your frustrations on my unborn child? Even wanted me to kill an innocent soul.

Kana: I wasn't thinking straight

Me: You were suppose to heal from this child..be what your father wasn't to you. Now you just went the same route as he did.. What angers me the most is that I asked you to tell me what your problem was and you didn't.

Kana: I know baby but I'm sorry.

Me: So it took Mike's sweets to get you back to your senses?

He kept quiet.

Me: it's too late Kananelo.. We really don't need you and I mean it. Please stay away from us.

All the Ifs

#35

Kana: You don't mean that..

Me: I do..get into that car and go back to your life.

Kana: Baby please.

Me: Don't touch me Kananelo.

Kana: I'm sorry.

Me: Get in And leave.

Kana: Please

Me: Leave!

He slowly got into the car and drove off slowly. I went back to the sisters and we had quite an awesome night.. When they left the next day, I tagged along with them coz I wanted dad to

drop me off at my grandparents' house. I missed them.

Grandpa; Oh oh! She's here to finish our food. I laughed.

Me: Hello Oupa.

Oupa: Hello Lily.

Me: how are you?

Oupa: I'm good and you?

Me: I'm okay.

Oupa: You hungry?

Me: No.

Oupa: Then why are you here?

Me: To see you..

Oupa: Why?

Me: Coz I missed you.

Oupa: And the fridge

Me: No.

I giggled. I loved my grandfather. To the core!  
He was such an amazing man. Always making  
those around him laugh and just being his old  
self.

Oupa: I missed you too pregnant one

Me: where's Gran?

Oupa: In your dad's old bedroom.

Me: I'll see you just now.

Oupa: I'm going to Tryphina.

Me: Gran thinks she wants you..

Oupa: Oh! Your silly grandmother though. I've  
got eyes only for her. Tell her.

Me: Most definitely sir.

He left and I found Gran in the bedroom.

Me: Gran

Gran: Hello Tshia.

I hugged her.

Me: What is all of this?

Gran: Your baby stuff.

Me: Baby stuff?

Gran: Yes.

Me: Koko, are these Dad's things?

Gran: Oh yes.

Me: You kept all of this?

Gran: Had everything in here washed every two months.

All the things she had out looked Brand new, towels, bathtub, nappy bags, baby romps, socks.

Me: Wow!

Gran: Neutral colors you see?

Me: These look new.

Gran: I have a few new things which I bought for



you. Your step mum does too but you'll see them when you go there.

Me: Well I like dad's things.

Gran: Really?

I nodded.

Me: Quite amazing Gran .

Gran: I'm a super gran right?.

Me: Definitely.

Gran: Tshia?

Me: Gran.

Gran: What's wrong?

Me: I just really wish mum was here.

Gran: Oh child!

Me: it hurts me everyday when I think of her.

Gran: You know she's watching over you right?

Me: Really?

Gran: Absolutely..

Me: Well I really hope so.

Gran: Don't worry..

Me: I'm not Koko.

Gran: Good..now tell me.

Me: Yes ma'am?

Gran: Have you fixed things with your husband?

Me: No.

Gran: Why?

Me: Kananelo is hard to deal with koko.

Gran: Every man is hard to deal my child.

Me: I can't get over him asking me to kill my child.

Gran: it was probably shock.

Me: He came to apologize.

Gran: That's good..

Me: After he saw Mike giving me sweets.

Gran: Atleast that man made him come to senses

Me: No koko. We fine without him.

Gran: You grew up without a father, you want your child to grow up without one too?

I kept quiet.

Gran: Child you better answer me

Me: it's too late koko.

Gran: That child is Kananelo's. You are married to that boy! You not dating him.

Me: It doesn't matter. He behaved like we dating so its too late.

Gran: Tshiamo you are so stubborn.

Me: For all the Right reasons koko.

Gran: You need to do The right thing.

Me: I'm doing the right thing.

Months later, I was tired, big and well just tired. My pregnancy was exhausting! Very exhausting. I was still not talking to Kananelo but he checked on me via Nolo. He'd always call her coz I had blocked him. I didn't have time for him honestly, I was dealing with a baby that made me eat 5 times a day and snack twice a day. I was as big as a whale.

Nolo: Tshiamo!

Me: Hello.

Nolo: aren't you getting up today?

Me: No.

Nolo: Aren't you going to work?

Me: I've booked off..

Nolo: Until?

Me: until my maternity leave is over.

Nolo: Well that's nice.

Me: It is. I need the rest.

Nolo: You do. Breakfast?

Me: Not yet

Nolo: Okay then

Me: and aren't you going to work?

Nolo: No I'm off

Me: Okay

Nolo: Tshia when are you due?

Me: In a week..

Nolo: no wonder you this tired.

Me: Can I just sleep?

Nolo: Okay.

She let me rest for an hour and when I woke up, I took a shower.

Nolo: Are you fine?

Me: I feel a discomfort in my abdomen.

Nolo: Is it hard?

Me: it is. It feels like...ouch!

I suddenly felt a dull ache on my back and lower abdomen but as I moved it didn't stop. I remember Nolo going out and coming back with help and the rest was history.

Dad: She looks adorable..

Me: She is.

Dad: Have you thought of a name?

Me: I was hoping you would name your first grandchild.

Dad: You sure?

I nodded.

Dad: Tshegofatso.

Me: you've always loved that name

Dad: that's true. Kana gave me this to give to you after birth.

It was a baby hamper.

Me: Oh okay

Dad: And this.

He passed me a card

"Tshiamo

I know I wasn't there for you for the past 9 months, I guess I deserved the punishment, I really hope you'll receive this card well and I hope you maybe consider my request. In addition to whatever name you'll give our child please consider the name " Oratilwe". Although I couldn't be there for the both you, you have a special place in my heart. I'm also sad that I couldn't be there for you as you gave life to our child but I have to respect your wishes. Thank you for giving birth to half of me and I hope we can fix things in future

Kananelo Tefo "

All the ifs

#36

Dad: Ms Lily.

I finally got my eyes off the card

Me: pa?

Dad: The name?

Me: Its a beautiful name

Dad: I think it should be her first name.

Me: You think so?

Dad: Yes Lily.

Me: Okay.

Dad: Done deal?

Me: Yes dad..

Dad: he wanted to be here.

I kept quiet.

Dad: Tshiamo?



Me: Please give me time dad.

Dad: dont punish this child.

I kept quiet again.

Dad: I'll let you rest..

Me: thanks dad.

He put Ora down.

Me: I'll see you later.

Dad: okay.

He kissed My forehead and her granddaughter's then left us. We had enough rest and we went home after two days. Well I went to my dad's coz my stepmother wanted to help..she was so excited about the kid, I didn't want to coz Tshepang and Resego were preparing for their exams but dad said I'd stay In the backroom.

Nolo: I can't get over her cuteness.

Me: Oh Nolo!

Nolo: She's so adorable.

Me: And eats too much.

Nolo: she should.

Me: She should suck the life out of me? Hey baby.

I said smiling at my gem

Nolo: look at you. The love in your eyes.

Me: I've never felt this kind of love.

Nolo: Mother's love..welcome to motherhood.

Me: It feels so good.

Nolo: and Kana?

Me: What about him?

Nolo: When are you going to unblock him?

Me: Nolo...

Nolo: Tshia he misses you and he wants to be a part of his daughter's life.

Me: Nolo please.

Nolo: You need to deal with this now.

Me: Can I deal with my daughter first?

Nolo: You've been dealing with your daughter for 9 months.

Me: let me get used to her then.

Nolo: Okay.

Me: Thank you.

Nolo: Forgive the...

My phone rang.. Saved by a phone call.

Me: Hey hey.

Winnie: Girl!

Me: Hey Winnie.

Winnie: hello mummy

Me: Oh Winnie.

Winnie: Congratulations!

Me: Thank you.

Winnie: How is the little one doing?

Me: she's okay..she just eats a lot.

Winnie: Healthy child we have.

I giggled.

Me: I guess so

Winnie: Is she as beautiful as mummy?

Me: I'll share a few pictures soon

Winnie: Good enough for me.

Me: I miss you though.

Winnie: I miss you too..

Me: How's work?

Winnie: Boring.

Me: And Mikey?

Winnie: he's next to me..hold on.

I held on for about two seconds and he started

singing a lullaby.

Me: Mike!

Mikey: Put the kid on the phone.

Me: No!

Mike: What a boring mother!

I laughed.

Me: Hey Mikey!

Mike: Hey Tshialish..how are you?

Me: I'm fine. You?

Mike: we miss you.

Me: Me too hey.

Mike: you enjoying your breast milk?

I giggled.

Me: It's sweet yes.

Mike: Sies!

Me: Keng?

Mike: You tasted your own milk?

Me: Yes. I have to.

Mike Okay fine whatever! I'll shower you with gifts soon.

Me: That's what you do best

Mike: Of course. I'll check on you later okay?

Me: okay Mikey.

I said bye to both him and Winnie then hung up.

Nolo: You going to stop me from carrying on?

Me: Nolo please hle.

There was a soft knock on the door and Tshepang and Resego walked in.

Resego: Hey sis

Me: hey babe.

Tshepang: How was your day?

Me: Long.

Resego: And how was She?

Nolo: sweet as always.

Tshepang: well the nannies are back.

Me: we can see that.

Tshepang: Welcome us.

Nolo and I laughed.

Me: Welcome Tshepang..welcome Resego.

Tshepang: Thank you.

Me: where's Bontle?

Resego: She's jealous that one..she thinks you'll turn your back on her coz you have a baby

Me: Aw man.

Nolo: Bontle though.

Me: No wonder she's so mad at me

Resego: And sad.

Me: I'll make it up to her.

Tshepang: You have no choice but to.

Me: I know riright.

We all played with my gem for about 30 and we were disturbed by my stepmum

Priscilla: Tshia?

Me: Ma?

Priscilla: You have a visitor.

Me: Who?

Priscilla: Your husband.

Me: oh okay.

Nolo: Let's go girls.

Resego handed Ora over to me and they left the room..I waited for Kananelo to knock and told him to come in..he looked really great..he was in Nike kicks, jeans that were folded at the bottom and a Nike shirt.

Kana: Hey.



Me: Hey

His eyes were fixed on the baby

Kana: How Are you?

Me: I'm okay how are you?

Kana: hanging in there.

Me: That's good.

Kana: Can I please hold her?

I looked at my daughter then back at him.

Kana: Please.

I carefully passed her to him.

Kana: Hey snowflake. Hey

He was playing with her tiny fingers.

Kana: She's so perfect.

Me: very.

Kana: Tshia?

I looked at him.

Kana: I'll do anything and I mean anything to have you back in my life, just come back home please

All the ifs

#37

I looked at him.

Kana: Please.

I slowly shook my head.

Me: we fine here.

Kana: Tshiamo when will you stop punishing me?

Me: I'm not punishing you.

Kana: then?

Me: I'm not sure about you..

Kana: I'm over my issues.

Me: How do I know if you telling the truth or not

Kana: I've been having sessions with Marina.

Me: really?

Kana: She said it was normal for me to feel that way coz that's how most children who had abusive parents feel most of the time.

Me: What else?

Kana: That it was wrong of me to not be there you and our child. Also she advised me to stay away from you coz if I had been persistent you might have had a difficult pregnancy because of me.

I played with my fingers.

Kana: Tshia I'm really sorry.

My eyes fell on him and on the baby who was sleeping

Me: I've forgiven you.

Kana: Thank you.

Me: for the baby's sake.

Kana: so what about us?

Me: I dont think there is an "us" anymore.

Kana: Tshiamo please don't say that.

Me: Kana, When I went on my knees begging you to talk then you decided to shut me out, I felt I was not enough for you.

Kana: Baby you are.

Me: Am I really?

Kana: Yes.

Me: Do you even love me?

Kana: What kind of a question is that?

Me: One that needs an answer! Maybe you married me coz you felt sorry for me or...

Kana: Tshiamo, I was trying to get you away coz I cared, I still do. I'll always do. Baby I love you. Please my love. That house is empty without

you

I fixed My eyes on him.

Me: Let me up her Down

He carefully passed her to me again and I went to put her In her cot.

Kana: Can we just talk about this?

Me: I'm tired of talking.

Kana: I understand..

He slowly got up from the chair.

Kana:when can I come see her again?

Me: she's your daughter Kananelo. Anytime.

Kana: Thank you

Me: okay.

Kana: I love you.

I kept quiet.

Kana: I'll see you tomorrow then.

Me: Bye.

I watched as he walked out and I called Resego who told me that Nolo had left so I decided to take a nap too..a well deserved one actually. I woke up when Ora did, changed her diaper and fed her.

Priscilla: Tshia.

Me: ma?

Priscilla: can I talk to you?

Me: okay ma.

She sat down.

Priscilla: lift her head a bit higher so she feeds well.

I did as I was told.

Priscilla: good.

Me: thanks ma.

Priscilla: this is why I'm here. To help you.

Me: thank you.

Priscilla: I need you to listen to me okay my child?

Me: Okay ma.

Priscilla: Child, you are married, whether you like it or not, you are married. You are a now a mother and you need to do what's best for your child. Things aren't the same anymore.

Everything is about her now. Unfortunately that's the sad thing about being a parent, when you bring a child into this world, you forget about yourself for a bit. You'll walk into

Woolworths looking for lace bras and panties and you'll come out with a Barbie top, sandals and maybe a pink tutu. Your world suddenly

revolves around your child. Until she starts talking coz she'll think she's independent and will start making demands like deciding she

wants to stay here with her grandparents coz you shouted at her for splashing water all over

the place or whatever thing that might have caused the fight.

I was listening. I paid a lot of attention to her actually.

Priscilla: but for now, you in control and you being in control means you need to do what's best for your child and allowing her to grow up with both parents around her. Tshia, I took you from your father, I'll probably go to hell for that. Don't let your child go through what you went through. I've seen how much you and Kananelo love each other. It's magical. Now imagine a child growing up to witness that sort of love. Don't you want that?

Me: I don't know if I can be with him anymore.

Priscilla: what does your heart say?

Me: Ma, I love Kananelo but until he deals with his issues then...

Priscilla: Kananelo has been seeing that lady



that helped you and your father. What's her name again? Martha?

Me: Marina.

Priscilla: Yes. Marina. He once told your dad about it. Even wanted to attend some sessions with you but you had blocked him so he couldn't reach you.

Me: I thought he's lying.

Priscilla: That boy loves you and I'm sure he loves his daughter too. Can I tell you something?

I nodded.

Priscilla: I didn't want kids either. Before I met your father, I fell pregnant and I aborted that child. For one reason, my mum had favorites. She loved my younger brother and older sister more. That made her a horrible mother to the rest of my siblings so when I found out I was pregnant, I was afraid I'd take out my frustrations on the child and ended up killing an

innocent child. I regret it everyday but I've asked for forgiveness from the creator. I know what Kananelo did hurt you but he acted that way based on his past. It was wrong yes but he has tried fixing it. He's handsome and loving, they'll snatch him.

The way she said it made me laugh.

Priscilla'; okay laugh my child.

Me: I'm sorry ma. The way you said it just made me laugh.

The little one finally had enough of my breast milk and she took her to burp her.

Priscilla: Just think about what I said

Me: Okay mama.

Priscilla: That's better.

She put Ora to sleep again and told me to just rest and that she'd be back again to check on us. Atleast I had TV so I wasn't so bad. I

unblocked Kananelo coz I knew he'd want to check on his daughter. He had so much love in his eyes when he looked at her. The girls came back to chill with Me and at around 19:00 they left to go study. Uncle Lesedi came in bearing gifts.

Lesedi: Hey sis.

Me: Hey you..

Lesedi: you good?

Me: I am..how was work?

Lesedi: it was fine.. Ora's gifts.

Me: Thanks little one

Lesedi: I'm an uncle now. I need to behave like one.

I giggled.

Me: Yes Sir!

I loved my brother. He had a mind of his own

which is what I enjoyed about being with him. We'd always have random topics and you'd always pick his brain. Too smart for a 19 year old. He had decided he'd study business management the following year part time coz dad was against his rapping dream but I told him to not stop going to the studio to record in fact, I was popping out some money for his sessions. Our secret..no one knew about it. We chilled with baby till late and I got some rest finally. Woke up twice at night and the next day, I had a visit from my mother in law and those aunts that came with her

Aunt1: Tshiamo.

Me: Dumelang bagolo.

Aunt2: Why aren't you in your marital home?

Aunt1: exactly, you are a Tefo bride. Your mother in law needs to be taking care of you. You not suppose to be here.

Me: Kananelo called to say you'd be coming. To see the baby not to tell me about marital homes ma.

Aunt1: Well we have to raise it.

Me: Oh okay.

Aunt 2: you need to pack everything that's yours and the baby's and come with us.

Me: I'm okay here ma. I'm with my family.

Aunt 1: Tshiamo, we've had enough now! Out of all the brides we have you are the most troublesome! Behave like a Tefo bride! Pack Your bags and come with us to your in law's house!

All the ifs

#38

Me: With all due respect...

Aunt 2: Pack Tshiamo.

Me: I refuse to.

K's mum: Tshia, you are married my child.

Me: And I understand that ma but this is my home and it's up to me to.

Aunt 1: its not up to you.

Me: Can I be excused?

K's mum: Okay.

I left them with my stepmother who was awfully quiet and I called Kananelo.

Kana: Baby?

Me: Hey Kananelo.

Kana: is snowflake fine?

Me: She's okay. Are you at work?

Kana: No. I'm about to come there why?

Me: So your mum's here with your aunts.

Kana: As I said they would..

Me: yes but they are demanding that I go to your mother's house

Kana: What? For what? I'm Coming.

He hung up before I could even say anything. I went back to them and offered them juice and biscuits. I was a lot calmer coz their crazy son was coming.

Priscilla: What do you say?

Me: About what ma?

Priscilla: going to Your In laws?

Me: Kananelo's coming

Aunt 2: You called your husband?

Me: This is his child is it not ma?

They kept quiet. We all did until Kananelo arrived.

Kana; Dumelang.

They greeted him back.

Kana: Didn't you say you just coming to see the baby?

Aunt 2: and fetch them.

Kana: No.. How many times must I tell you that no wife of mine will stay at her with her in laws? How many times?

Aunt2; it's part of tradition.

Kana: And I'm saying "no"

Aunt 1: Kananelo...

K's mum: Let's not fight. Tshiamo, as Your mother in-law, I'll be available anytime you need me. Just let me be there for my grandchild.

Me: I'll never stop you from seeing your grandchild ma.

K's mum: Had I known that they'd bring such trouble I would have came here alone.

Me: it's okay ma.



K's mum: I'll call to set another date.

Kana: Without them.

K's mum: yes Kananelo. I heard you.

Me: Ma are you fine?

She didn't seem fine at all.

K's mum: I will be. Let's go Aunts.

I watched as they all got up. One was still mumbling something to the other. Priscilla walked them out and Kana looked at me.

Kana: I'm sorry that happened.

Me: You didn't know it would.

Kana: Still sorry.

Me: its okay.

Kana: Where's Snowflake?

Me: sleeping. Your mum didn't even get the chance to see her.

Kana: She will.

Me: Can I offer you something to drink?

Kana: Can I just have water?

Me: Okay.

I went to get him a bottle of water

Me: here you go.

Kana: Thanks. I think she's up.

She was. I went to go get her. He took her from me and calmed her down.

Me: you need to change her diaper.

Kana: how?

Me: Figure it out.

Kana: you know I've never changed a diaper right?

Me: Well there's a first time for everything.

Kana: okay let me try.

Me: Do that

He did a good job.

Me: rocket science right?

He laughed

Kana: Yes it its..

Me: Yeah right.

Kana: Not so bad.

Me: It isn't. You get the hang of it..

He looked straight into my eyes.

Kana: Thank you.

Me: for?

Kana: Allowing Me to be a father to my daughter.

Me: Its only fair.

Kana: So we just going to co-parent?

I looked at Ora.

Kana: Tshiamo?

Me: Its better this way.

Kana: Better for you or me?

Me: For all of us.

He kept quiet.

Me: she needs to be fed.

Kana: okay here you go...

Me: I'll give you her bottle.. I've pumped some milk.

I watched as he fed him well atleast he knew what to do after feeding her..she was soon asleep.

Me: Good job.

Kana: thank you.

Me: want something to eat?

Kana: I'm not hungry

Me: okay

Kana: How's school going?

Me: I have exams to write next month.

Kana: Oh yes.

Me: but I've been preparing so I think I'll do well.

Kana: are you sure you'll pull it off?

Me: I'm a woman Kananelo

Kana: But it doesn't mean you have to put pressure on yourself.

Me: I'm not.

Kana: Tshiamo you are..

Me: I've been handling it quite well

Kana: what's going to happen after your maternity leave?

Me: I'll work, study and be a mother.

Kana: do you have to work?

Me: I love working

Kana: Do you have to?

Me: Yes

Kana: okay

Me: Yes sir

Kana: I've learnt to not argue with you anymore..  
I'm hoping Your raging hormones will stop. I  
have to go.

Me: okay

Kana: I'll come back later

Me: Okay.

I sort of walked him out and went to take a nap.  
I woke up when the little one did but my  
grandmother who was already in the room took  
over. I appreciated the help really coz I could do  
other things, like cook and iron. Just to help My  
step mum with a few things.

Gran: Your dad's here Ora.

I heard Koko say as I was folding the clothes. Kana was back. He went to join koko and when I was done, I went to join them too. My phone's notification tone went off as I was watching Kana play with Ora. Koko had decided to leave the room.

"Anniversary tomorrow".

I kept my eyes on them until he eventually asked what was wrong.

Me: nothing.

Kana: So you want to tell me what you want as a gift tomorrow? More diapers maybe?

It was as if he had read my mind.

Me: Huh?

I acted dumb

Kana: one year anniversary.

I sighed.

Kana: so what do you want?

Me: You.

All the ifs

#39

Kana: Pardon?

I couldn't believe I had said what I said

Me: You.

Kana: Tshiamo did you just say that?

He was In disbelief.

Me: Yes..

Kana: Are you serious?

His face lit up.

Me: I am.

Kana: there's nothing that would make me happier than that.



Me: That's what I want as a gift.

Kana: so does that mean you coming home?

Me: Yes \_ does

Kana: Thank you baby. You don't know how much that means to me.

Me: But not today though. I think this weekend. I still need to talk to dad.

Kana: that's fine by me.

Me: Okay then.

Kana: and I'll never mess with you again.

I giggled.

Me: Don't make it sound so bad.

Kana: Its horrible.

Me: You deserved it.

Kana: True. So what changed your mind?

Me: something My stepmum said.

Kana: Can I ask what?

Me: It's good..that's all you need to say

He smiled

Kana: I owe her my life.

Me; You owe a lot of people your life. Including us

Kana: I owe you and Snowflake more than my life. Thank you so much my love.

Me: it's a pleasure.

Kana: I was getting tired of sleeping alone in that bed. I ended up working from Seychelles.

Me: Nolo did mention that you were there for two months.

Kana: I couldn't take It anymore.

Me: that's bad.

He giggled.

Kana: You Don't mean that.

Me: No I don't

Kana: I knew it.

Me: Served you Right.

Kana: So you really blocked me out of your life for 8 months?

Me: Yes

Kana: And you Dont feel bad about it?

Me: no sir.

Kana: And you didn't miss me?

Me: I missed the sex.

He laughed

Kana: I thought you might. And even that didn't bring you back?

Me: One can live without that..

Kana: you are something else..

Me: your wife!

Kana: and I love you very much.

Me: I know

He shook his head and laughed again..

7 months later, Ora was grown and trying to walk. I didnt understand why she wanted to do everything at one go. She was teething and getting her balance. She adored her farher so much sometimes chose him over me. Well it happened 95% of the time. He was a great dad. He got the hang of it in a week. Yes. Even had us go to Seychelles for the first two months after we moved back in just so he couldn't be at work. I appreciated that. Quite a lot

Winnie: so?

Me: So?

Winnie: Are you coming?

Me: to what Winnie?

Winnie: To the party!

Me: Whose party?

Winnie: Have you been listening?

Me: No.

I said softly.

Winnie: I knew it.

Me: I'm sorry.

Winnie: Yonela's party.

Me: Yonela's having a party?

Winnie: She's turning 30

Me: oh!

Winnie: So?

Me: I have a baby Winnie.

Winnie: One who can walk.

Me: Is trying to.

Winnie: same thing .

Me: No it's not.

Winnie: Yes it is.

Me: I dont know.

Winnie: Oh come on mum!

Me: When's this party?

Winnie: Saturday?

Me: Which Saturday?

Winnie: Day after tomorrow.

Me: Come on Winnie! Such short notice!

Winnie: Its not.

Me: it is.

Winnie: Okay so you coming?

Me: I have a late shift tomorrow though.

Winnie: but you off on Saturday.

Me: I know Winnie but I just want to spend Time with my family.

Winnie: Okay understandable.

Me: But I'll get her a gift though.

Winnie: Thats better.

Me: It is. I'm almost out.

Winnie: Your last customer and you out.

Me: That's not fair.

Winnie: please.

Me: fine!

I helped the last customer who was very indecisive and I drove back home. I found Kana with his daughter.

Me: Hello there.

I kissed them both..my Chinese daughter spoke Gibberish to me, she was quite happy to see me too.

Kana: how was work?

Me: Fine.

Kana: That's good..

Me: and your day?

Kana: My day was fine.

Me: bagged a few contracts?

Kana: Two.

Me: wena Na!

Kana: I always do good you know this.

I smiled.

Me: Yes you do sir. Good job.. Hungry?

Kana: James cooked..

Me: Oh okay. I'll just go dish up

Kana: thanks babe.

I went to do so, we played with Ora for about an hour and she eventually fell asleep.

Me: Thank God! That kid talks too much!

Kana: No she doesn't.. She's great company.

Me: You say that because she loves you more.



Kana: And you jealous?

Me: Not even.

Kana: You sound jealous..

Me: Oh no baby, she knows who gave her life.

He giggled.

Kana: We using that card now?

Me: The truth card?

Kana: the "make the dad feel bad" card.

I laughed.

Me: I'm sorry

Kana: So I was thinking we could go out for dinner tomorrow.

Me: Let's make it Saturday baby.

Kana: Why?

Me: I knock off at 21:00 tomorrow.

Kana: what?! All your shifts have always ended

at 17:00 what changed?

Me: Ora was still a baby then. They were trying to accomodate me.

Kana: Tshiamo, she's still a baby. You cant be working till 21:00. You someone's wife and you are a mother..

Me: Let's not argue about this..

Kana: you right, we not going to argue about this coz you going to resign.

All the ifs

#39

Me: Are you kidding?

Kana: No.

Me: You must be.

Kana: Tshiamo...

Me: Kananelo stop it!

Kana: You need to listen to me! You don't need

the job.

Me: Stop trying to control me.

Kana: It's either you are a wife/mother or a sales consultant.

Me: You need to stop this!

Kana: You need to resign

Me: I refuse to!

Kana: Tshiamo!

Me: Kananelo I can do it all.

Kana: You can't do it all!

Me: Have I not been doing it all?

Kana: it's either family or your job you decide.

I walked away from to go take a shower and when I was done, he was waiting for Me.

Kana: Tshiamo..

Me: Stop controlling me.

Kana: I'm not doing that.

Me: That's exactly what you doing.

Kana: do you need the job?

Me: I love the job

Kana: Do you need it?

I kept quiet.

Kana: I'm not trying to fight with you.

Me: Just let me do this.

Kana: Tshia, Oratilwe needs you..

Me: Kana, she's grown.

Kana: She's only 7 months old.

Me: We have nannies.

Kana: Be fair. They have lives too.

Me: so you expect me to just wake up, take care of the child, run the household and that's it?

Kana: Tshepang is coming back in a week.

Me: Tshepang is busy with her varsity things!

Yes. The sisters had matriculated and did exceptionally good. Very good. Tshepang was studying Psychology. And Resego was doing media studies. Lesedi was also back at school but he hadn't given up on his dream and Bontle, well Bontle was still enjoying primary. Doing Grade 3.

Kana: But you won't be alone the entire time..

Me: You are very unfair

Kana: You are unfair to your child.

Me: She's growing isn't she?

Kana; This not the life I want for our child.. Okay get a better job then. A 9-5 job.

I looked at him.

Kana: Tshiamo compromose.

Me: Fine Kananelo! Fine! I'll resign but don't you dare think I won't go looking for a job.

Kana: as long as it doesn't affect our family time, our quality time then I'm happy.

Me: Yeah right.

Kana: You know I love you Right?

Me: Do you really?

Kana: very much.

Me: well goodnight

Kana: You don't love me too?

Me: no!

He laughed as I got myself comfortable

Kana; Do you mean that?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Ouch

Me: sleep.

He pulled me closer and we turned off the lights and slept. I ended up knocking off at 20:00 the

next day and yes I handed over my resignation later which I typed during my lunch hour. I had asked for Mike's opinion ..just to be extra sure about the decision and he felt the same way Kananelo did.

Winnie: So you really resigned?

Me: Yes Winnie.

Winnie: that's not good..

Me: Compromise..

Winnie: That's very important in marriage.

Me: I guess so..

Winnie: Ora still needs you though.. Atleast until she turns one.

Me: you think so?

She nodded.

Winnie: Go be a mother to your child.

Me: okay..

Winnie: he's coming from a good place, you know this might jeopardise your relationship with your child. I mean due to this 21:00 shift, you'll see her for about three or four hours in the morning and by the time you get home, she's sleeping

Me: I didn't even look at it that way.

Winnie: Because you stubborn and like things to be done your way.

I laughed

Me: Maybe.

Winnie: You know I'm right.

Me: A little.

Winnie: A lot.

Me: Okay yes.

Winnie: I'll miss you though.

Me: oh Winnie! You still have a lot of time with



me. Relax.

2 and a half years later, I was happily married. Yes, graduated finally! After I quit at my sales consultant job, I looked for another job which was a 8:00-16:00 and after I graduated, I applied for a HR post at that same company so it was all good. My career was blossoming and I was proud of myself so was dad. He reminded me every time! Every time! My daughter was a beautiful 3 year old child! So energetic we all thought she was on drugs at times.. Tshepang still at school living at res. She was tired of us. Resego was too and (Lesedi was well...Still Lesedi but luckily he had fallen inlove with Business management.

Ora: What's wrong?

Me: With?

Ora: You..

Me: Nothing why?

Ora: When are you going to close your laptop?

Me: as soon as I finish

Ora: But you to do My homework

Me: You want me to do your homework?

Ora: Yes Lily.

Me: Mum! Not Lily..

Ora: Grandpa calls you Lily.

Me: you not Grandpa.

Ora: I'm his grandchild

Me: I'm not helping you..

Ora: Why?

Me: Coz you not nice to me..

She came around to put his little arms around me.

Ora: Please mummy.

Me: No..

Ora: I'll give you my jelly tots.

I laughed

Me: All of them.

Ora: haa!

Me: I'm joking go get your bag.

Ora: Okay. I'm going.

She ran to get her things and we started painting pictures. It wasn't even homework but we had a lot of fun. A whole lot.

Kana: Hello there family.

Ora ran into his arms and he picked her up. I watched as he tickled her and eventually came over to kiss me.

Kana: Can I Join?

Me: Go change.

Kana: Okay.

We spent time with Ora, ate dinner, he bathed

her and put her to bed and we also went to take a bath together.

Kana: Think we did a good job?

Me; On Ora?

Kana: Yes.

Me: We did an amazing job.

Kana: Mm

Me: why?

Kana: Just asking.

Me: you dont Just ask

He laughed.

Kana: Okay fine.

Me: I'm all ears.

Kana: I think it's time we had more kids.

Me: Not now Kana.

Kana: Why not Tshiamo?

Me: My career is just...

Kana: Are you seriously telling me about your career right Now?

Me: Yes! Yes I am! Every time I try to do something with my life you try to get into the way and stop it! What's wrong with you?

Kana: I want more kids.

Me: Well you are going to have to wait.

All the ifs

#40

Kana: what do you mean?

Me: It means I'm not having another child now.

Kana: Are you serious?

Me: As a heart attack.

Kana: Tshiamo this is the right time for us to work on our family..

Me: No..I'm working on my career. All the

sleepless nights, the hardwork was not for nothing

Kana: So you don't care what I say?

Me: no..

Kana: wow!

Me: I'll be straight up with you. I'm not having a child now. I'm not even going to compromise.

He was in disbelief.

Kana: Tshiamo.

Me: Kananelo.

Kana: Are you listening to yourself?

Me: Yes

Kana: you have no intention of growing this family?

Me: I have no intention of doing so now.

Kana: Just Like that?

Me: just like that. I'm tired of you trying to get in my way of succeeding.

Kana: you really think I'm doing that?

Me: Aren't you?

Kana: Are you serious?

Me: you need to stop asking that question. I've decided that my body won't carry another child now. Let me focus on my career and I'll deal with diapers and worrying about breast milk afterwards.

I got of the tub and dried myself, got dressed and got into bed and closed My eyes. I was going to put myself first. I was going to be the most inconsiderate wife for once! He had everything going for him..why couldn't I?

Kana: Tshiamo?

I heard him say after a few minutes. I kept my eyes shut

Kana: Tshiamo.

I finally opened my eyes

Me: Kananelo..

Kana: is that how you suppose to speak to me?

Me: I'm sorry

Kana: Why you getting worked up? You knew at some point that I'll want more. I once told you this after Ora's birth

Me: And I just told you that I'm still enjoying my work and still enjoying my 3 year old daughter. She still needs My attention.

Kana: And having a second child means she won't get your attention?

Me: Not Like she is now

Kana: your reasons aren't valid enough. I still want more kids.

Me: have you been listening to me?



Kana: I have. That's how I came to the conclusion that your reasons aren't valid

My mouth hung open .

Me:are you serious?

Kana: I'm very serious

Me: so it doesn't matter what I say you want more kids And that's it?

Kana: Learn to be submissive.

Me: That's what I've been doing ever since I got married to you!

Kana: Am I not being submitting to you?

Me: You not listening to me. You don't consider how I feel..

Kana: I do consider how you feel. You are growing up

Me: I'm only 26.

Kana: more reason to have more kids

Me: No. More reason to focus on my career. I'm not having more kids now. Please accept my decision. I have to sleep.

I slid into the sheets again and slept. The next day, I went to drop Ora off at crèche and work was work.. I loved my job. After 16:00, I had to drive to Amanda's coz she wanted to talk to us..believe it or not, I had grown fond of the divas. They weren't so bad if anything they were fun and loving. Thembi had even thrown a baby launch for Ora after I returned home. If anything we were more like sisters. Nombu was still my bestfriend though. She had added another member to her family. My second God child. Anele. She was adadorable. My diva sisters had also added to their families as well.

Katleho: The late one is late! As usual.

Me: I'm sorry

Mora: Traffic?

Me: Something like that

Amanda: okay. Forgiven. Grab a wine glass.

I did and she filled it up.

Nombu: are we celebrating something?

Amanda: Something like that.

Thembi: what now?

Amanda: Well....

She cleared her throat.

Thembi: anytime now.

She was the impatient one.

Amanda: I want you to be my bridesmaids.

Katleho: You found another guy?

Me: Are you and Lindani renewing your vows?

Amanda: finally. Some brains!

We all laughed.

Amanda: Yes. Yes we are.

Nombu: So you need Bridesmaids?

Amanda: yes.. I'm getting married again.

Thembi: No you just renewing your vows.

Mora: If Amanda wants to waste Lindani's money by having us as bridesmaids let her.

Me: Well I've never been anyone's bridesmaid so bring it on.

Mora: Oh yes!

Amanda: Right! So I've already picked out your dresses

She passed us each a printout of the dress..

Nombu: Nice color..

Me: and the design too

Amanda: So we all good?

Mora: You know how Lebogang feels about tight dresses

Katleho: and Bongani too.

Thembi: Maybe you should get them flare dresses.

Amanda: Okay search for those and I'll make the final decision.

Katli: No problem

Amanda: And you two?

Nombu: all good right T?

Me: All good

Amanda: Settled then.. The next meeting I'll have is with the guys.

Mora: Is it not Lindani's duty to do so?

Amanda: No.

Me: How so?

Amanda: They'll end up sitting here watching soccer and drinking Heineken instead of choosing suits. I'll handle this.

Thembi: Control freak.

Amanda: Someone has to do it Amanda..

Katli: Its your day after all.

Amanda: Of course.

Me: Right! Are we done?

Amanda: no. You having your last glass of wine then we done .

Nombu: You know we married right?

Amanda: so am I.

We laughed and listened to all her big ideas. She was very excited about her "wedding".. I left an hour later coz I had to release the nanny.

Me: Hello baby.

She ran up to me.

Me: How was school?

Ora: It was fine..

Me: Had fun?

Ora: Yes

Me: That's good. Any homework?

Ora: No.

Me: Painting time?

Ora: Yes.

She went to fetch her things and we started painting pictures it was our daily thing.

Kananelo joined us when he came back from work and after her bath time she was fast asleep.

Kana: Can I talk to you?

Me; Okay.

I said as I put away the toys, brushes and papers we had out.

Kana: Please sit.

I did

Kana: Have you had time to think about what

we discussed last night?

Me: I'm not changing my mind.

Kana: Oh?

Me: Yes Sir. I don't mind having more kids. I just don't want to have them now.

Kana: So you sticking to what you saying?

Me: Yes.

Kana: that means you'll have no objection to my proposal right?

Me: what proposal?

Kana: I'm getting a second wife. One who knows her duties.

I couldn't believe it so much that I laughed.

Me: are you serious?

Kana: Very.

Me: Kananelo!



Kana: what?

Me: Are you seriously doing this?

He nodded

Me: if you think this is going to change my mind then you have another thing coming..go get your second wife!

All the ifs.

#41

I got up from the couch, went to bath coz I was afraid that I'd end up insulting him.and went to bath.. I slept in the other room because I went to bed fuming..work the next day and I went to see Nolo after work.

Nolo: look at you looking so businessy

Me: Is that a word?

Nolo: No..

Me: I figured

She laughed

Nolo: How are you?

Me: Very well thanks and how are you pregnant one?

She was expecting her second child. I was so happy When she finally moved on from Vusi..she had met a great guy. Jabu..smart loving guy.

Nolo: well I'm pregnant.

Me: I can see

Nolo: I can't wait to pop.

Me: you will. Soon enough.

Nolo: where's the little one?

Me: with the nanny.

Nolo: I miss her so much.

Me: I'll bring her over for the weekend. Where's Keneilwe?

Nolo: you missed her. She went to her boyfriend.

Me: Oh Okay then.

Nolo: Tshia?

Me: Nolo.

Nolo: talk to me.

Me: About?

Nolo: What's bothering you.

Me: nothing is.

Nolo: really?

Me: yes.

Nolo: don't lie

Me: Kananelo mistreats me.

Nolo: what? Did he hit...

Me: No!

Nolo: then?

Me: I feel emotionally abused.

Nolo: I'm all ears.

Me: Nolo, he wants a second child.

Nolo: So?

Me: I'm still trying to get my career to take off.

Nolo: And I know how important this is to you.

Me: exactly. I'm not ready for another child. I love children you know I do but I can't have another one now. I just need to be my own person. Have my identity. I Don't want to be labelled "Kananelo's wife" I want my child to be proud of me. To be able to take something from me.

Nolo; Did he say you must quit?

Me: No but he's trying to get In my way of building my career.

Nolo: You can't conclude that.

Me: Nolo, Kananelo doesn't like a working wife..Kananelo enjoys providing. I appreciate

that but I won't be a housewife. I refuse to be that.

Nolo: He's unfair though

Me: my thoughts exactly. Now he's threatening me indirectly.

Nolo: What do you mean?

Me: he said he wants to get a second wife.

Nolo: What!

Me: yes

Nolo: no! That is very wrong. That is so wrong! What the hell!

Me: Nolo I'm getting tired. I'm tired as it is actually. I can't do this..

Nolo: I'm so sorry.

Me: And I really love Kananelo but how he handles things. I can't! I know I made my mistakes but not once have I ever forced him to

do what he didn't want to do. When he didn't want to be a father, I gave him space. I want to work, he suddenly wants another child?

Nolo: What did you say?

Me: I told him to get one

She laughed.

Nolo: you adding Petrol to the fire.

Me: at this point, I don't care..Nolo this is not me. I can't live like this. Celia oppressed me, Kananelo wants to do the same. I can't.

Nolo: So What now?

Me: I wait and see.

Nolo: best decision

Me: right?

Nolo: Maybe he'll come back to his senses.

Me: that's a big maybe.

Nolo: We'll just have to wait and see like you

said.

Me: yes so guess what!

Nolo: oh no!

Me: Your cousin is throwing you a babyshower

Nolo: Oh No Tshia.

Me: Oh Yes Nolo

Nolo: You Don't have to do that

Me: I want to.

Nolo: why?

Me: Coz you my cousin.

Nolo: my goodness!

Me: I love you too.

Nolo: You don't...

Me: Give it up.

Nolo: Fine.

Me: Excellent.

Nolo; When last did you see Celia?

Me: When she handed over the keys to me.

Nolo: you haven't seen her since?

Me: Yes.

Nolo: Bathong.

Me: Keng?

Nolo: I bumped into her at the mall.

Me: That's nice.

Nolo: She asked about you.

Me: oh no!

Nolo: She wants to see you

Me: why?

Nolo; she wants to apologize.

Me: Nah..I've forgiven her..tell her.

She shook he head.

Nolo: just like that?



Me: Just like that my cousin.

Nolo: I'll tell her.

Me: Good. Thank you.

Nolo: Pleasure.

I kept her company until her Jabu came and I went back home. When I got there Kananelo's mum was at the house.

Me: Hello ma.

K's mum: Hello Tshia.

Me: How are you?

K's mum: I'm okay and you?

Me: I'm Fine. Hello my baby.

I kissed my daughter.

Ora: Hello Lily..

Me: Mum

Ora: can I have R40?

Me: why?

Ora: to buy Oros!

Me: is Oros R40?

Ora: Yes.

Me: R14

Ora: Okay can I have R40?

I gave her a R50 note. It made no difference to her. 14 or 40 same thing to my babygirl.

Ora: Thank you Lily.

Me: Okay Ora.

Her gran laughed

Me: Is everything fine ma?

K's mum: yes Tshia, are you growing old? Im here to fetch Tshago.

Me: oh yes! I'll go get her bag ready.

K's mum: No need to..you know she has clothes

at her granny's.

Me: I forgot.

K's mum: Tshia are you fine?

Me: Not really ma.

K's mum: what's wrong?

I was hesistant at first But told her while Ora played with Mirriam outside.

K's mum: that's emotional abuse!

I was surprised we shared the same sentiments.

K's mum: he's not.. Kananelo's come here!

He had just stepped in.

Kana: hello ma.

K's mum: Sit!

He did.

K's mum: Tell me what you told your wife.

Kana: I tell my wife a lot of things

K's mum: Tell me what you told her last night.

He looked at me.

Kana: so you involving my mother in our private matters?

Me: Well you were going to involve her at a later stage right?

Kana: Tshiamo you have no...

K's mum: She has every right to tell me..you are not getting a second wife Kananelo.

Kana: and who's going to stop me ma? Ma, I married a selfish, inconsiderate, self absorbed woman

K's mum: Kananelo!

Me: Wow!

Kana: Let Tshiamo deal with her career. I'll deal with growing my family.

K's mum: so you going through with this?

Kana: I am.

K's mum: You are on your own. I will not be part of your nonsense and dont expect me or the family to accept this. We don't support rubbish!

All the ifs

#43

I couldn't believe my ears, I got his hands off me and sat up straight.

Me: Are yoy serious?

Kana: You are drunk!

Me: Do I look drunk to you?

Kana: tell me you haven't been drinking

Me: So?

Kana: Don't sleep with me coz you drunk.. Is this some sort of favor?

I got up from the bed,took the cushion and threw at him

Me: Fuck you!

I took my phone and left the bedroom. I went to sleep in the guestroom and The next day, I was happy it was a friday. I was planning on taking Lesedi out, I missed his smart ass.

Kana: good morning Ma'am.

Me: Hey.

Kana: How are you?

Me: good and you?

Kana: All good. You going to work dressed like that?

I was wearing a revealing body con dress..its top part was a corset. I had rocked it with a nice pair of pink stilletoes. Had decided to not go with my natural hair, so I settled for an ombre wig

Me: yes I am

Kana: your body is too revealed!

Me: You think?

Kana: yes.

Me: well its a Friday.

Kana: So you showing some skin?

Me: Its hot.

Kana: Tshiamo...

Me: I'll see you later.. I'm taking my brother out for drinks after work

Kana: Tshiamo you not going to work dressed liek.that.

Me: okay.

I took my bag and headed out. He called after me and I got into my car and drove to work.

"Kananelo let you go out dressed like that?"

I turned.

Me: Oh Hey Gift.

Gift: Hello Tshia. How are you?

Me: I'm all good..you?

Gift: Very good.

Me: what brings you here?

Gift: The marketing team. I was meeting with them. PT.inc?

Me: Oh yes! Biggest client. You own that company?

Gift: Yes ma'am..

Me: You always have the team on their toes.

Gift: I want the best.

Me: Well thank God I'm not in that department.

He giggled.

Gift: You are responsible for hiring the best  
Right?

Me: True. So I guess I'm not totally off the hook.



Gift: yes..you look good by the way.

Me: Thank you..

Gift: see you soon okay?

Me; Sure thing. Hope you got a girlfriend now.

He laughed

Gift: Yes..still getting used to not being "taken" though.

Me: Oh you'll get used to it.

Gift: Hopefully.

Me: Take care.

Gift: you too.

I hugged him and we parted. When I got to the office, my phone rang.

Me: Kananelo.

Kana: where are you?

Me: At the office.

Kana: dressed like that?

Me: I'm already here..

Kana: Tshiamo, I'm coming with something to...

I hung up and switched my phone off. I worked and worked and was very happy when I saw my little one.

Me: L-man!

He laughed.

Lesedi: Sis

Me: You good?

Lesedi: Thirsty.

Me: what do you want to drink?

Lesedi: Hunter's dry.

Me: just one. I don't want dad to kill me.

Lesedi: he won't find out.

Me: He better not.. Call the Waiter.

He did and we placed our order.

Me: And a plate of meat?

Lesedi: Yes.

Me: You said we meeting for drinks Sedi.

Lesedi: I know sis.

Me: I know you want a bit of money?

Lesedi: a lot.

Me: I paid your studio sessions.

Lesedi: I know.. I want to take my girl out.

Me: oh no! Im not getting involved

Lesedi: Oh come on sis.

Me: where are you taking her?

Lesedi: some lodge.

I laughed.

Me,: Forget it child.

Lesedi: Sis....

Me: Nope! Next thing you'll be asking me to buy you a packet of diapers.

Lesedi: Please.

Me: Nope.

Lesedi: I'll have to make a plan.

Me: I'm going to tell dad.

Lesedi: you suppose to be a good sister.

Me: And that is exactly what I am.

Lesedi: Not from where I'm standing..

Me: I see you sitting.

He laughed.

Lesedi: Nice one.

We had a good time and I drove him home. I only let him have two beers and the rest was just juice. I had about two cocktails and just drank water afterwards..

Kana: welcome home.

Me: Thank you. How was your day?

Kana: Good yours?

Me: Great..have you had something to..

He suddenly pulled me close and ripped me out of the dress I was in. I could hardly breathe As he kept going deeper and deeper. When he eventually pulled out my insides felt hot. I moved slowly from the wall he had me against and I picked my torn dress on the floor and my underwear. He took my shoes and followed me to the bedroom..when I got there, he had my hands pinned against the floor and I just couldn't help but sleep.after that. When I woke up, I had to shower with cold water.

Kana: Good morning.

Me: morning.

Kana: Slept well?

Me: Yes you?

Kana: Slept good..listen baby, I've decided to let you focus on your career.

Me: Really?

Kana: Yes. Till you ready to have another child.

Me: Thank you..that means a lot to me.

Kana: Come down for breakfast when you done okay?

Me: Okay.

I did as I was told after getting dressed and found breakfast ready for me.

Me: What came over you last night?

Kana: what do you mean?

Me: You were a beast.

Kana: are you complaining?

Me: No. It was different.

Kana: Baby, I know you like having a good time.

Me: and i'm not complaining.

Kana: You not suppose to.

Me: Thanks for letting me do this.

Kana: I was a bit hard on you.

Me: Right

Kana: I'll be right back okay. Thomas needs my help outside. He's busy in the garden.

Me: okay.

I filled my cup with coffee and suddenly my eyes fell on a phone that had just went off.

" I need you to do all those things you did to me yesterday. I love it when you turn into a beast"

All the ifs

#44

My eyes quickly Fell back on the food. I didn't want to go outside and cause a scene I front of Thomas. In fact, I didn't want to cause anything.

Maybe I was suppose to close my mouth but thoughts started racing in my mind and I wasnt able to eat anymore.

Kana: Babe!

Me: Hey.

Kana: Low register? Is everything okay?

Me: Yes

Kana: you sure?

Me: Yes.

Kana: How about we go out for a picnic?

Me: I wanted to go meet with Nombu.

Kana: I'm sure you can go there sometime next week after work.

Me: I'll call her and ask if she's okay with me cancelling

Kana: I'd appreciate that.

Me: okay. Let me go make that call.



Kana: Okay babe.

I went to the lounge to take my phone off the charger and dialled my friend.

Nombu: Best one.

Me: My best one. How are you?

Nombu: I'm okay. Listen, 14:00 okay. Cocktails. We going partying.

Me: Nombu?

Nombu: Babe?

Me: Kana wants to take me out can we cancel?

Nombu: Hell no! I hardly see you coz of your job..we meeting at 18:00.

Me: Nombu...

Nombu: I'll fetch you.

She hung up. I didn't even know what to say. I charged my phone and went back to the kitchen.

Me: We are going to have to leave in an hour or

so if we want to have that picnic. Nombu wants us to go partying tonight

Kana: partying?

I nodded.

Kana: Since when do you go partying?

Me: Kana please. Can we not fight or argue or do something close to that today?

Kana: what time are you going to your party?

Me: she said she'll be here at 18:00

Kana: And what time will you be back?

Me: the next day

Kana: what!

Me: Kananelo.

Kana: You are married. You are both married

Me: I know that but we deserve a break.

Kana: From your husbands?

Me: I can say that .

Kana: Things have just gotten back on track between us.

I kept quiet but inside I was fuming.

Me: Let's let Nombu be please.

Kana: Baby I hope this doesn't make you forget what or who you are.

Me: what do you mean?

Kana: A wife and a mother..

Me: I can safely say I'm a great mother. I'm not a perfect wife but I try and we both know that no wife is right? That's why you do the things you do.

Kana: What things?

Me: Like Cheating for one.

His eyes moved from me.

Me: Seipati right?

Kana: What are you talking about?

Me: Don't you dare!

Kana: Tshiamo..

Me: I saw her text. So last night, you made love to me like you've never before. Were you thinking of her?

Kana: baby ..

Me: the truth

Kana: no.

Me: but you had sex with her Before I came back from the meeting I had with Lesedi right?

He kept quiet

Me: Kananelo answer me please

I Was calm but I had a lump in my throat. I could feel my tears near.

Kana: yes I did

They suddenly wet my face

Me: how long have you been seeing her?

Kana: Tshiamo please don't cry baby I...

Me: How long?

Kana: a month now.

I gasped for air

Me: A month?

Kana: yes

Me: Does she make you happier?

Kana: Tshiamo don't do this please .

Me: Does she?

Kana: She's just great company.

Me: And the sex is great too right?

Kana: Baby...

Me: right?

Kana: sometimes

I nodded

Me: So I'm guessing you want to take her as your second wife right?

Kana: I was.

Me: still thinking about it.

Kana: No not anymore. Baby I'm sorry.

Me: sorry coz you cheated or because I caught you?

Kana: Please forgive me. I didn't mean to hurt you .

Me: Stop lying.

Kana: Baby I'm...

Me: Stop lying!

I finally snapped

Me: You knew exactly what you were doing. You come home at 18:00 instead of 16:00, walk in and play with your daughter and I like you not betraying us on the side. I thought you were a

better man. I thought you were different

Kana: baby nothing has changed..

I walked away from him.

Kana: baby please. Tshia!

He followed me to our bedroom and I shut the door before he could get in. I sobbed silently, trying hard not to scream. I got up from the couch after I had calmed down, washed my face, changed the T-shirt I had on coz it was wet and grabbed my car keys. He was waiting for me

Kana: Baby...

Me: Can you give me my space?

Kana: Baby where...

Me: Give me my space Kananelo!

Kana: I'm sorry.

I took my phone, went to get my car and left. I

didn't even look his way, I drove straight to Nombu's.

Nombu: Best one are you fine?

I shook my head.

Nombu: what's wrong?

Me: Kana is cheating on me

Nombu: I'm so sorry.. I know exactly how you feel!

Me: You do?

Nombu: Sthe has cheated on me a couple of times as well.

Me: to think I had dedicated my all to him.

Nombu: I know friend. Nothing breaks your spirit like that

Me: and the worst part Is that I actually love him. So much Nombu.

My cheeks felt wet again and she was wiping



them with her fingers.

Nombu: I need you to calm down

He kept calling and I kept rejecting his calls until Nombu eventually spoke to him and told him that I'm fine.

Nombu: you can spend the night here

Me: I don't have....

Nombu: I've got you okay.

She tried to make me feel better and at 18:00, I told Her that we shouldn't cancel the plans we had so we went out. I was trying to numb the pain but it was at the back of my mind and every time I remembered it, I ordered more drinks to get rid of the lump in my throat. We went home at around 3am and I slept it off, woke up with a hangover and after bathing and having breakfast I went back to the house.

Kana: Tshiamo...

Me: can I sleep? I'll talk to you after?

Kana: okay.

I went to change into shorts and a shirt then slept. When I woke up. He was sitting on the couch.

Kana: please stop ignoring me..

Me: what led you to cheating?

Kana: I've always wanted a woman that would abide, a woman who didn't want to work and was comfortable with just looking after our house and kids. So when I didn't get that from you, it just drove me crazy..

Me: but you supported me when I went back to school. Didn't you think I'd need a job after graduating?

Kana: I didn't think you would. I thought maybe you'd be influenced by your girls and be like them. Be comfortable with being worked for..

Me: So you cheated coz I didn't turn out to be what you wanted. So does your Seipati abide?

Kana: let's not...

Me: Does she?

Kana: yes

Me: then maybe we should file for divorce and bring her into the picture as your new wife

All the ifs

#45

Kana: No baby we don't need to get a divorce

Me: Why not? I don't even understand why you cheated

Kana: I just explained to you that...

Me: You explained nonsense to me.

Kana: Baby please.

Me: Please what?

Kana: Let's fix this

Me: I thought you accepted me for what and who I am.

Kana: I did

Me: Then you'd understand that I want to be independent. That I don't want to rely on you. That is one lame excuse

Kana: we have a child to think of

Me: You didn't think of that before you cheated did you?

He kept quiet .

Me: Don't use my daughter as a tool to fix your shit! Leave Oratilwe out of this. Another man raised me, I'm pretty sure another man will be able to do the same.

Kana: Tshiamo please.

Me: Don't touch me.

He quickly removed his hand from my thigh.

Kana: Baby please!

I got up to pack an overnight bag.

Kana: Tshiamo...

Me: Kananelo leave me alone!

Kana: Please don't do this baby we can...

Me: please stop talking. I don't want to hear your voice!

He kept quiet and after packing my things, I grabbed my car keys and handbag, went to pack my child's things and left. I almost ran him over as I drove out and went to his mum's..

K's mum: Tshiamo so he already had a girlfriend?

Me: Yes ma..

K's mum: What's wrong with my son?

Me: I don't know.

K's mum: so what now?

Me: I'm here to fetch Ora before he tries to take her from me. Better safe than sorry ma. You never know what's on his mind.

K's mum: I understand .

Me: I won't keep you away from her.

K's mum: I'll come anywhere you are.

Me: Thank you ma but we just going to the house in Molapo.

K's mum: Okay then.

Me: Thanks for everything.

K's mum: I'll never support nonsense.

Me: Thank you ma.

K's mum: Take care of yourself and my grandchild..

Me: I will ma.

K's mum: Okay baby

I hugged her and drove to the house in Molapo.

Ora: Where are we going?

Me: To Aunt Nolo's.

Ora: Why aren't we going to see dad?.

Me: Just.

Ora: Lily?

Me: Ora.

Ora: I miss dad..

Me: he's not around.

Ora: Where is he?

Me: he went away on a business trip.

Ora: he never goes on a trip without me.

Me: He went on for people who work.

Ora: Don't I work?

Me: Do you?

Ora: No..stop speeding.

Me: I'm not speeding. This is on 60.

Ora: Make it lower. On 80.

Me: okay.

I maintained my speed

Me: Is that fine coach?

Ora: Yes

Me: Okay

Ora: Okay Lily.

Me: Okay then.

Ora: When are we going to that water place again?

Me: Which place?

Ora: The one for the doves.

Me: Maldives.

I giggled.

Me: Soon.



Ora: okay.

Me: just us.

Ora: why?

Me: baby please stop asking questions.

Ora: Okay.

Me: thank you.

Ora: Please change your music.

Me: Who do you want to listen to?

Ora: My CD.

Me: Okay.

I had to Stop the car to change the music and I helped her sing along to every song.. When I got to Nolo's she was shocked to see me with the bags but very Happy to see her niece.

Nolo: And now?

Me: He's cheating.

Nolo: What? Sabelo, go play with her outside.

They went out and Nolo helped me with the bags

Nolo: Is this all?

Me: I'll get more tomorrow.

Nolo: Okay. What now?

Me: he's been having an affair for a month.

Nolo: What is wrong with him?

Me: Nolo, he made same lame excuse about me not being the submissive wife that he wanted and how this one abides. He expected me to obtain my degree and remain a housewife! Does that even make any sense?

Nolo: so you want to divorce him?

Me: I can't do this.

Nolo; Being cheated on hurts

Me: Especially when you've been cheated on

your whole life..

Nolo: what do you mean?

Me: My mum, my dad, school.

Nolo: I understand.

Me: Maybe we not meant to be.

Nolo: Maybe you are .maybe this is a test.

Me: Really?

She nodded.

Nolo: But do what you think is best for you.

Me: thank you.

Nolo: I'm here for you..

Me: Thanks Cuz.

Nolo: We too pretty to be played.

Me: so True. But they play us anyway.

3 weeks later, I was still at home, I spoke with him from time to time but only about this

daughter. He hadn't tried anything funny and I was grateful. I was glad he wasn't involving our child although I thought he would. I had to be safe though. I had carried the child for nine months and I had vowed to always be there for her.

Nombu: oh no this is it! You need to rest!

Me: I'm fine.

Nombu: no need to work so hard.

Me: I have to.

Nombu: Tshiamo stop it!

Me: Okay fine.

Nombu; Your body is overworking.

Me: Nombu, there's nothing like that .

Nombu; There is everything Like that. Even Nolo complained that you are forever working.

Always behind that laptop.

I was. I was trying to avoid my issues. I had at some point fainted at work and I was told that my body wasn't receiving enough nutrition. I had even been booked off for a week but I wasn't going to back down.

Nombu: Come you have a check up in an hour. Let's go.

We drove to my doctor. I had told the one they took me to do refer me to my one for the check up

Doc: Do you still love Ora?

Me: yes. she's my child.

Doc: the way you going about it tells me otherwise. Are you trying to lose weight?

Me: No.

Doc: You still need food. You know you might end up dead right? You are even dehydrated.

Me: work's just...

Doc: I'm booking you off again.

Me: No please Doc, don't that again.

Doc: no I have to because from your tests from that other doctor came through. Your BP is fluctuating. Again! Remember this once happened?

Me: yes.

Doc: well its not good for you.

Me: please don't book....

She raised her hand asking me to shut up.

Doc: and the child you carrying. I'm booking you off. It's non-negotiable

All the ifs

#46

Me: are you sure about this?

Doc: You think the results are wrong?

Me: I'm on birth control.

Doc: Pills?

Me: yes.

Doc: Have you been taking other meds?

Me: just anti-biotics

Doc: They can disrupt the pill resulting in you falling pregnant.

Me: Can we just be sure?

Doc: Okay. Get on the bed then

I did as I was told and she started with the sonogram.

Doc: Two weeks

Me: Oh.

Doc: whats wrong?

Me: nothing.

Doc: You sure?

Me: yes

Doc: Okay then.

She gave me all she had to. Notes, prescriptions all those doctor things and Nombu was patiently waiting in the other room.

Me: I'm done

Nombu: You good?

I nodded.

Nombu: friend don't lie.

Me: Can we just go somewhere quiet?

Nombu: Sure

We drove to the hills. I was quiet all the way there and she was too. She only spoke after we got a place to sit.

Nombu: Talk to me. What did the Doctor say?

Me: I'm three weeks pregnant.

Nombu: those are great news.

I shook my head



.

Nombu: Tshiamo don't do this

Me: I can't have another child with Kananelo.

Nombu: He's your husband. You suppose to have kids with him.

Me: Nombu this is not good

Nombu: Don't do this to yourself. Love that child

Me: Its not so easy to.

Nombu: That's a gift from God

Me: I know but...

Nombu: Appreciate it...

I kept quiet.

Nombu: Maybe this child is meant to bring you guys together again.

Me: why do I doubt that?

Nombu: Don't

Me: I just feel like I'm being tested .

She giggled

Nombu: life tests us all. Just focus on passing those tests

I sighed

Nombu: Don't keep this away from him.

Me: I was planning on doing that.

Nombu: don't separate a child from his father.

I hated it when she said smart things.

Me: I'm hungry

Nombu: As you should be. You've been starving that child

Me: its not a child.

Nombu: oh shut up! It will be.

I laughed and she led me to the restaurant nearby. It was a 4 minute walking distance. We got food and ended up going back to where we

were coz it was so peaceful. She drove me back home afterwards.

Nombu: I'll check on you every second day.

Me: Okay.

Nombu: I love you.

Me: I love you more

I hugged her and watched as she drove off. I had a pleasant surprise waiting for me in the house

Tshepang: sister!

Me: my little one

Tshepang: how are you?

Me: I'm fine Nana how are you?

Tshepang: Im fine .

Me: What brings you here?

Tshepang: Missed you.

Me: I missed you too. How's school going?

Tshepang: it's going

I giggled

Me: I take it you are being shown flames

She laughed

Tshepang: One module..

Me: Ah! Work on it

Tshepang: I will. Why did you move out?

Me: I don't think you should ask that.

Tshepang: I'm old now. Is something going on between you and Abut'Kana?

Me: Sort of.

Tshepang: Will you two be fine?

Me: I don't know kid. Where's my baby?

Tshepang: She's sleeping.

Me: Okay.

Tshepang: Are you fine sis?

Me: Tshepang, don't worry about me.

She looked at me.

Tshepang: You know it's hard not to right?

Me: Just try.

Tshepang: Okay. I want to see Gopolang

Me: Are you sleeping over?

Tshepang: Yes

Me: Okay then Go on then

Tshepang: Later sis

Me: Okay babe.

She went out and I went to check on my daughter, Nolo came back 10 minutes later, and she looked so disgusted.

Me: and now?

Nolo: something smells horrible.

Me: Where?

Nolo: outside

Me: Okay. So you bringing your disgust in here?

Nolo: yes

Me: Oh no. Don't make your issues mine.

She laughed .

Nolo: How was your day?

Me: It was okay.

Nolo: You don't look okay.

Me: Nombu dragged me to my checkup.

Nolo: Okay?

Me: So it turns out I'm pregnant.

Nolo: and you not happy about it?

Me: Would you be?

Nolo: A child is a blessing.

Me: I know that

Nolo: So be thankful.

Me: Okay

Nolo: I ordered pizza it should be here anytime now.

Me: Okay great

We had quite a nice evening with our sisters and Our kids Ora and Sabelo kept us entertained till they were too tired and went to bed. The next day, Nolo wasn't going and the Week off had given me time to start planning the babyshower. That was the advantage of it.

Nolo: please give me that.

I passed her her charger

Nolo: Thank you. What's that?

Me: Vitamins.

Nolo: You need those.

Me: Yes I do.

Nolo: let me see...

She reached for them too before I could get them out of her reach.

Nolo: Tshiamo! These aren't vitamins.

Me: bring those back.

Nolo: Are you crazy? These are ibuprofens.

Me: So?

Nolo: Tshiamo these could cause you to...my goodness Tshiamo! You trying to miscarry aren't you?

All the ifs

#47

Nolo: What the hell is wrong with you?

Me: Nolo you don't understand.

Nolo: You selfish!

I kept quiet.



Nolo: You really tried to kill your own child? this is not you! If hurt has turned you into a monster then no! You are a terrible person .

I kept still.

Nolo: I'm going to tell Kananelo.

Me: No please! Nolo please don't.

Nolo: Why not? You don't deserve to be a mother. What's wrong with you?

Me: I'm sorry. I wasn't thinking.

Nolo: You knew exactly what you were doing.

Me: I won't try it again.

Nolo: Tshiamo be your old self again. You are losing it!

Me: I'm really not losing it. Just listen...

Nolo: One last chance! If you do this shit again I swear!

Me: please don't tell him.

Nolo: Fine.

Me: Don't even mention that I'm pregnant..

Nolo: why not?

Me: Nolo please.

Nolo: Fine

Me: Thank you.

Nolo: Do this again Tshiamo.

Me: I won't.

Nolo; You'll lose both your kids

Me: I heard you Nolo.

Nolo: Good .

I watched as she went to flush my pills away  
and she came back with real vitamins.

Nolo: Take this

Me: Nolo....

Nolo: take it.

Me: Okay

I had to take them and she luckliy changed the topic. I got a call from Kana.

Kana: Tshia.

Me: Kana.

Kana: Are you at work?

Me: no why?

Kana: Baby can we meet?

Me: you want to see Ora?

Kana: No .you.

I paused

Kana: Babe?

Me: When?

Kana: In an hour or so.

Me: where?

Kana: our favorite joint

Me: Okay .

Kana: Thanks baby.

Me: Okay

I hung up and Nolo's eyes were on me.

Me: Nolo?

Nolo: Are you fine?

Me: yes. I have to go meet with Oratilwe's dad

Nolo: okay then. No ibuprofen

Me: I won't!

Nolo: Tshiamo...

Me: I promise. Please give Tshepang this money when she comes back. She said she saw a wig at Style Diva so here...

Nolo: will do.

Me: Thanks sis.

I got ready and went to meet with him..

Kana: hey. Can I hug you?

I hugged him.

Kana: How are you?

Me: I'm fine .

We both sat down

Kana: Day off?

Me: Been booked off

Kana: why?

Me: BP and dehydration

Kana: Again?

Me: yes. Kana why did you call me here?

Kana: Tshiamo, I just want us to fix things?

Me: Fix things?

Kana: Please. I know I messed up but just let me fix this.

Me: How?

Kana: I've broken things off with Seipati and I just want us to fix things baby please.

Me: And you didn't leave anything behind?

Kana: what do you mean?

Me: Didn't you impregnate her?

Kana: No! I was always safe

Me: Kananelo you know...

Kana: I promise you. We can take her to whatever doctor now

Me: I'm not sure if I can trust you.

Kana: Can we at least do this for Ora?

Me: Why didn't you think of her before you cheated?

He kept quiet. There was a lot of sadness on his face. I had never seen him that way.

Kana: I know I hurt you.

Me: That's an understatement

Kana: Please baby.

I looked straight into eyes

Kana: Tshiamo please

Me: I don't know Kana.

Kana: We can go for marriage counselling.  
Anything to make it work.

Me: Can you give me time?

He nodded.

Me: I'm pregnant

His eyes popped out. I had decided that he had  
a right to know.

Kana: Are you serious?

Me: The doctor confirmed it yesterday.

Kana: I can't lie and say I'm not Happy.

Me: And I can't lie and say I am Happy.

Kana: I understand. So are you keeping it?

I nodded

Me: I almost didn't

Kana: Tshiamo I know this is all my fault.

Me: right!

Kana: Please just think about it

Me: Can I just leave? I need to rest. I feel tired

Kana: can I take you home?

Me: and who's going to take your car?

Kana: I'll send a driver over.

Me: I'll be good.

Kana: You sure?

Me; yes.

Kana: okay.

Me: take care.

Kana: You too.

I went to fetch Ora from school and took her



out for a milkshake

Ora: when are we going back home?

Me: which home?

Ora: dad's home. Your home. My house.

Me: your house?

Ora: Yes. When are we going back?

Me: You don't like being at Aunt Nolo's?

Ora: I miss dad

I kept quiet

Ora: Can we go back today?

I quickly distracted her from the topic and spoke about some toys I wanted to buy her. I Spent about 3 days thinking things over and dealing with a troublesome child.

Kana: Hey nunus. Why were you crying?

I had just called Kana at 23:00 to come over coz She had been crying.

Ora: Can I go home with you.

Me: Baby look...

Ora: I want to go back to my house Tshiamo.  
Please dont leave me here daddy.

Kana: Okay I won't. Go put some shoes on

She quickly ran to the bedroom and we stepped out.

Kana: How are you?

Me::book the sessions with the marriage counsellor.

All the ifs

#48

Kana: Tshia

Me; Hey.

Kana: Do you want something to eat?

Me: I'm fine.

This was a week after I had decided that he should book us into therapy. We had already met with our therapist twice and in just those two sessions, I was starting to feel better. Trusting him was going to take some time. There were days where I just didn't want him to touch me although that I was wrong but he understood as our therapist had told him that things will take some time before they go back to what they were. Ora was happy to be back in her house though. She missed James and Mirriam the most. And Ulrika, her nanny.

Kana: Are you sure?

Me: what are you making?

Kana: Peanut butter and jam.

Me: sies!

Kana: What do you mean coz you lo...

I ran to the bathroom to puke. After 5 minutes, I was back in the kitchen again.

Kana: Are you fine?

Me: This is the worst pregnancy. I hardly had morning sicknesses when I was carrying Ora. This is worse.

Kana: Can I get you something to make it feel better?

Me: No I'm fine. I have nausea med.

Kana: You sure you fine?

Me; I am.

I sat down again.

Me: stop worrying. This is all normal.

Kana: You are always sick.

Me: Pregnancies differ. And I'm not always sick. I'm always tired

Kana: because you work.

Me: I won't stop working.

Kana: I get that. I'm not saying you should. Just

take it easy

Me: okay

Kana: Deal?

Me: Deal.

Kana: Thank you.

Me: you need to go fetch your daughter from school.

He looked at his watch then grabbed his car keys.

Kana: I'll see you when I come back.

Me: Okay then.

10 minutes after he left, dad arrived. He had called the day before to say he'd be coming over to see me.

Dad: Tshiamo.

Me: Dad.

Dad: Are you fine?

I nodded

Dad: You don't look fine.

Me: I'm just sick.

Dad: Have you and Kana sorted out your issues?

He didn't know what issues those were but he knew we were going through something. My dad would have probably broken his legs if I had told him..

Me: We working through them. For the sake of the love we share but more especially our kids.

Dad: kid you mean?

Me: kids dad. I'm pregnant again.

Dad: Lily.

Me: Dad?

He looked concerned. I just couldn't understand why.

Dad: Ora is still young.. Will you be able to work,

go through your pregnancy, be a mother and a wife at the same time?

Me: I'm doing it dad.

Dad: Take it easy.

Me: I will. You don't look happy though.

Dad: No I am happy. You know I love being a grandfather. I'm just worried about you. You look sick as it is.

Dad though! There were times I didn't want him around coz he would just worry too much. Even over little things.

Me: Dad!

Dad: Don't snap at me pregnant child

I giggled.

Me: Dad I'm fine. Please stop worrying

Dad: I'm your dad. I will always worry about you.

Me: And I love you for that.

Dad: Now let me worry.

Me: Not too much please.

Dad: I can't promise you that

Me: Can I get you a drink?

I was growing tired of his concerned side.

Dad: Juice

Me: okay dad.

I went to get him juice and biscuits.

Me: How's ma doing? She called me yesterday

Dad: She's also worried about you. She said you are overworking yourself

Me: I'm not anymore. Please tell her.

Dad: okay Lily..

Me: Yes dad. So when will we receive the pension money?

He laughed!



Dad: Why?

Me: I have plans for it

Dad: For whose money?

Me: Our money.

We laughed again.

Dad: Ora really takes after you.

I giggled.

Me: I've never seen a three year old that speaks so much.

Dad: kids are smarter than you think. As soon as they know a word or two just know that you'll be dealing with their verbal diarrhea until they settle into their real personalities.

Me: So this isnt her real personality?

Dad: it's her childhood personality.

Me: and I'm suppose to deal with that?

Dad: you have no choice.

Me: I should have never been a parent.

Dad: too late. You have two now.

Me: Thanks for reminding me dad.

Dad: it's a pleasure my child.

He left after he spent some time with his grandchild and son in law. The evening was well spent with the hubby and my diva. The next day was work as usual but at around 10:00 I started not feeling okay. I felt a bit sick.

Sharon: Go home.

Me: I Cant.

Sharon; Tshiamo go home please. I dont want to be rushing you to the doctor again.

Me: I know but...

She started packing my things.

Sharon; Let's go.

I was forced to go back home and as I was

driving back, I got a call from Kana.

Kana: you going somewhere?

Me; Home.

Kana: Are you fine?

Me: sick. I'll be fine.

Kana: I'm coming back.

Me: no you don't...

Kana: I'm on my way.

Me: Okay.

I hung up and 15 minutes later I was at home.

Mirriam: That person has been here since morning. Didn't open the gate

Me: Okay. You did good Mirriam. You never know what or who you dealing with.

Mirriam: Are you okay Tshia?

Me: just nauseous and tired.

Mirriam: I'll make you something okay? And don't try to help me with housechores today.

Me: Okay. Let me go see who that is.

Mirriam: Okay.

I went out again to the person who was in the car outside my house.

Me: Hello.

"Hi Mrs Tefo how are you?"

Me: Do I know you?

"Forgive me. Seipati"

I quickly calmed myself down.

Me: Your Man's not here..what do you want?

Seipati: Our man dumped me. I'm just here to fetch my lingerie. Didn't you perhaps see it when you were cleaning? A red number with a lot of lace. Saw it? Yes? No? Maybe?

All the ifs

#49

Me: Okay. Hold on.

I called Kana.

Kana: Babe?

Me: How far are you?

Kana: I'm 3 minutes away.

Me: okay.

Kana: Is everything fine?

Me: Your Seipati is hete.

Kana: What!

He hung up and seconds later, I saw his car. He quickly came out of it.

Kana: And then?

Seipati: Hello sugar.

Kana: who gave you my address?

Seipati: Hello baby.

Kana: Who the hell showed you my house!

Seipati: I saw it on one of your documents on your phone. You have a lovely home

I kept my eyes on Kananelo

Me: I'm suppose to accept such disrespect right?

Kana: Please calm down.

Me: Get your rubbish off my property.

Seipati: Don't call me...

Me: I Don't recall talking to you!

Kana: I told you it's over. Leave!

Seipati: So you were serious?

Kana: Leave Seipati.

Seipati; Fine.

She got back into her car.

Seipati: Nice house by the way.

She drove off.

Kana: Baby look...

Me: Did you bring her here?

Kana: No I would never. Please believe me! I didn't baby.

Me: Kananelo I don't need this drama

Kana: I know..but I didn't bring her here.

Me: fine.. Okay!

I was really getting sick

Me: Please take me to the doctor.

Kana: go get whatever that you need.

Me: Okay.

I went to take my bag.. Told Mirriam where I was going.

Doc: Pregnancies differ.. This will probably be your worst.

Me: In such early stages?

Doc: Yes.

Me: Will we be fine?

Doc: It's just nausea right?

Me: it's too much.

Doc: Just let it be.

Me: And I'm just feel very irritable.

Doc: That's normal.

Me: is it?

Doc: Didn't you feel this way when you were pregnant with Ora?

Me: no.

Doc: You okay..just take your vitamins and you should be fine.

Me: Okay then.

Doc: Any questions Kana?

Kana: nothing at all



Doc: you sure?

He nodded although I could see the worry on his face

Doc: That's it.

Me: Thank you.

Doc: You want to see your child?

Me: Do you babe?

Kana; Yes babe.

Doc: Okay up!

I pulled my shirt up so we could have the scan done.. Everything was fine.

Doc: All good.

Me: Thank you..

Doc: pleasure.

We decided to get Ora on our way back even though it wasn't exactly time for her to leave school.

Ora: daddy

Kana: Baby?

Ora: I'm hungry.

Kana; what do you want to eat.

Ora: Chips.

Kana: and?

Ora: Ribs.

Kana: and?

Ora: Milkshake.

Kana: Okay let's go.

I listened as they laughed and spoke like old friends. I was left out as usual.

Kana: so you want it?

Ora; Please daddy.

Kana; What Color?

Ora: Blue.

Kana: Blue car?

Ora: Yes..the one that Looks like Lily's.

Kana: Okay..

She had her dad for some ride on car and a skate board

Ora: When dad?

Kana: Tomorrow.

Ora: And the skate board? Sabelo doesn't want me to use his.

Kana: But you too young for skateboards.

Ora: No Daddy.

Kana: baby you are.

Ora; No I'm not.

Kana: Will you listen to me?

Ora: yes. I'll listen to you.

I giggled at how cute she looked.

Kana: Skateboards are for boys.

Ora: No.that girl on subway surf uses a skateboard.

Kana sighed.

Kana: can you help?

Me: Nope. Leave me out of it. Its a Father and daughter thing.

Kana: So I'm on my own?

Me: Unfortunately.

Kana: Ouch.

Ora: Daddy!

Kana: Im listening baby.

Months later...

I had forgiven! I was working on forgetting. He did all the right things and took care of us..he was remorseful and I was coming around too. Therapy was a good idea..It brought us closer

again. Amanda and Lindani's "wedding" was also a very beautiful one. Atleast the kid I was carrying didn't make me sick on that day. I was at peace.

Me: Baby I taught you how to do it.

Kana: Baby I'm trying my best.

Me: Kana be a dad please.

Kana: I am.

He laughed.

Kana: You know this one doesnt like me

Me: how can you say that?

Kana: You know this..look at the face.

I giggled.

Me: Just change the diaper.

Kana: Okay fine.

He did.

Me: Did you die?

Kana: no.

Me: This one loves you..you are the dad.

Kana: do you dude?

He asked his son. I had given birth to my beautiful son. My little king. Tumelo Phenyotefo. Ora called him "TPT". Tshepang's influence yes!

Me: Yes he does.

Kana: thank you baby.

Me: For?

Kana: The blessings. For you. For forgiving me. I know its been hard these past few months. I'm just really...

Me: Let's focus on making us work.

Kana: And having more kids.

I faked a cough and he laughed.

Me: Nope. We still fine like this.

Kana: You know we've got each other right?

Me: And that's all we need.

All the ifs

#50

Me: Ora stop running!

Ora: I'm playing.

Me: Stop running.

We were on vacation with our 3 year old and the little man who was only 2 months old but looked like he had been on earth for 5 months. Tumelo ate a lot. We had to introduce him to solids at 6 weeks coz he just never had enough. Although I was a bit scared that it might cause him to be constipated, he was just living his life and eating his food. A strong healthy boy. Ora loved him to the core. She always tried sharing her food with him no always tried feeding him

whatever she was eating so we always had to be extra careful when she was around him. We'd tell her to go eat in the kitchen then come back when she was done but somehow she was always able to give her little brother some sugar. The granules would always give it away.

Ora: Lily.

Me: Ora?

She came closer.

Ora: Please let me play

Me: I'm not saying you can't play. Stop running. You'll get hurt.

Ora: Where's my dad?

Me: I don't know.

I was really just the lady that carried Ora for 9 months.

Ora: Lily.



Me: I don't know

Ora: Okay

Me: Stop running okay?

Ora: Okay Lily.

She went back to the new friends she made.  
His brother was sleeping peacefully in his  
travelling bed. I watched as Kana walked back  
to us

Me: you not suppose to bring work on family  
vacations baby.

Kana: I know. I had to stop them before they  
messed things up. Again!

Me: is everything fine now?

Kana: Should be.

Me: No more calls.

Kana: Deal. Tell me...

All my attention went to him.

Kana: Are you ready to go back to work?

Me: I have a month to get ready

Kana: Are you?

I nodded.

Me: I miss work.

Kana: And you okay with mum looking after Tumelo?

Me: Yes. Baby?

Kana: Baby.

Me: you the one who has an issue with that.

Kana: Okay I'm not entirely comfortable with the idea.

Me: Why?

Kana: We had a nanny for Ora. Can't we do the same for Tumelo?

Me: You trust a stranger more than your mum?

Kana: She's getting old.

Me: She's 57

Kana: See?

I laughed.

Me: Let her take care of her grandson. Don't take this from her. She raised you, She'll do a better job with your child. Trust me .

Kana: How do you know?

Me: Because she loves her grandkids more than she loves you.

He laughed.

Kana: Good answer. A lot of truth in it.

Me: Exactly

Kana: Okay then. Let's give it a shot.

Me: Your son will be fine.

Kana: This one that finishes my money.

I giggled.

Me: you said you want another child. Deal with it.

Kana: Ora wasn't like this..my daughter was sweet.

Me: to who?

Kana: to us.

Me: to you.

Kana: don't badmouth her.

Me: Stop badmouthing my son.

Kana: I'm not.

Me: You love Ora more don't you?

He giggled.

Kana: You know that's not true.

Me: Then?

Kana: he's a boy.

Me: so?

Kana: tough love.

Me: You must never Kananelo! I'm banning you from my son.

Kana: How dare you!

Me: Don't touch him.

Kana: Hey I have a right.

Me: Go touch your daughter.

Kana: That's not fair.

Me: it is and you...

I received a video call from Nombu.

Me: Baby can you watch him for me?

He laughed.

Kana; didn't you ban me?

Me: you unbanned for now..I'll ban you again when I come back.

We both laughed and he agreed.

Nombu: Yummy mummy.

Me: Hey!

Nombu: Let me see the bod.

I showed body.

Nombu: You are losing the baby fat. I'm so jealous.

Me: I have to. I told you to join me.

Nombu: Hard work Tshiamo.

Me: Then you'll never lose the fat.

Nombu: I still have two more babies to carry.

Me: Haaa!

Nombu: I'm telling you.

Me: My goodness Nombu!

Nombu: I'm no career woman please.

Me: Okay fine..sorry.

Nombu: forgiven.how are my kids doing?

Me: They are fine.

Nombu: And you?

Me: I'm all good..

Nombu: And when are you coming back?

Me: Tomorrow.

Nombu: Good. You've been gone for way too long now.

Me: a week?

Nombu: It is too long.. Miss you

Me: I can't wait to see you then.

Nombu: I'm coming over for lunch okay?

Me: Are you asking?

Nombu: I'm telling you.

Me: when?

Nombu: I'll just pop up..

Me: Why am I not surprised?

She giggled.

Nombu: I'll call you later okay? Sthe Just got back. I want to go get what's mine.

Me: Have fun

Nombu: bye!

Me: bye baby.

I went back to the family. We had a beautiful night under the sky coz it was hot..Tumelo.was with Ora's nanny though coz she advised us against bringing him out at night..we flee back the next day and we just got home and slept.. Tumelo only woke up once that night and the next day we pretty much just had a lazy day.

Kana: What can I get you?

Me: Just water.

Kana: Sure?



Me; Yes.

Kana: Okay.

He went to get me a bottle of water and we were told by Mirriam that we had a visitor so we asked her to them in.

Kana: And now?

Me: Calm down!

Kana: what are you doing here?

Seipati: that's no way to talk to your baby mama.

Kana: what?

Seipati: Here..I brought your child.

Kana: Don't come here with your nonsense! We had tests...

Seipati: things go wrong..doctors make mistakes. Labs make mistakes! This is your child and she is only 3 months old. Accept her or I'm going to have you arrested for child

support

All the ifs

#51

Kana: you need to leave me alone!

Seipati: Take care of your child.

Kana: Take this little baby and leave!

Seipati: hell no! You need to support your Child.  
I'm not backing Down.

Me: Hello.

Seipati: I'm not talking to you.

Me: Listen!

I snapped.

Me: This is my house! You dont make demands here! I suggest you take this child and I'll take it from here.

Seipati: I'm not leaving this house!

I grabbed her handbag and nappy bag and tossed them out

Me: Leave!

Seipati: Never!

Me: Don't make me drag you and that innocent child out!

Kana: Seipati leave

Seipati: I'll be back.

She took her child and They headed out.

Me: Did you not say you had tests done.

Kana: she's lying

Me: Kananelo I thought this nightmare was over.

Kana: Baby it is.

Me: Then what is all of this?

Kana: I'll get her to back off.

Me: No. You and that child are going in for DNA tests.

Kana: you want me to waste my time?

Me: You want us to go back to what we were a few months ago?

He kept quiet

Me: I thought as much.

Kana: okay Tshia fine. I'll do it.

Me: You really have no choice.

Kana: I'm going to check on Tumelo

Me: okay.

I watched as he walked away and I was disturbed by a call.

Me: Daddy!

Dad: Hello Daughter of mine.

Me: how are you?

Dad: Well I'm Fine. I take it you back?

Me: Yes I am sir.

Dad: How are the kids doing?

Me: All good.

Dad: I'm going to come over okay?

Me: Today?

Dad: Yes.

Me: Okay.

Dad: Is that okay?

I giggled.

Me: Dad.

Dad: Lily.

Me: You already told me that you coming.

Dad: I was asking.

Me: No you weren't.

Dad: Yes I was.

Me: No. You weren't. Please bring me chocolate.

Dad: No. Your time has expired ask your husband to get you chocolate.

Me: Ouch.

Dad: However, I love you though.

Me: I love you too dad.

Dad: later okay?

Me: Okay Daddy.

He hung up and Kana was looking at me.

Kana: your Dad?

Me: yes

Kana: Is he fine?

Me: He's okay. He said he's coming over.

Kana: Okay

Me: Is he still sleeping?

He nodded

Kana: Baby can I talk to you?

Me: Sure.

I made space for him on the couch.

Kana: I'm really sorry for all the mess I caused.

Me: You need to stop apologizing

Kana: well it's hard not to

Me: Kana I've forgiven you. I have

Kana: For real?

I nodded

Me: I mean it

Kana: Seipati just took me back to a place I never wanted to visit again

Me: you know I should be saying that not you.

He managed to smile

Me: I think you need to cut yourself some slack.

Kana: when did you become so understanding?

Me: I'm not just a wife anymore. I've got kids to think of now.

Kana: Thank you.

Me: Pleasure.

Kana: want something to eat?

Me: No.

Kana: why not?

Me: I'm on a diet.

Kana: You are still breastfeeding.

Me: so?

Kana: You not suppose to be on a diet.

Me: no I can. I'm eating the right food.

Kana: your body is fine.

Me: no it isn't.

Kana: Take it from your husband.

Me: My husband is lying.



Kana: Baby you really not fat.

Me: I was.

Kana: Yes fine but now you've worked out and...

Me: No. I'm not fine.

Kana: You really don't want food?

Me: I really don't.

The little one woke up and I rushed to get him before he could wake his sister. I quickly calmed him down, changed his diaper and he was soon burying his face in my chest. I fed him and he was fast asleep again.

Kana: That kid is always sleeping.

Me: be glad.

Kana: he's lazy.

Me: Stop badmouthing my son.

Kana: But he is.

Me: No he isn't.

Kana: Then?

Me: He has to sleep so he can grow.

Kana: Ora never slept this Much.

I ignored him.

Kana: Hello ma'am!

Me: Leave my son alone .

Kana: He's cute though.

Me: He's cuter than your daughter

He laughed

Kana: You are entitled to your own opinion.

Me: Oh whatever!

We spent time together and dad came later in to check on the kids. 2 days later, Kana called his doctor so the tests could be conducted. I was nervous. I really was. Anything was possible. We were told that they'd take 5 days to come back from the lab and I really dreaded

the day. When it finally came I was panicking inside

Doc: Tshia?

Me: Hey.

Doc: Are you fine?

I nodded

Doc: You sure?

Me: Yes

Seipati: what do the results say?

Kana: How about you relax?

Seipati: I am very relaxed

Kana: then keep quiet

She did and we watched as the doctor opened the envelope.

Doc: Okay....

He paused as he read on.

Doc: 99.9% Sir. The child is yours

All the ifs

#52

I stared into space as I thought of the betrayal. Evidence of his infidelity. Evidence of unfaithfulness. Evidence of broken vows. The results took me back to a place I was in months before my son's birth. Feeling of betrayal, feeling of hurt, it was as if I was reliving the past. What was I going to tell my children? "Accept your dad's lovechild she's your sister?" What was I suppose to do? How was I going to face my father? What was I going to do? To say?

Kana: Tshiamo?

I quickly wiped the tears off my face. It was 3 or 4 hours after the results had been shown to us. I asked his mistress to leave immediately.

Me: hi.

Kana: Can we talk?

Me: Yes sure.

Ora and Tumi were with Ulrika. She must have seen that I wasn't okay so she had asked me to pump enough milk for Tumelo and was with them in the playroom.

Kana: I swear I was safe at all times.

Me: really?

Kana: I was..

Me: Then what happened?

Kana:Baby I don't know. She probably got to the doctor or something.

Me: I think it's time you took full responsibility for your actions. You cheated, slept with a woman and made her pregnant.

Kana: that is not my child.

Me: Kananelo you've hurt me enough .you've

told me enough lies..please just admit it now.

He had given up..there was no way around it. I was tired of his apologies. I was tired of the hurt. I was tired of the pain I was feeling.

Me: can I be left alone? Even If its just for an hour?

He nodded.

Me: thank you.

I watched as he walked out and continued my thinking. I was over thinking things, wiping tears and dealing with what had took me back. I was trying to calm down and when I finally regained my strength, I went to check on my kids and found Ora and Kana singing some weird song to him. Their own freestyle. The lyrics didn't even make sense but they were having a good time. I went to the kitchen to start cooking. I needed something to get my mind off things, 45 minutes later, Kana came to the kitchen.

Me: Where are the kids?

Kana: The little one's sleeping and the other one is playing games on her tablet.

Me: Okay.

Kana: Can we talk?

Me: just a minute please.

I stirred one last time and Switched off the stove.

Me: Okay I'm all ears

Kana: what now? Have you decided on what you going to do?

I nodded and he sat up straight ready for the answer. His face displayed concern more than that I think he was afraid of what my answer would be...

Me: Nothing.

Kana: nothing?

Me: there's nothing I can do about this situation.  
The child is yours.

Kana: You not leaving me?

I shook my head .

Me: I'm not leaving..

Kana: Really?

He was in disbelief.

Me: I'll just have to figure out what I'll tell the  
kids when they grow up.

Kana: I understand..

Me: Can you book more sessions for me?

Kana: Can I join you?

Me: Can I do this alone first?

Kana: That's okay

Me: Only the counsellor will tell me if we should  
include you or not.



Kana: Thank you baby..

Me: I'm willing to make this work. No matter how much you've hurt. That's how deep my love is.

Kana: I'm so...

Me: please stop apologizing.

Kana: forgive me for that .

Me: Should I dish up for you now?

Kana: please

Me: okay

I dished up for him and his daughter then went to join them in the lounge. I managed to get some rest as Tumelo was well behaved at night. Only woke up once and wasn't restless at all.

Kana: See you later?

Me: Have a good day at work.

Kana: have fun with your son .

Ora was going back to school.

Me: Can I have Seipati's number?

Kana: Why?

Me: We need to reach some sort of agreement.

Kana: okay

He sent them to my phone.

Me: Thank you.

Kana: Pleasure

Me: see you later.

I kissed him.

Me: Don't forget to book more sessions.

Kana: Okay baby

Me: Bye Ora.

Ora: Bye Lily

I watched as they walked out and went to check on Tumelo who was still sleeping. At around 8, I

called Seipati.

Seipati: Tshiamo.

I wasn't surprised she had my number.

Me: how are you?

Seipati: All good.

Me: can you come over?

Seipati: why?

Me: Well my husband is the father of your child so don't you think we should come to some sort of agreement or find a way around this?

Seipati: Okay.

Me: 12:30

Seipati: Okay Tshiamo. See you then.

Me: Okay.

I hung up, went to bath and when Tumelo woke up, I bathed him fed him and he was fast asleep again.

Me: Ulri.

Ulri: Tshia?

Me: I need a favor

Ulri: Oh oh

I giggled. I loved Ulrika. She was 2 years older than me but was more like a sister than a nanny.

Me: Seipati is coming here with her child. I need the child's DNA sample.

Ulri: I'm guessing you want salivaria?

Me: Yes. Offer to watch the kids please and get a sample. Getting Kananelo's is easy.

Ulri: Okay

Me: Thank you.

I gave her the bag

Ulri: Got you.

Me: Thank you

Ulri: Got you.

We waited for Seipati to come and luckily she came with her child.

Me: Do you want something to drink?

Seipati: Juice

Me: Okay. Ulri please come get the kids

Seipati: Take them where?

Me: To the nursery.

Seipati: Oh okay

Me: Yes. I'll go get your juice

Seipati: Okay thanks

Ulri took the kids to the nursery and I went to get us some juice

Me: Are you comfortable with your child coming here to spend time with Kananelo?

Seipati: I'll come with.

Me: Not now obviously she's still fully dependant on you.

Seipati: When she's like one?

Me: Yeah.

Seipati: Okay then cool.

Me: Is that fine?

Seipati: Yes but Kananelo needs to create some sort of bond with his child and support her.

Me: I get that

I laid down a few rules and they left after an hour or so. She seemed understanding. I didn't buy it though. Ulri had managed to get the kid's sample and I managed to get Kana's. I told him what I was doing though! I found another doctor and in three days, the results were back from the lab. I opened them.

Kana: Tshiamo can you Hurry up?

I did. Quickly scanned through them.

Me: she is yours. Whether you like it or not. That child...

I tried to hold back my tears.

Me: is unfortunately a scar of the pain you caused.

All the ifs

#53

2 years later, I had accepted that my children had a half sister. Tumelo had grown into a Fine young gent. Well two year old gent. Tshepang was doing great..she had found a job.. Lesedi was also doing very well and so was Resego..I was proud of the siblings. I had also completed another course. Financial management and I was doing very well. Very! All the friends were pretty much the same. I was very close to Mike and Winnie as I had been while I was working as sales consultant. Nolo had broken up with her baby daddy and decided to stay single and raise

her kids. I had made peace with Celia and Lerato. Bought them a house. Yes! I had to get them out of the shack. Well it was my grandfather's wish. He passed on two days after we had Tumelo's 1st birthday party. I was torn apart but dad had told me to let go. Gran had made peace with it even before my grandfather took his last breath. Kana and I were making it work. Seipati had no drama luckily. Banele and Lungelo were divorced. That's what I was told by Lungelo when I once bumped into him at Shoprite

Winnie: I Don't know Tshia.

Me: Well you should.

We were having lunch. With Mike. They had found other jobs and were doing good as well.

Winnie: It is a great offer yes...

Me; But?

Winnie: I don't know.



Mike: You found a better job. Take it.

Me: Thank you Mikeylish.

Mike: Yes Tshialish!

Winnie: are you guys sure?

We nodded.

Winnie: Okay I'll take it.

Me: Good!

Mike: No you talking.

He called the waiter and ordered more drinks.

Me: And then?

Mike: And then what?

Me: what's going on Mikey?

Winnie: Yes. What is wrong?

Mike: with what?

Me: you hardly at home and you always with us

Mike: Are you complaining?

Winnie: No..talk to us.

He sighed.

Mike: I'm always fighting with the wife.

Winnie: Why?

Mike: She's always complaining..always has something to find fault in.

Winnie: And you growing tired?

Mike: Wouldn't you?

Winnie: Did you ask what the problem is?

Mike: I did..she's just complaining!

Me: I'm sorry.

Mike: So this is why I'm always with the happy ones.

We laughed

Me: Of course!

Winnie: Let's drink!

More laughter and we had such a good time..  
When I got home the kids were sleeping and  
Kana was working.

Me: On a Friday?

Kana: Yes ma'am.

Me: Why?

Kana: I was waiting for you.

Me: I'm not late am I?

Kana: no.

Me: why are they sleeping so early?

Kana: played too much.

Me: Did they bath?

Kana: yes they did.

Me: Okay. I'm going to take a shower.

Kana: Can I join you?

Me: I don't feel like getting up to no good today

He giggled

Kana: they told you I bite?

Me: I know you do.

Kana: Okay guilty.

Me: Stay in yours okay?

Kana: Yes ma'am.

I knew he wouldn't because minutes after I had gotten into the shower his hands were on my wet skin and he carried me out of the shower driving in and out of me. Deeply..

Me: Ka...

Kana: pay attention to what we doing.

I paid attention to what hardly let me breathe but felt so good. So so good. I let go of the sheets When he pulled out and breathed heavily.

Me: What was that?

Kana: you very nice.

Me: Can I go shower now?

Kana: I think you can.

He joined me for it and we went to bed.. We were woken up by two loud kids the next day as we found them dancing in the lounge.

Me: Good morning babies.

Ora: Hello mummy.

Me: slept well.

She nodded.

Kana: hey cute one.

Ora: Hello daddy.

Tumelo: I've been waiting for you Tshia.

Me: Please greet us.

Tumelo: hello Kana.

Kana: Hello son how are you?

Tumelo; I'm fine..hello Tshia.

Me: Hey Tumi.

Tumi: I'm hungry.

Me: You could have easily asked Uncle James to make you food.

He shook his head.

Tumi: I don't like his oats.

Me: But he makes it nice.

Tumi: I don't like it.

Me: Ora do you also want some oats?

Ora: Yes please

Me: okay then.

I left them with their dad and we had oats for breakfast. We decided to go out for lunch to some kiddies friendly restaurant coz Ora felt like we hadn't taken them out in a while. She was right though. We were always so busy. Well I was. But I always made time for them. I got a

call from Mikey while Kana and his kids were still placing their orders.

Me: Mikey.

Mike: Hey!

Me: What's up?

Mike: let's go partying tonight

Me: Oh No..you know I'm booked this weekend.. Kids and the husband.

Mike: Oh come on..Winnie is on.

Me: Can't do babe.

Mike: Party Pooper.

Me: I'm sorry.

Mike: Okay fine then.

Me: have fun though

Mike: I'll send you pictures.

I giggled.

Me: Do that.

Mike: Bye.

Me: Bye.

He hung up and I went to the family. Well the husband coz the kids were already in the play area.

Me: Sorry about that

Kana: I got you the same.

Me: Its okay

Kana: Is everything okay?

Me: Yes. Mike wanted to go out.

Kana: So why didn't you?

Me: family weekend?

Kana: baby?

Me: Yes?

Kana: you know we could have easily taken



them to mum's.

Me: And leave you alone?

Kana: not really alone.

Me: Then?

Kana: Did you forget?

Me: Forget what?

Kana: That I have a family vacation thing planned with Rorisang and her mum?

Me: Family vacation thing?

Kana: I told you.

Me: I thought I told you that's not happening. I said the vacation will only happen if my kids and I are there and we can't coz I'm busy this month. I told you didn't I?

Kana: we need to spend time with her as her parents.

Me: Really?

Kana: Yes!

Me: Go Kananelo! You've already made up your mind haven't you?

Kana: Well I wasn't exactly asking for your permission. I was letting you know.

All the ifs

#54

I could not believe my ears. I was really hoping it wasn't him talking.

Me: Excuse me?

Kana: This is important.

Me: For who?

Kana: Rorisang.

Me: Really?

Kana: Yes.

Me: Are you even...

The waiter disturbed us and we had to go call the kids.

Tumi: Tshia?

Me: Baby?

Tumi: Can I please have some?

Me: You want sauce?

Tumi: Yes please.

Me: Okay baby.

I poured him and Ora some. They looked hungry. Literally! They kept their eyes glued to their plates and I had to force some of my food down my throat coz I had lost my appetite.

Ora: mummy.

Me: Baby?

Ora: You don't like your ribs?

Me: Mum's not so hungry.

My plate was still full. 75% full.

Tumi: Why?

Me: I had enough oats

Tumi: The oats was nice.

Me: Was it?

He nodded.

Me; Well thank you.

My son gave zero fucks about his father. I didn't even understand Why. Yes they spent quality time together, watched and played soccer together but Tumelo was mummy's boy. He was my bestfriend. So was my daughter but not so much.

Tumelo: Can I have your ribs?

I giggled.

Me: No you can't..

Tumelo: Why?

Me: coz kids don't eat ribs.

Tumelo; Who told you that Tshia? We always eat ribs.

Me: No baby at this restaurant

He was too smart for his age.. Dad always said "your son takes after you, he may not look like you but he is definitely yours"

Tumelo: Okay

He wasn't feeling it. In fact, he wasn't buying it!  
Not at all.

Ora: Daddy are you fine?

Kana: I am babygirl why?

Ora: Just asking..why are you looking at mum like that?

His eyes were fixed on me. I could even feel them when I was talking to our son.

Kana: it's nothing babygirl.

Ora: Okay.

We finished eating and when we got home the kids went to play outside.

Kana: what is the big deal?

Me: You are going on some "family vacation" with your ex mistress and you see nothing wrong with that?

Kana: is there? I'm doing this for my daughter.

Me: oh? I might as well go have my third child with someone else so I too, can go on a family vacation!

He kept quiet.

Kana: Tshiamo I'm doing this for Rorisang

Me: Rorisang is two. She doesn't...never mind. You not asking anyway..go Kananelo. Go on and take your second family on vacation but if you think I'll stay here and tolerate your shit then

you have another thing coming. You'll find me gone

Kana: you can't do that

Me: says who?

Kana: Tshiamo...

Me: Go Kananelo

He sat on the couch and I heard him call Seipati.

Kana: I'll come over and see her...yeah something came up... We have to cancel the trip...okay.

I could hear her voice but couldn't make out what she was saying.

Kana: I have to go see Rori

Me: right.

Kana: I'll be back later.

Me: whatever makes you happy Kananelo

Kana: I'm taking the kids with

Me: Okay.

I didn't mind coz whenever they went to Seipati's Ulri went with them and I trusted her with my kids so I was certain nothing was going to happen and if she wasn't available, I had Brenda on call, another trusted one..she couldn't stand Seipati coz she had also dealt with Side chicks but she was wise enough to treat Rori well coz honestly, she didn't ask to be born. I called Brenda who said she'd be at the house in 10 minutes and when she arrived, the kids rode with her and not their father.

Nombu: Girl!

Me: Hey Nombu.

Nombu: How are you?

Me: All good..

Nombu: ask me.

I giggled



Me: how are you friend?

Nombu: Im okay. What are you doing?

Me: Im just chilling at home. Alone

Nombu: good coz I'm at the gate open up.

I laughed and opened up for her. She had 3 bottles of wine with.

Me: you know I've stopped drinking wine right?

Nombu: I know. You into cocktails now.

Me: No I like cocktails. But I'm not an alcohol fan

After I had Tumelo I wasn't into wine anymore or alcohol for that matter. I drank occasionally.. Once in a blue moon.

Nombu: join me for wine today.

Me: I had a bit of alcohol yesterday

Nombu: It wasn't with me though.

Me: Okay fine.

Nombu: good

She was more than happy to serve.

Nombu: So businesswoman, when are we going on vacation? As just friends. No husbands no kids. Just the ladies. We've been waiting for you to tell us when you'll be taking leave.

Me: I'm thinking next month.

Nombu: my goodness why?

Me: Nombu, work's hectic. You can go without me

Nombu: I Nombulelo, wife of Sthembiso, must go without you? Are you listening to yourself?

I chuckled.

Me: I'm sorry.

Nombu: We'll wait..besides Mora is going through something as well. I dont know what Lebohang did to her. You know these men.

Me: Will she be fine?.

Nombu: She should be..just randomly check on her..She'll appreciate that I know.

Me: I will.

Out of the three I had only two glasses and Nombu had quite alot.. I had to drive her home in her car and took an uber back. Arrived the same time as the kids and the husband.. I thanked Brenda and listened as Ora and Tumelo bragged to me about how they went out for ice-cream with Brenda and Rori, they apparently spent most of their time at SouthGate playing games. Tumelo had even won a teddy. I listened till they were tired then went to bed.

Me: That should make up for a family vacation!

Kana: We'll wait for you Tshiamo

He said it with attitude as he took his clothes off to get ready for bed..he tossed his jeans and Shirt aside, got into bed and said "Goodnight". I

had to go pick them up so I could put them in the laundry basket.

Me: I'm not your maid.

I said as I walked to our bathroom to put the clothes in the basket, something hit my bare foot as I was about to throw the pants in. My heart felt like it was about to stop then suddenly started beating fast as I picked it up...

An empty condom wrap.

All the ifs

#55

I took it and put it near his side lamp. I wanted it to be the last thing he woke up to. In the morning, I sat on the couch across the room and watched as he woke up, as soon as he saw the wrapper, he looked for me and found me staring right at him.

Kana: Good morning

Me: Hi.

Kana: What's this?

Me: A lollipop wrapper

Kana: wait....Tshiamo you don't think I used that right?

Me: Really?

Kana: No! This is Lebohang's

Me: You Gay now?

Kana: No. Look...

He paused.

Kana: When the kids went to Southgate with Brenda, I went to meet with Lebo at the garage near lesedi clinic, he took Moratua there coz she had been complaining about an abdominal pain and he hadn't realized that there was a wrapper in his car.. We only saw it when

Moratua approached the car and I quickly had to get rid of it for him.

Me: you came back here with an attitude.

Kana: I had an attitude due to your tantrums.

Me: oh?

Kana: Look, I know I was wrong to even suggest going on vacation with the Seipati and Rorisang

Me: Okay Kananelo.

Kana: Tshiamo don't you believe me?

Me: Should I Kananelo?

Kana; I didn't cheat on you!

Me: Okay.

Kana: Baby please...okay Call Lebo then.

Me: Wow really?

Kana: Please believe me.

I got up from the couch and went to check on

my kids. Tumelo was still sleeping and Ora was playing games on her tablet

Me: Hey Baby.

I said as I hugged her

Ora: Hello mummy

Me: You slept okay?

She nodded

Ora: I did.

Me: Any dreams?

Ora: No mummy.

Me: I'm sorry.

Ora: Are we going to church today?

Me: Yes we are. You know your grandmother would kill us if we didn't go.

Ora: Yes!.

Ora loved church. Always woke up before us on

Sundays. Mme Priscilla and Grandma never compromised when it came to church.

Me: wake your brother.

Ora: Okay.

She left her room to wake her brother and I picked her outfit. I went to choose one for Tumelo and ran them a bath.

Me: Are you coming with to church?

Kana: Yes I am

Me: Okay.

Kana: Still mad?

Me: I dont know Kana.

Kana: Tshia, I didnt cheat.

Me: Okay then.

I got everyone ready for church. I was happy to see my family though. My crazy sisters and brother.



Tshepang: You always busy though.

Me: We'll go to the spa.

Resego: When though?

Tshepang: exactly!

I sighed.

Me: Can I please be given time?

They laughed.

Resego: Sorry.

Me: Thank you.

Tshepang: Make a date soon.

Me: Right okay. How are you guys doing?

Dad had bought them an apartment. Tshepang, Resego and Lesedi. It was quite cute though.

Very nice I must say.

Tshepang: We doing fine.

Me: Partying?

Resego: You know that's part of the lifestyle.

I laughed.

Me: You know you not allowed to...

R&T: Fall pregnant yes!

Me: Good!

My phone rang.

Me:excuse me.

I quickly answered it.

Me: Babe?

Mora: Babe. How are you?

Me: I'm good and you?

Mora: I'm fine. Sunday gathering?

Me: Just the ladies?

Mora: Yes.

Me: Okay babe.

Mora: 14:00.

Me: okay love.

I hung up, chilled with the family till 13:00 and I got ready to go to Mora's. Kananelo had decided he'd babysit.

Me: What?

Mora: I'm telling you.

Amanda: The nerve.

Mora: And I saw it. It was under the mat. When I came out of my appointment with the doctor, Kananelo tried to hide it.

Thembi: Did you confront him?

Mora: You know I can't

Me: You saw a condom wrapper in his car. You are his wife surely you can confront him.

Katleho: exactly

Nombu: I don't need Lebo is easy to deal with

Me: No you need to find a way.

Mora: I'm this because of him.

Me: That doesn't give him a right to cheat!

Amanda: Easy for you to say. You have something to fall back on.

Me: So are you ladies telling me that you let these men do whatever coz they have money?

Thembi: We drive luxurious cars, live in beautiful homes, wear expensive clothes, have cards that have money so...

Me: Guys no!

Katleho: You forgave Kana though.

Me: Coz of my kids not coz I was trying to keep the lifestyle.

Mora: You are different.

Me: So you going to let him walk all over you?

Mora: yes

I.couldn't say a thing anymore and changed the

topic. We spoke about alot and I was sad, sad coz I knew exactly how Mora felt and that even though she witnessed the pain I went through, she was going to let it slide. At least I was better coz I had dished out my anger to both the perpetrator and the therapist but she couldn't. When I got home.the kids were sleeping. Kana was watching soccer though.

Me: Hey I'm sorry I blamed you.

Kana: I understand.

Me: Really?

He nodded.

Me: I need to go take a bath.

Kana: Okay.

I did then went straight to bed, the next day was work for the next few days it was just hectic so hectic that I even forgot about an event Kananelo had. I was reminded by my cellphone

at 15:30 and had to leave early to go to the salon, get a dress and a facebeat. Got delayed coz of an accident on the freeway and when I got home, There was no one at home. Well Mirriam was getting ready to leave.

Me: Miriram where's everyone?

Mirriam: gone

Me: Already?

Mirriam: yes Tshia.

Me: What time does the event start?

Mirriam: I think it has started already. 18:30. It's now 19:00.

Me: oh crap!

I let my body land on the couch.

Mirriam: Mr Tefo said I should tell you not to worry about it. He also left a note under that vase

I went to find it.

"You remember what you want to remember, it's okay, I took the kids with and don't worry about your seat, it won't be empty"

All the ifs

#56

I quickly got up and got ready. Drove as fast as I could to get to the event and walked in as the MC called Kana to the stage. Only his kids were there. Rorisang included. Tumelo was in a suit and his daughters were in stunning princess dresses. They looked beautiful. I listened as he gave his speech and we all applauded when he was done. We thanked his kids for being his anchor and I was surprised to even get a shoutout.

Tumelo: Tshia you look beautiful.

Me; Thank you baby. You look handsome.

Ora: Why are you late?

Me: Traffic baby.

Ora: I'm sorry.

Me: its okay.

I watched as their father walked towards me and hugged me.

Kana: You look beautiful.

Me; Thank you. So sorry I'm late.

Kana: I'm actually glad you here.

Me: So who was warming up my seat?

Kana: The camera guy.

I smiled.

Kana: I was trying to get you here

Me; And it worked. Got delayed. Traffic.

Kana: I thought you forgot.

Me: No never.



He called one of the waiters and got me a drink.

Kana: Let's meet a few.

Me: Oh no.

Kana: Oh yes. Come.

He left the kids with some "Helen" lady and he introduced me to half of the people there. I didn't even like going to business events with Kana coz I didn't like participating in conversations I had no interest in. Not in a bad way, although I worked as an HR manager, I couldn't stand being around business people. 5 minutes was enough. I think it was probably coz I had a great passion for engineering. I'd rather create than talk. Still didn't understand how I fell into the business category. But It was what it was.

Kana: are you okay?

Me: I am. I'm going to check on the kids.

Kana: Okay..

I left him with some businessmen and went to find the kids. Tumelo and Rori were playing peacefully. Little sis was on her tablet playing games as usual.

Me: thank you. I'll take over.

Helen: Its a pleasure.

I gave her a hug and joined Ora on the couch.

Me: Ms Tablet.

Ora: mummy?

Me: You not playing with your brother and sister?

She shook her head

Ora: They make noise.

I giggled.

Me: You were like them when you were their age

Ora: I wasn't

Me: you were.

Ora: No.

Me: okay then. Let's see.

I played one game and passed it back coz I sucked at it. I ended up playing with the two little ones and was happy when the event ended. Rori was sleeping over and as tired as I was I had to submit to my husband who was in the mood for lovemaking. I struggled to open my eyes when the alarm went off but I had to. I got the kids ready for school and decided I wasn't going to work. I was going to call in sick. I drove them there and when I went back home, Kana was still in his PJs.

Me: Aren't you going to work?

Kana: told the staff to have a long weekend. I'll see them on Monday. They work hard

Me: I wish I had you as my boss

Kana: you can jump ship.

Me: Never!

Kana: You just said...

Me: I didn't mean it.

He laughed.

Kana: thanks wife

Me: so you going to watch TV all day?

He shook his head

Kana: I'm going to finish what I started last night.

Me: no you can't. Our staff will be arriving soon.

Kana: weekend off as well..

Me: This is going to be a long Friday

Kana: you think?

He pulled me towards him and put me gently on the mat, got me out of the clothes I was in and

had me holding on to the legs of the couch. I was in hell, I didn't even understand where he got his energy from after every break we took he came back with more energy. I was happy and sad when he finally let me go.

Me: So this was your plan?

Kana: no. How do you feel?

Me: Hot.

As I got off from the bed. We had moved yes. Floor to couch to study table and finally to the bed

Kana: come back..

Me: No..I'm going to take a shower

Kana: Baby come back.

Me: no.

I quickly locked the bathroom door and took a bath instead. Went out to get dressed and he was in his shorts.

Kana: Where to?

Me: Nolo.

Kana: Gift invited us over.

Me: for?

Kana: dinner. Tonight.

Me: okay that's nice. I like his girlfriend

Kana: She's blonde..

Me: You have no right to say that about someone else's girl.

Kana: I must shy away from the truth?

Me: No one said that but put it in a nice way.

Kana: She's dumb.

I punched him.

Kana: Gift deserves a smart person. Someone like Nolo.

I giggled

Me: Nolo has given up on love.

Kana: That's the sad part.

Me: Unfortunately. I'll cancel her. Go bath.

He laughed.

Kana: Yes ma'am.

Me: Thank you.

I went to Nolo and told her that I wouldn't be coming. We didn't have to fetch the kids from school coz they were going to Kana's mum for the weekend. I was happy about it..I needed a break from cooking oats and making melted cheese sandwiches for Ora. We got ready for Gift's dinner and I was happy to see him. I always had fun conversations with him.

Katli: You want to tell us where Nox is?

Gift: Dumped her.

Lindani: why Mfo?

Gift: I didn't find her challenging.

Kana looked at me with that "I told you so" face and I ignored him.

Sthe: will you ever marry?

Gift: yes.

Fez: You have two daughters from different mothers.

Gift: Let's not go there.

Kana: Its time for you to find a wife.

Bongani: I agree.

Mora: I don't think we should rush him.

Lebo: He's not really getting younger now is he?

She ignored him.

Nombu: take your time Gift.

Gift: thank you Buli. Enough now. Help yourselves to drinks. Food will be served soon.



We did and I pulled him to the side.

Me: you worry me.

He laughed.

Gift: Why?

Me: Lebo is right. You not getting any younger G.

Gift: I know T.

Me: So?

Gift: so eng?

Me: Should I register you on some dating sites?

He laughed

Gift: If you do that, Sign up as well and make sure you and I make a perfect match otherwise don't

I laughed then paused as my eyes fell back on his serious face.

Me: you kidding right?

Gift: no I'm not. You are with the wrong one  
Tshia.

All the ifs

#57

Me: Okay no.

Gift: Listen

Me: No!

Gift: Tshiamo.

Me: What Is it?

Gift: You are with the wrong one.

Me: And you know this right?

Gift: Please trust me

Me: I refuse to.

Gift: Tshiamo, you know I've always had a thing  
for you?

Me: Did you now?

Gift: From the very first time I set foot in your house. When I Asked where the bathroom was.

Me: Gift don't do this. I thought we just people who have fun conversations.

Gift: I caught feelings.

Me: I'm with your friend.

Gift: I don't care

Me: Gift stop.this.

Gift: no!

Me: Okay.

I walked away from him and went to find Nombu.

Nombu; Are you fine!

Me: I am.

Nombu: Really?

I nodded.

Nombu: You look pissed.

Me: No. Not at all.

Nombu: Okay. Chicken?

Me: Please ..

I quickly grabbed a plate and she dished up for me

Me: Not too much Nombu.

Nombu: Still watching the figure?

Me: Still trying to stay yummy.

Nombu: oh hai suka!

We both giggled and went to join the others. The guys were discussing business and the wives were listening.

Kana: So.you considering going into business with AJ?

Lindani: Yes.

"Bad business decision"

I mumbled.

Sthe: Tshia what was that?

Me: Oh nothing.

Bongani: Something about a bad decision.

Linda: Go on.

I sighed.

Me: Well I don't think you'd want to be associated with them. They just lost our business deal a few days ago coz they couldn't deliver. This had a huge impact financially and on the business' reputation. I mean they've got great ideas, great concepts, implementing them and delivering seems to be a problem and a lot of companies are pulling out so consider this before you sink with as well.

They exchanged looks and I felt their eyes fall back on me.

Me: I'm just saying

They all sighed and Fez finally got his eyes off the tablet he had in his hands.

Fez: well she's right. They are sinking

Lindani: let's see

He passed it to him. His eyes popped out.

Me: 9% share drop. Shocking right?

Kana: Woah! What?

Lebo: Hell no Mfo. Unless if you want to invest.

Me: That's risky

Bongani: how did you miss this Lindani?

Lindani: I have no idea.

Me: I'll send you my invoice.

They laughed.

Lindani: Thanks Tshia.

Me: no problem.

Sthe: Well having a different voice and opinion

on matters is quite refreshing I must say.

Bongani; It is

I managed to change the topic and spoke about something that accommodated us all. I bumped into Gift in his hallway and he pulled me to one of the rooms.

Me: What are you doing? Someone might hear...

Gift: No one will. Relax. This room has no ears.

Me: what are you doing?

Gift: Have you considered my proposal?

Me: You want me to cheat on my husband?

Gift: Leave him.

Me: No.

Gift: Why not?

Me: Coz I love him and....

He pressed me against the wall and kissed me.  
I pushed him back.

Me: Stop this madness

Gift: Why?

His fingers were already running under the short dress I had on.

Me: Gift stop it!

Gift: Make me!

I was soon under him on the bed. Breathing heavily. He felt so good. So so good. I hated comparing but he gave me goosebumps. We were in that room for about 10 minutes and I went to freshen up in the bathroom while he went back to the others. My heart started beating fast as I saw Kananelo and suddenly I felt guilty.

Me: Can we go home now?

Kana: Are you fine?

Me: I'm not feeling well.

Kana: What's wrong?



Me: I think I'm getting a headache.

Kana: Okay.

We said bye to the friends and I had to hug them. Gift included. My blood boiled as I hugged him but at the same time, I wanted to be buried under him and his scent filled my nose.

Me: Bye

I whispered

Gift: Bye T

I found my way back to Kananelo and we left. When we got home, I went straight to the bathroom to take a bath and got into bed.

Kana: Allow me to...

Me: Baby please. You feasted on me enough today.

Kana: Fair enough.

Me: Goodnight

Kana: Night baby.

He kissed my forehead and we snuggled. I kept my eyes closed but couldn't stop thinking about what I did. I kept praying about it inside. I managed to pull away from Kananelo and went to the other room to sleep there. The guilt was killing me. At around 4am.I snuck back into bed. I managed to sleep.and woke up at around 10. Kana was watching TV in the lounge.

Kana: Were you that tired?

Me: I didn't realize until now.. Good morning.

Kana: Morning baby.

Me: You okay?

Kana: I'm fine. Breakfast is in the oven.

Me: You made breakfast.

Kana: Nope. Went out to buy some food.

Me: Oh. Thank you though.

Kana: Its a pleasure.

I made my way to the kitchen.

Me: Should I bring you something?

Kana: No.

Me: You sure?

Kana: Yes I am.

Me: Okay. What are we doing today?

Kana: I need to go meet up with someone.

Me: Oh okay.

Kana: You okay with that?

I nodded.

Me: Yes I am.

As I was warming up my food, a text came through.

"Getaway? Private or secluded island for a week?"

Get back to me. Yours, Gift Kunene"

All the ifs

#58

I blacklisted his number and went to the lounge. Kana's eyes were fixed on his phone.. He looked pissed.

Me: What's wrong?

Kana: Nothing.

Me: Are you sure?

Kana: Don't worry about it.

Me: Okay.

Kana: You know what you'll be doing today?

Me: Yes. I'll go see Nolo.

Kana: and?

Me: That's it. You?

Kana: I'm going to meet up with some guy then

go see Ora and the two rascals at mum's.

Me: Okay.

Kana: Tshia are you fine?

Me: Yes why?

Kana: You've been jumpy since last night.

Me: still have that headache.

Kana: Eat then take your tablets then.

Me: Okay.

I did as I was told and we left around 12. He went his way and I went mine.

Me: Gift!

Gift: Give my bell a break!

As soon as he opened the door, I pushed him inside and shut it.

Me: What is wrong with you!

Gift: With me?

Me: getaway? Really?

Gift: Why not? You work too hard. When last did you go on vacation? Do you even know what that is any more?

He was in sweatpants, white shirt and had slippers on. Male slippers.

Me: I'm someone's wife.

Gift: Really?

Me: What happened yesterday was a mistake.

Gift: So why are you Here?

Me: To tell you to stay away from me!

Gift: Would you stay away from the one you love?

Me: Gift what do you want?

Gift: You!

Me: You can't have me! I'm married to Your friend.

Gift: My friend who has been cheating on you

ever since you had your first child.

Me: We over that. We worked through that and it is none of your business.

Gift: It is.

Me: No it's not.

Gift: Damnit Tshiamo I fuckin love you! What must I do so you can get through that thick skull of yours! You think I like seeing you hurt? Seeing you played?

Me: Gift stop this. Kananelo is not guilty of what you accusing him of.

Gift: Okay. Go on Tshiamo. Shoot me for loving you. Have you any idea how amazing you are? Have you?

Me: This was a mistake. One that should never happen again. I've blocked Your number. Don't text or call using another one.

Gift: Tshiamo.

Me: Don't touch me Gift

Gift: Just give me a chance. Please!

Me: Stay away from me.

I walked out of his house, got into my car and drove to see Nolo.

Nolo: Carrying the world on your shoulders?

I sighed.

Me: I am

Nolo: Want to share?

I was hesitant. I wasn't ready for her.

Me: It's nothing to worry about.

Nolo: Talk.

Me: I did something bad last night.

Nolo: What?

Me: Please don't judge.

Nolo: I can't promise that.



Me: Nolo please.

Nolo: Okay.

Me: I slept with Gift.

Nolo: What?

It was the biggest "what" I had ever heard.

Nolo: why would you do that?

Me: I gave into temptation.

Nolo: Tshia!

Me: Nolo, I can still feel his touch on me. His scent, I can still feel him inside of me.

Nolo: Cuz?

I paid attention to her.

Nolo: This is so wrong.

Me: I know.

Nolo: you are sleeping with friends.

Me: I know that Bonolo!

She was frustrating me.

Nolo: Don't you dare. Did you even protect?

Me: No.

Nolo: What if you pregnant?

Me: No. I've been taking my shots

Nolo: Those things once let you down..

Me: They were pills. The shot won't.

Nolo: okay. I hope so. STIs?

My heart stopped and started beating fast.

Me: I don't think Gift...

Nolo: Really?

Me: I'll go to the doctor on Monday..

Nolo: For your sake I hope not.

Me; I highly doubt it..

Nolo: Okay Tshiamo. So you went and did the same thing Kananelo did?

Me: Nolo don't make me feel worse...

Nolo: do you Tshiamo?

Me: Yes.

Nolo: I always warned you about Gift.

Me: And I told you we just into fun conversations.

Nolo: He caught feelings. I told you this would happen didn't I?

I kept quiet.

Nolo: Didn't I?

Me: solutions would be nice..

Nolo: tell your husband what you did.

Me: No! are you crazy?

Nolo: So you want to live with guilt?

Me: Nolo this would kill him..

Nolo: I don't know what you want me to say.

Me: I have to go.

Nolo: Really?

Me: You not helping me.

Nolo: How should I?

Me: Bonolo bye.

Nolo: Bye Tshiamo.

I took my bag and left her. I drove back home and on the way I got a call from Katli.

Katli: Tshia.

Me: Hey.

Katli: Don't forget about that fundraising event tonight okay?

Me: No I didn't.

Katli: Okay see you soon.

Me: Bye.

Her husband Bongani was hosting on of those

fundraising events for charity. I liked the idea so much. He always gave back. Always. When I got home, Kana was back, he was choosing an outfit for the event.

Me: The Navy suit will do.

Kana: You think?

I nodded.

Kana: Thank you. Have an outfit?

Me: I've got quite a few dresses I haven't worn yet.

Kana: dont take time baby.

Me: I won't.

I went to freshen up again and got ready. My hair took most of the time, much to Kana's annoyance then we headed to the booked venue for the event. It was packed. It was going to be a success. Kana's company had donated some funds and a few other things. Some other

companies had too. My divas looked very beautiful in their dresses.

Nombu: how's the headache?

Me: Gone. Luckily.

Nombu: Tshia relax.

Me: I am relaxed.

I wasn't coz Gift was in the room talking to some business people. He was very chilled. The corner of my kept looking at him. He made me so uncomfortable.

Nombu: get another glass of champagne

Me: that's not a bad idea. I'll be back.

I went to the bar to request something stronger. Something to numb the guilt. As I was waiting for my drinking, a text came through.

"Underground parking, B7, No 47 , You look beautiful by the way, Gift"

All the ifs.

#59

"Go to hell" I texted back.

"You sent me there last night now I can't seem to forget it, I'm waiting" he texted.

I blacklisted the number he had used and switched off my phone. I went back to Nombu.

Nombu: Champagne not gin and tonic.

Me: I need this.

Nombu: Why?

Me: Let's just say I'm having it rough.

Nombu: You and Kana?

I shook my head.

Nombu: Then?

Me: I'd rather not talk about it.

Nombu: okay then.. Whenever you ready.

Me: Thanks babe..I feel hungry.

Nombu: Me too.

We went to grab to eat and when I turned Gift was back. He was talking to some guy but I could feel his eyes on me..I signalled that he should follow me out and he did. We made sure no one saw us.

Gift: so you blocked my other number?

Me: Gift, please stop this.

Gift: I refuse to let you go.

Me: You make me feel uncomfortable.

Gift: you shouldn't.

Me: I do.

Gift: Allow yourself to be with me.

Me: I'm married.

Gift: are you happy?

I kept quiet.



Gift: Exactly!

Me: Please stop texting me

Gift: You know where to find me

Me: Yeah Right!

I walked away from him and went back to the conference room.

Kana: Hello there.

I felt his hand on my waist.

Me: Hey.

Kana; Where have you been?

Me: Was outside.

Kana: Have you seen Gift?

Me: Yeah. I was with him. He said he wanted to get fresh air.

Kana: Okay.. Want to go home now?

I could tell what he wanted to do

Me: I'm still having fun

Kana: Really?

Me: Yes.

Kana: Okay then.

Me: Let me go back to Nombu..I kind of left her hanging.

Kana: Okay.

I got another drink before going to her.

Nombu: And then?

Me: I'm sorry..I was feeling hot.

Nombu: So you don't even say.

Me: I'm sorry.

Nombu: What's it with you and strong drinks?  
Now whiskey?

Me: Oh!

Nombu: Yes.

Me: Nombu.

Nombu: Tshia?

Me: Let Me just numb what I'm feeling okay?

Nombu: It must be heavy.

Me: It is.

Nombu: You know I'm always Here for you okay?

I nodded.

Me: Thank you.

I kept downing drinks down my throat so I wouldn't have to make love to my husband when we got home. I just got out of my dress and slept with just my underwear. The next morning, my head was heavy. I grabbed my robe and went down for coffee after brushing my teeth.

Kana: Tshiamo.

Me: Hey.

Kana: Come. Sit!

I sat down.

Kana: What the hell was wrong with you last night?

Me; Nothing.

Kana: you drank like a fish!

Me: Did I misbehave?

Kana: No but you didn't behave like a mother of three.

Me: Two! And don't talk to me like I'm 16

Kana: You behaved like you were. Downing those drinks like you at some tavern

Me: Okay.

Kana: Arent you going to apologize?

Me: why?

Kana: Tshiamo.

Me: I must apologize for drinking responsibly?  
For not causing any one harm? I wasnt dancing  
on tables. Screaming at anyone!

Kana: You should have behaved like your girls  
did.

Me: Don't annoy Me. I was as drunk as Mora  
was. She was worse. What's the big deal?

Kana: I didn't like how you behaved.

Me: Okay. I'm sorry babe.

I was calm.

Me: I won't do it again.

Kana: thank you. I'm done.

I went to get a cup of coffee and was sad that I  
wasn't at church..I decided to call dad though

Me: I know you watching a soccer match.

Dad: I wish baby..the service just ended a few  
minutes ago.

I checked the time..it was 12:30

Me: Oh!

Dad: What time did you wake up?

Me: About 20 minutes ago.

Dad: Tshiamo!

Me: We had a long night dad..I was at some.fundraising event.

Dad: When will you come and see me?

Me: Tomorrow after work dad.

Dad: Okay do that.

Me: Okay dad.

Dad: Love you.

Me: I love you too.

I hung up.

Me: Babe?

Kana: Tshiamo?

Me: Sunday session?

Kana: No..I'm going to meet up with someone today.

Me: Who?

Kana: So many questions Tshiamo?

Me: I'm sorry..

Kana: I'll see you later.

He was already dressed.

Kana: Mum said the kids will be back tomorrow.

Me: Okay no problem.

Kana: Don't wait up.

Me: Are you atleast going to let me know where you going?

Kana: Tshiamo, I'm going to meet up with an ex colleague

He snapped And I almost spilled my coffee.

Me: I'm sorry for asking.

Kana: Your insecurities annoy me!

I watched as he left and I went to bath. I lazed around the whole day and eventually slept..

When I woke up at around 22:00 and Kana was not back. I got my clothes ready for the next day, went to bath and slept. Woke up in a big house alone and got ready for work. I left earlier than I usually left the house. On the way To work, I called the office and told Janet that I'm not coming in. I turned the car around and drove back.

"Chill!"

Me: Open the door!

He was in suit pants and looked like he was fixing his tie.

Gift: T?

Me: Hi



Gift: what are you doing here? Is everything fine?

He let me in and I threw my handbag on the couch. Kicked the shoes off my feet.

Gift: Tshiamo?

Me: you the boss right? Call in sick!

All the ifs

#60

Gift: Are you serious?

Me: Does it look like I'm joking?

He reached for his phone and called the office. Told the lady he was speaking to, to cancel all his meetings. He then took off his cufflinks and made two holes on my stockings so he could rip them up. I unfastened his belt and threw it on the floor. His soft lips were on mine. I wanted to be buried under him forever coz he smelled so good.

Gift: Where?

Me: anywhere.

He picked me up, with his lips still on mine and carried me to his bedroom when we got there, he took off the rest of my stocking and buried his head deep between my legs. He kept moving his tongues in circles causing me to scream in pleasure.

Gift: behave.

My rate was fast.

Me: Gift please don't do...Gift!

I didn't even realize when he entered inside of me but we started moving together in rhythm. How he got me naked, I have no idea but it was passionate. I caught my breath as he let me go. I was shivering when he pulled the sheets up.

Me: That was great..

Gift: was it?

I nodded.

Gift: What changed?

Me: what do you mean?

Gift: You wanted nothing to do with me on Saturday.

Me: I don't know.

Gift: Really?

Me: I mean your sex game is on point..

Gift: That's all you want from me?

Me: is it not what you want from me as well?

He got from the bed and passed me his shirt.  
He Wore his shorts, passed me one pair from his slippers.

Gift: Come with me.

I got his shirt on, watched as he got us both a bottle of water and led me to his patio. It was very secluded.

Me: this is nice.

Gift: My favorite place in the house. One one comes here except me.

Me: who cleans it?

Gift: me

Me: Oh.

We sat down.

Gift: Tshiamo?

I paid attention to him.

Gift: Sleeping with you is a bonus. I want the full package. I want you. I fell in love with you. Your intelligence, your care, your loving self.

Watching you get played was the worst thing ever

Me: But why now?

Gift: I thought it would fade.

Me: why do you think it didn't?

Gift: Coz you the one I want.

Me: 5 years Gift?

Gift: Doesn't matter Tshia. The heart wants what it wants.

Me: This is so wrong.

Gift: But you here.

Me: I know. This is not me.. I don't cheat.

Gift: You not cheating. You with the one you suppose to be with.

I kept quiet.

Gift: When last were you happy? Genuinely happy? Think about it.

I did.

Me: Before I fell pregnant with Ora.

Gift: and you call that a marriage? Look, I'm not saying I'm perfect but my boys are fucking up. I don't even understand why they are married if

they still gon go around chasing skirts. Kana messed up a good thing with you and he still is. I won't sit and watch you get hurt.

Me: so you decided to protect me from him?

Gift: I don't want him to damage a beautiful soul any further.

I played with the shirt.

Gift: I'll wait if I have to.

Me: Gift you serious?

Gift: Tshiamo I love you. Get it through please. I care about you.

Me: This is wrong.

Gift: But it feels right.

Me: I really don't know.

Gift: Bath?

Me: Sure

I followed him to the bathroom and we Took a

bath together. We made love in it. Hot and steamy plus the weather was on our side coz it was cloudy. I got ready to go back home at around 16:00.

Gift: Remove me from the blacklist.

Me: Don't text too much.

Gift: Okay. Come here.

I kissed him

Me: You smell really good.

Gift: I know. Don't forget to choose a place.

Me: Okay.

He walked me out and I left. When I got home, Kananelo was getting a drink.

Me: Hey.

Kana: Hey.

He didnt look me in the eye.

Me: You good?

Kana: I am you?

Me: I'm fine. How was work?

Kana: I didn't go in. How was your day?

Me: It was okay. Where are the kids?

Kana: Not back yet.

Me: Okay.

I moved away from him.

Kana: Tshiamo?

Me: babe?.

Kana: I'm sorry I didn't come back home last night.

Me: Okay.

Kana: I was...

I shook my head

Me: I don't want my insecurities to annoy you any further.



Kana: Baby I didn't mean it that way.

Me: You did. I'm not going to ask anymore.  
Whatever you feel like doing do it.

He kept quiet and I walked away from him. I felt no guilt. In fact, I felt alive. For the first time in ages! I went to change into a dress and went to start cooking. I was excited to see my kids.

Tumi was very happy. I was too. I listened as they told me about their weekend and how exciting it was and then they went to play with their father. The rest of the evening was okay.

Me: There's a business conference thing going on at work this weekend .

I wasn't lying. There was. I wasn't planning on going there.

Kana: Oh I remember you told me about it

Me: yes. It's in Moz.

Kana: So you want to go?

Me: yeah. It would be good for me..

Kana: I agree.

Me: You cool with it?.

Kana: I am.

Me: Okay thanks babe.

Kana: But why Is it in Moz?

Me: Coz we've just expanded that side and its doing very well so we just trying to accommodate everyone and besides I need to check on the HR team that side since I'm the head of all HR teams. Cpt, dbn and jhb now Moz.

Kana: Okay babe.

Me: Thanks goodnight.

I kissed his cheek and slept. Went to work the next day and Gift and I started planning our trip to some Malawian island. It was beautiful.

Honestly. On Thursday evening, Dad came to fetch the kids and on Friday, I got ready for the

getaway. We travelled privately. Had such a beautiful weekend together and on Tuesday, we all had to go for Fez's Birthday dinner. He had booked in some restaurant. I was seated in between Gift and Kananelo.

Me: So you decided to go for mushroom sauce?

I asked when the food arrived

Gift: they make the best. Try it out

Me: I don't like mushroom..

Gift: try it T.

I grabbed his fork and tried the mushroom sauce.

Me: Very nice..

Gift: try new things.

Bongani: level of comfortability there T and G.

Kananelo was blushing with his phone when my eyes fell on him.

Gift: Well we can't all be uptight right?

Mora: true.

Kana: Well it is inappropriate though.  
Considering that she is my wife .

Gift: well you not exactly giving her the attention that she needs right now. So someone's got fill in your shoes so she doesn't feel out of place right?

All the ifs

#61

My heart started beating fast.

Fez: Calm down Gift.

Gift: I'm very calm.

He was.

Bongani: Let's not ruin this night.

Kana: Okay. Hade Fez.

Fez: Sho.

Gift clicked his tongue and passed me his mushroom sauce.

Gift: Here.

He said smiling.

Me: Thanks G.

Gift: Don't finish it all.

Me: I won't.

We luckily had a peaceful night and When we got home, I ignored Kananelo.

Kana: Tshiamo.

Me: Hi.

Kana: What is it?

Me: With?

Kana: you and Gift. You guys are suddenly friends?

Me: No. We just like mushroom sauce.

Kana: Why? I've been telling you to stop being friendly towards Gift.

Me: You've never had a problem with us being close till tonight.

He kept quiet.

Me: Why? You scared that he'll spill the beans?

Kana: What are you talking about?

Me: You think I don't know that you having an affair? Its written all over your face.

Kana: I'm not doing this with you.

Me: Why? I won't be mad anymore. I can take the pain now. I've experienced it before remember?

Kana: goodnight Tshiamo.

I chuckled, took my PJs and went to the guestroom, the next morning was school for the kids and work for me

"Lunch?"

"Where Mr Kunene?"

"A simple yes or no will do"

I was texting Gift.

"Yes"

"I'll come fetch you at 12:30"

"Okay then"

I continued working and at exactly 12:30, he was outside

Me: Hey.

Gift: Hello there

I kissed him.

Me: Can we talk about last night?

Gift: this is the part where I listen and you talk?

Me: this is the part where we give each other a platform to talk

Gift: okay.

Me: I think you need to calm down

Gift: Calm down?

Me: you almost lost it yesterday

Gift: Do you blame me?

Me: no I don't

Gift: then why are we talking about this?

Me: Because we need to thread carefully.

Gift: "we?" No. You need to thread carefully and I already gave you a solution to all of this

Me: Gift...

Gift: he doesn't love you

Me: Its not easy

Gift: It is. Trust me.

I kept quiet.

Gift: We suddenly mute?



Me: No.

Gift: Do what you think is right. All I know is, I can't stand the way he treats you..

Me: And are you guys okay?

Gift: Tshiamo, I don't care about Kananelo anymore.

Me: You don't mean that

Gift: I have what I need next to me. I'm fine.

Me: This will ruin your friendship

Gift: it won't be the first friendship to get ruined..

Me: Wow..

Gift:Trust me .

We finally got to the place, it was a hill type of date, picnic baskets, blanket and nonalcoholic drinks

Me: Nonalcoholic?

Gift: You going back to work...

Me: What if I wasn't planning on doing that?

He giggled

Me: You very handsome.

He had a beautiful bone structure, almond shaped eyes, his smile lit up his face and my oh my was he snack!

Gift: and you very beautiful

Me: yeah right..

Gift: Believe it

Me: okay. Thank you..

Gift: When's the next trip?

Me: we had one recently...

Gift: One to celebrate the contracts I've been bagging..

Me: with my help .

Gift: That goes without saying

Me: soon..

Gift: How soon is soon?

Me: Soon. Coz I'm paying for the next trip

Gift: what?

He looked amused.

Me: what is it?

Gift: I've never been told this before..

Me: well, I'm a different one

Gift: one who has worked days in her life

Me: Exactly .

Gift: Well I look forward to that day

Me: Choose a place..

Gift: I will

Me: do that

Gift: I'm still responsible for the transport right?

Me: Yes sir.

Gift: Okay Ma'am

Me: in two weeks maybe?

Gift: I'm always ready.

Me: Oh?

Gift: number 1 rule in life: always stay ready. For anything that is.

I giggled and we had a fun lunch. After work, I went to get the kids from school and we went to see Nolo

Nolo: and then?

Me: Dear cousin, I'm just Here to drop off your curling iron and I'm off.

Nolo: Explain your glow.

Me: Let's just say I'm in a very happy place.

Nolo; With who?

Me: Gift.

Nolo: Tshia!

Me: oh no! Don't lecture me please .

Nolo: This will not end well..

Me: will you relax?

Nolo: I can't!

Me: Like I said, brought your curling iron, I'm off

Nolo: Tshia.

Me: Bye Nolo.

Nolo: Bye Tshiamo.

I went to kiss her kids and we left. When I got home, Kananelo was in the lounge.. His kids went to greet him and ran off when Ulri called them to the kitchen.

Me: Dumelang.

Kana: To me and who?

Me: Ntate Tefo Dumela.

Kana: That's actually how you say it.

Me: pardon me.

Kana: You good?

Me: I am.

Kana: Here.

He passed me an envelope.

Me: what's this?

Kana: Open it.

I did. Printed out pictures of the lunch date I had with Gift earlier on in the day.

Kana: what the fuck is that!

He snapped..

Me: Calm down.

Kana: Don't tell me to calm down! Tshiamo you fuckin whore! You sleeping with...

Me: Yes! Yes I am! And life with him is way better than it is with you! I am sleeping with your friend yes! And I love him!

He looked at me with disgust and anger.

Me: I want a divorce!

All the ifs

#62

After I said that statement, I felt my cheek hot. I had gotten a slap from him, before I could even try to get away from him, my back was against the wall and his knee was kicking right into my stomach. He let me drop on the floor and kicked me continuously on my stomach and I tried by all means to protect my face from him.

Me: Kananelo stop!

I managed to finally say. He kicked me one last time and I flipped over and almost bumped into the side table but prevented myself from it.

Kana: Get up!

My face was wet.

Kana: I said get up!

Me: Ora!

I managed to scream!

Me: Tumi!

Kana: You better not...

They ran in before he could get to me.

Tumi: Tshia! What's wrong?

Ora: Mum are you okay? What happened?

Tumi: Why did you do this to my mother?

Ora was still trying to get me up. I finally managed to and sat on the couch.

Tumi: Kananelo why?

He didn't even sound like he was two. He was even trying to get a deep voice.

Me: Ora please get Me water.

Tumi: Kananelo!

Kana: Shut up Tumelo.



Me: Don't talk to my son like that.

I was still trying to catch my breath.

Kana: Or what you whore!

Ora: Daddy!

Me: Go get me a bottle baby hurry.

She ran to the kitchen .

Tumi: I'm going to call the police.

Me: No! Bring my phone here.

He passed it to me roughly And I dialled my father.

Me: Now dad please.

Dad: Is everything fine?

Kana's eyes were still on me..he knew he couldn't do anything with his kids in the room.

Me: no.

Dad: I'll be there shortly.

Me: thanks dad.

I hung up.

Kana; What are you hoping to achieve?

Me: I'm hoping he beats the living shit out of you!

And he did. As soon as he came in, Tumelo had already given him the story and it was war. The helpers had to break them off.

Dad: Mirriam please pack their bags.

She quickly nodded and we followed dad out to the car. I was trying to stay strong but my waist hurt. My ribcage felt broken and my face was still hot from the slap..Ora had told me that I was turning into a red monster when I looked in the mirror. We went back to my house as soon as Mirriam finished packing.

Grandma: And now? My goodness!

My stepmother was already trying to make me

feel better..ice packs and all.

Priscilla: What caused this?

The kids were with dad.

Me: I was unfaithful, he found out and when I admitted that I'm having an affair, he beat me up.

Grandma: You having an affair?

I nodded.

Priscilla: Why?

Me: I was not happy with him

Grandma: Why cheat?

Me: Thought I'd stay for the kids.

Priscilla: doesn't make this right though. He has no right to do this to you. Has he forgotten that he cheated on you? Had a child but nobody beat him up!

My phone disturbed us.

Me: can I?

Grandma: We not leaving answer.

I picked it up.

Me: Hey.

Gift; Hey you good?

Me: Kananelo found out

Gift: how?

Me: I think he had us followed.

Gift: Well that's better right? The truth is out.

Me: He beat me up.

Gift: What!

He was gone.

Me: Gift!

He had hung up. 4 eyes were on me. Straight up.

Grandma: Tshiamo Gift? Gift as in Your husband's friend?

Me: Koko I love him..

Priscilla: Tshiamo out of all the men in the world you chose your husband's friend?

Me: Can I be left alone?

Grandma: Tshiamo your mother would be so disappointed.

Me: my mother would be happy that I chose happiness over misery like she did.

Grandma: your mum didn't date your dad's friend.

Me: I don't feel bad koko and nothing you'll say will change that..

She and my step mum got up and left the room. I kept calling Gift but his phone was off. I looked at my face which was getting better. The redness was fading. My kids came in minutes later and they both looked at me.

Ora: At school they said men shouldn't hit

women and kids. They said it's abuse.

Tumelo: I don't like dad.

Me: Hey don't say that

Ora: Me too.

Me: No. He's still your dad.

Ora: are we going back to that house?

I shook my head.

Me: mum has a house in Molapo. We going to live with Aunt Nolo.

Tumi: Yes!

He was excited coz his cousins were there.

Me: is that fine Ora?

She nodded.

Me: Are you sure?

Ora: why don't you want to go to the hospital?

Me: I'll be fine. I took some pills.

Ora: Okay

Tumi: are you hungry?

I shook my head and dad knocked, he asked the kids to give us some space and asked what had happened. I was honest with him.

Dad: so you happier with Gift?

I nodded.

Dad: Kananelo is broken..

Me: Dad he's also cheating..

Dad: So you thought you should do the same?

Me: No It just happened.

Dad: You and Kananelo are horrible parents. I'll tell you that. If you two were so unhappy why couldn't you just part ways peacefully. Now the kids had to witness that?

Me: I thought I'd stick around for them.

Dad: It doesn't work like that Tshiamo.

Me: Now I know dad.

Dad: what now?

Me: Divorce.

Dad: Mirriam called.

Me: Okay.

Dad: He said Gift came around and a fight erupted between him and Kananelo.

Me: What? That's why he wasn't answering my calls.

Dad: he's been arrested.

All the ifs

#63

I felt like I was spinning..

Me: Papa what?

Dad: Gift has been arrested.



Me: Can you take me there?

Dad: You hurt.

Me: Dad please..

Dad: You should be concerned about your husband.

Me: Dad, I don't care about him anymore.  
Please just take me to Gift.

Dad: No.

Me: Dad!

Dad: You will drive yourself there.

He Got up and left..I called Mirriam and she told me which police station he had been taken to and I requested an uber to the house. I had to be strong.

Kana: And now?

Me: I came to get my car.

Kana: Get it and leave.

Me: Drop the charges

Kana: What?

He wasn't badly bruised. He had an ice-pack though in his hand.

Me: Drop the charges.

Kana: Are you listening to yourself?

Me: I'll open a case against you.

Kana: are you crazy? You cheated with my friend!

Me: doesn't matter what I did, you had no right to put your hands on me.

Kana: Tshiamo get out!

Me: Drop the charges or else I'll ruin your reputation. You know you work with companies that are anti women abuse. I'll have you arrested.

Kana: Get out.

Me: Drop the charges.

I walked up to get my car keys. I was sure he wasn't going to do anything to me. I managed to drive myself to the police station.

Gift: What are you doing here?

Me: are you fine?

Gift: are you fine? You shouldn't be here.

Me: I was worried about you.

Gift: I'll be fine.

Me: no you wont.

Gift: Did he hurt you?

Me: I'll be fine.

Gift: So he did hurt you.

Me: Let's worry about...

I tried hiding the fact that I was in pain.

Gift: You need to go see the doctor.

Me: Let's worry about you.

Gift: I'll be out of this place in less than 24 hours.

Trust mme

Me: You sure?

Gift: Trust me.

Me: Okay.

Gift: I'll see you in the morning.

Me: Okay.

Gift: go rest.

Me: I will.

We spoke for about 5 more minutes then I went home. Drove slowly to the house. When I got there, I took a bath and went to sleep. Well tried to. I was worried about Gift. I was very relieved when I got a call from Gift the next morning.

Me: Hey.

Gift: Babe.

Me: you out?

Gift: I am.

Me: How?

Gift: Apparently he dropped the charges as we were still negotiating my release.

Me: Negotiating?

Gift: My lawyer

Me: Oh okay.

Gift: I'll come see you later okay?

Me: Okay.

A week later, I had moved out from Dad's and moved back to my mother's house with Nolo. Dad had told me to leave his grandkids with him while I sort out my mess. My body was healing and I hadn't spoken to Kananelo and I was okay with that. I was waiting for the divorce papers to come through.

Gift: Do you want something?

Me: something?

Gift: To snack on baby.

Me: you.

He laughed.

Gift: you haven't fully recovered from what that...

Me: Don't go there.

Gift: Sorry.

Me: It was probably anger

Gift: Doesn't give him the right to hit you.

Me: I get that..I just want this to be over you know.

Gift: It will be.

Me: Soon I hope.

Gift: just relax.

Me: And you not feeling bad about this?

Gift: No.

Me: Gift!

Gift: Feel about loving you? I would never!

Me: mmm

Gift: Trust me.

Me: You cooking tonight right?

Gift: On a Friday?

Me: Yes.

Gift: Nope. How about we go out?

Me: I'd like that.

Gift: You choose.

Me: Okay.

Gift: Anytime now..

Me: I'm still weighing my options.

He giggled.

Gift: You know that never works with you right?

Me: I'll just drive you to whatever place okay?

Gift: that's what I was scared would happen.

Me: let's Just get ready okay?

Gift: Okay ma'am.

We went to take a quick shower together then I drove us to one of my favorite restaurant.

Gift: Do they have any beer here?

Me: Yes..

Gift: It looks like a cocktail place.

Me: Have you never been Here before?

Gift: No.

Me: they opened this place 3 months ago.

Gift: see? I'm from the ghetto.

Me: I know. Chesa-nyama types..I'm also from the ghetto. You know this.

Gift: then take me to Roadhouse.



I laughed.

Me: They make good food here.

Gift: it's too fancy

Me: I thought you used to fancy things.

Gift: I am but they annoy me. An artist once said "money should make a difference not make you different"

Me: That's true.

Gift: So as all this wealth I've accumulated really means nothing to me.

Me: We still eating here though.

He laughed

Gift: We going to roadhouse tomorrow.

Me: Fine then.

Gift: And I choose from now on.

Me: Oh hell no!

Gift: oh hell yes!

Me: That's not fair.

Gift: okay fine. We'll work something out.

Me: As we should..

Gift: Deal?

Me: Done.

We ordered food and when we had dessert, the squad walked into the restaurant. They sat at the table Next to ours. Kananelo was with them. Nombu and Sthe weren't there.. They were on vacation, I had spoken to her two days after Gift was released and she told me to wait for her to come back.

Mora: Tshiamo how could you!

Amanda: Your husband's friend?

Gift: How's it any of your business wives?

Mora: you are disgusting.

Gift: you should focus on your own marriage..do something that doesn't involve looking like doll..

Lebo: Don't talk to my wife like that.. You broke the bro code.

Fez: exactly. You can't be sleeping with Your friend's wife.

Gift: Fezile, in fact, you all need to shut up. I don't even care what you say, you all need to focus on yourselves and your lives.

Me: let's just...

Gift: No baby let me say this.

I kept quiet

Gift: You lived your lives how you wanted..cheated on these trophies you call wives and not once did I judge you. So you know what Lebo and the rest of you...fuck your bro code and to hell with the friendships.

All the ifs

#64

Gift: let's go.

He took my bag and I followed him. We settled the bill at the till and we left. I was speechless. I really didn't know what to say. He drove us to his house and when we got there, he stared deep into my eyes.

Gift: What is it?

Me: You really did that?

He nodded.

Me: Your friendships are over coz of me?

Gift: Tshia, I love you. Do you not get it?

Me: I do but it wasn't suppose to escalate like this.

Gift: It was bound to.

Me: No it wasn't.

Gift: You my friend now. That's all I need.

Me: Mm

Gift: what is it now?

Me: Nothing

Gift: Movie?

Me: What time Is it?

Gift: 21:17

Me: just one.

Gift: why one?

Me: Because I want to sleep.

Gift: Baby its a Friday.

Me: I know. I want to wake up early and work for about 2 hours.

Gift: Catching up?

Me: I have to.

Gift: Okay we can do that.

Me: I choose

Gift: Choose what?

Me: a movie.

Gift: No.

Me: Why not?

Gift: you chose the restaurant. I'm choosing the movie.

Me: It had better not be horror

Gift: No. Relax.

He chose a movie. Not too bad. Enjoyed it. We slept at around 23:30 and at 6, I was up working. At around 9am, he was up.

Gift: you look very sexy with those on.

Me: really?

Gift: Yes ms Monareng.

I had my glasses on.

Me: Back to my old surname huh?

Gift: Offended?

Me: No.

Gift: Can I talk to you?

Me: baby so early?

Gift: It's important

I closed my laptop and took off my glasses. He passed me a cup of a coffee and came to sit next to me.

Gift: Okay...

Me: I'm all ears.

Gift: When your divorce is through and finalized, I want to marry you.

I quickly downed the coffee I had in my mouth.

Me: Gift?

Gift: I'm serious.

Me: We haven't been together for 2 months.

Gift: I've been waiting for you for 5 Years.

Me: You really want to do this?

Gift: T, I love you. Of course I want to do this.  
You thought I'm doing this for fun?

Me: No, I just didn't think...

Gift: I'd settle down?

Me: especially with me.

Gift: I really love you.

Me: I love you too.

Gift: And Is that a "yes?"

I giggled.

Me: Its a maybe.

Gift: you hurting me.

Me: Of course it's a "yes"

Gift: thank you.

He said me. He reached for an elastic band



which was on the table and wrapped it around my ring finger. I couldn't help but laugh.

Me: What is this?

Gift: engagement band.

Me: well where's yours?

Gift: You'll have to make a plan.

Me: me?

Gift: Yes

Me: okay I'll do that

Gift: one other thing.

Me: okay?

Gift: I want you to meet my kids.

I took a deep breath.

Me: When?

Gift: Today.

Me: okay.

Gift: Is that fine?

Me: I think so. I hope I won't be dealing with baby mama drama

Gift: No. Both my baby mamas are married.

Me: You did say.

Gift: So you'll deal with nothing of that sort.

Me: that's good to hear.

We made breakfast together and at around 14:00, we went to his mum's to meet his daughters. Thabisile(17) and Nokthula(12). They were beautiful and very welcoming I must say. So was his mother. They made me feel at home, he was such a dad around them but you could tell that he loved his kids very much. They were daddy's princesses. We left at around 17:00, went to Roadhouse.

Me: So you really haven't forgotten about this?

Gift: no I haven't

Me: there's just something that I really have against Dobsonville.

Gift: maybe coz it's too busy?

Me: I think so.

Gift: but aren't you having fun?

Me: Well I am.

Gift: Welcome to my side of the world baby.

I laughed.

Me: why are you acting like I didn't grow up in Soweto? I live in Molapo Gift.

Gift: And I live in Diepkloof Tshia. You forget that you just moved from Clearview estates? You probably still hung up on that.

Me: No I'm not.

Gift: Yes you are.

Me: I refuse to argue with you.

Gift: fine. More meat?

Me: Yes please.

We had a great time there and went home at around 20:30. We forgot about my healing body and made love the entire night.

Gift: good day ma'am.

I slowly opened my eyes.

Me: Hey. What time is it?

Gift: 12:30

I jumped up.

Me: I need to go see the kids. Why didn't you wake me?

Gift: Babe, you didn't tell me.

Me: oh. I'm going to have to rush there and spend a few hours with them.

Gift: I hope you coming back.

Me: How about you miss me for a day?

Gift: so you'll only come here on Fridays?

Me: Yes.

Gift: I need to marry you soon.

I laughed.

Gift: two for the road?

Me: oh no.

He pulled me back and gently made love to me again. We took a bath together and I headed home to see the kids. They were with me for about 10 minutes and had their attention back on their new toys

Dad: what's going on with you?

Me: Still waiting for the papers. I'll get them tomorrow. Hopefully.

Dad: what you doing is wrong Tshiamo.

Me: It feels right. I'm at a very happy place dad.

Dad: It is not okay. This is your husband's friend.

Me: Ex husband dad. Ex husband. Allow me to

be me please.

Dad: I don't approve of this.

Me: well it's not your call to make dad. I'm happy with Gift and I love him. If it means that I have to choose between you and him then I am definitely going to choose him

All the ifs

#65

Dad: Tshiamo!

I folded my arms.

Dad: I still have a right to slap you. Unfold those arms.

I quickly did.

Dad: This had better be the last time you address me in that manner..you've lost all respect because of a boy?

Me: He's not a boy.

Dad: Leave..

Me: What?

Dad: get in that car and come back here when you have manners.

Me: Dad....

Dad: Tshiamo leave.

Me: can I take my kids with?

Dad: No.

Me: Dad they are my...

Dad: I said "No" and I told you to leave.

I slowly went to the car and drove home.

Me: Hey

Nolo: Hey.

Me: You good?

I asked taking my shoes off

Nolo: I'm fine. Tshepang was here. Looking for

you.

Me: why didn't she call?

Nolo: Your phone's off

Me: Oh crap.

Nolo: Nice weekend?

Me: I don't know.

Nolo: What does that mean?

Me: We bumped into Kananelo and the squad on Friday..they were so cold towards us.

Nolo: As they should be.

Me: Yeah fine whatever.. But it doesn't give them the right to judge us.

Nolo: You dating your husband's friend.

Me: So?

Nolo: You don't see anything wrong?

Me: there's nothing wrong with being in love.



Nolo: but it matters who it is.

Me: No it doesn't.

Nolo: It does.

Me: I'm really Not in the mood.

I switched my phone on and left her there. I had a lot of missed calls from Tshepang and Gift and called her back first.

Tshepang: Sis.

Me: Child.

Tshepang: how are you?

Me: I'm okay. I heard you were here.

Tshepang: Yes. You weren't around.

Me: yes babe. I'll send you a lunch invite okay?

Tshepang: Okay.

Me: Good. Behave okay?

She laughed.

Tshepang: Yes sis

Me: Love you.

Tshepang: I love you too.

After she hung up, I called Gift back.

Gift: You are one difficult woman to track down.

Me: I'm sorry.

Gift: I miss you.

Me: really?

Gift: I swear

Me: I think I might just Come back there.

Gift: Are you fine baby?

Me: no.

Gift: What happened?

Me: I sort of disrespected my dad.

Gift: Why?

Me: can we not dive into it?

Gift: Did you apologize?

Me: He told me to leave.

Gift: Jeez babe. Go talk to him.

Me: He won't listen.

Gift: Not now obviously. Tomorrow after work.

Me: Okay.

Gift: I know I'm part of the fight.

Me: Yep.

Gift: I don't want you disrespecting your father because of me.

Me: Spare Me the lecture baby please. I'll go.

Gift: Good.. I'll come and see you later okay?

Me: Okay.

Gift: I love you.

Me: I love you too.

I hung up and napped. Woke up when Nolo told

me that Gift was outside. I quickly washed my face, brushed my teeth and went to him. He looked very ghetto. Denim shorts, converse shoes, some plain shirt and had a bucket hat on.

Gift: hey.

Me: Hey baby.

He hugged and kissed my forehead .

Gift: Still depressed?

Me: A bit.

Gift: really?

Me: Yes.

Gift: Well I have your favorite alcohol with.

I laughed

Me: I thought you didn't like me drinking alcohol..

Gift: Two Glasses of Strawberry Daiquiri won't hurt

Me: How many litres?

Gift: 3

Me: you joining me?

Gift: I have my Heineken Beers with me.

Me: I'll Go get my glass and a grass mat okay?

Gift: Okay.

I quickly went to get those two things and we chilled out on the lawn.

Me: No.

Gift: yes.

Me: why?

Gift: coz I want to.

Me: You want me to put that hideous thing on my body?

Gift: it's a cute outfit.

Me: no it's not

Gift: It is.

Me: then you wear it.

He giggled. We were looking at some outfit.

Gift: the back is cute.

Me: Let's just leave this okay?

Gift: Okay

Me: Thank you.

Gift: still cute.

Me: Yeah right. So here's my engagement wool.

I took out a piece of wool that I had in my pocket. He put his hand out so I could put it on.

Gift: So many knots?

Me: Yes. So you can't escape.

Gift: I don't plan on doing that.

Me: Good.

He left pretty late and the next day, I woke up

early to clean and Wash my clothes. I was going back to work on Wednesday. Doctor's orders. Yes. After Gift was released from the holding cell he took me to the doctor. Just to be on the safe side.

Nolo: Tshiamo!

Me: Hey.

Nolo: Lounge please.

Me: Why?

Nolo: Mark's Here.

Me: Okay. Coming

I went to the lounge.

Me: Hey Mr Lawyer.

He laughed.

Mark: How are you Tshia?

Me: I'm fine. You Quite early..thought we agreed on 13:00.

Mark: didn't take time.. Had early and short meetings plus consultants.

Me: Okay. Drink?

Mark: All good..

Me: Okay.

I sat down and Nolo gave us some space.

Me: so? Papers? Did you serve him?

Mark: no..

Me: Why?

Mark: Because according to the courts you and Kananelo are divorced.

Me: What?

Mark: 8 months ago. He has the decree with him.



All the ifs

#66

I felt like I had wax in my ears. I was suddenly feeling very hot..my blood was boiling. I thought I was spinning.

Me: Mark what did you just say?

Mark: According to the courts, you and Kananelo are divorced.

Me: Mark are you listening to yourself?

Mark: Yes.

Me: He has never served me with any divorce papers.

Mark: Are you serious?

Me: Yes

Mark: Have you signed any documents from him in the past 8 months?

Me: No. Nothing.

Mark: Are you sure?

Me: Mark, I would have remembered.

Mark: Tshia I really don't know now. Talk to him first then get back to me

Me: Okay.

Mark: Bye.

I was still shocked. I was in disbelief. I walked Mark out then called Nolo.

Nolo: Are you fine?

Me: Kananelo divorced me without my consent.

Nolo: What? Is that even possible?

Me: That's what I'm asking myself. I think he forged my signature.

Nolo: No. He wouldn't go that far.

Me: This is Kananelo we talking about

Nolo: Tshia you really dont think he did this right?

Me: There's only one way to find out.

I grabbed my car keys.

Me: I'll be back.

Nolo: be careful.

Me: I will.

I got into the car And left. The receptionist,  
Vicky was the one who welcomed me.

Vicky: Mrs Tefo.

Me: Tshiamo please.

Vicky: I'm sorry.

Me: it's all okay. Is Kananelo in?

Vicky: He went to Durban yesterday

Me: Oh.

Vicky: You didn't know?

Me: No actually.

Vicky: sorry.

Me: When will he back?

Vicky: Tomorrow.

Me: Okay Thanks Vicky.

Vicky: Pleasure

Me: have a great day

Vicky: Thank you.

As soon as I stepped out, I got a call from Nombu.

Me: hi..

Nombu: Hey friend.

Me: How are you?

Nombu: Im fine. Listen we landed two hours ago. Late lunch?

Me: no problem. We can meet now

Nombu: our spot?

Me: Our spot.

Nombu: Okay bye friend.

Me: bye babe.

I hung up and drove to our spot. Had a glass of water while I waited for Nombu. She arrived 15 minutes later and only then did we order drinks.

Nombu: you glowing.

Me: Really?

Nombu: Yes you are.

Me: Thanks friend. How was your baecation?

She giggled.

Nombu: Paradise.

Me: You Go girl

Nombu: I feel rejuvenated.

Me: That's good.

Nombu: Sthe and I have finally connected again you know? We starting on a clean slate now.

Me: I hope he does things the right way now.

Nombu: He believe he will.

She said blushing.

Me: look at you!

Nombu: I'm happy! Enough about me.

Me: Oh oh

Nombu: I'm listening..

I took a deep breath.

Me: I love Gift

Nombu: just like that?

Me: He told me he loved me the day we went to have dinner at his place and we had a quickie

Nombu: Yho!

Me: I know right?

Nombu: I'm not surprised though.

Me: What do you mean?

Nombu: Gift has always loved you.

Me: Nombu?

Nombu: I picked on it on my Siya's birthday party

Me: Siya's birthday was 5 years ago. When I was still a sales consultant. Pregnant with Ora.

Nombu: Exactly. I picked on it again when we had my dinner party a year ago. You two were having your conversations as always but it was in the way he looked at you that gave it away. I asked him and he confessed that he loved you from the very first day he set foot in your house

Me: Wow.

Nombu: Tshia, I'm not going to judge you coz I don't want to be judged either. I've always had my share of mistakes. If Gift makes you happy then so be it

Me: Really friend?

She nodded. I was happy to hear that. It meant a lot to me. She was my only real friend in the squad and I adored her.

Me: I was worried you'd shout at me.

Nombu: Well you have been very happy in the past few weeks.

Me: I have been. He's amazing!

Nombu: Now look at you! You look so happy..

Me: I am.

Nombu: so what now?

Me: Well I was going to divorce him.

Nombu: Was?

Me: According to the courts we divorced. 8 months ago.

Nombu: What!?

Me: Yep.

Nombu: Are you serious Tshia?



Me: very

Nombu: What the hell?

Me: And I knew nothing about it.

Nombu: My goodness! What did you marry?

Me: The devil himself it seems.

Nombu: Wow!

Me: I know right?

Nombu: I'm sorry

Me: Its okay.

Nombu: Wow!

She was still shocked. I told her that we should change the topic and we ordered food. After we parted, I decided to go home. To see the kids and to apologize to dad coz I felt really bad.

Tumelo: you sleeping here Tshia?

Me: No.

Ora: Why?

Me: I didn't bring any clothes. I'll sleep here tomorrow.

Tumelo: Okay.

Me: where's Grandpa?

Ora: in the house.

Me: I'll be back okay?

Tumelo: Hurry

I went to speak to my father and apologized.

Dad: are you really sure about this?

Me: I am dad. Please let me have it.

Dad: You really care for this Gift boy don't you?

I nodded

Dad: I'll just have to wait and see first babygirl.

Me: Thanks dad

Dad: Okay then.

Spent two more hours with them then went home, the next day, at around 15:00, I went to the house to find Kananelo.

Kana: I thought you packed all your shit.

Me: I forgot the decree.

He kept quiet

Me: You are one bastard do you know! You divorced me without my consent?

He had a smug.

Kana: Yeah so?

Me: You don't see anything wrong with that?

Kana: No. I wasn't feeling you, this, us anymore. I decided to forge your signature and divorce you. I only stayed coz I could see you were willing to make us work and I stayed for the kids.

Me: Wow.

Kana: You get custody of the kids. I didnt take that away from you. Now, please leave. I've got a date with my wife. The mother of my daughters, Rorisang and Atlehang

All the ifs

#67

Me: Kananelo are you listening to yourself?

Kana: I understand every word I'm saying.

Me: who the hell is Atlehang?

Kana: My unborn daughter.

Me: what!

Kana: she's due in 5 months.

Me: Kananelo!

Kana: it's life.

Me: wow!

I didn't know whether to feel betrayed, hurt or happy.

Me: go to hell.

Kana: I was there. With you.

I pushed him out of the way and drove home. I locked myself in the bedroom and just stared into Space, I thought of everything that had happened, everything I had discovered. I only realized that my cheeks were wet when my phone rang.

Me: Hey.

Gift: Hey baby.

Me: Hey Gift.

Gift: ouch!

Me: how are you?

Gift: Are you fine?

Me: I'm okay.

Gift: You don't sound okay.

Me: How was your day?

Gift: I'm on my way.

He hung up and I continued staring into space.  
About 30 or 25 minutes later, there was a knock.

Gift: Babe?

I went to get it.

Gift: Hey. What is it?

Me: Did you know?

Gift: Know what?

Me: that your friend divorced me without my consent.

Gift: what!

Me: He did.

Gift: What kind of a man does that?

Me: You didn't know?

Gift: I would have told you.

Me: And about Seipati?

Gift: what about her?

Me: did you know she's pregnant.

He kept quiet.

Me: Ntando Gift Kunene!

Gift: Calm down.

Me: You knew?

Gift: I found out after our secret vacation.

Me: And you didn't tell me?

Gift: I just saw them having lunch.

Me: You didn't feel it was important to tell me?

Gift: it wasn't my place to.

Me: But you should have

He shook his head.

Gift: Not my business Tshia.

He was right..it wasn't his place to tell me.

Me: I'm sorry!

Gift: what now? Did you see the decree?

Me: No. All I know is, I get the kids.

Gift: That's all you need.

Me: that's true. I feel stupid though.

Gift: Don't.

Me: Really?

Gift: Yes.

I took a deep breath.

Gift: That's it.

Me: Can I be with you tonight?

Gift: Why are you asking?

I giggled.

Me: I don't know.

Gift: You my fiancée.

Me: oh yes. I thought I was the side

Gift: You the starter, the main, the dessert.



Me: Listen to you.

We both giggled.

Gift: take your time.

I started packing while I listened to him shouting at someone for incompetence...

he was very different when it came to work stuff.

Gift: Do what you get paid for.

He hung up!

Me: Calm down.

Gift: I'm calm.

Me: No you not

Gift: I hate incompetent people

Me: Hate?

Gift: I can't deal with them

Me: Unfortunately you will

Gift: but its nothing I cant handle.

Me: you have no choice.

Gift: very true. Done?

Me; Yes sir. Let's go.

2 weeks later, I was over what had happened, with Gift's help of course. I had decided I wasn't going to stress over Rubbish. I wasn't going to stress over a grown man..Dad had given me my kids back..I was complete. Tumelo and Gift were tooth and nail. He and Ora got along too and I loved having Thank and Nokuthula around. His daughters were beautiful souls. Gift's uncles had written a letter to the family and dad was coming around..he liked him.

Gift: Ma'am?

Me: Sir?

Gift: When are we going house hunting?

Me: I think we can extend this one.

Gift: this one?

Me: yes.. This house is beautiful.

Gift: I thought you didn't like it..you said it's too "Guyish"

Me: it is yes. I'll just get an interior designer.

Gift: So you really comfortable?

Me: Yes.. Just want to extend the kitchen and the lounge. It has enough bedrooms..besides, you love living here.

Gift: that's true.

Me: It is Ntando.

Gift: please stop using that name.

Me: You don't like your government name Ntando?

He laughed.

Gift: what's wrong with you?

Me: Nothing Ntando.

Gift: You know what! I'm going to find Tumelo and Ora.

Me: They are outside.

Gift: and that is exactly where I'm going.

Me: Have fun.

Gift: Atleast they don't use my government name.

Me: Yeah right. As if "Gift" isn't.

Gift: No..we only consider the first as the government name. Bye.

Me: Bye baby.

He kissed me and 3 minutes later, there were joyful screams and laughter outside. Ora had asked me about her father and we had tried calling him but had no luck. I went to the kitchen to start preparing them hot dogs. I got a call from Nombu after I taking the food outside .

Me: babe.

Nombu: Hey babe not going to be long.

Me: Listening

Nombu: Dinner tomorrow at my place okay?  
With everyone.

Me: I'll talk to Gift first.

Nombu: Do that.

Me: Okay.. I will.

Nombu: bye.

I hung up and dialled Kananelo again. He finally answered.

Kana: Tshiamo.

Me: Kananelo.

Kana: Can I help you?

Me: Ora has been asking about you.

Kana: Oh.

Me: you not willing to see your kids?

Kana: Depends where my kids are.

Me: I thought dad told you that if you want to see your kids you welcome to go to his house since you said you not willing to come to mine or Gift's.

Kana: That's what I said.

Me: You haven't seen them since we moved out..You don't even call them

Kana: Tshiamo, don't annoy me. Get straight to the point.

Me: Be a father! Your kids miss you.

Kana: Tell them I'll see them when I'm free..I'm still busy..

Me: Kananelo...

Kana: one last thing, don't call my personal phone. Call Vicky if you want to talk to me.

All the ifs

#68

He hung up before I could say another word. I won't lie and say I wasn't hurt coz that cut deeper than a knife. It cut really deep coz I knew he loved his kids. I knew Kananelo would go to war and die for his kids. I didn't think the bad blood we had would turn him against his own DNA. I quickly swallowed the lump I had in my throat as soon as Gift walked in with the little ones.

Gift: I'll be with you two now okay?

Ora: okay.

Gift: Go watch TV.

They raced to the lounge and I shifted my eyes from him.

Gift: T?

Me: Hi

Gift: What is it?

Me: Nothing.

Gift: Tshiamo

He sat down.

Gift: Did I do something wrong?

I shook my head.

Gift: Then why do you look so down?

Me: There's something wrong with Kananelo. I called him telling him that his kids want to see him and he said he doesn't have time. That I could call Vicky from now on and not his personal phone.

He chuckled.

Gift: Kananelo needs to grow up.

I fixed my eyes on him.

Gift: you can't force a grown man to grow up. He has bruised egos problems. He can't get over the fact that you did what he was doing to



you. Bear in mind that he hurt you deeper coz he divorced you without your consent. This is what I'm saying, We men have a problem...

He fixed his chair and took a deep breath.

Gift: He's more hurt than you are. And him being hurt had turned him against his kids. He's not the first man to do this. Not the last. That's why you find many kids writing to shows to help them find their fathers because they have bruised egos and when they leave they don't care about their kids. He's not thinking straight. Probably won't for the next 10 years. The kids are yours and are a reminder of what you did to him

Me: But he shouldn't turn his back against them.

Gift: True but he has. Focus on raising Oratilwe and Tumelo. Stop worrying about their father. If he was a real dad, he'd know that whatever happened between you and him has nothing to

do with the kids.

I nodded.

Gift: stop stressing..

Me: What do I tell them in the mean time?

Gift: Tell them their father is still busy and that he'll come as soon as he's done.

Me: Ora won't buy that .

Gift: You just need to make it work baby

Me: I guess so.

Gift: Now cheer up! We going to watch Alvin and the chipmunks. You going us?

Me: Again?

Gift: Yes

Me: We've watched that 20 times already

Gift: Come on. Be nice..

I laughed.

Me: I'll bring us snacks

Gift: Okay.

He went to join the two and I got us snacks.

Ora: When will Nokuthula come?

Me: Nokuthula went away on a school trip for the weekend.

Tumelo: And Thabi?

Me: She'll be here later. She went to school.

Ora: it's Friday

Me: Yes it is.

Tumelo: Please call her Tshia.

Me: Okay.

I dialled Thabi and put her on loud speaker.

Thabsi: Moms

She called me that. She was a respectful little one. So was Nokuthula. Tumelo and Ora called

Gift "pops". In their minds that was Gift's name coz both Thabi and Noku called him "pops".

Me: Are you safe?

Thabsi: yes I am. I'm around the corner. I'll be there in 4 minutes.

Me: Okay baby..

Thabsi: Okay moms. See you now..

We both hung up.

Me: She'll be here now.

He and Ora looked at each other and smiled.. They always had fun when Thabsi and Nokuthula were around. Always. After 5 minutes Thabsi was home and it was as if we had never chilled with Ora and Tumelo. She quickly got out of her uniform and took them outside to play with them.

Gift: So we don't exist?

Me: Nope.

Gift: Ouch

Me: we'll get used to it.

Gift: just Like that?

Me: Yes. Nombu called

Gift: What now?

Me: She invited us for dinner.

Gift: Why?

Me: She just wanted us to link up.

Gift: Why?

Me: For old time sake.

Gift: You can go.

Me: With you.

Gift: You don't expect me to pretend like everything is okay right?

Me: But I thought you and Sthe are cool.

Gift: We are

Me: So?

Gift: Okay We'll go. But don't expect me to be Nice

I giggled

Me: okay .

Gift: Good. Nombu must stop these dinner things.

Me: you know she's the peacemaker though. She also sent a text after the call. Only saw it now.

Gift: Saying?

Me: with the kids.

Gift: So it's a dinner plus play date?

Me: Yes

Gift: Okay even better.

Me: what do you mean?

Gift: It means I'll play with the kids if the adults

annoy me..

Me: Babe What is it?

Gift: two faced people annoy me. I'm only going there coz it's Nombu and she's the only one with a lot of sense

I smiled

Me: And she's my bestfriend.

Gift: That too.

Me: Thank you.

Gift: Pleasure. Dinner date?

Me: With the kids?

Gift: Yes

Me: I think Pizza will do.

Gift: Okay

He called them in so we could discuss flavors and Thabsi called in to place an order. We had a fun night and the next day, went out for

breakfast, caught a 12pm movie and later, went to Nombu's. Thabsi decided to stay behind..I would too if I was her age. Being surrounded by kids and adults..being the only teen would have been depressing.. Her father left her a long list of instructions. Gift though! And promised to hang her upside down If she didn't abide by them.

Nombu: hello friend.

Me: hey babe

Nombu: Hey Gift.

Gift: Hey Nombu. Beer please.

Nombu: Over there.

Gift: thank you.

Nombu: pleasure.

He went to take his beer and we all turned heads when Kananelo walked in with his pregnant "wife" and kid. Hand in hand.



Ora: Dad!

She ran to him and only got a half hug. Tumelo was not having it. He was happily playing with the other kids. All our eyes were on Kana.

Ora: why didnt answer your phone?

Kana: I was busy.

Ora: let's go play outside.

Kana: Not today baby. Okay? Go join the other kids.

He was gently pushing her away from him.

Ora: Come Rori.

She said touching her half sister's hand and Seipati pulled her away. I could see the hurt on Ora's face. Kana wasn't looking at her anymore.

Me: Baby come.

Ora: Okay mum.

She came back to me.

Gift: Nombu thanks for the invite okay?

Sthe: you leaving already mfethu?

Gift: I can't let my family be around venom.  
Grown men need to act grown!

All the ifs

#69

Tumelo: Why did you push my sister away?

He was addressing Seipati and I wasn't even aware that he had seen that.

Me: Baby keep quiet.

Tumelo: why Tshia?

Gift: Tumza come.Rati let's go. You staying behind?

I shook my head.

Me: I'll call you.

Nombu: Okay girl.

I hugged her, took my daughter's hand and we left. We were all silent for about 10 minutes then Tumelo spoke up.

Tumelo; Why did Rori's mum push Ora away from Kananelo?

Me: It was a mistake.

Tumelo: No.

Me: Yes.

Tumelo; Baby no please

Ora was staring out the window. I could tell she was hurt, I just didn't know what she was thinking.

Gift: Rati?

Ora: Pops?

Gift: Are You fine?

Ora: I'm fine.

Gift: Really?

Ora: Yes.

Gift: ice-cream?

They both said "yes" and he turned the car. Nothing like ice-cream and milkshakes to soothe a heartache.. My kids and I were the loudest in the restuarant.

Tumelo: "we out here poppin in pinnese"

Me: no!

Ora: "we out here dripping in finesse"

Me: That's it. "It don't make no sense"

Tumelo: "you know it, you know it"

We all laughed. He liked messing songs up but we all enjoyed it.

Gift: Think its better?

He whispered in my ear.

Me: Way better.

Gift; That's good.

Me: Last round then we going home okay? I choose.

Ora: Okay.

Me: Bubblegum?

Ora&Tumi: Yes!

We called the waitress to order more milkshakes and when we got home, they were both sleeping. Carried them and found Thabsi also sleeping. We tiptoed to the bedroom.

Gift: Are you fine?

Me: I think I am.

Gift: Baby don't lie to me

Me: Seeing that happen hurt me.

Gift: Can I ask you for a favor?

Me: I think so.

Gift: Stop exposing those kids to venom..

Me: what do you mean?

Gift: I was against this whole dinner idea.

Me: Gift are you blaming me for all of this?

Gift: Tshiamo, I am. A part of you knew Kananelo would be there with his girlfriend, that call should have been a hint. If you can't protect these kids from the world then I will. They are way too young too deal with rejection.

He was shouting at me.

Gift: And I know I'm part of the problem but let me atleast protect them from the monster their father has become.

Me: please stop shouting.

Gift: Do me that favor.

Me: Okay Gift.

Gift: Thank you.

I went to take a shower and slept while he was busy with some work. The next morning, I had to make sure everyone was ready for church. A

great service and we went home for lunch coz dad wanted us there.

Resego: So when's the wedding?

Me: What wedding?

Tshepang: You and Abhut'Gift's wedding.

Me: the negotiations are only next week .

Resego: do you have an outfit?

Me: No.

Resego: Why?

Me: Coz I've done this before.

Tshepang: Can we get outfits?

Me: Yes.

Resego: Oh great! So I was thinking we could get those traditional dresses we saw...

She wasn't talking to me anymore. She was talking to Tshepang. I moved from them and went to talk to Dad's wife. Gift was with dad and

Lesedi.

Priscilla: Are you okay?

Me: I am ma.

Priscilla: Really?

Me: I am.

Priscilla: looking forward to next week?

I nodded.

Me: Atleast it's not arranged this time.. I'm getting married to the person I actually love.

Priscilla: He loves you too.

Me: You think so?

Priscilla: I know so..be happy.

Me: I just can't get over Kananelo rejecting his kids.

Priscilla: You can't force someone to be something he doesnt want to be.



Me: His own kids?

Priscilla: I'm sorry Tshia. Sometimes it's the woman you keep. Like me, I thought that you were going to keep me away from him. So I influenced him..you ended up resenting him.and he missed out on a lot of things. And I regret that. So does he. Like your father, Kananelo will open his eyes.

Me: When it's too late?

Priscilla: Maybe he'll be as lucky as your dad was..

Me: Maybe.

Priscilla: Stop stressing about things you can't control.

Me: Okay

Priscilla; Breathe.

I took a deep breath.

Priscilla: Good. Now take this to those three

guys outside.

I giggled and took the drinks outside..we had lunch with the family and Gift and I listened to Tshepang and Resego plan our wedding.

Dad: You look a bit lighter.

Me; Weight?

Dad: No. You gaining weight. Light as in free.

Me: I am. Despite a few hiccups

Dad: You are a strong one.

Me: As I should be dad .

Dad: Just like your mother.

Me; Do you think she'd be proud?

Dad: No doubts.

Me: Really?

Dad: Trust me. You don't think so?

Me: I do.

Dad: But?

Me: I really don't know

He smiled

Dad: You doing good.

Me: Thanks dad.

I said hugging him. We had fun at home and the next day was the same.. Drop the kids off at school then work.

Me: Oh Mikey.. We'll meet.

Mike: when? You found a new man and all of a sudden you forgot about us.

Me: I promise.

Mike: Good.

My office phone rang and I had to end the one in had with Mikey then ran down to the reception to see who was looking for me.

Me: Hey.

Kana: Hey. Can we step out?

Me: Sure.

We went out to the garden.

Me: Okay?

Kana: I won't take much of your time.

Me: Okay.

Kana: After what You did to me, I don't trust you anymore.

Me: I dont Expect you to but that doesn't give you the right to treat our kids the way you did.

Kana: Like I said, I don't trust you..for all you know those two could be Gift's.

I gasped.

Kana: I want tests done

All the ifs

#70...the last

Me: Test whose kids?

Kana: Ora and Tumelo.

Me: Fuck you. Listen to me...fuck you. Don't you ever come near me or my kids again. You jerk. You are such a filthy pig!

Kana: Watch it

Me: Disgrace to men! Fuck you!

I got up from where we were sitting.

Me: Go to hell. Rubbish!

I threw the coffee cup that was on the table at him.

Me: Fuck you!

I said it again and went back in. I told the receptionist to never let him in again and went back to my office. It took me 30 minutes before I could work again and I buried myself in it. When I went to Ora and Tumelo's school, I told them to remove Kana's name from their files

and I replaced it with dad's. I told them to never ever let anyone besides me, Gift and my dad pick the kids up from school.

Nolo: welcome back.

Me: Thanks.

Nolo: not spending a week at Gift's?

Me: No.

Nolo: why?

Me: I'll have more than enough time to spend with Gift

Nolo: Okay. I need to talk to you.

Me: Okay..

I grabbed something to drink and sat down.

Nolo: So I've decided to move out.

Me: Why?

Nolo: I found a house.

Me: Yes this one.

Nolo: This is yours. You and Tshepang.

I was sad.

Nolo: I'm moving out next month.

Me: That's in 2 months.

Nolo: Yes it is.

Me: Okay.

Nolo: you and the kids are going to move in with Gift right?

Me: obviously. Tshepang will just have to come back here.

Nolo: Will she agree?

Me: She has to.

Nolo: Okay.. Don't look so sad.

I giggled.

Me: I was used to having you around.

Nolo: You were never around.

Me: Not true.

Nolo: It is. You are always with Gift.

Me: on weekends..

Nolo: and during the week..

Me: Hard...

My phone rang

Me: Excuse me.

Nolo: Okay.

Me: Hey.

I moved from Nolo.

Gift: Hello baby.

Me: how are you?

Gift: I'm okay. So we stopped checking on each other during working hours?

Me: No.



Gift: Then?

Me: I had a very hectic day.

Gift: Talk to me.

I sighed

Me: Your friend came to the office.

Gift: Hoping he's sober now.

Me: He's worse. He wants to have tests done on my kids.

Gift: What?

Me: I told him to fuck the hell off.

Gift: What's wrong with Kananelo?

Me: I Don't know.

Gift: Are you fine?

Me: I am.

Gift: I'll come check on you guys later okay?

Me: Okay baby.

Gift: I love you.

Me: I love you too.

I hung up and went back to Nolo.

Nolo: Ready for Saturday?

Me: I think I am.

Nolo: Really?

Me: Sort of..

Nolo: you've got a lot going on don't you?

Me: I do cuz.

Nolo: I can tell.

Me: And I thought I was free.

Nolo: You dont think so?

Me: No.

I told her what happened at Nombu's and at work.

Nolo: What?

Me: I know right?

Nolo: What is wrong with him?

Me: I wish I knew. His sudden change worries me. Fine, he can be bitter all he likes towards me but his own kids?

Nolo: I'm starting to question Kananelo's love.

Me: You and I both

Nolo: Those kids don't deserve this. Okay let's count Tumelo out, he's never really cared. One would swear he's Gift's.

I giggled.

Me: True.

Nolo: But Ora? Tshia, keep them away from him.

Me: They'll keep asking.

Nolo: They'll eventually give up.

Me: You think so?

Nolo: I'm telling you. Kananelo will be the loser

at the end of the day. Not you. Not his kids.

Me: I hear you.

Nolo: Good.

Me: so that's what happened.

Nolo: I'm sorry.

Days later, I was in a traditional attire. At home. Waiting for Gift's uncles to come. I had mixed emotions. I was restless, I was happy, I was uncomfortable, I was ecstatic, I just didn't understand what was happening. I was still hurt by Kananelo's actions. He had poured petrol on fire. I was still not over what had happened and Nombu's and the DNA tests thing just made it worse. I questioned My step mum on why I couldn't get over it and she said "You are a mother, when your kids hurt, you hurt more than they do, that's why" and she was right because Ora also kept asking about her father. She couldn't understand what was happening with

him. Tumelo on the other hand, he didn't care.  
Was most happy when he was with Gift.

Gran: Relax.

Me: I am.

Gran: This will be a good day.

I took a deep breath. Trying to let go of my  
worries and trying to fix my mixed emotions.

Gran: that's better..

Me: Thanks Grandma.

Gran: Pleasure my child.

Gran tried to calm me down for about 15  
minutes and we suddenly heard Gift's uncles at  
the gate. My nerves were sky high.

Nolo: You good?

I nodded.

Nolo: Don't lie.

Me: I don't know Nolo.

Nolo: You just really hoping everything goes well that's all.

Me: you think?

Nolo: it's normal. Relax

Me: Okay.

About 20 minutes later, they called us out. Me, Nolo, My cousin Gratitude and My other cousin, Hlengi. They asked his delegation to choose the "flower" they were there for.

G's uncle: The one with the blue doek.

My heart started beating fast. I couldn't understand or tell what was happening with me.

My uncle finally spoke up.

Uncle Oupa: Tshiamo do you know these people?

Me: No..no I don't.

END OF SEASON 1