



[BATHABILE by Avuyile Jange](#)

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PARIS

I had a dream, got everything I wanted, honestly must have been a nightmare. Those were some lines from a song by Billie Eilish, I don't quiet remember the name. This song kind of had me hoping that one day I would get everything I wanted. Growing up with rich parents was literally awesome at first, not knowing that I was being seen as prey by unknown people. I did well in school, attended charities, became a public at a early age, I was too perfect according to my peers. My older sister was also a lot like me and then my second oldest sister, a troublemaker. Despite our differences we were still the perfect bunch along with my brothers. Then one night on the 31st of De-

Voice:Here is your money!

I jumped a little and looked up at the ugly man, he threw the money to my face.I didn't know I was in my own planet for this long that I didn't even hear him get off and dressed up. My body feels numb as I slowly get dressed.I look at the mirror, my collarbones are popping, the black eye is still visibly, my neck looks bruised maybe because I get choked a lot.My sister and Yolanda walk in, they just hug me, I let the tears fall

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I can't seem to get used to this. It has been eight months stuck here, well after we were hijacked but still I can't get used to the fact that I am a prostitute. All the time I always wake up in the middle of everything because I still fight these people, so they just bang my head and carry me to bed. They don't even use drugs to make us numb, apparently our clients don't want addicts.

Yolanda:I am sorry Paris.

My sister wipes the tears from my face before whizzing,she almost falls but we catch her.

Me:I thought they said they will get her a doctor.

Yolanda:They did but he told them that she needs a real hospital.

She has a very nasty wound which I believe is right on her pancreas, she got stabbed fighting for me, after they stabbed my back until I blacked out. I was out for a week. Do you think it stopped them for doing whatever they wanted on my body? They saw an opportunity for themselves while I laid half dead.We walk with her to our room, Yolanda gets the water to clean the wound.

Her:Love.

I stare at my sister, she always called me that because of my name. City of Love.

Me:Riri.

Her:Me and Yolanda have put a great plan for you.

Me:Huh?

Her:You are escaping on Thursday.

In two days?

Me:That is impossible.

Yolanda:I still have everything we came with, the two thousand rands I had with me.

Me:No,I can't leave you here.

Her:We will all die if we do that, you are still young enough to start over Paris.

Yolanda:I already written down the address of my house down, the keys and everything. Your ID and license are still in the bag.

Me:Please I don't want to leave you here. I can't.

Her:They leave on Wednesday night each week and come back Friday morning, we need you out because we can't live for long. Look at me.

Yolanda:You have a chance Paris, in living again.

I sigh and watch Yolanda clean the wound. PARIS

Mom:Uphi uRiri? (Where is Riri?)

Atha:Yamazhi kaloku lowo neparty. (You know her and parties.)

Dad:At least it's her money.

Mom:On the 31st of December?I give up.

Mangi:She is dating that boy, that one working somewhere we don't know.

Me:Katlego bloody Mosia.

NK:Language Paris.

I just stare at him and roll my eyes.We are a very big family, first Nkanyezi who we call NK then Mangaliso, then comes the girls Athabile being the oldest, Rethabile lastly me, Bathabile. Unfortunately I have a middle name which is Paris and is more famous than my first name.Out of all my siblings,I am the only one with a middle name, according to the unfiltered mouth of Mr Boikanyo, I was conceived in a holiday in Paris.I couldn't feel anything for days, then they told me I was born there too. Bloody hell! No wonder the name is so famous.Rethabile is the party animal,I don't even know how she keeps up with work and partying. Mangi is an egoistical doctor with flashy white teeth, then that Nkanyezi who thinks he's literally a bright gynecologist,Athabile my sweet optometrist, Rethabile our accountant, and ta-da the matric kid

me. We had private lecturers to make sure we pass at school, we had money to afford anything, that's what happens when you have rich parents.Dad a Minister of Higher Education and Training, mom the wealthiest business woman in the country. We were moulded to be perfect, make mistakes when you got your own money.I wanted to do teaching,trust me my parents died when I told them this, they suggested becoming a dermatologist but Athabile told them it wasn't their future but mine. They can be controlling, sometimes I think they forget they didn't just show up rich,they started somewhere too. Mangi brought this girl this other day, my mother legit assumed without asking that she was his maid. What the hell?My parents can be picky, judgemental and noisy too but they try their best not to do that to us, try to love us equal but sometimes I just wanted to tell them to treat other people right too.

Me:Nkanyezi you are not my mother or father.

NK:Ndikuqhube ke mna Bathabile. (I will slap you Bathabile.)

Mom:Khawuyeke uchuku Nkanyezi, khange sithi mawulahlwe ngula nondindwa. (Stop with the anger Nkanyezi, we never said you should be dumped by that prostitute.)

Mangi:Bamlahlile?(They dumped him?)

Atha:Ba?(They?)

NK:Mangaliso you just betrayed me.

Me:His many girlfriends.

Everyone looks at him before laughing.

Mom:You are your father's son.

Dad:What is that suppose to mean Mami?

Atha:A chip off the old block Dadi.

We burst out laughing again.

Mangi:Dadi?Athabile for president.Viva!

Me:Amandla!(Power!)

NK:Athabile!

Atha:Huh?

Mangi:So slow bra.

Mom:Kaloku uchitha ixesha ejongene nevagina.(He spends his time staring at a vagina)

We gasp,Nkanyezi is the first one to laugh.

Dad:Savage Mazulu.

Atha:MaZardi B.

Mangi:Guys I said vote for Athabile for president, she is her mother's child.

Mom:With my flat ass?

Dad:That thick thang?

Me:Sies parents.

Mom:You children think I don't know that Cardiovascular B of yours.

NK:Cardio-what? I am leaving as soon as possible.

Mangi:Can I eat?In peace too?

We just laughed. ✓2.

PARIS

We were all sitting around ,waiting for the New Year when my phone rang.I stood up and walked out of the room.

Me:RiRi where are you?

Her:Hey baby,just stuck in this party.

Me:No one asked you to go there.

Her:Kat doesn't want to leave now . Please pick me up.

Me:I should really be looking like a chauffeur to you Rethabile.

Her:I am sorry,it is just that I don't really feel good .

Me:Are you okay?

Her:I just want to come home.

Me:I am on my way.

She drops the phone,I have to admit I am quiet shocked as I stare at my phone,she sounded sober.

Me:I am picking RiRi up.

NK:Again and again?

Mom:She needs to learn responsibility, you cannot be picking up after her all the time.

Me: Something is wrong with her.

Dad:I love you.

Me:I will be back before you know it,no need to be this dramatic.

I take Riri's car keys and walk out.

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The club is full,people making out ,some lying against the wall,some dancing as I walked in heading to the VIP section.

I find RiRi making out with him

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I have before getting between them.

Kat:She still doesn't like me.

Me:I am not obliged to do so.

RiRi:I called her to pick me up.

Kat:The party just started most.

Riri:I am tired, I have to be home.

I walk out with my hand wrapped around her elbow.

Kat:Paris!

Me:What the hell do you want?

Kat:You should try thick ladies modelling.

Me:You should try rehab or prison.

His friends burst out laughing as we walk out.I find RiRi standing outside the car, I open it.

Me:What is up with you?

RiRi:He is going to steal innocent women.

Me:Who?

RiRi:Katlego, I heard him point the girls in the club.

Me:Huh?

RiRi:Can we leave?

Me:You are not done talking Rethabile!

RiRi:Can we go?

I just keep my mouth shut and drive. As soon as we drove out Carolina, we could see flashing lights behind us.

Me: Traffic officers? This time?

I pull over since they indicated they wanted me to stop. Two officers walk out, the other goes to Riri's side.

Office: Miss your license.

I turn to ask Riri to open the dashboard, only to meet her petrified face. I see the gun on her forehead.

Officer: Step out of the car Miss Boikanyo.

How the hell does he know my surname? I walk out of the car in shock.

Riri: You can take the car, please don't hurt us.

Officer: We are here for you.

My body goes cold as I walk out of the car, he raids the car and comes back with my ID and license. Inside their car there was another guy with a gas mask, they immediately wear theirs. Riri coughs, I follow as I struggle to breathe. √3.

PARIS

When I woke up, my head hurt, I tried to move but still it felt heavy.

RiRi:Stop moving.

Me: What happened?Argh my head hurts.

I stand for a good old fifteen minutes until I can feel myself.I look at the girls in the room confused.Some looked bored,some scared and others looked to be in their own planet.

RiRi:I am sorry,this is all my fault.

Me:What is going on?

RiRi:Katlego di-

The door opens ,Katlego and some guys walk in.He looks at me and smiles.

Kat:You are awake, I thought you r innocent thick ass died from that gas.

Me:Why would you give a fuck about me?

Kat:You are about to make us rich considering you are still a virgin.

I hide my shock by turning to look at RiRi.

Me:Yooh umvile umntu wakho uthi ndilivirgin?(You did you hear your boyfriend,he says I am virgin?)

Everyone who heard what I said stifled a laugh.

Kat:What did you just say?

Me:Umuncu.(You are stupid.)

They laugh ,one of them whispers in his ear.

Kat: I wonder who fucked you but still we will get more money.

Me: Your daddy,meoww.

Kat:Shut the fuck up!

A man walks in.

Him:You are making noise!

Kat:Sorry Sir.

He looks at us,his eyes stay on RiRi and I don't think I like the way he's looking at her.

Him:Bring her.

Me:To where?

He looks at me in shock.

Him:Starfire.

He comes closer,I just move away from him.

Me:I don't remember asking for a new name.

Him:Soon you will accept it.Take her instead.

I scream as they drag me away from my screaming sister.They threw me in a room and locked the door.I look around to meet mirrors around me.

Voice:Undress.

Me:Go to hell!

Voice:Take your clothes off!

Me:No.

Voice: Get her sister.

My heart stops, I take my hood and track pants,leaving me in tights and vest.

Voice:Good girl.Gentlemen you can see we have fresh girls.

My brain finally register that I was one of too many girls trafficked in South Africa.My body freezes and the door opens.

Him:You see, Starfire you are my ticket to being rich.

Me:In hell.

Then he walked towards me,I grabbed the vase and looked at him.More men walked in , I hit one of them as they jumped on me.I felt something connect with my head making me sway.

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When I woke up everything hurt,my stomach felt twisted

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as for my head it felt like I had a very bad headache..

Riri:Stop moving baby.

I opened my eyes to find Riri and some woman bandaging my thighs and waist.

Me:What are you doing?

Her:He hurt you so bad.

Me:What are you covering?

Riri:Stab wounds and internal bleeding.

The what happened came crashing to my memory and I quickly stand up only to scream,my thighs feel like there are needles wrapped around them.I was violated and stabbed for standing up for myself.

Riri:I am sorry.

Her:I was trapped by a woman in Gauteng after I arrived from Cape Town.

Riri:Another woman?

Her:Yep,when they trust you enough they will let you escort men to places.

The more she told us her story, is the more I cried. I wanted my mother and father, I wanted to go home.

RIRI

I sigh as I watch her lying on the dirty bed, I cannot stop blaming myself, I am sure Mom and Dad blame me for this too.

Me: Thank you for helping with her.

Her: It is okay, I am Yolanda Ndumiso and you?

Me: Rethabile Boikanyo and that is Bathabile Paris Boikanyo.

Her: Do you have any other siblings?

Me: Nkanyezi, Mangaliso, Athabile, me and her.

Her: My parents died when I was thirteen leaving me a huge ass inheritance and an amazing granny, who unfortunately died three years ago. Wait did you say Boikanyo? Are you who I think you are?

Me: Yes.

Her: Sorry, I don't mean to make you uncomfortable.

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I sat on the floor watching Paris stare into space. Katlego walked in and my stomach twisted in disgust.

Kat: Follow me.

I pull Paris to her feet and follow Katlego. The man who seemed to be the boss stood before us.

Him: This is your new home, you try to escape we will kill you, follow instructions and you will be fine.

We just stared at him.

Him: Do you hear me?

Us: Yes.

Then someone gasps, Paris had stuck a pen on Katlego's neck, he was trying to breathe. I did not even feel her move from me. They quickly went to him, we were pushed back to our room. Some girls praised her as some looked scared. ✓4.

PARIS [2 MONTHS LATER]

Him: She is becoming more violent, she is not stopping Boss.

Boss: Our clients are coming because of her they think all of our girls are like her. She is like our marketing strategy.

Him: The more she gets famous, her family might find her.

Boss: We will cross that bridge when we get there, for now little Starfire is off limits.

I feel his hand rubbing my face,I want to gag but I have to remain unmoving until further notice.I have landed myself to bed rest again,I attacked any man touching me.Unfortunately they cannot tie me because 'our clients' do no want to feel like they are raping us.I attacked Katlego,three of the guards,7 clients and the boss during these two months.Sometimes I want to give up but I can't.All the time I attack them,I get stabbed untill I can't fight anymore,at least Katlego stays away from me.I could feel myself dying each and every day,no hope of ever going back home.I cried all the tears I had but I've accepted my reality.I hope sometimes they just kill me but they don't.Mentally,I am dead, physically like a dead doll.

Riri:Baby.

I open my eyes to find her looking with teary eyes.

Me:I cannot help myself from fighting.

RiRi:You are going to get yourself killed.

Me:I don't care,no one will find us,so I might as well die.

Riri:Please.

Me:And let them do as they please with my body?Are you crazy?

RiRi:You are crazy.I am trying to stay alive for you instead of being selfish.

Me:Crazy?Selfish?Oh sister you make it sound like you are a saint.You always had been selfish,self centred and selfish.Did I say selfish? We are here because of your selfish reasons,I should have been attending classes but because of you I am here.You were so selfish,you spent the 31st of December in a party instead of home and look where that got us.Want to talk about selfish?

I don't even feel bad as I stare at her shocked face.

Riri:I know this is not you Bathabile,blame me all you want.

Me:It is the truth, nothing but the truth sister and I am not taking it back.

MRS BOIKANYO

I stared at the statement,my little city of love passed perfectly and was accepted to study for her teaching..I should have not let her go pick up Rethabile

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God knows I would have gotten both my daughters.I clean their rooms,hoping they come back as soon as possible.Shona walks in .

Me:She passed with flying colours,she told us she would be teaching Consumer Studies and Languages.

Him:I remember we were against her career choice but she seemed to go out of her way not to listen to us.

Me:All her siblings supported her,Riri wanted to open an auditing company but she didn't have the profit,I know how much she sank deeper in anxiety because she didn't see herself succeeding.I turned a blind eye on my daughter.

Him:We were both wrong for raising our children not to share everything they are facing.They can't talk to us,we acknowledged them when we wanted a perfect picture for the world.

We sit in silence,Nkanyezi walks in and stared at us.

Me:What is it?

NK:The police are here.

We quickly walk out of the room,we find the Detective already seated.

Me: Detective Meyer.

Meyer:Mr and Mrs Boikanyo.

Me:Is there something new?

Meyer:Some questions we want to ask about Riri.

Him:That is?

Meyer:What was her relationship with Katlego Mosia?

Me:Who is that?

Him:I think Athabile can answer that.

NK:Are you trying to tell me you don't even know she was dating that boy?I thought you loved sticking your nose in your children's businesses.

Me:Nkanyezi you will not talk to your father like that!

NK:I am talking to you both,now you realised you never loved us, that you shoved everything down in our throats.They are nowhere to be found because of you.

Atha:Pointing fingers Nkanyezi is not going to solve this problem.What is going on?

Meyer:Katlego Mosia.

Atha:Her boyfriend?

Meyer:We have a witness telling us that it was him who organised the kidnapping, Gauteng police department also contacted us regarding him.He is a well known human trafficker..

NK:What?

Atha:She once said if something goes wrong with her,we should ask Katlego first.She just loved speaking in riddles.

Meyer:Which means she knew something that is why they were both targetted.

Me:How did you find this after two months?

Meyer:There is an organisation of private investigators,judges and lawyers which was founded in the early 1900's by a judge back in Spain,Alexandro Vorcan.Back then it investigated cases that the police lacked in,now it is trying to destroy human trafficking and drugs.

NK:From Spain?How will they help us?

Atha:I tried contacting them but they are hard to find.Miguel Vorcan moved to South Africa about 40 years ago,he founded another branch in Cape Town hoping to destroy human trafficking at its core.His sons are the executives now,I happen to know them after we went to UCT together.His wife is a child of one the women transported from here to Brazil.

Meyer:They are trying to find the base here in Mpumalanga.Mosia has proven to be tricky to find.

Me:This boy has been traveling through the country and has never been caught at all?

Him:There is a slight chance that my children will never come back home?

Meyer:It is unlikely for them to be let back home alive.

I stand up and walked out.My children could be coming back home in body bags.

Atha:Do not take Nkanyezi to heart,he is stressed.

Me:Is that why Mangi no longer shows up here or even pick up his phone?

Atha:They are hurting Mom, you need to understand,these are our siblings and to be honest we know them better than you.We know their dreams and hopes unlike you,we are hurt more than you and you can't change that.

I swallow my pride and keep my mouth shut , my kids have grown to say whatever they want to me.I bit my tongue and try by all my best not to say anything. PARIS[THREE MONTHS LATER]

I just stare at my body,the wounds wrapped around me like a blanket, I stare at the bones popping out of my chest and elbows.I don't look like the fat girl I used to be, I look like I am on a very dangerous diet,I look like I am dying.I can walk now, RiRi visits me every day with Yolanda sometimes but I just zip my mouth.I walk out of the room, surprisingly there is no one around except the girls,it is way too quiet as I walk to the rooms.I find everyone sitting, chatting,they go quiet when I enter.

Dali:Here comes the princess of this kingdom.

Me:Got a problem?

Dali:The guards might be scared of you but not me sweetheart.

I didn't say anything, I launched myself to her as I carried the rod on my hand.We struggled,throwing punches at each other, I managed to trap her and wrapped the rod around her neck.

RiRi:You are going to kill her!

I tightened the rod around her neck until she stopped fighting, I let her go and she starts coughing.

Me:Next?

I kick her before going back to my bed.My heart tightens when I look at the mess I did.What have I become?

RIRI[WARNING VIOLANCE]

I am defeated as I look at Paris biting her nails.Katlego walks in after they took Dali.

Kat:The Boss is calling you.

I just stand up and follow him.The moment I get in the room,I find him with two men.I know the routine as I get undressed,they just watch me do that.

Him:Dance for us.

He goes to the speaker and goes through the songs in his phone.

"I mean where the fuck should I really even start

I ghat whores that I am keeping in the dark.

I ghat my niggas across the street living large"

The beat echoed around the room as I moved slow

dancing on the pole.I danced until the song ended,he went and changed the song.

Him: Continue.

"Id rather keep it real with ya

I'd rather be a B.I.T.CH

cause that's what you gonna call me

When I'm trippin' anyway

You know you can't control me,baby.

Why you wanna play with me?

You know I'm undefeated

A real hot girl knows how to keep a nigga heated

You say you want respect"

One of them stands up and pull me away from the pole,he spansks my butt and I wince.He pushes me on the bed and harshly kisses me,the other joins biting my nipples and choking me.The boss decides to join

as he pushes his two fingers in my vagina making me scream.I can't really scream as they block my mouth.They stop, pulling me up,the Boss lies on the bed and pull me on top of him, I let the tears fall as he enters me so rough as usual.I feel the other man push me down, I bite my teeth as he enters my butthole before I could scream,the other one shoves his penis inside my mouth making gag.The pain was worse as they all decided faster and faster.

They changed each other and only stopped when I started bleeding because I was dry.

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I feel someone shaking,I just groan in pain before opening my eyes.

Paris:Sisi.(Sister)

Yolanda:Are you okay? What am I asking?

I let the tears fall on my face.

Me:I want to go home.

Paris:Shhh I am sorry.

I can feel her crying as she hugs me.I want the cold comfort you would get from my mother for even crying, it's better than this hell.

Paris: Remember that song from that Cinderella ish story?The one who worked in a studio.

Me:You hated that movie because you said there was no happily ever after.

Yolanda:I believe there is happily ever after.

Paris:In the movies and books, because it's not really! Just someone's 'fantasy'.

Yolanda:Who broke your heart?

Me:Want to know?At 16 she fell for this guy , unfortunately he dumped her for being too fat.Her words not mine,she tried slimming while eating junk for a good 2 months.

Paris:He showed me flames that one,heh okay.

Yolanda:I was engaged once but too bad he left me for a girl younger than me.

Me:Karma knows everyone's door.

Paris:As I was saying but look at you.

I smile weakly.

Yolanda:But I want to hear the song.

Paris:I wanna be a princess

A fairest doll around

If you ever leave my kingdom.Why are you looking at me like that?

Yolanda:Your voice is wonderful.

Me:I am not the only one who agrees.

Paris: Good for you.

I try to sit up only to squirm in pain.

Yolanda: Stay still.

We sit in silence, Yolanda stares at me with her eyebrows up.

Me: Bathabile.

Paris: What have I done? I am sorry for how I have been treating you these past three months. RIRI

Me: I forgave you ages ago.

Paris: What did I do?

Me: So me and Landa have thought about helping you escape.

Paris: Then clearly you are stupid, we are the middle of nowhere.

Yolanda: We are not far from the national route to Gauteng, according to the girls that get to leave this building.

Paris: Wait, we are still in Mpumalanga? And the police haven't found us? What on earth have they been doing for the past five months?

Me: Bathabile you are trying to avoid this.

Paris:Where would I even go?These people are dangerous,I would be putting the rest of my family in danger, they could die if I show up.

Yolanda:We were thinking that you go to my house in Cape Town,lay low there until it's clear enough for you to find help because they will search for you high and low,we could die.

Paris:This is why we should just stick together until we can all escape.

Me:We cannot to do that,we have to stay behind so we can cover for you from the other girls.Haven't you noticed that we are the only ones who never get out of this building?If we stay out of our rooms for an hour,they will start talking and that won't be enough.

Yolanda:You still have a chance on life outside this,as for us we are good as dead.You are going to be nineteen,it is still early for you to give up.

Me:Do it for Atha,NK and Mangi ,they don't deserve to lose two siblings at the same time.Please.

She looks at us in fear and sighs.

Yolanda:I have my house keys in my backpack,I will write the address and everything else you will need.

Paris:There are always guards around here.

Me:They leave Wednesday night and come back Friday morning.

Yolanda:Shhh.

The boss walks in the room and stares at us.

Him: You are the only ones here?

We just nod.

Him: You could be out there if you knew how to behave.

Paris: Five months has passed and you are still preaching that sentence.

Him: The fire in you is never dying, is it?

Paris: I can't help it, gasoline and petrol can.

He steps closer to her and grab her chin

Him: It turns me on.

Then she did the worst thing possible and spat on his face, he moved and lifted his hand to slap her but stopped himself. He walks out.

Me: Paris.

Paris: He is going to organise a groupie hoping to destroy me just like the last time.

Me: What?

This was not my little sister

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she did not even care, she did not look the same, she was still spitting fire but I don't think it was because she wasn't broken. She was dying each and every day and I couldn't even do anything about it.

ATHABILE

I landed in Cape Town early morning, winter was on its way, sneaking under my jacket. The western province seemed to be colder than Mpumalanga, come Athabile you studied here for years, you should know this weather by now. I should have taken my car but these people called on the last minute and I couldn't postpone. I finally managed to get a taxi to Stellenbosch.

The building looking unbelievable long, one would swear it touched the sky. Inside it is way too quiet, people are sitting in silence.

Me: Good morning.

Her: Hi Miss-

Me: Athabile Boikanyo.

Her: You are right on time. Take the first elevator on your right, it will take you to the last floor and there will be someone to get you to the office.

Me: Thank you.

I get on the elevator. The moment I get to the last floor, I am sweating in worry about what will happen. Will they even want to help me? I find a guard waiting for me and leads me to the office. I am quiet shocked to find both brothers inside.

Me: Good morning.

Liam: Missy.

He smiles and stands up,gives me a hug.

Me:You are still annoying and calling me Missy.

Liam:You were the only lady that could wear heels the whole day in varsity.

Xavier,his older brother just continues looking at his phone.He barely talks actually unlike Liam.I met them both in varsity,Xavier was doing his honours,Liam doing his degree.Liam complemented me when he saw me wear heels the whole day,we became acquainted just like that.In all those years I only heard two to three sentences from Xavier, it's either he doesn't like me or he has speech everyone tried to get his attention because he is the most beautiful man I have ever met,but we can look but not touch.

✓7.[CONTINUATION]

ATHABILE

Liam:How are you?

Me:I am doing fine thanks and you?

Liam:I am good, he's good.So you have been nagging us.

Me:Do not call it nagging.

Liam:You left messages,emails,dm's you name them.

Me:I need your help.

Xavier: Everyone is asking for help.

For a moment I looked around for the person only to meet Xavier's cold light brown eyes. His accent was thicker than his brother, he surely spoke just fine but slow and intimidating.

Xavier: I came here for you to stare at me? Look Missy whatever is your name I don't have the whole day, you can spit whatever you want to say. Get pictures and stare at them.

Liam: Xavier no, let me talk.

I was humiliated and embarrassed by someone whom I assumed doesn't talk.

Me: I heard about what you do, trying to deal with the crime in our country.

Xavier: We are definitely not trying but we are dealing with it. You should left compliments on the suggestion box, dear.

Liam: Do not mind him, he's heart broken and single.

Xavier: I didn't hear her asking you that either.

Liam: Tell me what is wrong?

Me: My sisters disappeared five months ago, the police have been trying to find them but there's nothing. The only information we got was because of you, about Katlego.

Liam: Mosia right?

Me: Yeah him.

Xavier: Just get to the point.

Me: We need your help to find him, maybe he would tell us where he took my sisters.

Xavier: Are you that dumb? You think men like him will just spit everything out? Those men would rather die than sell each other out. Now I get why you are an optometrist, you truly need those glasses.

Oh boy he surely had it for me, he had me by the throat, I wanted to cry.

Liam: Atha we can't do anything in Mpumalanga unless we have full co-operation from the police department in there, the higher ranking policemen are part of this, that makes everything impossible. We could be getting our people in danger because they are watching for every move. We can't risk our workers' lives

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I am sorry. Eighty eight percent of policemen in that province have to be put behind bars, we try to do that, there will be slight chance of finding them. They might be shipped, if they are already not.

I sigh in defeat, my face feels hot as I stand up and mumble a thank you and good bye. I hear Liam arguing with his brother as the tears fall on my face. I feel defeated as I walk down the stairs instead of the elevator.

PARIS [WARNING VIOLENCE]

I stand still as the whip connected with my back, it felt numb, my eyes hurt and I couldn't let any tears fall. My eyes stay on my unconscious sister on the floor, Yolanda's head was bleeding.

Him: You will bend under my command!

He screams as he stabs me again and again, I scream in pain but that makes him more angry. He pushes me to the floor, I can't feel my body, I don't know if I am fighting him and the men holding me or not. I scream in agony as he pushes himself inside me, it hurts so bad but I know the more I scream the more he's going to push harder. Yolanda tries to stand up but she sways and fall on the floor. My sister is still

lying on the pool of blood on the floor,they shouldn't have tried to stand up for me.My sight fades,as they take turns in raping me,maybe this time I can truly die instead of being alive.I feel something warm under my hand, I already know it's my blood, I feel light as I close my eyes and I can see my family smiling at me.Only the Lord knows how much I have missed them.

Me:Mama.

She smiles and hugs me, I feel myself drift off to a slumber.Am I going to hell or heaven?Maybe in hell, I think because I am no saint

PARIS[THREE MONTHS LATER]

I had a dream, got everything I wanted, honestly must have been a nightmare. Those were some lines from a song by Billie Eilish, I don't quiet remember the name.This song kind of had me hoping that one day I would get everything I wanted. Growing up with rich parents was literally awesome at first, not knowing that I was being seen as prey by unknown people.I did well in school, attended charities, became a public at a early age, I was too perfect according to my peers. My older sister was also a lot like me and then my second oldest sister, a troublemaker. Despite our differences we were still the perfect bunch along with my brothers. Then one night on the 31st of De-

Voice:Here is your money!

I jumped a little and looked up at the ugly man, he threw the money to my face.I didn't know I was in my own planet for this long that I didn't even hear him get off and dressed up. My body feels numb as I slowly get dressed.I look at the mirror, my collarbones are popping, my back has stitches which hurt so bad,the black eye is still visibly, my neck looks bruised maybe because I get choked a lot.My sister and Yolanda walk in, they just hug me, I let the tears fall, I can't seem to get used to this. It has been eight months stuck here, well after we were hijacked but still I can't get used to the fact that I am a prostitute. All the time I always wake up in the middle of everything because I still fight these people, so they just bang my head and carry me to bed. They don't even use drugs to make us numb, apparently our clients don't want addicts.

Yolanda:I am sorry Paris.

My sister wipes the tears from my face before whizzing,she almost falls but we catch her.

Me:I thought they said they will get her a doctor.

Yolanda:They did but he told them that she needs a real hospital.This wound is not healing Paris,it has been three months now, I am really worried about her.

She has a very nasty wound which I believe is right on her pancreas, she got stabbed fighting for me

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after they stabbed my back until I blacked out. I was out for a week at least Landa has a scar on her head. Do you think it stopped them for doing whatever they wanted on my body? They saw an opportunity for themselves while I laid half dead.We walk with her to our room, Yolanda gets the water to clean the wound.

Her:Love.

I stare at my sister, she always called me that because of my name. City of Love.

Me:Riri.

Her:Me and Yolanda have put a great plan for you.

Me:Huh?Not this again.

Her:You are escaping on Thursday.

In two days?

Me:That is impossible.

Yolanda:I still have everything we came with, the two thousand rands I had with me.

Me:No,I can't leave you here.

Her:We will all die if we do that, you are still young enough to start over Paris.

Yolanda:I already written down the address of my house down, the keys and everything. Your ID and license are still in the bag.

Me:Please I don't want to leave you here. I can't.

Her:They leave on Wednesday night each week and come back Friday morning, we need you out because we can't live for long. Look at me.

Yolanda:You have a chance Paris, in living again.Look at your sister,she doesn't look so good,the truth is I am not sure how long she can survive.

I sigh and watch Yolanda clean the wound.Yolanda whizzes and sits down, that's what happened when they fought for me, they took her treatment for Diabetes and told her that she must be brave and face death.I give her the glass of water.

Me:I am sorry,this is all my fault, I should have stopped fighting them.

Her:No baby, I admire you for staying true to yourself, because of that I have hope for you that one day, you will be what you want and you will stand for it.I am proud that one day, the kids you will teach will see you as a role model.A true mbokodo.(A true rock).

I just let the tears fall as I cry in pain.

Yolanda:Do not cry, you look ugly.

Me:Hayi,hayi Landa.(No,no Landa)

She wipes the tears on my face making me smile.

Her:There is that beautiful smile that drove those boys from Brits high crazy.

Me: You are crazy.

Yolanda:Take this chance baby.

Her:I don't have that long,we don't have that long,Landa hasn't gotten her treatment for three months now.She is lucky to be still here.This infected wound is going to kill me baby.

I just hold their hands.

Me:I will do it.

They weakly smile. PARIS

I watched them through the window as they leave, locking us inside the building.I still had no clue where we were because all I could see were trees.I move back and go back to my seat.Both Yolanda and RiRi were lying on the beds,Landa was trying so hard to breath normally, RiRi looked pale like there was no blood running in her body.I stare at the back pack and sigh.I check my sister,she is still sleeping, I check her temperature it was still a bit normal.Landa is burning up,her temperature has been rising each and every hour,which worries me.I grab the bucket of water and wipe her.She seems to calm down, I sit on the chair and put my head on top of the bed.

.....

I didn't think I was going to sleep, I felt someone shaking me only to meet my sister's worried eyes.

Her:You were not suppose to sleep, look the sun is on its way.

I look at the watch, it was past four in the morning.

Me:-

Her: Take the bag, I already opened the window for you.

Me: At least let me wake Landa so I can say bye.

Her: The other girls are going to wake up soon, you have to leave now. Landa needs to re-st.

I take the back pack and hurry to the window. I pause with tears on my face, I quickly turn to RiRi who was trying so hard to stand still, I hug her.

Me: I love you.

Her: I love you too baby.

I stare at Landa, to find her covered with a blanket, I tense and RiRi pushes me away.

Me: No, she is not.

Her: Leave Bathabile! Now!

She screams making me jump off the window with a heavy heart. I run with tears falling, I didn't care about the thorns and branches as I ran blindly. I cried in silence as I ran, I cried for the girl who died knowing that I was embarking on a new journey, I cried for the dying sister I was leaving behind with no hope of ever seeing her. My chest felt tight, my legs felt tied but I continued running, I wasn't going to stop now. I heard a hoot, I turned I was about to cross a very busy road. I pause in fear

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I look at the sign marking the route to Gauteng.I don't even have a sign to hike,I take out the shoes from the bag and wore them.The sun is rising as I keep trying to stop some cars.After fifteen minutes,a car goes pass but stops.It reserves,my heart stops wondering if I was about to be taken back to that hell.I find a young white woman inside the car.

Her: Sorry I was busy on the phone, I only noticed when I went past you.I could use some company in this car.

I hesitate before getting inside the car.

Me:Hi.

Her:My name is Paula and yours?

Me:Paris.

Her:Where are you headed?

Me: Cape Town.

Her:Do you mind if I use the route to Bloem?I am heading to Cape Town too.

Me: I don't mind.

Her:Why didn't you book a bus in Nelspruit?

I tense.

Her:Sorry, sorry it's just not every day you pick up someone far from civilization.

Me:I get it, sometimes we are left with no choice but leave our loved ones behind.

I know she might be confused,at least she shuts up.I sigh in relief because finally I am free.Deep down I knew how scared I was of being out after this long.

RIRI

I cried as I wrapped her with the sheet, other girls watched in silence and fear.She was dead,at least something good came out of this,my baby sister was long gone.I sat on the floor in tears because of the pain from the wound and losing Landa.

Me:"Mikhulu ingumangaliso

Imisebenzi yakhe, imisebenzi yakhe

Nkosi,uThixo,uSomandla×2

UnguMdali weentlanga"

I hear the ladies follow as I sing the song in tears.

Dali:I am so sorry.

.....

I could hear noise echoing around me, I open my eyes, I couldn't move.I looked at the wound,it was bleeding again.

Him:Where is she?

Dali:She was here ,we don't know where she went.

Him:Paris Boikanyo you better come out wherever you are!Find her!As for you.

He pulls me up making me bleed more but I don't have any energy to fight him.

Kat: She doesn't look so good.

Him:She better hope I find her sister or she's joining her friend soon.

He squeezes my throat, I see dots forming in my eyes, I can't breath.

NARRATED

Kat:Boss she's not moving!

Him:Good,do a CPR.Is any of you lying about Paris?

They shake their heads in fear.

Kat:There is no pulse boss, she's not breathing.

Katlego looked scared as he stared at the unmoving Rethabile,she looked so pale.

Him:Make sure they are dead and drop them at home, making sure Paris gets the message wherever she thinks she can go.I am going to find her.Call Detective Meyer and tell him about our little escapee, tell him I want him on the case. PARIS

We made a whole lot of stops on our way to Cape Town, I couldn't sleep a wink knowing I was on the run.We spent almost three to four hours in Bloemfontein because of the traffic and the shopping Paula did.Then when we got to Barkley East we had to wait for hours for a new tyre.It was early morning Friday,Cape Town came to view.

Her:So where are you going to?

I take the paper from my pocket.

Me:Newlands.

Her:I know I wasn't the best driver at all so because of that let me take you there,only if you allow me to go pass a company.

Me:I don't mind.

She drives between the busy traffic, I am quiet shocked by the people up and down so early.It was freezing cold outside,so much for Spring day.She parks in front of the longest building in this place,she walks out with a woman that looks like her a bit.

Her:Hey Paris,this is my sister Sofia.

Me:Hi.

Sofia:She told me about you being new around here, I love new people.Do you have anything you are good at?

Me:I really don't know.

Sofia:The moment I find a job I will call you.Bye.

She leaves.

Her:The address.

Me:15th Avenue.

.....

I bid my goodbyes to Paula and stand before the gate.I press the security code, there's grass growing on the driveway.The yard looks like a jungle, the house stands looking beautiful.I open the front door,it is not that dirty inside except the dust.There are two bedrooms,an open plan kitchen and dining room.Everything is placed together.I put the backpack down and lie on the couch.I can't seem to sleep at all.I go to the bathroom, looking for things I can use to clean.

Two hours later, I look at the clean house, half of the grass is cut, I found a machine in the garage that I could use to cut it. There was a car a Chevrolet Sparkle in the garage, it didn't look old. I continue cutting the grass even though my body felt so hot. The moment I finish cleaning, the sun is on its way to setting. I take a bath and make myself a cup of coffee before heading to the dining room. I turn the TV

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the news are just starting.

News Reporter:Good evening.Two bodies were discovered this afternoon in the front yard of Minister of Higher Education and Training,Shona Boikanyo.One of the bodies was of Rethabile Boikanyo,who disappeared with her younger sister on the 31st of December last year.We have Lydia Jones outside the house right now.Lydia.

Her: Good afternoon,we are here in Brits, outside Minister Boikanyo's house.According to our source,Mrs Boikanyo walked out after the intercom rang only to find two body bags.She called the police,only to find out that it was one of her missing daughters and unknown young woman.

News Reporter:That was Lydia reporting live from the Boikanyo house.

I turn the TV, I screamed hitting the vase.My sister died,Yolanda died and I could be next.What was I going to do now?

ATHABILE

Me:No one should know about this Ma even the police,we can't afford to get her killed.

Mom:How are we suppose to find your sister?

Me: From what I know,there are some policemen working for these people.We won't be able to do anything about this now.

NK:But?

Me:The Vorcans can help us now,I believe they won't resist helping us.

Mangi:Do you think they can help us?

Me:Yes,I do believe.

Dad comes back.

Him:The transfer is done,we have to move her as soon as possible.

Mangi:Let me get going then, Gauteng is not around the corner.

Me: You should fly with her.

Mom: Is she going to be okay?

Mangi: She lost too much blood, that's why her pulse was too faint, we made a transfusion, she's going to be fine.

Mom: What are we going to tell the police?

Me: Nothing until we are sure she's safe, Bathabile is still out there Ma, telling the police could be dangerous. ATHABILE

I was bouncing back and forth as I waited in the office for the two brothers. They walk in.

Liam: You couldn't even sit down?

Me: I just couldn't.

Xavier: We won't be talking to you while standing.

I sit down.

Liam: I saw the news, I am sorry.

Me: This is why I am here.

Liam: Ok?

Me: What if we give you all the information you need to find the base?

Xavier: Shouldn't you be using that info to find your little sister?

Me: We can't.

Liam: Missy we don't follow.

Me: What I think they did, they thought both were dead.

Liam: Huh?

Me: Only one is dead.

Xavier: So they dropped them thinking they are both dead?

Me: My sister was unconscious not dead, as we are speaking she's awake after three weeks of being in the hospital.

They looked shocked.

Liam: The police?

Me: We just asked my brother to sign up the death certificate and transfer her to Gauteng's Baragwanath. So yes my sister is alive.

Xavier: Did she tell you anything?

Me: Except that she won't say anything until we find Bathabile.

Liam:We need information from her.

Me:She is in a state where now she says this,then she says something else.She is slipping between reality and a world she has created.Every moment we mention Bathabile,she says "Find her so I can find peace".Her mind has created a world where she can't feel anything.

Xavier: She's suffering from psychotic disorder,she won't be normal until she gets what she wants or goes through therapy.

Me: I don't know about sending her to a psychiatrist, even putting objects around her.She stabs herself with anything she can find,we had to cut her hair because she's pulling it.

Liam: What do you want us to do?

Me: You need to find Katlego, he's the only one who can lead us to her.

Xavier:You have to let us get our own team to help your sister,they are the best and have helped the women recovered from these traffickers.

Me:Thank you.

PARIS

I haven't been eating anything actually, I only ate bread I made from the flower I found in the house and rice since everything else was rotten.Three weeks I haven't gone out of the house in fear that they may find me.Today was a new day I guess, I start the car turning the GPS navigator on,I was going to a shop.I was on the crossroads, when everything seemed to change,it seems like I was back on the day we were kidnapped.I heard a scream and came back to reality as a car came straight to me.I couldn't move,now I understand that I was on the wrong side of the road.The tyres screeched and it stopped a few feet away from me.I hear a knock on the window.

Man: Young lady are you okay?

Me: I

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um.

I walk out of the car, oh my god I almost caused an accident. The car I was going to hit looked so expensive and way beyond what I can afford. I literally stopped on the wrong side of the road, thank God there weren't other cars coming my way. It was the car that was following me and the expensive car skewed before mine. Then a man walks out in anger.

Him: What on earth is wrong with you? Are you trying to cause an accident? Are you blind?

I jump in fear and move back, the woman who screamed is right next to me as I cower in fear.

Me: I am so sorry, I was just- I am sorry, I didn't mean to.

I didn't know that I was crying, he finally pauses and looks at me, his face softens a bit.

Him: Tell your parents about this, or I will have you arrested for underage driving.

He takes his phone and takes a picture of the plate and went back to his car.

Woman: Are you okay? Your car swayed first but you didn't seem to be in the car.

Me: I was in a car accident weeks ago, so I decided to drive today I should have known that I wasn't ready.

Man: You should attend therapy young lady. Do you even have license to drive?

Me:Yes, I do.Thank you.

They head back to their car and drive off.Something laid on the ground shining, I pick it up to find out it's a silver card.I guess it fell off from the man, I am sure he will call the police then I will have this waiting for him.It's an access card to somewhere, I turn it around to find a initials "XV"and emblem.Let me leave and get to where I was going.

.....

I walk inside the shop a little paranoid,there was too much noise as I try to cover my face driving the trolley.I feel eyes watching me as I get inside the shop, I quickly try to get everything with the money Landa had in her bag and house.I grab everything I need and head to the till to pay, I hurried went straight to the car.I take a deep breath and drive away from the shop. XAVIER

Liam: Are you sure you want to be involved in this?

Me:We are both executives Liam, why wouldn't I be involved?

Liam: You know you need to tone it down a bit on this anger.

Me: I know.

Liam: What happened?

Me: I almost got in a car accident with a car driven by a child.

Liam:What?

Me:She drove on the wrong lane, I swear my heart stopped as my brakes couldn't take the sudden force but it stopped few feets away.

Liam:Why would she do that?

Me:I have met stupid drivers but this one is going through something,she was jumpy and crying.That's what happens when parents leave their children with car keys.

Liam: I am sure she cried because you shouted at her.

I pocket myself.

Liam:What?

Me:My Access card, it's not here,wait I had it on my hand when I walked out of the car.Damn it!

Liam:Anger problems.

Me: Just call someone to track it, I will drive back to Newlands.

Liam: You went to her grave, didn't you?

Me:Call someone to track down the card brother.

.....

I arrive on the spot and I can't seem to find it anywhere, just as I was about to enter the car, the similar car goes pass me.I follow it ,my phone rings.

Liam: It's on the move on the Avenue street.

Me:Got it.

The car stops in front of a gate, the girl walks out as I park across the street, she looks around before pressing the code, she's surely paranoid. The moment she gets inside the car, I walk out of mine, she drives inside and goes to park inside the garage. I wait as the garage door closes, I wait outside hoping she would come out. I stand for a good old fifteen minutes and all of a sudden the gate closes. I knock at the door and nobody answers. The door opens

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I am blocked by the burglar. She looks terrified.

Me: Are your parents here?

Her: No, no Sir. They went on a business trip overseas but my brothers are on their way.

Me: Oh, I dropped a card and I tracked it to here and you kind of locked me inside.

She leaves, I swear I saw very nasty scars on her back since she was wearing a vest. Before I can look, she disappears and comes back so fast.

Her: Here Sir.

Her hand is shaking as she hands the card to, the moment our fingers touch she jumps back and looks more terrified.

Me: Can you at least give me your parents' number.

Her: You-you can just come here if you want to talk to them, I am sorry about what almost happened.

Me: It i-

She closes the door on my face and the gate opens .

Me:Okay.

PARIS

I watch as the man leaves the yard, I was so careless, I should never forget the remote ever again.I close it as he leaves the yard, I sit in front of the TV, I can't hear anything playing.Thank God the WiFi was paid for three years.I literally ran to the desktop computer and turn it on.

Me:The emblem had an eagle or falcon, with some strange language underneath then the initials .Google come on.Huh?Who on earth is this?No wonder he tracked the card, he's rich.Executive chairperson of The Vorcans multi company,they have judges,lawyers and investigators.Ohh so they are like some sort of government?Wait, they have covered prostitution rings,drug smuggling, embezzlement etc these people are rich.Would they even help me?

I have to admit that this guy is hot for a white guy.

Me:Since when Bathabile?! I should not even think about having a crush on him.Remember men are dangerous.

I go back to the TV and I just stare at it.

PARIS

Him:You really thought you could run away from me?Huh?

Me:I am sorry I didn't mean to, please don't hurt me.

The whip connects with my back making me scream in pain, Landa and RiRi are on the floor dead.I cry as I stare at their lifeless bodies on the floor.

Him: This is what happens when you think you are clever than me.I will find you and I am going to chop you into pieces.

I scream and I fall flat on the floor, I am sweating.

Me:Was just a nightmare, nothing much.

I walk out of the room to the kitchen, I take out some biscuits and sit in front of the TV.I look at the computer, I argue with myself before going back to it.I check the website and I fill in the information and wait for a response.I was going through some info about Cape Town when I stumbled upon a hospital psychologist who doesn't charge you for booking a personal appointment with her,she only wants to help.The screen beeps, I check the email and I am quiet shocked to see that she has accepted and wants to see me tomorrow morning.It has been two months since I have been here, I can't seem to leave the house I keep hallucinating having these nightmares making me worried about walking out of the house, I am scared of being taken again, I am scared someone will recognise me and tell my family.I have tried overdosing with pills but instead I vomited all of them, leaving me with cramps for days.

.....

I swear I know this building as I head inside.I walk to the receptionist desk .

Me:Hi.

The woman is busy picking up some papers.

Her:I am just picking up these,give me a moment.Oh welcome to The Vorcans multi company.

Huh?

Her:Wait you are Paris,right?

Me:Sofia?Oh wow small world.

Her: Yeah so how can I help you?

Me: I have an appointment with Dr Du Toit.

Her: Fourth floor, first room on your left.

Me: Thank you.

I get inside the elevator as this other man walks in, I am trying not to panic.

Him: I don't give a damn about boundaries, find him and I don't care if you bring him with one leg, find him!

I jump a bit as he shouts on the phone.

Him: Sorry about that, people can be annoying.

I just mumble an oh.

Him: Are you new here?

Me: I have an appointment.

The elevator stops on the second floor, another man walks in, I can see from the shoes.

Man: Did they find him?

I looked up so fast to meet the side of his face,my hands are sweating, I hear voices and I can't breath my chest is tight.

Him:Xavier they are trying to do everything the-

Xavier:I don't give a damn about trying men, I want something solid or they are out of jobs.Liam get those results about that boy yourself if you have to, I run a court not a playground,make sure they remember that.

Then it goes silent,the moment it stops at the fourth floor I legit ran.I quickly knock at the door in fear.

Voice:Come in.

I step inside and quickly close the door.

Her:Are you okay?

Me:I am fine, I am good.

Her: You must be Paris.

Me:Yes,yes.

Her:Dr du Toit is just my maiden surname otherwise I am Dr Vorcan.

Me: You are related to the owners?

Her:I must really be looking young then Paris, I am their mother.

Me:What? The scary angry man is your son?

Her:Yes my little angel, that would be Xavier.I have three boys and three girls.

Me:What?

Her:Xavier,Paula

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Liam,Sofia and the twins Emilia and Aiden.

Me: You look beautiful.

Her:Thank you.So what can I help you with?

Me: I saw your website and I um.

Her: Should check it out and see if it works.Now it does,tell me about you.What is your name?

Me:Ba-Paris.

Her:Age?

Me: Turning 19.

Her: I am not going to ask why you are here without a guardian, because sometimes teens need to do everything by themselves in order to be able to talk to their parents.Where are they?

Me:Dead.

She looks shocked.

Her:Any guardian?

Me:No.

Her: For how long?

Me:Ten months.

Her:So what do you eat?

Me:Some groceries I managed to buy with the money I had.

Her:Do you have a boyfriend?

Me:No.

Her:Are you virgin?

Me:No.

Her:So you have dated? What happened?

Me:He said I was too fat for him, I kind of lost weight now.

Her: You should never let a man make you think otherwise about yourself.

Me:They terrify me.

She looks worried, I can't believe I let that slip.

Me: It's ju-

Her: Don't explain anything. So Paris so far you are running from something or someone, you are not sitting still because you think whatever will find you. All these questions have made me realise that you have trained yourself on the family questions, no emotion because you are lying. Then I ask you the other questions you answer with emotion, men do terrify you, that is 100 percent truth. So Paris what is going on with you?

I stare at her in horror.

Me: No.

Her: You forgot to pull the polo neck up my love, those bruises look healed which means you did escape whoever hurt you but again my love, what is going on with you?

I can't breathe, I think I am having a panic attack. I get on my feet and ran to the door, my eyesight is blurry I don't know where I am going, I hear someone calling me. I am trying to find something I can hold on to but I can't find it, I have stopped running, scared of falling but I walk away from the voice calling me. I collide with a wall, I move to the side and someone screams. Why can't I hear what they are saying? I feel the ground disappear under my feet, is that even possible? I hear a bang as I fall on the stairs, I cover my head in fear. I reach the end of the stairs, I can't believe I didn't scream all this time.

Her: Oh my god! Paris?

Man: What happened?

Her: She was running. Paris my dear are you okay?

My body really hurt but I had to stand up, I opened my eyes to see a lot of eyes looking at me worried.

Her: Please move away, give her space she's having a panic attack.

I didn't know I was breathing hard now.

Her:Hey,hey it's me,breath slow.They are not going to hurt you that is a promise.

Man:Are you sure she doesn't have any broken ribs?The stairs are not short.

Her:Xavier please, when she finally calms down, I would like for you to be gone, just trust me.

I hear mumbling then silence, I can breath as I try standing up,my ribs hurt as I lean on the wall.

Her: Don't strain your body, you just fell off 100 stairs.

What?No wonder I feel pain everywhere.

Me:I am sorry I have to go.

Her: I know you don't want to see a doctor,at least go to a clinic.

I limp to the closest elevator with her watching me,the moment it closes, I bite my tongue in pain. PARIS

Going to a clinic after two days proven to be a lot harder, plus I had no clue about getting in a taxi.I have never went to a clinic in my entire life, I always went to doctors so I had no clue about going to a clinic.They gave me pain meds,some rubbing stuff and antibiotics.I laid in bed the whole day, trying to figure out what I should do next.I couldn't live like this anymore, I had to do something fast too.I had to get a job , something to keep me busy from these nightmares.Wait I couldn't even survive free counseling.How would I accept working with men?I get up,take a bath before looking for jobs that don't need much info,cleaner job for example, babysitting and others.

ATHABILE

Me:I hope these people can help her.

Liam:They are very qualified psychiatrists, highly recommended.You see her?

Me:The woman with grey hair?

Liam: She's barely thirty but the best in world,she connects with the patients, she's what you call a healer.She is Dr Zwane.

Me:Healers exist?

Liam:I am not really a saint, I don't know church stuff but whatever was given to her by God, it's working trust me.

I don't know if I should believe them or what but I just nod.We walk into the room to find the family inside waiting.

Mom:Thank God you are here, I was getting worried.

The woman who is a healer whispers something to Xavier.

Xavier:Mrs Boikanyo please give Dr Zwane a picture you have that has all of you,move back and keep quiet.

I hand the frame which was hanging on the wall,we move back.The doctors check her as she sat unmoving,then the woman holds her hand.

Her: This is going to be worse than other cases I have come across, she doesn't want to heal.

She takes the picture and holds it to her eye level, she keeps pointing at every person but skipping Paris, she points on her finally. This seems to get a reaction out of her as she tries to grab the picture screaming.

RiRi: Find her! Find her!

They hold her back.

Her: Who is she?

RiRi: My little sister, she needs me, I should have died so I could protect her.

Her: You would have been her guardian angel.

She smiles.

RiRi: Yes, I would have been wearing a long white dress, with white bunny ears she would have loved that.

Her: You know most people call me a guardian angel because I am a spiritual healer.

RiRi: So you are like a real angel?

The way she was talking, it was like she was a child again.

Her: So I want to be a guardian angel like you, is that okay with you?

RiRi: Are you going to help find her?

Her:We are going to find her me and you, how about that?

RiRi:She hated being called princess,she loved pizza.She le-

She pauses and looks around with wide eyes.

RiRi:No,no get him away from me!I won't talk please don't hurt me!I won't say anything,yes, I won't.

They tried calming her down until they decided to sedate her.

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Her:Her mind is not really strong,this might take longer than I had imagined.For now I need you to do a little exercise, take down every picture, don't mention her little sister.Put notes on the wall mentioning things they did

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using the little sister's favourite colour.Put them on the wall without saying anything about it.

Mom:Are you prophetess?All these doctors couldn't even make her talk.

Her: You can say that but I am spiritual healer, when I connect with people I can definitely see what do they need healing from, sometimes I don't have to connect to know what is wrong.In this case she doesn't want to be healed until what she lost comes back, working with her is going to be challenging.She doesn't want to see any other light except her little sister,she already accepted that she was going to die and protect her but that didn't happen.Xavier,Liam move fast very fast too because I am telling you once, whoever you are dealing with has a powerful backup.

Dad:What do you mean?

Her: Baba this person sold his soul to the devil, no one escapes him and lives to tell the truth. We are most probably talking about a very rich man with a beautiful family. He is feeding the demon of lust inside him. Him and the demon are one, which means they can't be separated.

Mom: He worships the devil? Can this get any dangerous than we can imagine?

Her: That demon is likely to come for her if it realises she's alive and might drive her to a breaking point.

Dad: How on earth are we suppose to fight this?

Her: Do the first task, I will bring someone who will guide you on what to do. We need to focus on making her stay in reality for a bit longer so we can find more about where she was held.

Mangi: This is a lot worse than I can handle, December is in few weeks time, we are finishing a year without my little sister.

Her: Remember to pray, fast and pray, I have come across someone who sold his soul to the devil, many lives were lost I couldn't see for a year, so please don't take the power of prayer lightly.

MRS BOIKANYO

I haven't gone to church for over three decades, I don't even know if God can even recognise me now. I don't know if I should start praying now, I don't know about fasting or him hearing me.

Shona: Sivuyelwe.

I look at him and sigh.

Me: I just can't do it.

Shona:You have to face what made you stop going to church, you have to for your own good and for our children.

Me:No Shona!That church,my parents,those elders along with that pastor,killed me Shona.I almost lost Nkanyezi because of them! What they did to me,wha-t tho-those Christians did to me.

Shona:My love,please listen, your parents are still alive, that pastor died after confessing mentioning everyone ,those elders are sorry for believing in the man of god.You don't want to forgive them,now that has affected our children, you taught them perfection, checking their phones because you wanted to make sure they don't make a mistake that will make you hurt them.Love we haven't been the best parents to our children, forgiving is the start in fixing that relationship.You need to accept what happened to you, need to forgive yourself and them.This has to stop Sivuyelwe,we are facing something we can fight if we just accept our mistakes and ask for forgiveness,ask for a forgiving heart.

Me:I want to Shona, I really do but no,no.No!No!I can't! [FLASHBACK]

MRS BOIKANYO

Mom:This child has shamed us Pastor,she has forgotten the ways of our lord.

Pastor: What has our fellow Christian has done MamTshawe?

Mom:Umithi.(She is pregnant).

Pastor:Sister is that the truth?

I just look down and don't answer, my parents were what I called hardcore Christians,we ate the word of God each and every day..I was always by their side until this new family moved next door to our house,a single Sotho father with a son and two daughters.Of course my parents invited them over dinners,lunches and suppers,I remember the first time meeting Shona,it was love at first sight.We spent time together,went to the same school and church.My parents were still strict and straight, I remember the night me and Shona made love,our parents were in a conference in Thaba Nchu leaving us to look after his siblings since they were younger.My brother was in his house,my oldest sister in her own house

and I was left alone. Being so inexperienced had gotten us to this mess, my parents hid me, they fasted, prayed for the demons to leave me. Then Shona and his dad came to my home, to acknowledge that he has impregnated me, that is when hell broke loose. They were called satanists who were trying to lead me astray.

Dad: Umithiswe ngumgqakhwe kubo bonke abafana abakhoyo. (She has been impregnated by a bastard child out of all young men here.)

Me: He's no bastard child.

Pastor: There is a verse that says, "Hlonipha uyihlo nonyoko ukuze yolulwe iiminyaka yakho emhlabeni" (Respect your father and mother so the days of your life could be prolonged).

Me: There's no need for Baba to call another child of god a bastard Pastor.

My mood swings were playing with me.

Mom: Uyamva? (Do you hear her?)

Dad: MaCirha!

Pastor: We need to pray for this demon in her.

Me: I have no demon.

Pastor: Fellow Christians hold her, she needs prayers.

The Pastor walked out and came back with a bottle, they forced me to drink the holy water so I did.

END OF FLASHBACK

I remember everything they said after making me drink the holy water, they labelled me as a Jezebel. I laid on the hospital bed.

Shona: I am sorry.

Me: They helped the Pastor shove that poison deep in my throat and had the nerve to say it was on me, called me a murderer even after the doctor explained how I got the poison. They threw me out, Shona, my siblings stood there disappointed, not even once they stood by me. I was humiliated in front of everyone, labelled as a liar and devil worshipper. Did they even try talking to me after the Pastor confessed? No, this is unfair, where was God? The same people who called themselves his children did this to me, Nkanyezi would have died. Is this why I am so controlling? Is this why my children would rather stay away from me? I am just like them, aren't I?

I cry for the past rooted in pain.

NK: You are not like them.

I look at my children standing at the door.

Atha: Mama we would have dealt with this together, you should have told us.

Mangi: You didn't want us to have no option, that is why you pushed us, sneaked in our businesses because you wanted us to have something to hold on to just in case something goes wrong.

NK: I am really sorry for everything I said to you, I am really sorry Mama.

Me: Come here.

I just hold them with tears spiralling out of control.

Shona: We are here Mami, we are with you all the way.

Me:Thank you.

Mangi:We have to go to church!

NK:Argh suit.

Atha:The devil worshipper!

PARIS

I stood at the door, trying so hard to think about my decision to come back here after weeks.I finally knock and enter.

Her: You are right on time.Let me walk Mr Brown out, you can sit down.

They walk out, I just stand looking around. The office is big and neat, I just look at the pictures hanging,she has a very beautiful family.Wait?This is the Paula that helped me and the receptionist is her daughter?

Her:Sofia works as a receptionist part time,Paula is a married woman and a social worker.I guess our careers interact with each other.

Me:Such a big family.

Her:All my children are successful, I am left with the ten years old twin to look after.Paula is married,Liam too

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Sofia is engaged and I just don't know about Xavier.

Me:Who would want to marry him?

I gasp when I realise that I said that out loud,she laughs.

Her:I don't condone how harsh he can be but I understand why he's like that, he's hurt but we are not here to talk about him.Let's talk about me.

Me:You?

Her:Ask any question.

Me:Umm I don't know.

Her:Have you read about the organisation?

Me:Yes.

Her:Good,let me tell you a little story.My mother was born here,at the young age of nineteen,she drugged and trafficked to Mexico.Three years later she gave birth to me,she had to hide me from her bosses,not because she didn't want them to know she had a child but for my safety.I had to hide under the bed when the men came.I had to stay with my neighbour so I could be a little safer, I grew up in an environment where I didn't know what was wrong nor right.It was right after my 16th birthday party when the boss showed up unannounced, demanding that my mother hands me over to him.I was his daughter after all.He killed her and took me,he was shipping me to Russia his hometown.His plans were ruined by the Vorcans,story short I was saved.I ran from men,if they shout at me I would start apologising for things I didn't do,if they touched me I would do nothing thinking they would hurt me.I am trying to make you see that the grass is not greener on the other side,there are people who have suffered far worse things than me,at least I lived to tell the story, atleast I suffered all other abuses except sexual.I have learnt to talk about things, I have learnt that those scars are what make me Anna Du Toit,shaping me to be a better mother no matter what,a better wife who knows her value.

We sit in silence as she stares at me.

Me: I had dreams to become a teacher, Consumer Studies, English and Xhosa teacher but I had to be taken. She told me that night we were taken that Mosia was pointing out girls that would be taken. I just assumed she was drunk but I was wrong. I was wrong for coming here, I am sorry I have to go.

Her: Don't you think your family would love to know that you are alive?

I pause at the door.

Me: What use am I to them? I got my sister killed, I should have never fought those men.

Her: So you should have let them do whatever they want on your body?

Me: Fighting them made things worse, they would whip me until I blacked, then take turns raping me, they stabbed me on my thighs and back. They stabbed my sister on the stomach, I saw on the news they killed her and they are coming for me, they will find me. So what use am I to my family if I show up? I will bring them only pain and suffering.

Her: What use are you on the run? You hiding in a house with nothing to last you, if they are meant to find you, they will find you. I just told you a story of being saved, you also can be helped but that can't happen if you don't talk to me. When you leave, I want you to talk to yourself as to why you are here and what for? You need to talk Paris, your nightmares will not go away if you keep running.

A knock echoes at the door, I open the door letting the woman in.

Woman: Sorry I didn't know you had a visitor.

Her: Thuli what do I owe you?

Woman: Money. Do you mind if I steal Mrs Vorcan for a moment?

I shake my head and sit down next to her.

Woman: Paris is a nice name.

I didn't know I was writing my name on my hand.

Her: It's her name.

Woman: Whoever named you surely loved Paris.

Me: According to my father, I was conceived and born in Paris.

Woman: Seems like he's a straight man.

Why was I feeling comfortable around her?

Woman: It is a gift, people who are hurting tend to feel my spiritual power and talk around me. I am Dr Thuli Zwane, a psychiatrist working for the Vorcans.

Was that even possible?

Me: Paris.

Woman: You will heal, don't give up, pray, you will heal, your spirit is still intact which surprises me. You are a lot stronger than you can imagine, all you have to do is believe in yourself.

I look at the woman confused, shocked and surprised. I bid my goodbyes and leave. PARIS

I walked out of the elevator and find people all over the place, my hands sweat, my heart rate increases and I quicken my pace as I try to walk out without bumping anyone. I am hurrying to the car when I

almost collide with a car.I stand frozen before the car.Should I run to mine or? It's him, I move back in fear of him shouting at me.He looked pissed then he stares at me as I stand frozen.

Him: I didn't hurt you?

I just shake my head.

Him:Are you sure?

Me:Ye-ss.

Him:Look left and on your right before crossing.

His brother gasps at him,he was really acting like I was 6.

Me:Yes Sir.

Him:I am sure me and your father are not the same age,call me Mr Vorcan instead of Sir.

His brother looks at him and mumbles something under his breath.

Me:Can I leave?

Him:No need to ask.

XAVIER

Liam: You amaze me brother, you truly do.

Me: What?

Liam; What happened to kids annoy you? Emilia and Aiden annoy you.

Me: This one is going through something, it has my mother having sleepless nights Liam. I would forget about annoying kids if those kids have problems making our mother this stressed. Plus it hurts you know, seeing a girl so young not enjoying life, but looking scared, she even asked for permission to leave.

Liam: I can't wait to tell Mom about this, for once you show feelings .

Me: I am only human.

Liam: Shady.

He walks out laughing. Being successful doesn't mean everything is smooth. Mom told us the story of how she grew up, making me realise that us men were entitled when it comes power. We use the fact that we are stronger than women to hurt and persecute them. We see them as money making machine because in the end we are stronger than them so they have no choice to do as we want. Sometimes I wonder what goes through their mind when planning to kidnap a girl, it's sickening when this person has daughters too but hurt other people's daughters. I am no saint, I have used the fact that I was rich and stronger to trap a woman from leaving me. I emotionally and mentally abused her to a point she tried killing herself. That time I was asking myself why would she leave me for another man? I felt betrayed and used by her, I felt entitled to her, all of a sudden I wanted her to give me each and every cent I spent on her. Then my mother decided to tell us the story of her life, making me realise that I was just like these men, I trapped a woman for my own good. I took responsibility of what I have done, letting her go and now she's happily married. Then I guess I didn't really learn my lesson because I changed women like socks until I fell in love. That was the most amazing year of my life, she was so beautiful, carefree and amazing. We were so in love, the tabloids literally followed us like bees to honey. They were saying that I was finally tamed from my reckless behaviour. What I didn't know was that I had a target, she was sent to kill me after I uncovered three prostitution rings sentencing the men to life in prison. Their associates sent her to kill me, instead she fell for me. She never told me until the day she took a bullet for me, I hated her for that, she died knowing I hated her. In her funeral I realised that falling in love with someone can be dangerous if she didn't love me she would have killed me but she didn't, I admitted to being wrong but she was dead. What I had for her was pure love and I had no intentions of hurting her but I guess karma knows everyone's door. I forgave her but I couldn't bring myself to love another woman

after, I just couldn't. Mother says the anger I feel towards women is the same women feel towards men after being hurt. Now I understood that this life is a cycle, what I do wrong to someone right now could rotate slowly until it comes back to bite me. I knew very well.

Her: Hey.

Me: Mandy what are you doing here?

Her: Can't I come to see my boyfriend at work?

Me: I am busy here, can't you see?

Her: You have been busy for weeks Xavier, you don't call or send a message, I am the one making efforts.

Me: We have a huge case that needs our attention.

Her: A weekend together wouldn't hurt your case, you are always busy as if you are the only one working here. Your brother even manages to go on a weekend away with his wife.

Me: I can never be my brother Mandy.

Her: Then try acting like a boyfriend maybe I won't have to compare you to him.

Me: I will call you later.

Her: Oh no you are not getting rid of me that easily Xavier, not after I saw the skirt your PA is wearing. I am staying here.

I look at her as she sits comfortable on the chair and goes through her phone. If on cue the PA walks in, she's wearing a very short dress maybe she should bend a little.

PA:Mr Vorcan um Advocate Kingsley is here.

Me:Send him in.

Mandy stares at me and shakes her head as the PA walks out.Kingsely walks in.

Me:The man of the hour.

Him:Always have been this dramatic Vorcan.

Me: I could never reach your level.Oh this is Mandy,my girlfriend.

Him:Hello his girlfriend, I am quiet surprised that he's dating.

Her: What is that suppose to mean?

Him:He doesn't get in a relationship with feelings.

Oh boy!

Him:Not after his one true love died,oh she was beauty with brains that one. Grace Midfield,may her soul rest in peace.

Mandy looks mad,she stands up and walk out.

Him:Since when do you have monitors?

Me:You are so rude.

We laugh, I know he always does this if he doesn't like the woman I am with. He believes that my soulmate is out there waiting for me.

Him: I have to protect you that's what best friends are for.

Me: I have to face an angry woman after you leave.

Him: You shouldn't be having a problem with that, I am sure money will shut her up. Be Dj Khaled and give her money for existing.

Me: Kingsley I am so telling Jordan about this.

Him: I will buy her a diamond necklace just in case you do.

Me: Man how is she?

Him: She is taking everything step by step

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twins can be frustrating.

Me: So what do I owe you?

Him: It has been a tough time, I didn't know how to get to you.

Me: Is everything okay?

Him: It's about something Jordan said to me.

Me:About?

Him:We have a live in maid, apparently they talk about things.This maid told her the story of how her husband abused her,teaching their son the same thing.They would bring young girls and rape them in the house.

Me:That is sick.

Him:She left them and came here,after they raped her.

Me:They are still alive? Walking free?

Him:Trust me that man can't be touched literally,she said something about him being protected by a traditional healer.First I didn't believe that until I checked him out and realise she's telling the truth.

Me: She managed to escape,so she might be a witness.

Him:No Xavier you don't understand what I am trying to tell you.

Me:Talk then.

Him:Her surname is Mosia.

Me:What? Pieter Kingsley no.

Him:That is what alarmed me only to remember what you told me,she needs protection.

Me:Dr Zwane said we are dealing with a man with power, I never thought Mosia had family.

Him:The man remarried and he has children,daughters to be specific married to an ex Miss SA.

Me:What?

Him:Oh yes we are talking about the fourth richest man in Africa, Professor Zweli Mosia,head chancellor of University of Pretoria,Premier of Gauteng,a shareholder in Mercedes Benz,a very respected member of the parliament,the owner of Mosia Pharmacy,a shareholder in SBV,an owner of Mosia Private Hospital and lastly but not least the only man in parliament left untouchable.

Me:This a lot worse than I have imagined.I have to brief everyone.

I pick up my phone and call my brother.

Me:Liam call an urgent meeting for this afternoon, I want everyone there.Good.No wonder nothing gets on his way,he has money.

Him: You are the only who can bring him down, this man is a devil worshipper and uses money to make sure everything is swept under the mat but you are also richer than him, making him uncomfortable as you are also his enemy.

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Everyone sat in silence,no one said anything as we stared at the pictures.

Dad: You are telling me this who we are looking for?How on earth are we suppose to get to him?

Liam:No wonder it's hard to uncover this Mpumalanga base it's protected by the entire police officials because they benefitting.According to this whoever says something about him,they don't last a week before they are found dead,three journalists, five detectives including the journalist who wrote what I am reading.

Dad:This is worse,we are dealing with a man worshipping a devil.I believe what Dr Zwane said,all these years this man doesn't fall for even a moment.No one turns against him and lives to tell the truth.

Zwane:All the Boikanyos can do is pray, that is the only powerful thing that can take him down because he's not going to stop.Trust me this one might just be the Devil's favourite worshipper because he feeds the demon of lust in him.If one of the girls manages to leave him, it's either she goes crazy or kills herself.For Rethabile it's a shaky case,the only thing keeping her alive is that they don't know she's alive and her hope is still alive.

Liam: What do you mean?

Zwane: Sometimes we as humans our hope and light is someone we can see and touch, without them we feel doomed.If something happens to that person even if you are not there, you die a little, it's a natural instinct.In Rethabile's case her hope and light is her little sister, that instinct knows that she's alive somewhere that's why she keeps insisting we find her.

Me:Can't you find her?

Zwane:I wish I could but I am spiritual healer not a tracker, I heal spirits, I can't see the past of a person or their whereabouts.

Liam:We are back to square one,this means there's nothing we can do to Mosia nor his son.We just have to find the girl and let him be?

Zwane:That is the only option,demons don't react well when threatened,we could lose the girl and every other girl trapped under him.

Me: Because he's a devil worshipper?Can't you talk to this God and ask him to kill him?

Zwane:You are asking too much now, I am not an exorcist nor an angel, I can't talk to God straight to him.I pray to him and I worship and praise him.You could try to contact a Prophet .

Liam:But?

Zwane:The only one I know through my pastor is a hard woman to get to.

Me:We need her.

Zwane:Mrs Alizalise Sanchez.

Liam:Let's forget ever getting her to help, I mean we wouldn't get her to talk to us in the first place.

Me:We should try at least. PARIS

Me: I suffered beyond what I can imagine, I mean the man enjoyed stabbing me because it turned him on to watch me bleed.He couldn't stay away from me,other girls said I was his favourite.I don't know what was wrong with me, the strength I had was beyond me.I suffered stab wounds and whip marks but I would lay unconscious for days then wake up with a strength so strong to fight again.Something in me just couldn't let me bow to him, I don't know what but I just couldn't let him think he broke me.I fought tooth and nail with them,it still surprises me how strong I was.You know I want to go home but I am so scared, I know if I do that he will find me.If he wants he could find me,he is waiting for me to make a mistake and go,that Detective will find me.

Her:Don't you think they can protect?

Me:They can just not from him,he is ,um I don't know what to say.

Her:He installed that fear in you that you can't escape him no matter what.

Me:No,no you wouldn't believe me even if I told you.

Her:We have been talking for almost six weeks Paris,so I have heard very unbelievable things that are happening.

Me:Okay.

FLASHBACK

I launched myself and stabbed him right on the chest. He moved back and took out the knife I stole from one of the clients. He groaned in pain, I watched him hoping he was going to die. He sat on the floor groaning, suddenly he stopped.

Me: Well look at you right now Boss.

I got dressed, I stood watching him and I headed for the door. It didn't take long for the hair on my back to stand so fast. When I turned he stood an inch away from me. He looked different, he was no longer bleeding.

Him: You should really make sure I am dead before you leave sweetie.

He threw me across the room so fast. I moaned in pain as I tried to stand up but something pushed me to stand up.

Me: I didn't have to check you, I had to leave.

Him: Stop talking!

My heart stops as his eyes looked yellow, his skin looked like charcoal, his nails were longer now as he stood before me. There was no fear in me as I stared at him.

Him: You just had to wake Asmodeus, he doesn't like to be disrespected by our subjects.

Me: Subjects? Where do you come from? Old British kingdom?

His eyes glowed yellow and he moved so fast, wrapped his fingers around my neck. I waited for my airways to be pressed as I closed my eyes. I opened my eyes only to find him shocked, he lets me fall on the floor, I land on my feet.

Me: Pitchy.

Him:Hello sister,thank you for joining us today.

Voice:Hello brother.

Him:I see father sent you to come here, favourite child.

Voice:He wants you back home , you have overstayed your welcome on earth.

Him:He wants me to go back to hell?Well you can go tell him I am not interested, I think I like it here.As you can see I am busy.

Voice:Too bad I also like it here Asmodeus.

Him:No wonder she doesn't break,she has you as a friend.We shall see for how long.

I suddenly felt dizzy, I couldn't stand so I sat on the floor, sleep came so fast.

END OF FLASHBACK

She looked shaken as she stared at me in horror.

Her:Humans don't come across demons or angel and live to tell the story.

Me:I am here, aren't I?I have tried to understand for months how was that possible but I couldn't.

Her:For months?

Me:I know my bible history, Asmodeus is one of the seven demons besides Lucifer,he is a demon of lust.He is mostly powerful around Aries time,he feeds on the sexual activities, the women have to bend down before him.I don't know if it was an angel or demon who protected me all this time, I have never really faced her at all.I have never really went to church but this is what I know,God do exist.He is truly alive.

Her:I love your spirit, I really do.Dr Zwane could help you,she is a spiritual healer.Did you get any nightmares?

Me:No surprisingly, I slept like a baby and I must say talking to you has made things a lot easier for me, I no longer get paranoid but men still scare me.

Her:It is going to be a long journey for you, take things little by little.Anyway Happy New Year.How is the job treating you?

Me:Well cleaning is not really that hard, I don't have to cook at all but it's a good salary for me.

Her: Since you are free and owe me.

Me:Mrs Vorcan I definitely do not owe you.

Her: You forced me to come here on a holiday so you owe me.

Me:So what do I owe you?

Her:If we leave now,we will be on time for lunch.

Me:Then let me wear something comfortable.

Her:Paris.

Me:Mrs Vorcan?

Her:I am proud of you.

Me: Thank you.

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My palms are sweating, I still don't like crowds especially if there are men involved and from what I hear this family is quiet big.The house looks like it has been cut out off a magazine,it is gigantic and magnificent.Two children come running.

Girl:Mommy.

Boy:Where were you?

Her: I went to get our guest,Emilia and Aiden meet Paris.

Girl:She is pretty.

Boy:Do you have a boyfriend?

Me:Um no.

Boy:Can we date?

Her:Aiden Vorcan!

Boy:I just want a girlfriend Mom.

Her:Respect your elders boy.

Boy:Age is just a number.

We laugh as we go further in the yard

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there are people everywhere,kids and dogs.It is indeed full, I don't know about surviving here.The decor inside, I could only dream.

Her:Hey everyone.

Sofia:Paris hey.Mom you should have told us you were picking her up.

Her:Surprise?

Sofia:Follow me.

She pulls me towards the other ladies,I legit feel uncomfortable here,being the only black woman had me feeling all sort of uncomfortability.I couldn't even understand some jokes they made,they talked about intimate stuff which had me gasping more than usual.I stood up and walked inside the house from the balcony, I the old people inside.

Me:I am sorry to disturb, I am looking for the bathroom.

Her: Upstairs, fourth door on your left.

Me:Thank you.

Her: Usually the bathrooms on that floor are usually closed, I suggest you go to the second floor, first room on your right.

I literally ran to the second floor pressed, I found the bathroom easily. I walk out of the bathroom to room only to find a man, he was one of the friends, I didn't exactly meet the guys cause they were busy with braai.

Him: Oh hey, what are you doing in Xavier's room?

Me: I didn't know it was his Sir I just needed the bathroom.

Him: You like him do you?

Me: Huh?

Him: Every girl likes him, I am just the shadow.

Me: Like who Sir?

Him: You do like me?

Me: Huh? What makes you think I like you?

I stopped breathing when he came way too close, I was trapped between him and the wall. I was trying so hard to breath normally.

Him: Why wouldn't you like me?

My mind was creating all kind of situations and I was trying so hard to calm me down. The door opens and Mrs Vorcan walks in, the way I jumped towards her had her shocked, I quickly grabbed her hand as I try to breath.

Her:Theo why?

Him:Why what Mrs Vorcan?

Her:Do you enjoy harrassing women?She is a child, don't tell me that bullshit about you two having a mutual understanding, I made it clear that all of you stay away from her.You keep doing this and I never really thought you would do it under my roof.

Him:You are going to believe her?

Her:Oh so you did try to force yourself on her?Did you hear speak to me?Xavier keeps unnecessary people in his life, I want you out of my house as soon as possible.

Him:Wha-

Her:This is my house damn it and I want you out!

He looks at me and clicks his tongue before walking out.

Her:Are you okay?! I became worried when he followed after,he chases everything wearing a skirt and can be violent about it.

Me:I am fine, I am really fine.

We walk downstairs to find everyone sitting in the dining room table, I mean everyone is here even the man who just tried to harrass me.Mrs Vorcan goes and whispers something to Mr Vorcan,he looked shocked as he looked at me standing by the stairs.

Mr Vorcan:Silence! Happy New Year everyone.

Them:Happy.

Mr Vorcan:My wife just told me the worse news I could ever receive on a New Year.I keep preaching that if you have nonsense and you are going to treat other people like trash you shouldn't come to my house.This family is trying to fight for a better future for women, I can't let someone make these women think otherwise.

Liam:Is everything okay?

MrsVorcan:Paris come here.

They look at me as I step closer.

Xavier looks at Theo and sighs.

Him:Theo what did you do?Not this again.

Theo:I didn't do anything!

Him: I know how aggressive you can get when women reject you.

Theo:You thi-

Mrs Vorcan:I walked in that room, I saw what you were doing Theo, there's no need to make yourself innocent.I want you out of my house.

Mr Vorcan: Please and don't ever come back.

The way he looked at me, I knew that this wasn't over as he walked out.Now I felt too uncomfortable with everyone looking at me like a fragile person.I literally walked out in a hurry because I felt too

uncomfortable right now.I was scared,this man was going to force himself on me.Did I somehow give him a weakness that I want him?I didn't even know his name at all.

Voice:I am really sorry.

I look up at him and try to smile, I moved back brushing my arms in fear.

Him:I didn't mean to make you scared, I will stand here, you can stand there.

I just nod still skeptically about him.

Him:I try with Theo but then he doesn't want to learn, people with money tend to think everything revolves around him.

I raise my eyebrows at him.

Him:Okay,okay I also do that.Okay sometimes.Will you stop looking at me like that?

I chuckle at him,he smiles.

Him:So it makes you happy seeing me suffer, I don't mind.

Me: You are crazy.

Him:Your voice is so innocent.

I look at him like crazy,a woman walks out and looks between us.

Her:I see you have met my boyfriend.

Me:Yes Mandy I met Mr Vorcan ages ago when I almost collided head-on with his car.

She smiles like she has recovered something she likes .

Her:Baby you didn't tell me that.

Him:Was it important?

I look at him shocked,he is not the same man I talked to a few seconds ago.

Me:Let me just go get something to eat, I am starving.

I leave them looking each other like they are about to blast,old people and their problems.

Sofia:Are they fighting?

Me:Not really I just felt like the third party.

Paula:Those fight like an old couple,one would swear they are married.One moment Xavier brings her and other holiday brings another woman.

Sofia:Paula you are saying all these things to a child.

Paula:Do you mind babe?

Me:Umm if you need me to listen?

Sofia:How old are you?

Me:Nineteen.

Paula:A teenager?I am sorry, I'm literally ten years older than you.

Me:It's okay.

Sofia:Better be sorry sister.

Xavier walks in the kitchen,he pours himself a glass of wine,he looks pissed it has me sitting with my teeth clenched.The glass falls on the floor.

Him:Damn it!

I am the only one who jumped and looked at the door.

Sofia:You are scaring the poor child Xavier.

Him:I am sorry.

Paula: You can leave, I will pick the pieces up.Now! Please.

He sighed and walked out of the kitchen. PARIS

I was working for some woman a single mother,all I had to do was clean the house.On Fridays I had to the laundry,nothing much but the pay was better than having nothing.Her children were all girls so I didn't have to worry about bumping into a man any day.I was on my way home after doing some shopping when a car came out of nowhere and blocked my way.

Me:They have found me, they have found me.

I was struggling to press the numbers on the phone, first person on my mind was Mrs Vorcan.

Her:Paris.

Me:The-y ha-ve found me, they are here.They have found me.

Her:Paris you are not making sense,breath.

Me:The car just blocked my way, they have found me they are going to take me back.

Her:Where are you?

Me:In Bellville at the exit.Someone is coming.

Her:Don't turn the phone off,lock the doors I am coming.

The shadow came closer and knocked at the window, I lowered the window a bit.

Him:Hello there Paris.

Me:Who are you?

Him:A friend.

Me:Can you just get out of the way?

Him:If you are coming with me.

Me:Why would I come with you?

Him:A friend of mine says that you two need to talk,so he asked me to track you so far you live alone.

Me:I don't know anyone around here, so I don't know what you are talking about.

Him:He did say you are very stubborn but I came prepared.Are you coming out or should I help you?

My breath hitched and I don't know if I was breathing or what.

Me:I can't get out of this car to meet a stranger I can't.

Him:Call your boyfriend.

Me:Why do you keep insisting?I don't know you or whoever you are talking about.

Him:You better not be talking to me like that,I am not Theo.

Me:Oh God not him,please don't let this happen to me.

Him:Now you remember him? You owe him.

Me:I don't owe him anything!

Him:Get out of this car!

Me:No!

He goes back to the car.

Me:Theo sent him,he is going to break the window.

Her:I am coming, I am on my way.

I know he's carrying a crowbar as he comes back, I scream as the passenger window shatters in pieces.I try to open my door but it won't as he opens the passenger door.He pulls me but I kick him and the door opens.I fell on the ground but I stood up so fast.Before I could run two arms wrapped around my waist,he pulled me up as I screamed.He shoved me inside the boot as I cried.I tried kicking the boot but I knew it wouldn't open, I took few breaths telling myself to calm down.

Me:I am being kidnapped Bathabile, there's no calming down here!

Then the car bumped something making the driver curse, I heard screeching of tyres,then we were flying because I don't think we were still on the road or the ground.My whole body was cold as I tried to figure out what was going on.I could hear the guy shouting curses, I knew something was wrong as the car threw me all over the boot.Then it moved,another boom sound it has its top on the ground now I screamed because I knew I was going to die.Silence.My head was bleeding,my body felt like it was on fire.My arm was stuck on something

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because I couldn't pull it,felt like it had no power at all.Something made the car go back on its wheels twisting my stuck arm further,it was painful as I screamed in pain.The boot forcefully opened and I tried looking but I couldn't see anything, someone was saying something as they tried to pulling me out of the smoking car.It was getting hot but they managed taking me out as I continued crying.They gentle put me on the ground,my eyes cleared.I completely forgot the pain as my eyes landed on the two figures looking at me,a woman and man.

Man: I thought you said that she can't really see us after the accident.

Woman:Well seems like I was wrong,she only has a broken arm but it will heal.

Man:She i-

Woman:No one should find us here, Uriel let's go.Sleep.

My eyes closed so fast and I could feel sleep coming my way.

XAVIER

Mom:Be a little faster Xavier!Where is your father when I need him!

She was really pressuring me on a the road,she didn't make sense all I heard was Theo kidnapping someone.Who?! don't know, abruptly came to a stop when she screamed.Next to the a road there was a car burning,she walked out running.

Mom:Xavier call the paramedics!

My whole world stopped when I saw her on the ground,it reminded me on the day I lost the love of my life.

Mom:Xavier!

Voice:112 what is your emergency?

Me:There has been an accident.

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There were policemen and paramedics all over, what confused me is the fact that the were no cars at all and the accident started far from where we found it.It hit something and rolled on the road,the driver laid dead in front of the car.

Policeman:Mam how do you know the young lady?

Mom: I am her therapist, I have the recording of what happened.She was kidnapped,well the man was sent by Theo Van Rooyen.

Me:What?

Mom:That is what he said when he talked to her.

Policeman:That would explain why we found blood inside the boot of the car.She is lucky but we have belief that someone took her out of the boot.

Mom:You think someone saw what happened here?

Policeman:The way I see it they hit something that made the car to roll on the road for 6 km,but something is strange too.There are no stones here..

Mom:Ohh.

I didn't like how she sounded, it's like she knew what was going on.

Mom:I have to go with her,she will be paranoid if she see unfamiliar faces.

I watch as she went to the ambulance.

Me: Advocate Kingsley evening, I need a favour.You remember my friend,Theo Van Rooyen? Exactly the son of our Honourable Mayor,get his files he's not stopping his habit of harrassing women and it is about time he's stopped.He just went from women to teenagers, especially a black teen who is automatically scared of him because he's white.I want them on my table tomorrow morning,he must sleep in prison tonight.Thank you.

I have tolerated him for too long because the courts controlled by the government always find him innocent,we shall see how that will happen in my court. XAVIER

Dr:She only has a broken arm,a fractured hipbone and she needs to take these pills because that was a bad injury.Her lungs suffocated because of the smoke so I suggest she comes back next week to make sure there's no permanent damage.Otherwise she is lucky considering the driver.

Mom:Thank you.So we can take her with?

Dr:Yes,make sure she relaxes because there will be permanent damage if she pushes herself.

Mom:Thank you.

Paris laid on the bed sleeping soundly,she looked so young and fragile.Why do a child young as her keeps suffering?

Mom: I am going to kill that friend of yours.

Me: Don't worry he's being taken care of.

Mom:Better be or I will personally deal with him myself.

PARIS

They gently put me on the ground,my eyes cleared.I completely forgot the pain as my eyes landed on the two figures looking at me,a woman and man.

Man: I thought you said that she can't really see us after the accident.

Woman:Well seems like I was wrong,she only has a broken arm but it will heal.

Man:She i-

Woman:No one should find us here, Uriel let's go.Sleep.

I opened my eyes so fast and looked up.

Voice:You are safe, just calm down.

I looked at the man confused.

Him:My mom is signing your release forms,she will be right here.I really don't want to make you uncomfortable, I don't know why but I think I should ask you.

I just stared at him.

Him:My mother thinks she can do everything by herself forgetting that we are actually here to do that,she should be relaxing and enjoying her pension but she's still pushing herself to help.

I really don't think I understood what he was talking about.

Him:Okay I know you feel utterly uncomfortable around men, in order to heal you need to get used being around men so I was thinking instead of staying with my mother you can stay in my house until Theo is hundred percent behind bars.Most of the times I am not around so you shouldn't be scared of me shouting at you, I will make sure you can visit Mom,wherever you want to go as long as you don't strain your body.If you feel uncomfortable with me, you can call my Mother to take you, I just want to help for once.I know you are going through something Paris and I would really love to help you, I really do.

Me:Yes.

Him: You want to stay with me?

Me:Yes.

Him:Thank you.

Mrs Vorcan walks in ,she smiles before wrapping her arms around me.

Her:Oh baby.

I tense.

Her: Someone took you out of that boot,they saved your life.

Me:They did save me.

Her:They?

Me:A man and woman.

They look at each other in confusion.

Me:Such beautiful people too.

I still couldn't understand what they were doing there, from what I know the road is flat and we hit something,yet we landed right next to the road.And how come the driver died after the man went to him?

Her:Paris do you agree?

Me:Yes,yes I do.

Her:Are you sure?

Me:Yes Mrs Vorcan.

Her:He didn't blackmail you or anything?

Me:He just told me that he really wants to help you,if I feel uncomfortable I should leave anytime.

Her:I will check on you every day to make sure his anger doesn't involve you.

Me: I will escape him if I have to.

She kisses my forehead making me smile.

Her:I am sure my house is on fire ,those twin siblings of his experient everywhere in the house.Xavier-

Him:Mom I am trying

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please don't put me down.

Her:Better be trying Xavier, I would hate hurting my son.

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Now this was my first time seeing body guards around him, I didn't know that they actually follow him until I saw the car follow us as we entered.His house was way too big for someone living alone or he lives with his girlfriend,everything was made up of glass.

Me:This house is beautiful.

Him:Well this is your new home.

Me:As soon as I am better Mr Vorcan, I will have to leave.

Him:I hope by then you will be fine.How about you study something so far to make sure we don't bump to each and make you uncomfortable?

Me:I haven't saved any money for tha-

Him:A short course,we do have scholarships you don't need to have much details if that's what scares you.

Me:Can I think about it Mr Vorcan?

We walk in to find an elderly black woman waiting with a smile.

Him:Paris this is my housekeeper,Mama Nolu.

Me:Molo Mama.(Hello Mama).

Her:Molo sana lwam(Hello my child).

Me:Unjani Ma?(How are you Ma?)

Her:Ndiyaphila enkosi wena mntwana wam?(I'm good thanks and you my child?).

Me:Ndiyaphila.(I am good)

Xavier leaves us.

Her:UMnumzana uyaqala ke uzisa umntu apha kule ndlu unless ulala naye.(This is the first time Sir has brought a woman except those he's sleeping with).

Me:I am just here for the time being Ma,he is way older than me and I don't like him like that.

Her:Do not bother yourself,let me show you your room.He gave me orders that your room shouldn't be far from his,incase you will need help.

Me:Thank you.

I looked at the room,it looked way too big for one person so I just sat on the bed smiling.

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I might have fallen asleep because when I walk up I was covered with a blankets,the lights on.I walked out of the room trying to think about where I was going and unfortunately I just got myself on the 'Missing list'.I opened each and every door until I walked inside a gym.Xavier was doing pushups so I stood watching so he does have take care of his body,he got on his feet sweating and took his t-shirt off making gasp.Well as a teenager I am sure you are bound to see that men can be hot,it doesn't mean you are in love with them, you are just like them because of their bodies.Damn I sound like a guilty person,we all know what eyes are for.I didn't know I looked like I was talking to myself because I saw eyes staring me amazed.

Him:I didn't hear a thing you said, you were whispering.

Oh boy!

Me:I was just talking to myself.

Him:About?

Me:The man who wanted to kidnap me.

Him: Don't worry about him, this time he's rotting in prison.

Me:This time?So he has done this before and got away?

Him:Yes,he has but I believed him before that those women were lying until I-

Me: You believed him?Oh trust me people can be snakes just like him,she was in love with him and she betrayed him.Next time think twice before believing someone.

Him:Who betrayed who?

Me: You covered for a man who could possible be a rapist, you don't get to ask me anything.

He looked hurt and I immediately regretted what I said, I shouldn't be taking my frustrations on people.

Me:I-

Him:Child leave before you piss me off.

He looked very angry so I just walked out of the room and went back to the bedroom.Yes I was hungry but I didn't want to bump to him, I was scared he might hurt me.

.....

Again I fell asleep on top of the blankets, someone was shaking me.

Him: You need to eat and drink your pills.

Me: Thank you.

He walks to the door but stops.

Him: Who is Asmodeus?

Me: I don't know.

Him: You said it three times in your sleep Paris? Who on earth calls you Starfire?

I looked at him in horror.

Him: I take it he's responsible for those nasty scars, you did say he must stop stabbing you. One way or another I am going to find out.

He finally leaves me still frozen on the same spot. ✓20.

MRS BOIKANYO

We were on our way to Grahamstown, to where I grew up, my children don't even know they have an aunt, uncle and grandparents out here. My old home looked bigger than I thought, it was extended, there were people in the yard, cars parked and smoke. I guess they were waiting for our arrival, we walked out

of the car.Everyone paused,my mother stepped towards with tears in her, I could feel anger rising deep within.

Mom:Sivuyelwe?

I stared at her in boredom.

She stepped closer and opened her arms, I sidestepped her and walked inside.

Me: I am alive if you thought what you did to me killed me and there is the child you all tried to kill.He is a gynaecologist, you can go ahead tell him you tried to kill him.

My brother and sister sat uncomfortable,their kids were also quiet,my parents sat looking at me.

Shona:Umm this is Nkanyezi,um Mangaliso,Athabile umm only Rethabile and Bathabile are not here.

Dad:We heard what happened, I am so sorry.

Me:No you are not sorry, nonwabe ukufa.(you are so happy)

Mom:Sivuyelwe yintoni eyonwabisayo apho?(Sivuyelwe what makes us happy about this?)

Me: Actually when you tried killing your grandson, didn't that make you happy?

Viwe:Sivuyelwe we we-

Me:Ungakhe ulinge bhuti!(Don't you dare brother!)

Shona:Mme Boikanyo calm down.

Me:I thought I could do this but clearly I was wrong, these people can never be sorry never.

Dad:Sivu-

Me:Nawe lowo Cirha(Even you too Cirha).

Atha:Mama let's put our broken hearts aside,we have to do this for RiRi and Bathabile's sake,but then it won't work if you don't forgive.

Me:Why Ma and Baba?

I can't do it but I have to do it because I want my babies to know how sorry I am for how I treated them, I want them to know I am sorry for how I raised the.I am crying as my husband hugs me,my mother and sister are in tears too.

Dad:Sixolele Nojaholo,sixolele Ncibane.(Forgive us Nojaholo,forgive us Ncibane).

To be honest my heart has been at ease these past few weeks after I started praying.

.....

We talked,me and my family with intentions to put this behind us.We all sat in the kitchen just talking.

Mom:Atha is her mother's daughter.

Mangi:You see I told you.

NK:We all know who is her mother's daughter.

Mangi:For now Nkanyezi just let me be.

Shona:Boys we heard you drop it.

NK:His father's son.

They both laughed.

Dad:They get along so well.

Atha:Grandpa these two won Oscars for acting, they don't even like each other.

Me: International top actors.

Mangi:Look who is talking,the two women who are stingy and emotional blackmailing.

Me:Me? What makes you think I was going to allow you to buy yourself a car alone?I had to share salty water to make him buy me a car.

Shona:You guys are embarassing yourselves.

Mom:Let the kids be,Sivuyelwe follow me.

I followed her.We walked inside the room,it was my old room.

Mom:I let faith blind me, I should have known better because I was also born out of wedlock.I am really sorry.

Me:I know Ma, I was just angry.I couldn't understand why my own would do me like that.It hurt you know Mama,being with no family to call when things go hard.My children were kidnapped and I didn't know who I could talk to as if my mother was dead.

She hugs me as I cry.

Mom:Ixolo mntwana wam(I am sorry my child).I was wrong

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I let my disappointment blind me and I could have been a murderer.I should have known the child I gave birth to, that she would never hurt another soul.I am sorry you suffered when I could have protected you.I am truly sorry my child.

ATHABILE

We spent the whole weekend in Grahamstown,we visited the old church , the elders that were there apologised for what they did to our mother then we drove to Cape Town since Liam said it was urgent.When we walked in the boardroom, everyone was there I mean every executive in each and every organisation that belongs to the Vorcans.

Liam:I was getting worried that you won't make it in time.

Mom:We were in Grahamstown fortunately.

Liam:Please do sit down.

Xavier:We found the man responsible for every prostitution ring in South Africa.

Dad:That is good news.

Liam: We might be facing a lot worse just a devil worshipper.

Mom: What is that suppose to mean?

Liam: He is rich which means he can and will buy his way out. The majority of the police department in Mpumalanga works for him so I would suggest that you stay careful.

Me: Who is this?

Xavier: Dr Zweli Mosia.

I had no idea who was that at all.

Dad: What?!

NK: Who is he?

Mom: Premier of Gauteng, a member of the parliament.

Dad: I am going to kill him.

Dr Zwane: You can't kill him but if you provoke him, he will do more than hurting your daughter, he will kill her and every other girl.

Dad: So I am suppose to stay here and pretend I don't know who took my daughter?

Liam: Creates better chances of ever seeing her again Mr Boikanyo.

Dr Zwane stared at my mother in a strange way.

Dr Zwane: You are doing it, you are getting stronger, keep doing that.

Mr Vorcan: Okay Dr Zwane I want you to make sure you deal with RiRi so she can at least tell us something. We need to find Katlego Mosia, he's the only one we can try to follow. Remember we are dealing with a supernatural power which means they are dangerous. We need to do everything calmly.

This was getting way too dangerous and I didn't know if we will get Paris much alive or not.

Dr Zwane suddenly looked at me weirdly.

Dr Zwane: You look like someone I have met, don't remember who exactly but you do.

Mom: People tend to look alike a lot, I know very well.

Xavier's phone rang.

Xavier: Mama Nolu, calm down and tell me what happened. What? I am coming, don't let her move. Sorry I have to go.

Mr Vorcan: To where?

Liam: He has Ri in his house.

Dr Zwane: He is growing emotions.

Xavier: Leave me alone.

He walks out.

Mr Vorcan:She is a child.

Liam:Dad!Who said they are dating?

Mr Vorcan: I find it strange that he wants to help, this is Xavier we are talking about.

XAVIER

I found the car parked right outside my yard,he just doesn't get it.The moment I find him in the dining room with his father.

Me:What on earth are you doing in my house?

Theo:We thought we could talk to Paris to drop the charges.

Me:For attempted murder and kidnapping Van Rooyen?

His father looked shocked.

Him: Didn't you say that the girl was drunk and wants to sue you?

Me: Your son harrassed a minor.

Theo:She is not a minor.

Me: She is under sixteen!

I know that I was lying.

Him:Theo!

Me:Then he sent someone to kidnap the little girl that didn't end well,they were in a car accident,she has broken bones as we speak because of this son you protect so much.Theo I have had it up here with you,this case is in my court now, I am going to teach other spoilt brats a lesson through you.Please leave, I have to comfort the little girl left terrified by this.

I run to her room, I look around I can't find her, I was about to walk out when I saw the closet door open.I found her on the floor.

Her:I want to be a princess

A fairest doll around.

She kept singing like she couldn't see me.

Me:Paris.

Her:She called me baby, everyone called me baby.Sometimes I would forget I am no longer a baby.

I pull her out of the closet,she didn't flinch as I put her on the bed.

Her:They took me from my family,sold me to prostitution.Eight months in that hell with my sister.I have these nasty scars on my back, I survived by escaping from them,they killed my sister and Yolanda in return.Will men ever stop hurting me?Did I perhaps made it look like I was interested?I would have been doing my second year in varsity but I am stuck here running from them.Will I ever find peace in this world?

I just hug her as she cried,my heart was in pain,this young girl was going through the most because of people that should protect her.She was silent now, I looked at her thinking she was asleep only to meet her big brown eyes already staring at me.What was hilarious is that she was holding my suit tightly.

Me:Did you eat?

She shook her head.

Me:Let me make you something to eat.

Yet she didn't let go.

Me:Paris.

Her:Bathabile.

Me:Huh?

The name sounded familiar.

Her:My name is Bathabile, I should acknowledge it by now.

Me:Can I go?

She shook her head and put it on my chest.

Me:I am just going to the kitchen.

She started shaking.

Her:Please don't leave me, I don't want to be alone.

Me: I am not going anywhere.

I just pulled her closer with my arms around,that moment I vowed to protect her with my life if I had to.
PARIS

I could smell the cologne all over my blankets and clothes.

Me:Oh no!! did not do that!

I quickly got up,did my bed well I tried with one arm before brushing my teeth.I could hear people talking in the dining room, I paused and tried composing myself.

Me:I don't have a crush on him.

I whispered to myself but my heart was making drums.I stopped breathing when I saw Xavier half naked talking to the men sitting on the chairs.

Me:I really have no timing.

I didn't know I said that out loud, all eyes were on me.

Me:Good morning.

Xavier: You good?

Me:Yes I am Mr Vorcan.

Xavier:I will be right back gentlemen.

He slowly grabbed my elbow and pulled me towards the kitchen.

Xavier: You are okay?

Me:Yes,yes, I am really sorry about yesterday it's ju-

Xavier:No need to explain.Look Paris I am willing to help and protect you only if you talk to me,if you take long I will be forced to find where you come from by myself.So I suggest that you tell me soon, your food is in the microwave.

I stare at him in shock after he kissed my forehead and walked out.Wait what?I couldn't stop smiling,Mama Nolu stood at the door grinning.

Me: Good morning Ma.

Her: Good morning my child.I can see the difference you are bringing in his life,he doesn't snap like before,he is more calmer.Trust me I expected him to beat Theo up but he didn't,he didn't want to scare you and age is nothing but a number.

Me: Fifteen years is not a number but a huge difference.

Her: I was just saying my child.

Me:I am just saying too.

XAVIER

Liam:Xavier did you hear what I said?

Me:What?

Liam: What is eating you?

Me:Paris is also human trafficking victim Liam, something she said sounds so familiar.I can't put my finger on it because of these cases coming each and every day but something is familiar about what she said.

Liam:Maybe it is related to one of the cases we are handling.

Me:She escaped, didn't tell me where she escaped but she did.

Liam:She could lead us to another ring,if she talks.

Me:The way I see it she won't talk there's something holding her back.I have to be patient.What were you saying?

Liam:Dr Mosia RSVP'd for the gala dinner,he is willing to come, I am sure it's because he saw the guest list.

Me:Who did we invite again?

Liam:Boikanyo-

Me:Do you think it's a good idea inviting him?The man knows his daughters were taken by Mosia,now he has to be with him half of the day and night.

Liam:That is why we told him so he can practice.Almost all ministers and premiers are going to be there.

My PA walks in wearing the tightest and shortest dress ever.

Me:First this is a workplace not a strip club, you present me not a strip club.Be a woman and be modest about it.What do you have for me?

Her:I-umm, there's a man on the line.

Me: You could have called me ,put him through.

She looks like she is about to cry as she walks out.

Liam:Someone is growing,Ris's effect perhaps?

Me:I just did what is right for all of us.

Liam:Mandy has complained about her for a year now but you did nothing, instead you banged her many times, making the poor woman confused.

Me:We move brother,we move.

Liam:Whatever Xavier.

Me:Xavier Vorcan hello.

I said putting the phone on speaker.

Man: You are a very busy man

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I have been trying to talk to you.

Me:Who are you?

Man:My wife to be precise.Hunter Sanchez.

Liam looked at me shocked.

Me:Oh Mr Sanchez sorry if I sounded rude.

Man: Don't be silly,my wife and I would love to come to your gala so she can talk to you,she says it's urgent.

Me:I will put you on the guest list, thank you.

Man:Thank you.

Liam:Well it seems like we might be healing RiRi faster than we expected.

Me: Surprisingly and Liam please get me information about Rethabile and her little sister.I want pictures.What is her name?

Liam:I can't believe we never asked for her name, don't worry I will contact Atha about it.Let me get going, I have a case that needs my attention.

Me:Damn I am suppose to be in court.

.....

Theo: You can't do this to me!

Me: Councillor shush your client.

Lawyer: I apologize on his behalf Your Honour. We didn't get the memo about six more witness.

Me: It is not my job to make sure you check information considering your case. There are too many women coming out about him so bail denied!

Theo: What?

Me: We will proceed next week.

I winked at him before getting off my chair and left. Oh boy I was going to destroy him like I should have before. Why am I so protective?

Me: Xavier remember she is a child, remember.

Voice: You talking alone.

I jump as I turn around. Mandy.

Me: Mandy.

Her: I am not mad.

Me: Why would you be mad Mandy?

Her: You changed the security code of your house, gave the guards strict instructions not to let anyone in when you are not there. I am trying to understand why didn't you consult me.

Me:Consult you about my house?Since when Mandy do I consult you about my house?We are not married.

Her:Maybe you should marry me,we have been together for ages Xavier and you are not getting any younger.You are thirty five years old!

Me:Mandy did you come here to shout at me? Remember that you told me you weren't ready for marriage and children.

Mandy:A girl has a right to change her mind.Why the sudden security?Are you cheating on me?

Me:I need to prepare for a hearing,so please use the exit ,we will talk later.

She looked at me angrily and walked out.

ATHABILE

I watched as they worked with her but she didn't say anything, they walked out of the room.

Dr Zwane: Have you seen any difference?

Me:She stands up and look around.Look she's doing it.

Dr Zwane:Wait she's reading, look at her lips moving, she's reading the notes on the wall.Dr please get me a notepad, I think we have an improvement.

Me:So she's a little better?

Dr Zwane:More than better.

She takes the notepad.

Dr Zwane:Come with me.

We walk inside to find her standing close to one of the notes.

Her:Baby loved grey and navy.She liked annoying Nkanyezi ,Mangi and Athabile.

She touched the notes, I could feel my heart leap at the joy of seeing her smile.

Dr Zwane:Rethabile.

She turned and looked at us,she stepped towards me.

Her: Have you found her?Where is baby?

Me: RiRi we need your help to find her.

Her:No,no I can't do that he will find her if I do.

Dr Zwane: What do you mean?

Her: When I go crazy,he i-s watching,he wants me to tell you where is my baby so he can find her first.

Me: What do you mean find her?

Her:She escaped,he knows that I know where she went and he wants me to spill.He will find her.

Dr Zwane:Is he watching now?

Her:No but he will know if I tell you,he will get to her before you can do.

Me:Can't you write it down?

Her:Batha-he is here.Leave me alone, I won't talk please don't hurt me.

She sits on the floor,we leave her to be.

Me:Bathabile escaped now question is to where? XAVIER

I arrived late home to find the lights still on, I found Paris lying on the couch sleeping.What I noticed were those nasty scars on her back,they looked better now.I picked her up and went to her room to drop her off.

Her: Asmodeus I am no Starfire.Never!

Me:Paris!!!

She screamed and jumped in fear.

Me:Hey,hey it's me calm down.

Her:He is going to find me Xavier,he is going to.

Me:Who?

She calmed herself and closed her eyes.

Her:Zweli Mosia, don't let him find me.

She whispered clear enough for me to hear her.I almost dropped her on the bed because of the unbelief that all along I was living with a survivor of Mosia.How come she is way better than Rethabile?

Me:I don't care whether he's a demon or the devil himself.

She snuggled closer to me.

.....

Voice:Mr Vorcan can you hear me?

I rubbed my eyes and looked up to find my housekeeper looking at us.

Me:Mama Nolu.

Her:Your phone has been ringing nonstop and you are late.

She hands the phone to me before walking out.

Me:Drop everything at my house, I am not coming to the office.

I dropped the phone and looked at the sleeping beauty under my shirt.How on earth did she get under my shirt?

Me:She is such a child.

She was so warm as she kept snuggling on me.

Her:Shhh.

Me: What did I do?

She pulled my shirt up and came out.

Me: You would swear I had a baby under my shirt.

Her:My older sister used to do this to me when I was young to keep me warm so it's a habit.

Me:So I am babysitting now?

Her:Oh yes you are Mr Vorcan.

Me: Just last night you called me Xavier, you sounded like a child asking for candy.

She hit me, like a punch on the stomach.

Her:I didn't sound like that.

Me: Since you are so violent about it , I agree with you.

She snuggled under my arm.

Me:Paris,we need to talk.

Her:About?

Me:Mosia.

She flinches and keeps quiet.

Me:I promise you, I will not let him hurt you.

Her: Your mother did tell me about talking to you about this.

Me:Why didn't you talk to me?

Her:Talk to a man?The same being that is responsible for my pain?I am not saying it's you Mr Vorcan but I was scared of being a victim again, look at what Theo did the first time he saw me.

Me:I am sorry.

Her: Your mother told me you were working on the case,the Boikanyo case.

Me:Still am but we're facing difficult situations.

Her:A powerful man who sold his soul to the devil.

Me:She told you everything, didn't she?

Her:Oh no I told her that,trust me I have seen Mosia move from being him to the possessed devil worshipper.

Me:What?

Her: Maybe you will understand if I say this, you are looking for me.

Me: Looking for you?

Her: My name is Bathabile Paris Boikanyo, the youngest and last born of Shona and Sivuyelwe Boikanyo. Sister to Nkanyezi, Mangaliso

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Athabile and Rethabile.

I looked at her, no wonder what she said sounded familiar.

Me: Your family needs to know that you are alive.

Her: No, no you have no idea what Asmodeus is capable of.

Me: Your sister is suffering because she wants you, she is losing her mind even though she's back with your family.

Her: My sister?

Oh shit!

Her: Talk!

Me: RiRi is alive.

Her: No! No!

She screamed as I held her tighter.

Her:He is going to kill her if she sees me, please don't let me see her.No!

Me:Shhh.

MOSIA

I grabbed the girl by the throat,she tried to move my hand until she stopped breathing.I let her fall on the floor.

Me: Is there anyone else who wants to escape here?

They cowered to the corner.

Me:Katlego follow me.

Him:Yes Sir.

Me: Prepare guards I am taking with to the Vorcans' gala dinner this weekend and you are coming with.

Him:Father those people are looking for me.

Me:They won't do anything to you,if they know what is good for them.Have you found Paris?

Him:No.

I look at him and shake my head.

Me: You think I don't know ?

Him: Know what?

Me: That you let Rethabile Boikanyo go whereas you knew she was still alive not dead. Don't worry I had to let you do that so she can be my eyes out there. Next time you try acting clever, zokubonisa mfana wami. (I will show you my boy).

Him: Fa-

Me: Uyangizwa? (Do you hear me?).

Him: Yes Father.

Me: Ubucabanga ukuthi ngiyisidakwa, nxx. (You thought I was a drunkard, nxx). Get those guards.

I get in my car and wait for the first car to drive out.

Me: Asmodeus.

Him: I can't find the girl but my sister did save a girl from an accident in Cape Town, very interesting.

Me: Is it her?

Him: Maybe, I wouldn't know, I don't remember being a seer.

Me: We are going to Cape Town at least.

Him:Then be a little careful,the Vorcans aren't a play ground.

Me:One of the seven demons is scared of a mere mortal?

Him:Not when they have one of Father's favourite humans on their side which means she knows someone that can bring you down.Thread careful Mosia.

Me: I won't be intimidated by ants Asmodeus,if you can't get rid of them, then I will take matters to my own hands.

Him: Do what you must Mosia but don't say I didn't warn you.

.....

Me:Hey babe.

Her: I have been trying to call you for the whole day.

Me: And I remember telling you that I had to be in Mpumalanga.

Her: You couldn't even pick up my calls?

Me:Lelethu when do you start questioning me?

Her:We were suppose to go check our clothes for the gala but no.

Me: Forgetting one thing I am being persecuted?I should go back to Mpumalanga.

Her:Zweli buya.(Zweli come back).

Me: For what?

Her:Ngiyaxolisa sithandwa sami(I am sorry my love).

Me:Zikuphi iingane zami?(Where are my children?).

Her:They are already sleeping.

Me:Ohh?

I winked at her.

Her:Mosia don't even think about it.

I kissed her,making her groan.

Me:Mmm?

Her:Yes,right there,a little lower. XAVIER

Me:I really don't know what to do,she has been here all along.

Dr Zwane:No wonder she looks like them.

Liam:All along she has been under our nose.How come she's not losing her mind?

Mom:She had an account with the demon in Mosia but something fought for her.

Dr Zwane:An archangel.They don't come unless there's something about the girl.

Dad:So witchcraft left and centre?What kind of a man are we talking about?

Dr Zwane:A man who'd rather ask Satan for for a quick way to get riches.It makes him dangerous too.

Me:At least Mrs Sanchez will join us.

Dr Zwane:She is?

Liam:Her husband called us that she wanted to see us immediately.

Mom:At least, from what I read about Asmodeus,he doesn't like being challenged.

Me:Paris is scared to even face him again,this man is unnatural powerful, I don't know if I should be worried or what.

Dr Zwane:Things can go wrong when it comes to him,so be very careful.

Liam:He might bring his son to rub this on our faces.

Dad:We just have to find a way to get his son without him noticing.

Mom:You can just keep him busy.

Me:Then we shall see,but we are leaving with Katlego this weekend.

PARIS

I was playing with Emilia and Aiden when a car parked inside the yard. A young mixed man walked out, the twins ran to him, I watched as he hugged them. He was beautiful, with his black hair cut on the sides, it hanged on top of his forehead. He was beyond beautiful, he was wearing track pants and a vest showing his ripped arms.

Him: My lady.

Me: Hello.

I was mesmerized as I smiled. Wait what happened to being scared of men?

Him: I am Diego Vorcan.

Aiden: Our cousin.

Me: Paris.

He kissed my hand, okay I do have a crush on him.

Him: Such a beautiful senorita. Where is Fifteen?

Emilia: He will kill you if you call him by that name.

As if on cue, Xavier's car arrives followed by another. I literally smiled as I see him walking our way. I don't know why I literally launched myself on him.

Xavier: I was definitely missed.

Me:I am happy to see you too.

He puts me down,my heart stops when I come face to face with Mandy glaring at me.

Her: What is she doing here?

Aiden: What are you doing here?

Emilia:Aiden!

Xavier:She lives here.

Her:What?Is this why you changed your security lock? What's up with this child and your family?

Xavier: It's what my family do in case you have forgotten.

Her:But why can't you put her in a foster care?

Emilia:Mandy we don't do that,we don't pull other women when they are down.We have had a lot girls live in our home and you never had a problem.

Her:Yes in your home not his house.Since when does he harbour these people in his house?

I stood there watching as they all argued,a grown woman making sure I never get up.

Xavier:It was a bad idea,Mandy please leave, you can't be saying things like these in front of kids.

Her:Why are you so defensive about her?Are you sleeping with her? You go for black girls now?She can never be woman enough for you,she is a child.

The security dragged her towards her car.I was already gone by then.

Voice:Here.

I looked at the flower.

Me:Thank you.

Him:I don't know about flowers but this one takes the cup,it is my favourite.

Me:That is a petunia.

Him:Ohh? Petty here is my lucky charm, I think everyone deserves flowers once or twice a week.

Me: Your girl must be lucky.

Him: You can be lucky by being my girlfriend.

Me:I would be unlucky.

Him:You wound me love oh love.

Me: What a blessed thing oh yeah.

Him:Aah you keep wounding me my love.

Me: You are crazy Diego Vorcan.

Xavier: You guys get along well.

Him:Well cousin I have found love in her, like love on the first sight.

Xavier: You don't say?

I don't know if it was me or what he was cold, I think what happened to his girlfriend has made him a little angry.

Me:I said I would help the twins bake.Look at the time.

I ran back inside the house with the flower on my hand.

.....

At dinner the mood was somber, Diego tried making jokes here and there but the man of the house was mad.We cleared the table and went to our rooms,Emilia was sleeping with me.

Her:Xavier was once in love with a woman called Grace Midfield, they were the best of best, you know he used to treat women worse before her.All along she was sent to kill him but she fell for him

those people sent someone else and she took the bullet for him, then he found out a lot about her while she laid dying in hospital.After that he kept everything inside, sometimes he blasts affecting everyone around him but what he has for you is genuine love,only God knows what kind of love.He doesn't snap because I swear he would have handled Mandy but he didn't.

Me: That is really sad,no wonder he was like this when I met him.

Her phone vibrates.

Her:Speak of the devil.Bro?I am coming.

I look at the pyjamas.

Me:So how will I wear you with this on my arm?

Her:He called me so I can call you.Men.

I walked out of the room, I find his room with the lights off.

Me: You called for me?

Him: I've gotten used to sleeping with you on my arms,the way I am angry right now I think I need you.

Me:I can't see.

The lights turn, I gasp he is standing next to the door.

Him:I am not going to hurt you Ris.

He literally pushes me towards the bed,opens the blankets for me before getting in .

Him: You don't complain about your arm at all.

Me:I know pain so I am used to it.

Him: You don't have to,not when I am around okay?

Me: There's nothing you can do about it okay?

Him:I want to help you, I want you to know that there are people you can count on.

Me:Thank you.

He pulled me closer, I know I lied about my arm but I didn't know how I was going to explain that it didn't hurt for one bit.

Him:I really don't know what is going on with me but there's this thing in me, telling me that I can and will protect you.

I just looked at this man, I felt way too comfortable with him.Was I healing or not?

Him:I just sold you my house.

Me: What?

Him: You just disappeared on me, what's up?

Me:I just want to thank you for everything you have done for me, I am so comfortable with you,it is weird.I believe I am getting better.

Him:And I am proud of you.

He kissed my forehead,this gesture is becoming a habit now.

Him: You always look at me like that every time I kiss your forehead.

Me:It reminds me of someone.

Him:Who?

Me:Aren't you just too curious? Nobody.

Him:First you compared me to your sister now to the mystery guy.Who is he?

Me:Okay Mr Vorcan , it's my ex.

Him:Child don't you talk to me about your ex.

Me: Whatever man.

He laughed, I was shocked yes he does smile not laugh.

Him:And then?

Me:You are laughing Xavier.

Him: You are smiling Paris.

I rolled my eyes and snuggled closer to him.

Him:Cats love warmth, they snuggle closer to it.

Me:I am not a cat.

Him:Vibrate kitty.

I bit him right on the nipple,making him groan.

Him: What the fuck?

He was inspecting his nipple, poor man it looked red. He stared at me as I pretended to yawn, he literally lowered himself and I was waiting for him to pinch me or something so I closed my eyes.

Him: Ris.

Me: Mmhm.

Him: Open your eyes.

I opened them to find him staring at me.

Me: What?

Him: I don't know but I prefer that you look at me instead of closing your eyes .

I stared at him, this was getting heated, his eyes looked way too dark as he lowered himself.

Him: Breath, it's me.

I didn't know I was panicking as I stared at him.

Him: There you go, my little warrior. Come here, shh it's okay.

I guess my brain created the worst scenario within seconds. XAVIER

Her: Xavier!

Me:What?

Her:The twins are in school,Diego went somewhere and as for you, I don't know three hours late and your phone has been ringing.

Me: Have you taken a bath?

Her:Yes.

Me:Get dressed, you are leaving with me.

Her: To where you work?Why?

Me:Get dressed and stop asking questions.

.....

She was so quiet in the car as I drove.

Me: You know you are going to be with me the whole day?

Her:I didn't say I want to come to your workplace Xavier.

Me:I am Xavier now, you really don't want to come?

Her:Yes I don't.

Me: I will drop you off late.

Her:Where are you going?

Me:To prepare for the gala dinner this weekend.Want to come?

Her:Crowds are not my favourite so no.

She hesitated when she had to walk out of the car,so I went to her side and opened the door.

Me: Look at me, please don't cry, I am here.

I kissed her forehead and pulled her up.

Me:You good?

Her:Yes.

Me: Let's go.

People were looking at us and I didn't care as we walked inside the elevator.My PA looked shocked as she saw walking right next to me.

Her: Good morning Mr Vorcan and Miss.

Me: What do I have today?

Her:Umm a meeting in five minutes with Advocate Kingsley,he is downstairs already,well it seems like all your meetings are going to be here.

Me:Thank you.

I put my hand on Paris's waist since she was looking around.

Me:Let's go.

My PA's nose scrunched in disgust as we left her.

Her: Your office is huge and it has that on the floor rug.

Me:My initials Paris.

Her:Ten and five, fifteen.

Me:You better not be calling me that.

She put her headphones on and looked around the office.A knock echoed and I answered,Paris was busy going through the books to mind our visitor.

Him:My friend.

Me:Pieter Kingsley what a pleasure.

Him:Not after you had me handling a case of a lifetime,thank you.

Me:I should be thanking you for giving me crucial information.

Her:Vorcan why on earth do you have a book about exorcism?

Kingsley jumped and looked at the girl looking at the book not turning around, she had headphones on. Paris moved them before turning around, she gasped as she stared at him.

Her: Sorry I didn't see you, hello.

Him: Hello Miss-

Her: Paris.

I pulled him as he was going to shake her hand, she was worried.

Him: Pieter Kingsley, best friend to him.

Her: Nice to meet you.

Him: Xavier where is that dragon of yours? And where did you get her?

Me: Kingsley, Paris is under my protection nothing serious, Mandy is still around and this is a child in case you haven't noticed.

Him: It would be turnover, imagine the headlines 'Xavier Vorcan dating a black young beautiful woman. Where was she all this time?'

Me: You and your crazy stories. How can I help you?

Him: I want to know what you are going to do about Mosia.

Paris froze, Kingsley looked at her confused, he clinged when he realised why.

Her: Can I just go outside?

Me:On the waiting chairs.

PARIS

I quickly walked out of the office and sat on the waiting chairs outside.I put my headphones back and sat comfortable, someone shook me, I opened my eyes to meet the PA.

Her:Hi.

Me:Hi.

Her: I'm Sonja.

Me:Paris.

Her:Are you dating Mr Vorcan?

Me:No.

Her:Phew was shocked that he would stoop so low.

I was getting tired of women attacking other women for a man.

Me:But he stooped way too low when he fucked you Madam.

She looked shocked.

Me: What? Just because you are white you think you are better than me because I am black? News flash sweetie, I don't have to beg or fight for his attention like you. He can see me.

Her: You think whatever you have is going to last? He is going to come back always even if you are around.

Me: Clearly English is not your mother tongue, I am not in a relationship with him. Do you understand those words? Huh? I am black not white like Mandy, bitch.

Her: What did you just call me?

Me: A female dog, bitch. Women don't scare me, the last one to try fight me, they had to do a CPR on her because these hands can be magnificent.

Her: You think you scare me?

Me: Oh no you should be very scared because you might piss me enough, that means this could be your last day working.

Her: Mr Vorcan wouldn't even dream of firing me, he loves me that is why he keeps coming back.

She spat on my face, I took a deep breath trying not to jump and strangle her.

Him: And what on earth is going on here?

I turned to look at him.

Him: What on earth is that on your face?

Her: She trie-

Him:I wasn't talking to you,Paris?

Me:Her saliva.

Him:What? Did I hire a racist in my company?

Her:No Sir I can explain,she-

Him:Is a child who wouldn't do anything unless provoked.Security please escort her out of my building, you are fired!

She looked shocked by the gesture, I just walked back inside the room as she begged him.I went straight to the bathroom to wash my face.The voices rang in my head as I washed my face.

"Dali:Here comes the princess of this kingdom.

Me:Got a problem?

Dali:The guards might be scared of you but not me sweetheart.

I didn't say anything, I launched myself to her as I carried the rod on my hand.We struggled,throwing punches at each other, I managed to trap her and wrapped the rod around her neck.

RiRi:You are going to kill her!

I tightened the rod around her neck until she stopped fighting

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I let her go and she starts coughing.

Me:Next?

I kick her before going back to my bed.My heart tightens when I look at the mess I did.What have I become?"

I tried to block the voices echoing in my head.

"Yolanda:You have a chance Paris, in living again.Look at your sister,she doesn't look so good,the truth is I am not sure how long she can survive."

Me: Please stop!

"Me:I am sorry,this is all my fault, I should have stopped fighting them.

Her:No baby, I admire you for staying true to yourself, because of that I have hope for you that one day, you will be what you want and you will stand for it.I am proud that one day, the kids you will teach will see you as a role model.A true mbokodo.(A true rock)."

Me:Stop!

I punched the mirror, cracking it, I looked at my only available hand bleeding from the glasses.How was I going to remove these?I thought my temperature was rising because suddenly the room was hot, I looked at the broken mirror.Damn my hand hurt and I was struggling to wash these broken glasses off my hand.

Voice:You need to let go of that anger.

I jumped a little and turned around.Her white hair was tied neatly to a high pony.

Me:One strange human being.

Her: I am Jophiel.

Me: What kind of name is that?

Her: God's love it means.

Me: Who are you?

Her: No need to act like you don't remember me, my voice has been with you for years now.

Me: What do you mean?

Her: When an angel cry blood, our Father is forced to find out why, fortunately I had to be the one to answer the call.

Me: I am not following Miss Jophiel.

Her: You have an angel looking after you.

Me: Who? If this angel was looking after me why did I suffer?

Her: She cried when you are suffered but some things are meant to happen to people so you can learn to be better.

Me: Who is this angel? Wait are you saying that you are godsend?

Her: Archangel Jophiel at your service.

Me: This is crazy.

Her:I didn't come here for a social call, you are making my job hard.I am suppose to make sure you that your thoughts are positive, strong and powerful towards life etc.I am suppose to make sure that your heart is filled with warmth and enjoyment.Guide you to believe in yourself, to make sure you trust in yourself.I am an archangel of love Bathabile, I was sent to spread that love in you.God favoured you by listening to your angel but you piss me off.

Me:Why is he helping me?Why did he allow that to happen to me?

Her:Why wouldn't he help his children?It kills him every day to see his children suffering, worshipping other gods whereas he is a very jealous God.He lets some things happen to you because he's preparing you for better things,or he's saving you from far worse things.Unfortunately it is not up to me to make you believe in him as much as he believes in you.But child I know you, I know what you are capable of, your strength is what made Mosia scared and worried not because I was around.Your angel chose you because of what you are capable of, you are way stronger than you think.Those girls you left will only be saved if you stand up and fight again for their freedom.If you trust him he will make you lie in greener pastures.The high angels believe in you child because no matter how powerful we are, you are the only one capable to push Asmodeus back to purgatory.Believe in yourself child and your destiny will be clearer.

I kept silent as she cleaned my wound.

Her:There.

I looked at the cleaned fist.

Her:Where there is love,all the pain can be healed.

Me: You are love.

Her:Both of you are love which means you are meant to heal each other, your angel let what happened to you so she can bring you closer to someone whom she believed needs you.

Me:Both of us?Who is she?

Her: Remember Him when you feel like everything is taking a toll on you, remember that He rescued his people from Egypt and He would rescue you too but only if you believe that He is truly alive, acknowledge him and bow your head before him,ask him to cleanse you with the Holy spirit and cover you with his wings.Bow to him and accept him as your father and saviour,ask him to wash away your sins with his blood.Remember praying is the most powerful thing that can protect you from all these demons, remember that I am also here to protect you, I will not let you fight this alone, you have the angels with you.

She touched my cheek softly making me warm.

Her: I am always here my child,Father will never forsake nor leave you my child,one day you will testify to that.One step a time.

Me:Thank you for everything you have done for me.

Her:This is your strongest support system,love.

She touched my chest and held my casted arm before disappearing in front of my eyes.The door was pushed open.

Xavier:Are you okay?Why did you lock the door?We heard a cracking sound, there are no pieces of glass.

I look at the mirror and it is fixed, I turn and smile.

Me: I am sorry, I was just stressed , didn't mean to worry you.

Xavier:I was so worried.

He hugs me and I just sink in the warmth.

Xavier:You are different.

Me:I just had a reality check with myself.Sonja.

Xavier:What about her?

Me:Do not fire her please.

Xavier:Pari-

Me:Please.

Xavier:Okay.

I don't know why but I went on my tiptoes and kissed his cheek then I went past him leaving him shocked. MOSIA

I sat in the balcony of my hotel room and watched the beautiful city of Cape Town.

Her:Hubby our clothes are here.

Me:I almost thought we were going to be late.

Her:I was going to sue whoever.

Me:Then let's get ready.

Her: I can't wait.

XAVIER

Her: What is going on tonight? You look very nervous.

Me: It's either we come back with victory or nothing.

Her: You really think he is going to bring him?

Me: Why won't he?

Her: How sure are you that you will be able to kidnap him?

Me: I just have to believe.

I just grabbed her by the waist.

Her: Then I believe in you even though I don't like this one bit.

I kissed the corner of her lips, she looked shocked.

Me: I am a very patient man, I will keep getting there inch by inch.

She tried to move but I held her.

Her: Let me go.

Me: No.

I pulled her up and put her on top of the island.

Her: I get it , I am short Xavier.

Me:Every time you say my name, I decide not to leave at all.

Her:Aren't you just dramatic?

Me: But you say it with this voice that makes me want to give you all my accounts and pins,cars too and don't forget this house.

Her: You don't say.

She laughed so hard.

Me:I love that smile of yours.

I touched her face ,she looked at me shyly, I pulled her closer and she leaned towards me.

Me: Can I kiss you?

Her: You will leave then?

Me:Yes,yes.

Her:Yes you can.

I kissed her cheek and moved.

Her: What the fuck?

Me: Did I say on the lips? Paris I will see you when I come back.

She looked pissed and annoyed as she stared at me.

Me: Bye.

I walked out grinning.

MOSIA

There were cars all over as my driver parked, the cameras were flashing left and right, it was blinding for a moment.

Me: Katlego do not stay far from us, I want them to see you.

Her: Who do you want to see Kat?

Me: I want them to see my son Lelethu. Clear?

Him: Yes, Father.

Me: Good, don't be scared.

We walked inside the hall, smiling to few cameras. Immediately as we went further, I could feel very heavy eyes on me, I looked around but I couldn't find them. Then I did, everything felt like a slow motion as I went pass her, she was directly looking at me. Her eyes moved with me, my heart was hammering my

chest, hands sweating and my head was banging. Who was she? A man took her attention away from me, I was really worried.

Asmodeus: You just met a prophetess.

Me: I thought you said they were rare to find.

Her: Did you say something love?

Me: This gala looks magnificent my love.

I could see the Vorcans standing not far from where I was.

Me: Let's go greet some old friends.

The more we stepped closer, the more Asmodeus kept humming.

Him: I can smell her.

Me: Paris?

Him: Yes, her.

Her: Did you say something?

I could only thank the noise.

Me: Gentlemen.

They turned around,they didn't even look surprised as they just stared at me.

Xavier:Dr Mosia, what an honour to have you come here.

Asmodeus:I can smell her all over him!

He really needed to calm down because he was making my acting very hard.

Me:The youngest Judge Vorcan.

My blood went cold as our hands shook, I could smell her too.

Me:Ah this is my beautiful wife Lelethu.

Her:I have heard a lot about you.

Xavier:I can't say the same about, I mean I didn't really think a beautiful woman like you would marry a man like him.

She blushed like a little bitch, Asmodeus was pissed.

Her:You flatter me.

Bitch!

Me:I can see you don't like me.

Xavier:Like is a weak word, I despise you.

I clenched my teeth in anger,the hair on my back stood up so fast, I knew it was that woman again.

Liam:Mr and Mrs Sanchez what a pleasure to see you here.

The woman looked at me and smiled.

Her:You really have outdid yourself on planning the gala

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I am lucky to be a guest too.

Xavier:Oh meet the Premier of Gauteng,Dr Zweli Mosia,this is Mr and Mrs Sanchez, and his beautiful wife Leléthu.

Me:Nice to meet you.

Her:Dr Mosia.

Her hand was so cold,she snickered as she shook my hand,my chest burnt.

Her: Don't burn up Dr,hell is so far.

I don't know how I heard that but I did yet she wasn't even moving her mouth.

Me:Where can you find the resting room?

I left Lelethu with them in a hurry, this was not the plan.

XAVIER

Me:That was quick.Has anyone spotted Mosia Junior?

Liam:He is standing on the passage.

Me:Get him.

I watched as my guards walked towards him,they surrounded him, I walked over to them.

Him: What is going on?

Me:Why is he still talking?Drug him!

They covered him with the cloth.

Him:Le-me go,you-

He fell, they dragged him to the storage room and I went back to everyone like nothing happened.

Me:That was very easy.

Mosia comes back and looks around,most probably for his son who is nowhere to be seen.

Her:Xavier Vorcan.

Me:Mrs Sanchez.

Her:Call me Aliza.

Me: Congratulations on the pregnancy.

Her: Thank you. I want to talk to you and her.

Me: Is everything okay?

Her: Whatever you are doing tonight is a huge mistake and you have just put someone in danger by doing so. I really need to talk to her, she needs to stop relaxing and get up, I suffered but I had to get up.

Me: What do you mean we made a mistake?

Her: That man has no ordinary demon in him and you just pissed him off.

I turned to look at Mosia who stared back, I swear I saw his eyes go yellow for a second.

Me: I really don't know Liam, something about the way she said it.

Liam: Let's see what she has to say to Paris.

We parked inside the yard and walked inside the house. Paris laid on the couch sleeping.

Me: Ris.

Her: She looks so young and free. Beautiful.

I kissed her forehead, making my parents and brother gasp in shock.

Me:You are shouting your ex's name Ris.

Paris:Such a lie,move.Oh good evening.

Her: I am very happy to meet you finally,it is not everyday you meet a blessed child protected by Archangel Jophiel.

Me:This is-

Paris:Alizalise Jange-Sanchez,my role model.

Her:Heh she knows me,Hunter.

They hug each other,Paris gasped and moved.

Her:You have let everything fix itself,it is time you stand up for yourself child.

Paris:Thank you.

We are still here and I don't remember hearing them saying anything at all.

Her:You can do this,God is with you my little one.Can we talk somewhere else?

Paris:This way.

I watched them leave.

Liam:You have a lot of explaining to do big brother, you can help yourself by explaining waking her up with a kiss.

Me:I don't have to explain myself to you Liam.

Liam:You will explain yourself to our mother and she will tell me.

They come back,she looks teary, my legs involuntarily sent me to her and I wrap my arms around her.Liam literally chuckled.

Paris:I need to be in Mpumalanga, tomorrow night.

We all gasped.

Mom:Are you sure about this?

Paris:There is something I need to do,if by the end of tomorrow I am not there, something bad is going to happen.

Me: I am coming with you.

Liam gasped with his hand on the chest,Mom's eyes widened and Aliza chuckled.

Mom:Whatever he was drugged with,he needs to sell it to all the men. MOSIA

Me: I want everyone to look for him,find my son!

Them:Yes Boss.

Me: Leave!

Asmodeus:I told you.

Me: You had me keeping Paris alive instead of killing her, don't tell me that bullshit.

Asmodeus: You were not suppose to let your guard down when it came to her, through killing her you would have gotten your power but instead you enjoyed her for too long!

Me: I know my mistake and I would have been successful if your sister didn't favour her.

Asmodeus:Then what are you waiting for? Release me so I can do damage control.

Me: Tomorrow Asmodeus, just to give them a chance to give him back.With him on their side, I might as well kill myself,he knows how I got you leading to this power.The way he is a coward,he would spill everything.

Asmodeus:Then let me kill him.

Me:If it will fix what this mess then do it.

I tried calming myself then I felt myself fall down on the floor and blackness arrived.

XAVIER

We were in the car heading to where they held Rethabile,we asked her family to wait there for us.

Her:I can't do this.

Me:Not when I am here with you,my little warrior.

Her:Okay,okay let's do it.

The door opened, someone screamed as they looked at her.

Mrs Boikanyo:Bathabile?

Her:Ma-ma.

Atha:Baby?

I also felt a bit emotional right now,a bit.

.....

Her: I need to talk to her.

Mr Boikanyo:Are you sure about this?

Her:I have to do this.

They led her to the room, Rethabile stood looking at the wall as if reading the notes on it.Paris walked inside and we followed.

Her: RiRi.

The way she turned, I thought she was going to fall.

RiRi:Baby?

Her:I am here, I am here.

They hugged each making the family share tears,this was a very emotional moment for them so I understood.

RiRi: You are safe.

Her:I need you to do something for me.

RiRi: Anything.

Something was wrong I knew by the way she clenched her fist.

Her: What is my name?

Riri:Why would I do that? Don't be silly I know your name.

Her: I just want to hear you say it again, please.

RiRi:No baby.

Her:Then I am leaving not coming back.

RiRi:My job is done here.

Her: I am sorry that I left you Rethabile, I am truly

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I should have been with you and I saw on the news that you were dead but here you are.

RiRi:Stop!

Mangi: What are you doing?

Her: RiRi has someone else with her.

RiRi:No!Stop talking!You really think you can get away from me?!

She looked possessed as she looked ready to attack

RiRi: You came back which means I know where you are!

Her:Of course you do Asmodeus.Do you know purgatory?

Rethabile growled,she looked crazy as she jumped to the wall.I stopped breathing when I saw her stick to the wall, I swear on Grace's grave I have never seen something like this.

Me:Paris where do you think you are going?

RiRi:This is all your fault everything happened to me instead of you.Your fault! You deserve to die!

They stood an inch far from each other,their mother screamed when she saw what Rethabile held on her hand.She ran to them but Paris stood her ground.

Her:Kill me Rethabile.

Mrs Boikanyo: RiRi my child please don't kill your little sister we just found her.

She held the knife on her hand.

RiRi:Mama help me.

Her:Ma!

First no one understood why she screamed,then like a slow motion on repeat her mother fell to the ground,the knife right on her heart as she coughed out the blood.Rethabile pulled the knife in panic as Paris ran to her mother.

RiRi: I didn't want to hurt my mother, I would never do that.

NK:Put the knife down,we know that you didn't know what to do.

RiRi:I told you not to bring her,look at what I have done.How will I live knowing that I did this?

Mangi: Don't do it!We deserve to be happy about something.

RiRi:I am sorry but I can't live knowing that I killed my mother.

She put the knife right on the vein on her kneck.

RiRi:I am sorry.

She slit her throat open and fell on the ground.All I could see was Grace's blood on me, I could hear the screams of everyone as more gunshots fired.That day I didn't only lose the love of my life, I lost four of my employees.I could feel myself slowly falling on the ground.

MOSIA

Asmodeus: This girl is so stupid!

Me: What did she do?

Asmodeus:She used the blade on a wrong person,then on herself.

Me: Didn't she use it on Paris?

Asmodeus:No!No!That little bitch is still alive!

Me: What else did you see?

Asmodeus:Vorcan,who else?

Me:Kat?

Asmodeus:I can't find him,this is getting to the same thing that happened million years ago.We fought with the angels that stood by father's side,it was bloody and messy,we ended up being thrown down on earth.

Me:Are you saying other angels are involved now?

Asmodeus: Especially if I kill a human being,they feel what the oh so great Father feels,so trust me they won't stop til I am dead.

I looked at his shadow and sighed,this was going to be a little longer than I thought.

Me:With that girl out of my way then I am fine.

Asmodeus:Consult her again then. PARIS

I sat in the waiting room with blood all over my clothes,I want to believe that there was no way out of this but I can't.The only way we could take Rethabile out of Asmodeus was to let her do what he wanted,which was killing me.I know Mrs Sanchez told me not to do it but I thought I had no choice and look where my smartness got me, I meet my family after a long time and I tried to get myself killed instead.

Him:Paris!

Me: You are awake.

Him:Yes I am.

Me: Good thing.

Him: You knew what was going to happen if you show up, didn't you?

Me:Yes.

Him: What happened to including me in that? You basically let me come here so I can watch you be slaughtered Paris.

Me:I thought I had no choice,it was the only way I knew to separate RiRi and Asmodeus.

Him: Getting yourself killed? What is wrong with you? You don't think, you just do whatever you want anytime you want to do it.Are you stupid?Why are you so selfish and irrational?Oh don't tell me that you couldn't tell me, you slept on my bed,in my arms the night before we came here,it didn't bother you for even one second to tell me.Bathabile is suppose to mean they are happy.Do you see anyone happy

here?This is all your fault, you decided on your own, you made the decision that you would hurt all of us today Paris and I hope you live with that.

Me:Ya-

Him: What was I thinking going after a young woman? You are reckless and ungrateful, you just do whatever you want whenever you want for that matter.I don't get it Paris, I gave you my word that I wouldn't let you face this alone but guess what?I made a promise to the wrong one.I will have someone bring everything that belongs to you, I am leaving.

Me:Ya-

Atha:Let him go,he is angry and you are going to make things worse.

Me:Bu-tt, I need him.

Atha:Shh,calm down.

My eyes hurt from all the crying I have been doing,my heart hurt now,this was worse than the first heartbreak I endured whereas I am not even dating him.It hurt do bad.

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Dr:Your sister is in a very critical condition,she missed that vein by an inch,she is lucky that she didn't cut it otherwise she would have died.

Me:My mother?

My siblings cringed along with my father.Did I sleep for that long or is something wrong with my memory?

Dr:I should leave you to it.

Me:What?

NK:Baby please sit down.

Me:Bhuti ngoba?(Brother why).

Mangi:Sana lukaMama hlala,ndiyakucela.(Mommy's baby sit,please).

My heart wasn't making any sense but I don't think I liked their reactions.

Me:Ndihleli.(I am sitting).

Dad:UMama wakho usishiyile.(Your mother has passed on).

Me: That is impossible Dad!

Atha:That is why we asked you to go with Xavier,she passed on on the scene.

My ears were ringing as I tried to scream but my voice failed me."Do you see anyone happy here?This is all your fault, you decided on your own, you made the decision that you would hurt all of us today Paris and I hope you live with that."The words echoed in my head as I tried to cry but I couldn't,my throat hurt,my eyes burnt,my nose felt inflamed and my body felt like it was out of this world.I couldn't breath properly, I sat in silence,my eyes feeling like there's sand in them.

Me:Oh Dear Father lead me to your righteous way

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clearly I am doing everything wrong and I didn't listen to your trusted servant. I didn't believe in you when you gave me full proof that you truly do exist, I did whatever I wanted without consulting you. I should have went on my knee and acknowledge that you are truly alive and the only God we should worship, don't forsake me oh Father. Please don't leave me alone. Mama ndicela uxolo, ndixolele Mama, ndixolele ngokuvisa ubuhlungu obungaka. (Mama forgive me, forgive me Mama, forgive me for inflicting this much pain.).

My chest tightened, I only could breath a bit by bit, I knew I was having a panic attack but I just held my head between my legs as I suffocated.

Mangi: She is having an attack! Get me water!

XAVIER

Mom: What happened?

Liam: Xavier why there's blood on your clothes.

Me: Paris touched me with the blood oh?

Mom: Whose blood?

Me: Her mother's blood.

Dad: What happened?

Me: Can you leave me alone? Stop asking questions!

Mom: Xavier!

Me: Leave my house! I need to sleep, I have work in the morning.

Dad: You can't talk to your mother like that.

Mom: Honey let's leave, we will talk to him when he wants to.

They walked out leaving Liam behind.

Me: I didn't say you can stay behind Liam.

Liam: We are back to square one, aren't we? To the angry Xavier? I am leaving brother.

He left, I finally sat down and tried thinking about what to do now. The moment I walked inside my room, I could smell her and hear that innocent voice of hers. I angrily pulled the blankets, turned the bed upside before pulling the curtains, actually tearing them into pieces. I threw the chair to the window crashing into pieces. I went to my bar and picked the strongest whiskey I could find, I emptied the whole bottle leaving me a little dizzy. I picked another bottle and went back to my room.

Me: So much for falling in love with her. What was I thinking? Falling for a child, someone about to turn twenty and me thirty six. Xavier you can be stupid if you tell me, you should have stuck with Mandy. Ohh Mandy.

I picked up my phone and dialed her number.

Her: Xavier?

Me: Come here.

Her: After ignoring me for that child you are babysitting, I don't think so.

Me:Mandy come over otherwise you wouldn't like it if my guards came over and dragged you out of your house.Do not even think about lying and say you are not home, you have twenty minutes before I let my guards track you and bring you kicking or screaming.

I dropped the call and looked around the room, I was on my fourth bottle now but still it didn't remove the ache on my heart.

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I don't know how many bottles I drank now but this ache didn't even dare disappear.

Me:A child has me feeling like this,Xavier come on!

My phone rang.

Me: You are ten later.

Her:I don't live around the corner, security pin?

Me:47538.

Her:This is not working Xavier.

Me:47538? Wait that is not it.Change it to password.

Her:Yes?

Me:B-A-T-H-A-B-I-L-E.

Her:Ba-ta-bi-le? What on earth is that?

Me:Are you coming inside?

She walks inside and gasp at the mess around me.

Me:Right here.

Her:What on earth happened here?

Me:I was robbing myself,come over Mandy and stop asking questions.

She stands in front of me, I pull her to my lap.

Her: You are drunk.

I slipped my hand under her night dress, making her grab my arm.

Me: Don't tell me you didn't miss me.

Her: You ignore me whenever it suits you Xavier, I have to pretend that doesn't hurt me.

Me:I am trying to secure a better future for both of us, forgive for thinking ahead and not telling you.

This alcohol is messing up with my vocabulary.

Her: I love you Xavier, I really do.

Me:I love you too.

She kissed me with my hand squeezing her ass, for a moment my mind flashed to Paris, I quickly thought of something else. XAVIER[2 MONTHS LATER]

Dad:Mr Boikanyo contacted me.

He said as he entered my office.

Me: About?

Dad:He asked about Katlego and I am shocked that it has been two months now and none of you told him that Katlego is dead.

Me:It slipped my mind.

Dad:It slipped your mind?Is that why I made you chairman executive officer?To let things slip your mind?

Me: I didn't want to bother them considering they just lost their mother.

Dad:If you cared that much Xavier about their well-being you would have went to the funeral and you didn't.

Me: I just-

Dad: Didn't want to face Paris?Do you know how long it took for your mother to finally trust me?Ten damned years and you are here whining for less than two months.We are running a business here not your house,pull yourself up boy and do what you are suppose to do, don't let your emotions inside my company and run it down.Hear me?

Me:Yes Father.

Dad: I want that Mpumalanga base found whether you like it or not, I don't care whether you pray to the high priestess but I want that base found like yesterday. Have you seen what Paris has done? Eleven accomplices of Mosia have been arrested but you haven't done anything.

He walks out angrily. I look at the laptop before searching for her, I know what she has been doing these past few weeks, she was going for every associate of Mosia, most probably the ones she has met. She had eighty percent of governmental officials helping her as they did marches, secrets were leaking against Mosia but he was still untouchable. A knock echoes, Mandy walks in smiling, she kisses my cheek before sitting down.

Her: How are you?

Me: I am doing good and you?

Her: Great, was just passing by so I decided to check on you.

Me: Okay?

Her: Anyway I saw something we can do for weekend away.

Me: And?

Her: Brits.

Me: Huh?

Her: It is not far from the nature reserve in Mpumalanga, so it is a great idea love.

Me: When do you want to go?

Her: This weekend?

Me:Okay we can do that then.

Her:I love you.

Me: Love you too.

PARIS

I looked at the map, trying to figure out where I can find the traditional healer who helped Mosia.

Me:So you drove him to all these places?

Him:Yes and according to his instructions I have to stay out of the yard, lastly but not least we used this route.

Me:I can see it but I have no clue about where it leads.

Him:It leads to Zambe.

Me: Zambe?That is on the border.

Him:I followed instructions,we stopped outside what you call the biggest farm ever,it is rich and I have never seen it at all Miss Boikanyo.He walked inside the yard and went behind the first house,mind you there are trees surrounding the farm and it is not far from the river.

Me:River?

Him: There was a sound of water roaring on the background even if you can't see it. I am pretty sure of what I heard Miss Boikanyo plus he came back a little too sweaty, I am sure that is where he is getting all the guidance to power.

Me: This our only chance to remove him.

Mangi: Do you know these rituals Bathabile? There are sacrifices to be made.

Me: What am I suppose to do? The only way I can stop him is if I go to the person myself and ask them, what should I get if I want to remove someone who has the unbelievable power like Mosia. Oh I am sure he's paying whoever a lots of money, so I have to put a very generous offer on the plate.

NK: What offer?

Atha: She is going to use the inheritance Mom left her.

NK: Are you crazy? You can't do that, you are going to school in few months.

Me: Dad already has education fund for me which means I am covered in school.

Mangi: Using your inheritance to buy a traditional healer is not idealistic Bathabile.

Me: I don't have any powers I can use on him Mangaliso, this is the only way I can whoever to bring Asmodeus back to hell, Jophiel will make sure that he never rises again.

NK: You are being already now you want to mess with demons something I thought I could never come across with. I really don't want to discourage you Paris but this is too much.

Me: If it is to be, it is to be me by God's will.

They looked at me in confusion before laughing.

Me:What?

Atha:You are so motivational and most saintly.

Mangi:If it is to be.

I laughed as he tried mimicking me.

Me:I missed a whole entire year, I want to make a lifetime change so we won't have to look over our shoulders all the time.Look at me, I recovered swiftly because God,our Father was with me all the time,he gave me unconditional love so I can do this.

Atha:I am so proud of you Baby.

Me:One would swear that is my name.

Mangi:The Vorcans were so confused.

NK:"We want to find Baby,we have to find her, please help us find Baby".The confusion on their faces, they couldn't understand if we were looking for a baby or Baby.

Me:So guys what about a walk in the reserve?Maybe check out if we can find a lion that will share its cage with Mosia.

Mangi:I have to the perfect spot to look for one.

Atha: You guys are planning to look for a lion?

Us:Yes!

Me: Khaya please get the car inside and tell the guards to get ready,we are going on a weekend away in our Nature Reserve.

Hi.:Yes Mam.

MANDY

I looked around the restaurant

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it was full but I couldn't leave my burgers here and wait for more hours to get it.Guys in black suits walked in and checked inside.

Me:Are those your guards?

Him:I don't hire military guys as guards,maybe someone else.

I looked at the door a little curious now.The girls sitting next to me squealed .

Girl:Oh my goodness it's her.

Girl2:I love her, I don't know why but I just love her,the way she just managed to stand up for herself.

Xavier was looking at his phone not even looking at the girl entering the restaurant.I clenched my teeth as I watched her walk in and go to the counter.

Girl:Her mother left her Paris Lodge,Oikanyo BnB and Paris Guest house.I am telling you she's rich.

Paris Guest house? Wait isn't that the place we are going to sleep in? My hatred grew as I stared at her, trying to understand why Xavier would stoop so low and associate himself with her. What on earth did he see on her? I am sure he was just feeling sorry for her, no, no I refuse to acknowledge that he would stoop this low. Did she sleep with him? I crunched my nose at the thought of him giving her what was mine. She looked around for a place to sit.

Girl: Let her come here, please Lord.

She looked at them smiling, thank God Xavier was still on his phone.

Her: Botshelo, Mahalia long time no see.

Girl: Damn I thought we would never see you again.

Girl2: I missed you.

Her: I missed you too guys.

Girl: How are you doing?

Girl2: Paris you helped us when no one was there, please do talk to us we would love to help you.

Her: I helped you because I could not because in the future I wanted something in return, when I do need your help I will ask you don't worry.

I was getting angry each and every second. Where is the damn order? I have to admit that the man walking in just happened to be the most beautiful, handsome black man I have ever met.

Girl2: Oh my goodness Paris look at that.

Girl: Your crush.

Her:Crush?Oh my goodness it's him!

Girl2:Teboho.

The guy obviously heard his name and turned to them,my breath hitched as I stared at him,he was just beautiful.He walked towards them smiling.

Him:Bathabile.

My whole entire world stopped when I heard the name Xavier is using as his security password, it's her name.He looked up so fast as she stood up,hugging the guy.Her eyes unfortunately met with Xavier's,she looked at him and looked at me before breaking the hug.

Her:Long time Teboho.

Him: I am so happy to see you again, I am truly.We should do dinner sometime.

Her: I would lo-

Voice:Paris!

Her: That would be my brother.

Two guys who looked a whole lot like her walked in.

Me: You never told me she has brothers, very beautiful ones.

Xavier:As if you wanted to know about her.

Me: Considering she's your password I have to know about her cause it seems like I will be stuck with her for long.

He just looked at me before looking at them, they were coming over I tried to sit up straight.

Mangi:Xavier Vorcan,we meet again,we were never really introduced the first time.

Xavier:I am not sure who is who.

Mangi: I am Mangi, this is my oldest and only brother Nkanyezi call him NK.

Honestly NK looked beautiful,Mandy get a grip and focus on Xavier.

Xavier: Nice to officially meet you.

Paris stood next to NK who was holding her by the waist as she leaned on him.He didn't seem like a talker.

Mangi:Nkanyezi and Bathabile don't be rude.

NK:What makes you think I am interested in introducing myself?Baby told you not to come here but you are such a doctor.

Mangi:You two share your mother's anger and beauty.

Me: I would love to meet her,she should be proud of at least having two kids looking like her.

The way they looked at me, I realised that I shouldn't have said anything else at all.

NK: This is why I don't talk to people who don't like my sisters for no reason, they say things that could make me forget she's a woman.

I gulped when I saw the deadly look.

Xavier: I apologize for her insensitive, she has no idea.

Her: I will tell them to deliver it.

Xavier clenched his fist as they walked away from us.

Me: Talk about rude.

Xavier: Their mother is dead, she just died Mandy, be a little sensitive even if you don't like Paris.

Me: I don't get your anger towards me.

Xavier: You will find me in the house Mandy.

Me: And then? Geez.

I stand up and find Paris still on the counter.

Me: There are problems everywhere you are.

Her: I don't fit in with your insecurities.

Me: You talk? Surprisingly not so long ago you couldn't utter even thank you.

Her:You are really bored Mandy,find a hobby or something that you people would do.

Me:What is that suppose to mean?

Her:Google helps darling.

I stand fuming as she walks away from me.Did she just insult me? XAVIER

I didn't sleep a wink last night with the horror of seeing Paris after two months.She looks different,more relaxed or she's good at faking it.I thought I would be the one acting like I have never met her but it's the way around, she didn't even want to look or talk to me.Mandy has been in foul mood ever since yesterday,so I took a shower and got ready for the day.

Her:Sometimes you should stand up for me in public and correct me in private.

Me:I am not going to stand up for you while you are being insensitive about people's loss.

Her:I didn't know.

Me:There was nothing forcing you to comment Mandy,if they don't include you leave them.Anyone could see that they were not even trying to talk to you at all.

Her:I admit I was wrong.

Me:You didn't say sorry to them Mandy, you may not like Paris for absolutely no reason.

Her:I have a rea-

Me:Wanting to protect someone that needed help is a crime? Sometimes I wonder if you are cut out for the life I have.You would be kicking people out for needing my help.

She looked at me in shock, I walk out hoping to wait for her outside. We walked in silence towards the reserve, I stood outside the building and Mandy walked in.

Atha: I never really thanked you for what you did for my family.

I jumped a little.

Me: You gave me a heart attack .

Atha: Apologies Mr Vorcan.

Me: It is okay. How is RiRi?

Atha: Behind you?

First I was confused, I turned , first I thought it was Paris with a neck supporter.

Me: For a moment I thought you were Paris.

Her: That means you have spent sometime with her, most people know she looks like Atha..

Me: Yes I did.

Atha: Baby over here!

I looked at Paris standing not far where we were, she looked at us before turning her back and left.

Her: That was rude.

Atha:Her and Nkanyezi came back so moody last night,she was worse.

Mandy walked out.

Mandy:Hello.

Atha:Hi.We should get going,we are going to look around and maybe we should join you later.

Me:Yeah.

Riri:Nice to meet you Miss.

They left.

Mandy:They are her siblings aren't they?Why was she in Cape Town then?

Me:If you could notice everything around you,maybe Mandy you would know but you think for yourself and no one else.

Mandy:I get it I was wrong, there's no need for you to remind me each and every day.

Me:Acknowledge your mistakes then I will stop Mandy.

PARIS

RiRi:And then?What was that for?

Me:Mandy doesn't like me for a bit, to her I'm ruining everything for her so I don't want to make her more uncomfortable.

Atha:Xavier?

Me:What about him?

Atha:Clearly the guy likes you.

Me:Trust me Xavier is not a guy but a man and I just happen to be a teen.No man like him would like a girl like me, I am damaged goods to him.

Riri:You like him?

Me:I do because he put his pride aside and helped me Retha,so I am forever grateful but I need to stand here,far from him.I can't be liking him too much,no I can't.

Atha:Is this your broken self talking?

Me:No this is reality talking sister, I can't be a blocking someone's relationship so I'd rather stay away from them.

Atha: You almost cried because of him.

Me:He couldn't understand why I did what I did.Why should I be begging him when me and him are just two people who helped each other?Andinaxesha mna.(I don't have time).

RiRi:Athabile do not force her to feel something for a man who has shown that he is not in love with her.I know way too well what that leads to.

Then it becomes more somber as we walk to where Mangi and NK are waiting in the car.

Man:Sorry Mr Boikanyo do you mind coming with two of our customers?

Mangi:Bring them Hlumelo.

NK:Oh hell no!It is them?

I get inside to the back chair,Xavier follows sitting right next to me,Mandy,Athabile and Rethabile sit in front of us.Silence in the car

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no one is saying anything as we drive around the reserve looking at the animals.

NK:No songs?

Riri:Baby has her phone,ask her.

NK:Baby girl.

Me:Big brother.

NK:My little princess.

Me:Stop it, you are making me blush.

NK:Please play your music.

Me:Your wish is my command.

"Sometimes we take our clothes off

To find the naked truth".

Mangi:Bathabile don't play those songs.

"I'm going under and this time

I fear there's no one to save me

This all or nothing really got a way of driving me crazy

I need somebody to heal

Somebody to know

Somebody to have

Somebody to hold

It's easy to say

But it's never the same

I guess I kinda liked the way you numbed all the pain

Now the day bleeds into nightfall

And you're not here

To get me through it all

I let my guard down

And then you pulled the rug

I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved

I'm going under and this time

I fear there's no one to turn to

This all or nothing way of loving got me sleeping without you

Now, I need somebody to know

Somebody to heal

Somebody to have

Just to know how it feels

It's easy to say but it's never the same

I guess I kinda liked the way you helped me escape"

Atha:She sings,the broken hearted girl.

Me:I wonder who told you that.

Mangi: Worse she met that highschool crush of hers.

NK:Teboho?I knew it.

Me:He only asked me on a date,well dinner actually.

Riri:I always liked him you know but she chose to stay away from him.

Atha:She might even fall in love with him, you know?

NK:Do not fall for men.

Atha:Fall for boys.

NK:Athabile Boikanyo!

Atha:Mmm let the neighbours hear you call my name.Yessss!

We burst out laughing,the couple sit in silence.

Atha:Guys kubi abantu abaWhite abafuni uthetha nathi.(Guys it's bad white people don't want to talk to us).

Mangi:Baginye iLemon (They swallowed lemon).

NK:Khamjonge uSisi atsho ngoba Blonde(Look at the girl, she's so blonde).

Riri:Akamhle lo Vorcan(Vorcan is handsome).

Xavier tenses but still lost.

Me:Niyadika nina.(You are so annoying).

RiRi: Gossip with us.

They were getting uncomfortable with us as they kept shifting.

NK:We could even plan to feed them to the lions and they wouldn't understand a word we are saying.

Mangi:They heard that now big bro.The Boikanyos planned to murder us,imagine a front page like that.

Me:Mama left unruly undercover little savages, I can't with you.

Atha:They get out of control.

Mandy:When are we going back?

NK: You can walk back darling.

She looks at Xavier in shock.

NK:Your boyfriend doesn't scare me darling, you can goggle him all you want he won't do anything about it.

I know what Nkanyezi is capable of,trust me Xavier wouldn't even make it, not to my brother.

Xavier:Is there a way we can go back soon?

NK:Of course Mr Vorcan,we just need to check the lion side for future reference.

.....

The moment we reached our stop,Mandy literally ran to the bathroom, I waited for my siblings to come out of the car.I had to wait for Xavier too who seemed to take longer to walk out as my siblings left.He literally helped me as I walked out.

Me:Thank you.

I said that and walked away from him, I could hear footsteps behind me as I walked in the passage.

Him:Ris.

I turned and looked at him.

Him:So we are like strangers?

Me:Yes Mr Vorcan.

Him:Paris I know that you went through hell because of me-

Me: Please don't explain anything Mr Vorcan, I am very grateful for everything you have done for me.You helped me a lot, because of that men don't scare me that much,all thanks to you.I will be forever grateful for that,forever.It was nice to know you, I will keep saying thank you each and every day.There is no need for us to keep talking if that makes Mandy uncomfortable, I was labelled a lot of names ,home wrecker isn't going to be one of them.Keep well.Mandy.

I mean she couldn't exactly hide as she stood not far from us.Damn somehow that really hurt. PARIS

Me:Dear Father,I know I don't pray that much,maybe only when I pray for food or sleep.I know I am not a saint,I am trying you know.I want to try this ,a praying woman thing but it is hard,I have hit rock bottom a lot of times that I don't even see when something good is happening to me.I want to do things but I don't know where to start.I am living testimony that angels and demons do exist.I should be a lot smarter but I keep making more mistakes instead Father.Now, I am on my way to Zambe, I don't know if I will come back the same person or not.I am worried about things going wrong but I should trust in you.Listen to my heart.Wait that doesn't sound right,okay Lord you understand or you don't?Okay bye,no amen.

NK:Amen.He heard you alright.

Me:Unlike you I can pray brother.

NK: Whatever makes you sleep at night.Are you sure about this?

I looked at the trees, I knew we were getting closer as I could hear the running water.

Me:I am sure ,yes I am scared but I am sure about doing this.

NK:Mama is proud of you,okay?

Me:Thank you.

NK:Sometimes I can be difficult but never ever think I would let you do things alone, you are all my little siblings,it hurts when you go through something and I can't do anything about it.Talk to me so we can find what to do together.

Me:I love you.

NK:I love you too Baby.

We come in front of the gate,it does look like a very rich farm.

NK:Good luck Baby.

Me:All God's grace will be with me.

I walked out of the car with my bag and walked through the gate.The front door was open so I decided to knock before entering, I found a young boy sitting and eating.

Me:Hi.

Him:Hi Miss.Are you looking for my father?

Me:Oh yes.

Him:Women never come to see him, I guess you are different.

Me:There is always a start for everything.Can I?

Him:There is a way made up of granite leading to his hut,he has a guest there but he won't take long.

I walked out at the back door, I find the trail leading down.I can see the hut standing on top of the river as I go down.There are cows,sheep,goats and other farm animals.This man is indeed rich.I find two men talking to each other,I immediately knew who I was looking for.He was tall,his body physical fit..

Me:Sanibonani(Greetings).

They nodded their heads before he continued telling him what to do,the man left.He looked so tensed,maybe it was my presence.

Him:Bengingazi ukuthi le mini iyoze isheshe ifike.(I didn't know this day would come fast).

Me:Kungcono ubuyazi iyeza(It is better that you knew it was coming).

Him:Khumula izicathulo.(Take your shoes off).

I followed him as he entered the hut after taking my shoes off.

Me:You already know why I am here,so what should be done?

Him:His blood which I already have,then we will go to the river.

He said looking everywhere.

Me:Sounds too easy.

Him:You are traveling with an angel of death,if I don't do what you want, I might as well consider myself dead.

Me:Then shall we?

I followed him as he walked out of the hut carrying his satchel,the river looked dangerously big,way too big.I could feel goosebumps on the back of my neck.I watched as he kept shouting words as he walked around.The sky suddenly changed, it became dark so fast as I watched the man do what he was doing.

Voice:He is not doing what you think,he wants to sacrifice you instead and he is all doing is trying to contact Asmodeus.

Me:Looked way too easy for my liking.

Voice:He doesn't know that Uriel is really here.

Me:Archangel of death?

Voice:Yes.

Him:Step closer girl.

Me:I am fine right here.

Him: You are suppose to see what I will be doing.

Me:Oh no I don't have to, that is why I left someone to take care of your son in case you try something.So again I am fine here.

He looks angry.

Him: Asmodeus!

I heard a scream as a human like person or whatever walked out of the water, wait I was the one screaming.The thing lunged for me but a blinding light sent both of us flying.I looked up as two figures stood before me.

Asmodeus:Brother and sister, nice of you to join us.

Jophiel:For the last time brother!

Asmodeus:You are so sure.

Who I assumed was Uriel grabbed the traditional healer and dragged him towards the river.

Him:He brought you here,which means if we send him to purgatory that means you are coming along baby brother.

Asmodeus:Yeah right brother.

Uriel sank inside the water.

Asmodeus:Well?Looks like I a-

He coughed as something blocked him,he tried to move but something was pulling him towards the river.It started raining hard as I laid on the ground,it was thundering so hard I am sure I would have my hearing taken.I could feel the pain on my back as I tried to move, suddenly I felt my head get lighter.

Me:Please no!

I knew I was fainting.

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Voice:Hey you finally awake.

Me:Damn my head hurts.

NK:I am so glad to see you.

Me:Where are we?

NK:The nearest hospital.

Me:What happened?

NK:Well the boy came screaming that his father was attacking you, when I came down half of the yard was burning while it rained so hard.The poor boy called the police and fire department

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such a clever little soul.

Me:How are is he?

NK:He is six years,too young for his height,his mother was thrown in the river by the father.He has been living in trauma for years,he didn't even cry when the doctors told him that his father is dead.

Me:Where is his father?

NK:I found him burning as you laid on the ground bleeding on the head.

Me:Oh?

The door opens,two police officers walked in.

Det:Detective Mokoena and this is Detective Du Soleil.We have few questions for you.

Me:Okay what do you have for me?

Det:Miss according to your brother you come from Brits in Mpumalanga all the way to here,Limpopo,Zambe.He just told us that you came here for some business deal.

Me:As you know my mother is originally from Grahamstown,she happens to have a share in a farm in Gauteng, before she died she wanted to buy five cows and she was told that the farm in Zambe could even give her a discount.Two days ago I decided to fulfill that will and came here, unfortunately I came on the wrong day.

Det:Why did he take you to the river?

Me:He took me where?Last time I checked we were looking at the cows,then he banged my head, that's it.

Det:There have been complaints against him,where he was sacrificing humans for his practice but as you can see we never got him , unfortunately for him he lost this time.Your God is truly alive young lady.

Me: What is going to happen to the boy?

Det:Your brother wants to take him.

NK:He is a child, I don't think I would have much problem raising him.

Me:Thank you.

Det: Unfortunately the whole entire farm burnt down.

Me:What?

Det:The fire is still being investigated.We will keep in touch.

NK:I refuse to believe that really happened Bathabile.What really happened?

Me:Pray big brother and you will understand what happened out there.

NK:Mangi should be here to pick you up, I have to sign some papers,the Detective promised to make sure the process is fastened.

Me:Nkanyezi .

NK:Sithandwa sam(My love).

Me: God bless you.

He kissed my forehead before walking out.

XAVIER

I don't know if it was me or what but my heart was way too heavy.It would hurt more every time I thought about what she said to me, I can't believe I was in love again.At this age I should have been experiencing fatherhood, something else not heartbreak.And what is worse it's from a child, fifteen years younger than me.

Voice:A rand for your thoughts.

Me:Maybe a mil.

Her:You are still dramatic.

Me:Long time.

She hugged me before sitting down.

Me:I am glad to see you Georgia.

Her:I am happy to see you too, looking better than before.So what I can do for you?

Me:Oh come on Georgia.

Her:I raised Grace, I knew her like the palm of my hand, I knew when she joined those gangsters even though she told me nothing.I know how much she loved you even though she was in a crossfire plus I am a psychologist for a reason.I mean we helped each other with her passing, considering you didn't want to go to someone else.Again what is going on?

Me:I believe I fell in love with this girl.

Her:You lie?Last time I checked you didn't even like her.What is her name?Melinda or Linda or whatever.

Me:Mandy.Not her.

Her:You sly fox.

Me:Her name is Paris, actually her first name is Bathabile.

Her:That is definitely the first, she's black.

Me:Yes and she's very young.

Her:Years?

Me:Fifteen years younger.

Her: Paedophile.Xavier tell me what went wrong?

I told her everything literally everything that occurred between us.

Me:So yeah that's it.

Her:You were busy making her feel special while you were and still are dating Mandy?You can be so stupid Vorcan,stew -peed.The young girl clearly was still facing some demons, I mean they were kidnapped by her sister's boyfriend.Few months wasn't enough for her to trust you.Comfortability and trust are two way different words.Being comfortable around you doesn't mean O fully trust you, I can be comfortable with a stranger but it don't mean I trust them.Trust has to do with me knowing that you got me,if there are people planning against me, I know for sure you aren't one of them, I know you would do anything to make sure I know my worth and that I am not hurt.This girl went through trauma, you expected way too much of her Xavier.I suggest you do what you want not what she wants you to do.

Me:It hurts you know Georgia.

Her:Not as it did with Grace?

Me:I don't know if this is different but the pain is unbearable.

Her:Do you have a picture of her?

Me:Here.

Her:Oh my goodness she is beautiful Xavier.Before Grace died,she said I quote "Aunty I am going to send Xavier an angel, that angel would mend his broken heart.She will make him full again".Now I believe you did meet that angel, look at you Xavier, you were full of anger not so long ago but now I believe you are getting way better.She was truly an angel.

Me: Should I let her go?

Her:Do you want to let her go?

Me:I believe I should, she's young still has to learn something by herself, I don't want to trap her with marriage and children at this age.

Her:She is different, isn't she?You bluntly told my niece that marriage was not on the contrary so she should not even think about it.

Me:I guess I wasn't ready at all but with Paris, I suddenly felt like I was ready.

Her:You feel like if you give her time,she might use it to move on and you are not getting any younger.

Me:I am not.

Her: Listen to your heart, then decide if you want to go along with it.

Me:I should listen to it actually.

PARIS

Me:Thank you.

I walked inside followed by the police and moving company,the two towing trucks drove in.The workers looked confused as I walked to the door and knocked.

Her:Hi?

Me:Mrs Mosia hi.

Her:Can I help you?

Me:Call your husband and please come outside.Pack everything inside according to the list!

Her:You are trespassing young lady.

Me: Actually I have a warrant to take everything out of my house, again call your husband.

Her:Your house? You are truly high young lady.Zweli!

Him:Coming.

Our eyes met,he looked shocked as he stared at me.

Me:Here, the court wants you out by the end of the day, I own this now.

Him:What?

Me:You don't watch news ?

Her:Zweli what is going on?

Me:Oh no Miss South Africa you know exactly what is going on, I mean you have helped your husband a couple of times.Remember a girl called Yolanda Ndumiso? Manslaughter and kidnapping charges perhaps?

They looked at the police standing behind me.He looked angry.

Him:I am being falsely accused here.

Me:But everyone in that base in Mpumalanga has been arrested,so I don't know why you think you are clever,aaaand Asmodeus is back where he belongs so please don't call him, you will hit voicemail.Pack everything, keep it moving.

Her:What about my kids?

Me:When you kidnapped those kids,did you think about their parents?Your kids are going to suffer because the government is taking every cent under your names and theirs, you can't be feeding them with money that was harshly taken from us.

Him:You are going to pay for this.

Me:I will make sure you rot in hell Mosia.

.....

Me:Why are you looking at me?

Atha:Look at this.

I found the biggest bunch of flowers sitting on the island and two boxes of chocolate.

Me:Lucky bitch.

Atha:It is for you,not me.

Me:You lie.

Riri: From someone called Teboho.

Atha: She is blushing omg!

Me:I just got flowers woman!Tonight?Come on I should be celebrating defeating Mosia not this.

Riri:Go out Baby.

Me:Then I am going out.

.....

I walked inside the restaurant,I find him already sitting.I take a deep breath before approaching him.

Me:Hey.

Him:You look beautiful Paris.

I sit down.

Me: You don't look bad yourself.

Him:I am glad that you came.

Me:I am glad too.

Him:I saw you on the news, you trending too.

Me:I had to do something and make sure he's put behind bars, I really didn't care if someone knows what I went through but it's time.I got your invite and I have to ask you a question.

Him:Shoot.

Me: What are your intentions with me?You already know I am a victim and I am going to college in less than five weeks.

Him:I know you might think I want to take advantage of you but I am not, I always loved you but I didn't want to pressure you in highschool.

Me:I am entitled to leave you the moment you show me one wrong move Teboho, I will not stay in a relationship like that,forgive me but men have shown me hell in this world.

Him:I want to try one step at a time,bear with me.Please?

I looked at him and smiled,maybe

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just maybe this was my happiness other than Xa-.Paris,no,no,no!You are not going to compare men like that.

Him:Stop looking at me like that.

Me:I am just checking you out boy.

Him:You are making me uncomfortable girl.

Me:Am I?

Him:Yes you are child.

He leaned forward and smirked.Okay I am moving on right now.

XAVIER

Mom:Seems like Paris didn't need our help after all.

Dad:She did that in a second.

Liam:Xavier you never told me she is this beautiful,man I should take her as my second wife.

Paula:Maria would have killed your white ass,trust me I know that crazy witch of yours.

Sofia:I rooted for Xavier and Paris but too bad I was wrong.

Me:I see that,no need to keep telling me that.

Mom:I wonder who told you that we were telling you,we are just admiring Paris.

Paula:You have Mandy don't you brother?

Me:Whatever you say people.

Mom:Are you sulking boy?

Me:No!

Sofia:Oh my goodness she's going to be a queen!

Mom:Paris?

Sofia:Says here they were seen on a restaurant, very cosy indeed, he is a prince of Swaziland.

Mom:Let me see that.Oh my goodness he is.

I stood up.

Mom: You see? We just lied but she was seen on a date with a very handsome man.

Me: I don't care.

Dad: We didn't ask you that now didn't we?

Liam: No one is asking you to deny your relationship with Paris, maybe you liked her a bit. Trust me I would have fallen for her too, she is gorgeous.

Sofia: He would have been the first Vorcan to date a dark skinned girl, history made.

Mom: Your grandmother would have heard, I mean she wanted your Dad to marry a girl that was born speaking Espanol instead of a girl like me.

Sofia: That woman still call us mixed.

Dad: That woman is my mother, your grandmother Sofia.

Sofia: Selfish one if you tell, our mother had to teach us equality at the young age because of that witch. Did you hear what she said when she found out Liam's wife is Spanish? "Gracias Sweet Virgin, my grandson is not like his Papa"

We all keep quiet, my grandmother is a very traditional Spanish woman, she is joking about something Mom told is about and we don't find it funny at all. At the end she is our granny.

MONTE RODRIGUEZ

I looked at the news in anger, then turned to everyone.

Me: Prepare me a plane to South Africa, I need to deal with some people.

Guard: Boss what are you going to do?

Me: I need to put those stupid Vorcans on their places before they get out of control. They are messing with my damn fucken business! You! Make sure you find this girl they put on the screen, I need to talk to her. XAVIER

I know that Paris seemed to be doing just fine on her own, she has started school about a month ago. Who would believe that just last year she was breaking?

PA: Mr Vorcan your next meeting.

Me: I almost forgot about that. If they arrive send them in.

I drop the call, the door opens, that was fast. A man I have never seen walked in followed by two guards, his skin looked tanned and the hair so dark. I stared at him confused because I was definitely sure I have never met him at all.

Him: Very beautiful mat you have here chico.

Wait did he just call me boy? His accent proved he was definitely not from around here.

Him: Clearly you haven't forgotten about your Spanish roots.

I watch him sit down with his guards standing at the door, they were carrying AK-47's weird for guards.

Him:I admire your father,he is doing well and good but he seemed to have forgotten our deal.

Me:Deal?

Him:My associates should be left alone and I will leave the girls alone.

Me:I don't understand.

Him:If you managed to get the girls from my associates, you leave them alone,no police or anything.

Me:You made that with my father?No he wouldn't do that.

Him:Not when I had a gun on his pregnant wife's head, I am sure your twin brother would have been proud of you,may his soul rest in peace.

Me: Twin?

Him:They didn't tell you? She was pregnant with twins, you and the other whom she lost due to the trauma of having a gun on the head.They have respected my wish for years,then suddenly not anymore.

Me:You are sick!

Him: Chico don't say that because I lose my anger very fast and you wouldn't like what I will do to you.

Me:What do you think?That I am going to fulfill the deal?

Him:Oh no you fulfill the deal after I am done with everyone involved in destroying my biggest supplier,Mosia.

I looked at him shocked.

Him: Good, you know who I am talking about. Give me the envelope.

The guard handed him the envelope.

Him: There are cameras everywhere in this city, look at this.

I looked at the pictures of me and Paris first time we met each other.

Me: What is this?

Him: Look Vorcan Junior, I am not here to play games, I am here to remove few thorns on my road and she happens to be a very big thorn with your help of course. Thirty seven of my associates working under Mosia arrested and all sentenced to more than three life sentences. That is bad for business.

Me: What do you want?

Him: I am here to let you know that I am here. What is that famous saying? What belongs to Cesear, give it back to Cesear.

Me: I don't owe you.

Him: Oh yes you do and I am here to make sure that you pay me back. I should be on my way to Brits. I lost very good men because of you and that stupid girl, don't try me Xavier Vorcan.

Me: Are you threatening me?

Him: I threaten with a dead body not words mi chico, but be very careful when you decide to try me. Your mother is a very beautiful exotic goddess, this time I wouldn't be making trades for her. Those fraternal siblings of yours are very beautiful and hyper, call Paris and tell her I am coming, maybe she will be a Senorita and make me tea with biscuits.

Me: What do you want?

Him: Mosia and the rest of his crew out, then fifteen girls.

Me: You must be crazy to think I would do that.

Him: Your house has girls, especially your nieces. Boy give Cesaer his things. I hate repeating myself mi chico.

He stands up, fixes his suit and walk to the door.

Him: Oh how rude of me, I am Monte Rodriguez, Google helps to know about me even if it exaggerate things.

I didn't know I was holding a breath but I let it out the moment he walked out. I picked up my phone and called Dad.

Me: You can start explaining a lot of things father. Who on earth is Monte Rodriguez?

.....

Liam: You made a deal with a man like that and never told us?

Dad: I didn't think it was important.

Me: Look at this now, I owe someone I never made a deal with!

Mom: It was to save me.

Me:What happened to honesty is the best policy Mom?You let us plan to take Mosia whereas you knew we weren't suppose to do that.

Liam: This man is capable of killing all of us,we could have avoided that.

Me:Where is his grave?

Mom:Huh?

Me:My brother's grave Mother

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he told me why you guys made that deal.I am turning thirty six years old and I have never heard you or Dad tell me about having a twin.What else are you hiding?What more deals did you make with gangsters?

Dad:That is the only deal.

Liam:You think Paris is going to let this go? The poor girl just managed to move on and heal,now we have to release Mosia.Do you know what is going to happen? Everyone will surely know it was us,then this company will be over.We are no longer helping victims,we are about to destroy them over and over again.

Me:I don't know how on earth are we going to do this, I have been trying to call Atha or any Boikanyo for that matter but none of their numbers are available.

Liam:This is a lot worse than I thought,this man may not have what Mosia had but he's a lot worse.He doesn't leave no stone unturned.

PARIS

Lecturer: You know English is separated into a lot of pieces, it has the language side, literature and drama sides. Each one needs a very dignified way to be able to deal with them. For example, you could be able to understand a poem but can't explain it to children. That is why you need to make notes, make sure you understand every sentence of the poem because some poems are written in old English. That is it for today, don't forget my assignment is due in two days time.

We walked out of the class, that was the end of my classes. Someone bumped me, I turned to look at the person.

Him: I am very sorry Miss.

Me: It is okay.

I left, when I turned he was still standing on the spot, I just waved before getting in my car. It has been two months after I managed to enroll in the university for second semester to get my degree in teaching. I was driving towards the mall, when I arrived there I found Botshelo and Mahalia waiting.

Botshelo: I almost thought you were not coming Bathabile.

Me: It is a Friday kids of course I am coming.

Mahalia: Which restaurant?

Me: Pizza?

Botshelo: Thank you! This one wants us to eat stake over and over and over.

Me: Stake? Please.

Mahalia: I knew she was going to agree with me.

Botshelo:I need to stay slender unlike you.

Me: Don't you want this ass?Fuck them skinny bitches.

Mahalia:Oh yess!

Botshelo:Fuck you!

We laughed as we walked in the restaurant and sat down.

.....

Mahalia:Guys look!

Some guys walked in the restaurant, I remember one of them being the one who bumped into me.He looked at me and smiled.Okay?

Botshelo:And then?

Me:He bumped me in school.

Mahalia:Do you know he's an international student?Half of them are from Brazil, they are so hot.

Me:Good for them.

Botshelo:You and that Teboho of yours.

Me:So I don't have to notice any other man at all.

Our order finally came.

Mahalia:He is coming over.

Me:Who?

Botshelo:The guy you bumped Mateo Cosa.

Me:Oh boy why?

Him:Hello ladies.

Mahalia:Hi.

Him:Do you mind if you join us later?

Botshelo:We don't know,Ris?

Me:I am going home after finishing my food.

Mahalia:Come on.

Me:Not interested, I made a promise to be home for dinner Mahalia,we have guests remember?

Botshelo:Atha's in laws right?

Mahalia:I completely forgot.

Me:You can join them though.

Him:You will join us next time?

Me:Asoze.(Never).

Botshelo:Ris?

Me:It will depend if I want to.

Him:Oh.

Me:Akandichazi ke lo Neymar(This Neymar doesn't interest me).

Mahalia and Botshelo stifled a laugh.

Him:You really don't like me Ris?

Me:Pa-ris, I don't ha-

Botshelo:She is moody, she's not usually like this.

Me:Ndiyahlanya.(I am crazy).

He smiled before going back to his friends.

Mahalia:And then?

Me:I don't like him, something just doesn't feel right with him.

My phone rang.

Me:Paris Boikanyo speaking.

Man:Miss Boikanyo there is a man who has been trying to set a meeting with you for the past two weeks.

Me:With me?

Man:Yes but you told me to deal with everything that has to do with the business,he insists that he would only talk to you,no one else.

Me:Does he have a name?

Man:Monte that's all he said.

Me:Look I gave you the job,if you can't do your job just say so I will fire you and get someone else.

Man:No,no Miss Boikanyo,he keeps insisting so I decided to let you know.

Me:Tell the security not to let him in, I am busy with school I don't have time for unknown people.

Man:Have a good day Miss.

Me:Bye.Can we go home?

MONTE RODRIGUEZ

Me:Bring him in.

Him:Oh hello there Father.

Me:Mateo.

Him: What do you want from me?

Me:I came to see you.

Him:I am suppose to believe that you are here for me?

Me: Your mother misses you boy.

Him:I miss her too.Dad why are you here?

Me:I need your help.

Him:In what?

Me: There's a girl I want you to get close to.

Him:Not this again.

Me:This is your last assignment Mateo.

Him:Let me see.

I handed him the file, he looked shocked and worried.

Him:I can't do this.

Me:Why?

Him: Ask someone else not me.

He walked out.

Me:Well it seems like he already knows her, follow him and tell me what relationship do they have together. PARIS

Me:Hello?Hello?

Him:Hello Paris.

Me:How can I help you?

Him:We need to talk.

Me:About?

Him:There is a man called Monte Rodriguez and he's very dangerous.

Me:And ?

Him:He wants us something from us.

Me:This Rodriguez has no reason to want something from me Mr Vorcan, I have to go.

I dropped the call in anger.

Me:I was sleeping just fine.

My phone rang again.

Me:I am sleeping!

Him:I used my airtime to call you child, don't you ever drop my call ever again!

Me:What do you want from me Xavier Vorcan?

Him:Monte Rodriguez is not me,he will kill everyone to make sure you listen.

Me:Who on earth is this Monte? What does he want from me?

Him:Mosia.

Me:What?

Him:He wants everyone working under Mosia out of jail.

Me:What?Where does he come from?Jupiter?

Him:Brazil actually,this man is real Paris.

Me: We are real Xavier, if you have considered getting Mosia out, do it Mr Vorcan and remember I will make sure that the entire world knows how fake you are.

Him: You think I want to do this?

Me: Did you lose anything when it came to Mosia? I have lifetime scars, I lost my mother because of him and suddenly the one who lost absolutely nothing, has a nerve to come here and tell me what to do. Do not bother yourself I will not be dictated by men, not now or anytime soon. If he wants my family dead, let him do that but I am not backing down. So much for thinking you were better, I was wrong.

I dropped the call and got off from my bed.

NK: Look who comes crawling.

Dad: Leave her alone.

Me: We have a problem well you know what I mean. Listen to this call.

They listened.

Mangi: Who on earth is this Rodriguez?

Me: I have no idea, he went to them knowing that they have power to get Mosia out.

NK: We should have killed him when we had the chance.

Dad: I will be right back.

Me: Dad.

Dad:Do not worry about me.

Atha:Xavier can't do this.

Me:He can do anything,it is his court after all.

RiRi:He can't let that man out!He would kill us,no he can't do that.

Me:Calm down,we will not let him do this no we won't.

.....

Me:I am doing everything I can to make sure this doesn't happen Teboho but we are talking about the Vorcans here.They have been around for some time and I am nothing to them.

Him:Come on babe, don't let them do this, you worked so hard to make sure he doesn't get away from this.

Me:I won't,I know our families are at stake but it will be a lot worse if he comes back.

Him:Do you really think they would let him out?

Me:They are the Vorcans, they can do just whatever they want.

Waiter:Sorry Miss,the gentleman over there said I must give you this.

Him:What?Who?

Waiter:Ri-wait he is not there anymore.

Me:Um no thank you.Bring us our bill so we can leave.

Him:Do you know who?

Me:No but I have an idea,it is some guy from school,he is sending flowers to my house.I don't know if he's following me now.

Him:Did you report this?

Me:Tell Mpumalanga police I have a stalker after I got their boss arrested?Teboho come on.Thank you.

Him:Let me pay.

Me:I can too

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here you go.

The moment we walked out,Mateo stood at the door.

Me:Cosa you are really getting obsessed with me.

Mateo:I go after what I like even if you have what you think deserve you.

Him: What did you just say?

Me:Teboho calm down,he wants you to be angry.

Mateo: That is right, beat me up and I might be nice and give you a year in prison. You will be out of my way in getting her.

Me: You can try a love potion darling, might work for you.

Mateo: My kind of woman.

We left him there, this guy is starting to become a nuisance now. Teboho looked very angry as he drove.

Me: You are angry.

Him: Some guys just piss me off. Who does that?

Me: He wants you angry, don't let him do that. I love you.

Him: I love you too.

A car came right in front of us and stopped, reminds me when I did that to Xavier.

Me: And then?

A man carrying a gun came out of the car, I walked out of the car.

Teboho: Where are you going?

Me: What on earth is this?

Him: I have a message for you Miss Paris.

Me:You could have sent it.

He pointed the gun at me, I looked at him with my eyebrows raised.

Me:AAah help.Try something else Mr.

He looked shocked.

Him:Mr Rodriguez wants to talk to you.

Me:He could just call me instead of making this look bizzare.

Him:He wants to talk to you.

Me:Tell him to find my number just like he found me and then set an appointment with me.

Him:You should stop thinking you are an immortal.

Me:Oh no I actually do know how to stand up for myself,go back to your boss and tell him that Paris Boikanyo said"Set a meeting!".Move your damn car guard!

He looked shocked, I went back to the car.

Me:Oh well it seems like I got stalkers after all.

Teboho looked at me in shock and confusion.

Him:Iron lady.

Me:Guns don't scare me, they must try something else.

Him: You literally stood in front of the gun like it's nothing.I guess I am the girl here and you happen to be the man.

Me:I don't need you to act brave,if it scares you then it does.Do not force things, you will be burnt.

XAVIER

Me:She threatened to destroy me if I dared!Who the hell is she?

Dad:She put that man by herself and now we come to ruin that for her.

Me:Does she think I want to do this?I don't have a choice.

Mom:We have choices Xavier,we made ours so make yours.

Me:I will be putting everyone in danger.

Dad:That is why we have decided to go to Spain.

Me:When?

Mom:Today,we are taking your sisters and grandchildren with not forgetting their partners, I have to take them.

Liam:Are they going to take my pregnant wife?

Dad: They have agreed .

Liam:Then leave as soon as possible.

Me:At least,I wish Paris could listen to us.

Liam:She would not even dare listen to us.

Me:Never.

Liam:I should try talking to her.

Me:Go ahead.

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Me:Have you seen her?

Him:We followed her to the house,she went back to her house three hours later.

Me:Get more pictures and send them to her anonymously.I want it done by tomorrow.

Him:Yes Sir.

Me: Where is she now?

Him:In your house Sir.

Me:Good.

I opened the gate and walked in.

Her:Hey love.

Me:Hi.Let me call someone right now.Oh hey can you not do it tomorrow?Yes,yes that would be fine.

Her:What is it?

Me:I wanted some files but I think I should check them today.

Her phone beeped,she looked at the screen in fear.

Me:Everything okay?

Her:I-um it is nothing, just a message from my friend about what her boyfriend did.I am actually shocked he could do that.

Me:Oh let me go take a bath.

She was fidgeting in worry and fear as I left her.

Me:Checkmate. PARIS

Me:Who is it?

NK:I don't know,he is coming though.

Me:And you let him inside?

A knock echoed, I opened the door to meet a man well a foreign man.

Me:Hi can I help you?

Him:You are beautiful,my kind of woman, with meat on the right places.

Me:Flattered I guess?Come in.

Him:I see you are not alone.

Me:This is my home not house Mr.Can I help you?

Him:How about a drink and biscuits?

Me:Did you bring them here?

Him:I like you.

NK:She would never like you even if you were the last man on earth.

Him:I see you two are alike, like shoe and lace.

Me:Can I help you?

Him:You have been avoiding me for some time so I decided to come here.

Me:You are here, aren't you?So you can go ahead tell me.

Him:Senor Monte Rodriguez.

Me:I expected tattoos,chains and rings like any normal drug king from Brazil but then what you see is what you get.

Him:Are you insulting me?

Me:I would never do that to a well respected man like you,never.Do you want cappuccino and biscuits?

Him:You are clever.

He looked at me before shaking his head,he stood up and looked at the pictures hanging on the wall.

Him:Your mother was beautiful, I guess you do look like her.

Me: Because of Mosia I lost her.

Him:Your sister did that.

Me: Because of Mosia.

Him:Listen to me very careful little girl, I don't play games with kids like you.

Me:Then please get out,we both know that I will not do what you want.

Him:Your problem is that you think you are untouchable.

Me:I am very touchable, you think that I am scared of you.I am not even bothered by your presence, for that matter you can threaten to kill my brothers and sisters.See if I will back down.

He grabbed my hand, twisting it so fast,NK pulled his gun out.

NK:Get your hands off my sister!

Him:I already noticed you wouldn't falter, that is why I am coming for you, I am going to hit you where it will hurt so much.They say love is a greatest weakness.Are you in love Paris?Do you have friends? You have forty eight hours to get them out.

Me:Or what?

Him:Love is our greatest weakness.

He let me go then walked out of the house.

NK:Are you okay?

Me:I am fine.

NK:That man is not playing games with us.

Atha:We got everything on camera.

Mangi: What are you going to do about the video?

Me:Make him trend.

XAVIER

Me: Oh my goodness she did not do that. She knew he was coming.

Liam: Mosia and everyone were sent to a maximum security prison because of this, the SAPS are looking for Rodriguez.

Me: I still think she made a grave mistake.

Liam: Well she did what we didn't do.

My phone rang.

Me: Yes?

PA: You have a call on hold.

Me: Who?

PA: Monte Rodriguez.

Me: Put him through then. Seems like Rodriguez wants to talk to me.

Him: Did you see what that little stupid girl did?

Me: I have a phone for a reason Mr Monte. What did you expect?

Him:I guess I read her wrong, I thought she would listen to me.Tell her that she has made a grave mistake,I will show her what I am capable of.

The line went dead.

Liam:Call Paris.

The phone rang for some time before she picked up.

Her:What do you want?

Ouch.

Me:Rodri-

The line went dead.

Me:It seems like she doesn't want to talk to me.

Liam:Give me her number.It is ringing.Hello.

Her:Hi, can I help you?

Liam:It is me Liam,Vorcan.

Her:Oh your brother asked you to call me?

Liam:I asked to call you myself after Rodriguez called us.

Her: What does he want now?

Liam:He wants you to know that you made a grave mistake.

Her:Message delivered then Mr Vorcan.

Liam:You still beautiful?

She laughed,wow she laughed.

Her:Way beautiful Mr Vorcan.

Liam:You don't mind becoming my second wife?

Her:Give me a million, I will marry you.

Liam: Your account number?

Her:Can I send it?I have to attend something.

Liam:Okay gorgeous.

Me:What was that?

Liam:Me flirting with my future wife.

He smiled before walking out

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oh no they won't date as long as I am alive.Never!

MONTE RODRIGUEZ

Me:Damn it!How on earth does she keep slipping between your fingers?You lost her on broad daylight!! asked you to track her!

Him:We were tracking her,then she got in this clothing shop.That was it,she was gone.

Me:Mateo?

Him:What about me?

Me: I make a deal with you.

Him:Why?

Me:This is what I want you to do,kill a thorn on my way.

Him:Not interested.

Me:I knew you would say that, you know Paris is very beautiful,strong headed,calculating,clever and a fast learner.I know you are in love with her.Imagine this"Paris found dead,three bullets on the head" all because you don't want to do what I want you to do.

Him:You sick old man.

Me:Deal?

Him:Who do I have to kill?

Me:Him.

He looked at the picture and smiled a bit.

Me:And two people.

Him:Who?

Me:Them, I want them alive not dead as a souvenir from the disrespect I got from her.

Him:You will leave her alone?

Me:I will touch everyone else except her until I get what I want.

Him:Deal.

PARIS

I don't know what was wrong about this night but something didn't feel right about it at all.I stood up and looked at the sleeping Teboho on my side,we haven't been intimate because he's scared that I might relapse.I walked to the kitchen,started making tea for myself.I decided to watch some TV.I fell asleep , crashing sound woke me up.I looked at the cup on the floor,it was broken.I picked the pieces up and walked to the kitchen, I paused and looked at the open door.The moment I stepped closer I found the entire lock on the floor,my mind stopped for a second before letting me run to the room.Boom!! collided with the man coming out of the room,he wore a balaclava,he looked shocked to see me.

Me:Who are you?

He looked at me before running out of the house,my only worry was Teboho.I walked inside the room slowly,there was a trail of blood on the floor, I felt my head collide with the wall as I fell.I knew he was dead.

.....

Atha:I am so sorry.

Me:No need to say that.

NK:You think Rodriguez is doing what he said?

I looked at my phone,I knew something was wrong with Botshelo,she has been in the dumping site for ten hours now,as for Mahalia she has been on the road to Durban.I know my siblings think I don't know what is happening with my friends.

Me:Nka please try calling Botshelo and Mahalia, I need to do something from them.

They looked at each other.

Me:What?

NK:I thought you wanted to rest instead of worrying about others.

Me:Teboho is dead because of me, I am trying to make sure no one else dies because of me.Nkanyezi please check on them.

NK:I will.

Dear God have you forsaken me?Can't you send your angel again? ATHABILE

Me:Worse we haven't told her that Botshelo was found dead and Mahalia is nowhere to be found.

NK:Bad things are going to keep happening if she resist this man.

Mangi:What do you suggest we do?Give the Vorcans a way to get him out?She will be a lot worse, let's make sure she's safe.

Me:Let me go check on her.

I find her sitting on the floor humming.

Me:Hey Baby.

Her:Hi.

Me:Do you want anything to eat?

Her:I am fine don't worry,Nkanyezi made sure I ate but I would love a creamy cup of coffee.

Me: You are getting comfortable.Do you want me to wash you too?.

Her:I really want someone to wash my back.

Me:Sies.

Her: You offered sister.

Me: Maybe your face not body.

Her: Get me coffee then.

Me: Just this time Bathabile, I won't do this for you again.

Her: Move it.

I walked out laughing, as I finished making the coffee, a knock echoed.

Me: This is a surprise.

Him: Hello.

Me: Liam Vorcan how can I help you?

Him: I heard about what happened so I decided to come and check on her.

Me: You not Xavier though.

Him: My brother is still angry.

Me: Follow me.

Yes it's a good thing he's checking up on her but I didn't like it a bit that it was him, the married brother.

Me: You have a visitor.

She looked up and stared at him in confusion.

Her:Liam.

Him:Hey.

He hugged her.

Her:Where is your brother?

Him:I am sure he's on his way here.

Her:He is not coming, isn't he?

Him:Look Xavier is back to the old Xavier.

Her:He doesn't want to come here.

Him:I am sorry.

She took the cup and walked out.

Him:I need to make a call.

Me:Do that.You are coming to the funeral?

Him:Yes.

Me:We will be leaving in an hour.

Him: Thank you.

.....

Paris laid on Teboho's mother's lap, as his mother brushed her head, this hurt more seeing the two women that loved him dearly looking so lost. The speakers continued talking about him. We walked out of the church heading to the graveyard where he was to be laid at rest. I was worried about Paris because she hasn't cried at all through everything.

Her: Please company me to the bathroom.

Me: Baby?

Her: Sister.

Me: How are you doing?

Her: I try not to cry, I am tired of hurting.

Me: You are going to be okay.

Riri: You guys are taking long, they are getting ready to head to the graveyard.

Her: Coming! She is still a time freak.

At least she wasn't too depressed. Our brothers and RiRi stood with Liam and some men. Paris continued what she was doing on her phone as we approached them. I stared at one of the men then back to Paris.

Me: Bathabile.

He turned so fast and looked at her.

Her:A moment.Ye-Xavier.

XAVIER

She wrapped her short arms around my waist shocking everyone, I just pulled her a little closer.

Me:Hey, please don't cry.

Mangi:She is crying?

NK:She didn't want to cry in our arms,she is bored of them.

Me:So mine are comfortable at least.

Riri:White pillows are very comfy.

Mangi:Buurn!So much shade Rethabile,way too much shade.

Atha:Can we leave them?Don't make her late.

NK:I am not leaving her until she says so.

Riri:I will help you kill him if he hurts her Nkanyezi, let's leave.

Me:Hey you good?

Her: Thank you for coming.

Me: I decided to follow after, then Liam called telling me I needed to come.

Her: I just needed one of your hugs, to be honest.

Me: Awe you missed me.

Her: A bit maybe.

Me: You wound me love.

Her: I am really sorry for how I acted, I was wrong very wrong, a day doesn't even go by without thinking about what I did. I should have understood where you were coming from, I get that I have been too difficult and I am sorry.

Me: I should have understood too Paris, that you were in a phase where you didn't fully trust me but you were just comfortable with me. I was angry but I could have taken a moment to be in your shoes.

She smelt like lavender as she leaned against me, she pulled my jacket covering herself.

Me: You couldn't even call me.

Her: Men and their slow minds.

Me: What?

Her: Slow, you heard that right.

Me:I am slow?

Her:Yes.

Voice:Bathabile!We need to leave!

She moved from me and looked up smiling.

Me:As if you weren't crying a while ago.

Her:As if you weren't begging me to stop a while ago.

Me: I should record you.

Her:Then I will understand why I get men murdered.

Me:You are threatening me?

Her:Imagine being hit on the head,boom lights out and when you wake up

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it hurts between your legs.

Me:Huh?You are going to rape?

Her:I am going to rip your balls out of you.

My hand involuntary went to cover myself.

Me:You are one cruel human.

Her:Then keep them hanging on the wall as a reminder, just try me boy.

Me:I am a boy?

Voice:Bathabile Boikanyo come over here this instant!

A woman stood waiting for her, I watched as the woman shouted at her, I am sure about the fact she was busy standing with me on her boyfriend's funeral.

.....

The Boikanyo house was a lot bigger than I anticipated,there were eight doors garage,Paris has complained about my house being way too big all along she lived in a castle.

Me:You complained about my shack being too big,all along you live in a castle.

Her:Aren't you just dramatic?This house is not an upstairs like yours plus you live alone unlike me.

Me:You don't want to live with me?

Her:In your dreams.

Me:We do a lot more than live together in my dreams,I don't think you want to try that.

Her:We kill each other I know.

Me:Don't you want me?

Her:No Grandpa.

Me:Okay?I get it my child.

She laughed,her siblings stared at her in awe and I just stared.

PARIS

Damn I am so clingy, I couldn't let Xavier go even though he had to leave.Even Teboho's mother kept saying I was in love,as for his aunt she kept saying I was cheating on him but Lord knows I wasn't married.Though I didn't cheat on anyone,I just let her think whatever she wanted to say.

Me:Mom I wish you were here, I am trying to get up and fight but it gets too much sometimes.I tried fixing everything but all of it has crashed down on me.I wish I knew how to fix everything, I am tired.I know God is on my side but I feel trapped most times.

My phone rang, I quickly swiped not noticing it was a video call.I looked at him in shock then looked at the mirror,I looked like I walked out of a fight.I fixed my braids and buttoned my top correctly before going back to my phone.He looked at me with his eyebrows raised before bursting out laughing.

Me:Is something funny?

Him:The way you looked at the screen,was just priceless.

Me:Piss off what do you want?

Him:I forgot to say something.

Me:And?

Him:You are beautiful.

I wanted to scream but I had to compose myself.

Me:Thank you.

Him:I expected that beautiful smile of yours.There you go.

Me:Leave me alone.

Damn I couldn't stop blushing, I am sorry Teboho.

Him:I miss you now.

Me:I don't miss you.

Him:You know seeing you makes me feel so light and happy.

Me:Xavier.

Him:Let me talk Ris.From the first time I saw you,there was something making me look at you differently,right there I wanted to control my anger.My heart couldn't let me be angry at you, I know I am scaring you but I really don't want you to stay away from me.It makes me angry seeing you away from me, I want you by my side every day, I don't want you to forget me.

Me:-

Him:You are scared I know but please don't shut me out.

I just stared at him speechless.

Him:Say something.

Me:I am scared Xavier, I am scared to lose you too.I have lost a lot already I-

Him:Remember I promised to protect you with my life if I had to?I am willing to do that if you just let me.

Me:I don't want to live another day knowing I will lose you too Xavier, please don't leave me.

Him:I am not going to die anytime soon, just trust me okay?

Me:I trust you.

Him:Now smile.

Me:What the fuck?

Him:Smile child.

I just laughed at him,Mangi walked in and looked at me.

Mangi:Who are you talking to?

Me:A friend of mine.

Him:Am I your friend?

Mangi:Who is that?

Me:Marvin.

Him:That is one boring name you could use Ris.

Me:Shut up Xavier.

Mangi:Oh I see.

Me:Do you need anything?

Mangi:Nothing let me leave.

Me:I am going to kill you Xavier Vorcan.

Him:Let me leave you then.Bye. PARIS

I say on the chair eating my lunch in silence.

Him:Hi.

Me:It's you again.

I looked at him,he wore different today, his shirt was rolled up.Something caught my eye on his right arm.

Me:Is that a tattoo?

Him:Infinity tattoo.

He pushed his sleeves up showing me the whole entire tattoo,my body froze remembering something.

Him:Are you okay?

Me:Was it painful?

Him:It was actually.

Me:So Cosa what do you want from me?

Him:I like you Paris,a lot too.

Me:I see and what if I don't like you?

Him:Come on we can work on something at least.

Me:Let's see,so you are from Brazil?Parents?

Him:Alive.

Me:Do you live with them?

Him:Yes.

Me:Are they married?

Him:Yes.

Me:Do you look like your father?

Him:Hell no I look like my mother.

Me:Is your father alive?

Him:Why do you think he's dead?

Me:You almost blasted my head for even asking if you look like him.Father and son issues?

Him:You can say that.

Me:I had issues with my mother,she was pushy and loved sticking her nose in my business but I would trade that annoyance for her to come back you know.

Him: It is different with your mother,my father is a murder-I mean he is heartless.

Me:Aren't you scared to turn out like him?I mean a chip off the old block.

He looked to be in deep thoughts for a moment.

Him:I can't turn out to be like him.

Me:Maybe you already have but you don't want to accept it.

Him: What is that suppose to mean?

Me:I used to say I am not like my mother but look at me sticking my nose in your business.

Him:You are just curious.

Me:Am I Mateo Cosa?Is that even your name or surname?I mean maybe you shortened it to accomodate us South Africans.

Him:It is but I am using my mother's maiden surname.

Me:I guess you really don't want to be compared to your father.

Him:No.

Me:Where in Brazil?

Him:Rio.

Me: Would you look at the time?It travels fast, I have to go.

Him:At least give me your number.

Me:Here.Bye.

The moment I got in the car, I dialled Xavier's number.

Me:Guess what?

Him:What?

Me:I know who shot Teboho and most probably killed Botshelo and kidnapped Mahalia.

Him:Who?

Me:Monte Rodriguez's son.

Him:His son?

Me:He happens to have the hugest crush on me and might have given me a clue about their relationship.I think it is about time I went to Brazil to talk to Mrs Cosa-Rodriguez.

Him:What about the son?

Me:He will work with us if he hears his mother telling him that I am in his home.

Him:Won't he tell his father?

Me:He won't because he wants to be different from daddy dearest.

Him:Then let's do it.

MONTE RODRIGUEZ

I walked in the room and sat down waiting.They came out in their orange jumpsuit,they both sat across me in fear.

Me:I see you gentlemen are being treated nicely while you flopped my business.

Mosia: Sorry we di-

Me:I have to clean up this mess , I have to find a way to get you out of here.

Mosia:I swear when we get out we will not make this mess again, I swear.

Me:A little girl put you here,an inexperienced teenager put you here by herself.I am going to ask for the last time,who was the pimp?

Mosia:No one Sir.

Me:I will be dealing with you after you get out.

.....

Me:You could just tell me more about this friend of yours and I will let you go.I got her boyfriend killed,yet she didn't scream like I wanted to senorita.This makes me realise she didn't love him as much as I thought.

Her: I'd rather die than tell you!

She spat on my face, I slapped her but she didn't even cry anymore.

Me:You are indeed a true friend, I salute you.You are willing to die for her?

Her:Yes I am.

Me:Let me help you with that.Hey bring a camera,we are taking a video of this moment of her life.Good, make sure she sees everything.

Her:The one obsessed with you killed your lover, killed Botshelo and brought me here.

Me:You are into poetry?

Her:I am into sending a message, you wouldn't understand, you are just an excuse of a father and husband

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the reason why God should destroy men.

I let the trigger go,the bullet rammed hard on her forehead.

Me:Send the video to Paris.I am tired of this little girl.Quero estrangular esse bostinha!(I wanna strangle that little bitch so badly).

XAVIER

Me:You don't sound good, what's up?

Her:I know you said you were not ready for marriage and children but we need to talk.

Me:Sounds serious,go ahead.

Her:I am pregnant.

My acting went down the drain for a moment,this woman standing in front of me is lying to my face about something so serious.

Me:Are you serious babe?

Her:I know we did-

Me:No,no don't worry I am actually happy.Let me wrap everything up and I will be there.Love you.

Her:Love you too.

I dropped the phone and groaned before dialling the PI's number.

Me:By the end of today, I want her face plastered on each and every media port,along with that boy.Make sure it is the talk of the day, I want you to make sure that they also know she's pregnant.Understand?

Him:Yes ,Sir.

I dialled Mama Nolu's number.

Me:Mam please ask the guards to help you pack everything belonging to Mandy before she arrives in my house, I want you to make a bonfire out of them.Burn them.

Two months since we decided to be serious then she goes and gets pregnant hoping to trap me with a child, if she didn't want to try she should have told me that it was over.

.....

I saw her car parked in my driveway when I arrived back late,she was already trending and I was going to pretend like I knew nothing.She jumped when I walked.

Me:Is everything okay?

Her:I can explain.

Me: Explain what?

Her: The pictures, the journalists are lying, gossip journalists to be exact, that guy is just a friend.

Me: What are you talking about?

Her: Social media, wait didn't you watch news?

Me: I was planning to watch them after I arrive home. What is going on?

Her: They photoshopped pictures of me with me this other guy, now they are saying I am cheating.

My phone beeped, I looked at the video.

Me: They photoshopped a video too Mandy?

Her: These are lies!! I didn't do any of them!

Me: I gave you all the time in the world Mandy to tell me the truth. I am the one who made sure you are trending sweetheart.

Her: What?

Me: I know what you have been doing behind my back, I am the one who sent you those pictures. You begged to pay me, remember?

Her: Xavier we can fix this.

Me:Can we?How?

Her:Look we both cheated while we were in a relationship, I am sure we can forgive each other.I made a mistake because I wanted to get back at you.Please.

Me:Funny, I forgive you actually but just like a butterfly I want you to fly away from me.I want you out of my house and I will not repeat myself because I might forget that you are still a woman.

She closed her mouth before picking her handbag.

Her:We are going to fix us Xavier.

Me:We are going to see Mandy.Bye. PARIS

Me: Look guys it's September holidays I am allowed to go anywhere I want, plus I don't want to spend my birthday here or with you.I am not saying something is wrong with spending it with you though but I am only twenty once.I am going on a vacation by myself, without you, I need this to heal myself.Atha is married,she needs to spend time with her in-laws instead of always hovering around me,Nkanyezi has a son Sboniso,he should be looking for a mother,Mangi is engage he should be planning his wedding and RiRi just started her company.You need to focus on yourself, I am doing fine, you don't have to worry about me.Sending text to remind that you will drop everything to be with me,is the assurance I need not you sticking your nose in everything I am doing.We don't have to be around each other all the time to prove we care about each other, I have learnt to talk about whatever is bothering me, I promise to never let myself go the wrong way.I love you all but I will keep making more mistakes if you guys keep standing by me all the time.I can't be taking baby steps all the time.Daddy you know how much I want to stand by myself, I went through pain and I know you are scared to let me face life by myself because you know how that destroyed our mother, through her I have learnt that I should stand by myself.If our mother didn't get up and stand ,we would have been living with another family but that didn't happen,Daddy I know how much it hurts you that you couldn't protect us against this cruel world, I know that Mom cried because we couldn't talk to her.This is my destiny, I have to walk on it by myself but if I fall, after two times, I know you are all here to help me get up, you are here to save me when I am crying for help.That I know for sure.

They looked teary,shocked and worried.Nkanyezi literally let tears fall as he held me tight and I was a crying mess too.

Dad:Baby.

Me:I love you Daddy, I love you so much.

RiRi:This child always manage to make all of us cry,all the time.

We hug each other in silence,as my siblings wiped their tears.

Mangi:I am so proud of you even though I hate the fact that you had to grow up fast.

Atha:I am so proud of you Bathabile,Mama is smiling at you from heaven.Her little girl is going to be one of the most amazing woman,she is going to turn out good.Look at you Rethabile

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I carried my heart on my sleeve thinking you would never recover but you proved us all wrong.I am so happy to have you as little sisters.

NK:I hate crying but I am so happy to have you guys, you are my first borns,Siboniso is my last born of course but what is important, when you want the world I am willing to whatever it takes to get it for you.Just for you,Mangaliso,Athabile,Rethabile and Bathabile Boikanyo.

.....

Atha:So where are you going?

Me:None of your business.

NK:To Cape Town.

Me:No!! am going somewhere, I don't need to tell you that,do yourself a favour and track me.

Dad:You are going to be safe right?

Me:Oh yes I am.I love you okay?

Atha:Come back your niece or nephew are going to miss you.

Dad:You are pregnant?

Me: Congratulations!You are going to be an amazing mother.My flight is leaving in an hour,good bye.

Mangi:Do not come back here pregnant!

Me:At least someone can score unlike you!

RiRi:Oh shit she didn't!

Mangi:You will be back you little witch!

XAVIER

Me:I need every file you can find on him and get me someone I can send to the prison.Be quick.

Liam:Are you sure about this?

Me:The only way we can stop this is if Mosia is dead.

Liam:What changed your mind?

Me:Life.

Liam:Is this because of what Mandy did?

Me:Not really, to be honest I saw that coming.

Liam:She won't take this lying down, you and I know how obsessed she is with you.

Me:She has been begging me for a week now,she said she will even abort so we can start afresh.

Liam:That is too much.

Me:You think?

A knock echoed,my PA walked in.

PA:Sorry to disturb Sir but you have a visitor.

Me:Okay let them in.Mandy is smoking ecstasy if she thinks I will take her back,never.

I looked up after Liam gasped, I shook my head and looked at her standing there smiling.

Her:Hello.

Liam:Paris?Hi and I should leave.

Her:Hi and bye.

Liam:You look stunning.

Her:Thank you.

Liam:We will talk on the phone.

Me:Ris?

Her:Hi.

Me:You are here, like here.

Her:I just wanted to surprise you.

Me:I am surprised actually.

Her:Hug?

My heart was making a beat in my chest as I hugged her.

Me:Mi prequeño guerrero.(My little warrior).

Her:I will pretend I understand a word you said.

Me:Google it.

Her:How are you?

Me:Seeing you has made me way better and you?

Her:Well I am very excited.

Me:Why?When did you arrive?

Her:Just seeing you I guess, I arrived about an hour ago.

Me:So you did miss me after all?

Her:A little bit Xavier.

I just stared at her, sitting across me smiling and grinning.

Her:You are staring.

Me:Te amo.(I love you).

Her: Everytime you are speechless you are going to speak Spanish?

Me:But you heard that sentence.

She blushed and covered her face.

Her:You enjoy making me turn navy that's why.

Me:I make you blush too?I need to congratulate myself.

Her:Whatever.

Me:Aren't you tired? Don't you have guards?

Her:I didn't bring any and I am exhausted.

Me:Let's get going then.

I closed my laptop and put my phone in my pocket.She squealed when I picked her up.

Her:And then?

Me:You are tired, aren't you?

Her:I can walk you know.

Me:I know.

People stared in shock as we walked out of the elevator with her on my arms.

Her:This is embarrassing.

Me:I don't mind.

I put her on her feet as we got to my car.

Her:Damn they are already taking pictures.

Me:You are going to be famous.

Her:As if I want to be famous.

.....

Her:I love this house.

Me:Do you want it?

She looked at me and laughed.

Me:What?

Her:If I call you Xavier-

Me:I feel like giving you my house,my cars and cards along with their pins.You remember that?

Her:I thought you were drunk.

Me:I am very touchy when drunk.

Her:Stay sober then Xavier.Where is Mama Nolu?

Me:On leave.Can I get you anything to drink?

Her:Creamed coffee specific.

Me:Be comfortable.

When I came back she had her earphones on sitting on the couch typing on her phone.She looked at me before singing.

"Remember those walls I built?

Baby they are tumbling down

And they didn't even put up a fight

And they didn't even make a sound

I found a way to let you in

But I never really had a doubt

Standing in the light of your halo.

I got my angel now.

It's like I've been awoken.

Every rule I had to break it.

It's the risk I'm taking

I'm never going to shut you out

Everywhere I am looking now

I'm surrounded by your embrace.

Baby I can see your halo

You know you are my saving grace"

Okay it is okay to blush once in a while men, especially if a woman sings for you pouring her feelings out for you.I put the cups on the table, pulled her earphones before leaning towards her.

Me:I am going to kiss you for real this time.

Her lips were so warm,tasted like oranges, they were soft and addictive.I moved back and looked at her as she stared at me blushing.

Me:Me siento in poco incômodo al sacarel tema,pero te quiero.(I feel a little uncomfortable bringing this up,but I love you).

Her:Back to sender whatever you are saying.

I smirked.

Her:Oh no! What were you saying?

Me:I love you.

She looked at me before kissing me again.

Her:And I,Bathabile Paris Boikanyo,love you too. XAVIER

Me: Happy birthday.

Her:Leave me alone.

Me:Breakfast in bed?

She opened her eyes and looked at the tray.

Her:I am awake.

Me:Kiss me.

She did surprisingly.

Her:Can I eat my food in peace?

Me:No thank you.

Her:Thank you.

Me:I have to go shower and you will follow, I am taking you out.

Her:I am not taking a bath.

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When I came back from the shower,she was sitting on top of the bed in my one of my t-shirt, on her phone.

Me:Aren't you washing?

She looked at me, from my face to my stomach.

Me:My face is up here Paris.

Her:Yeah,yeah I know that.

Her tongue touched her lower lip as she went back to staring at my stomach.My eyes followed every little movement she was making,this was getting out of control.I stepped closer to her, I pulled her face closer letting my lips touch hers.I took the phone and put it on the floor before gently laying her back on the bed.

Me:The moment you feel uncomfortable, tell me okay?

She just nodded.

Me:Look at me, it's me okay?

I lowered myself on top of her, I could feel her temperature rising,her nipples poking my chest.My teeth raked down her throat,nipped her shoulder.

Me:Are you sure?

Her:Yes.

If I wasn't close I wouldn't have heard a word she said to me.I tugged on the t-shirt, pulling it up,her hands involuntarily tried covering her from me.I pulled them apart.

Me: Look at me.

Her eyes were glassy,her chest going up and down.

Me:Do you want me to stop?

She shook her head before taking deep breath.I yanked the t-shirt and threw it on the floor.Her breast looked beautiful as my teeth tugged her nipple, making her squirm and clench her thighs together.Her nails sank on my back as I sucked her nipples.I pulled her thighs apart before getting between them, I pulled her panty up as I continued kissing her.I wrapped her legs around my waist before going back to kissing her.I unwrapped the towel around my waist,she closed her eyes making me chuckle.I bit her lip making her open her eyes.

Her:Ouch.

She winced when she felt me on her entrance.

Me:Look at me.

She was too tight as I entered making her scream a little,she was breathing heavily as I waited for her to register what I was about to do.She was so hot as I pounded in and out of her,her sweat moans echoing in the room.

Me:Fuck!

My teeth scrapping back and forth on her neck,taking several hungry bites.I was driving deeper and deeper even I felt her nails dig way too deep on my back.

Me:I love you.

Her:I love you too.

I couldn't help myself but join her in moaning, this love making was going to be a memory stuck in my brain forever.She tightened her thighs again, pulling the blanket moaning louder.Her walls locked me in as I could feel myself hitting climax.Her body clamped down as she cummed, I followed.

Me:Damn you baby,mi pequeño guerrero.(my little warrior).

I grabbed the towel from the floor wiping us both.I waited for her shudders to calm and for her breath to be under control.I allowed her legs to drop on the bed.I stroked every inch of her,as if I was painting her with smooth brushstrokes.I lowered my body over hers.I rubbed my body along hers, I kissed her again.I nibbled on her nipple before making my way to her stomach.She was already wet when I got to her,she pulled the sheets as my tongue worked its magic on her.

Me:Can I buy you a house?

She chuckled.I took my time devouring her burning core

I could feel my dick getting really hard again.I pulled one leg,yanking it over my shoulder,so fast and thrusting so fast.She half moaned and screamed as I thrusting in and out of her.Her walls clenched so fast.

Me:Let it out my love.

She grabbed my arm before letting herself cum on my dick.I pulled out cumming on top of her.Damn I was even sweating,her eyes were closed as I dropped next to her.I wiped us before pulling her closer and covered us both with a blanket.

Me:Te amo.(I love you).

She nodded as she laid her head on my chest.Damn I am in love.

MANDY

I looked at the pictures with tears on my eyes.

Her:I am sorry.

Me:How could he move on just like that!With her on top of that?He said I wasn't suppose to worry but look at this,he made a fool out of me.

Her:I am sorry.

Me:We were even,he cheated and I did the same but he just leaves me.He can't do that!

Her:What are you going to do?He can't leave you for a black girl.What the hell?

Me:You know what I am going to prove to him that I do love him and I am not letting him go, I am not losing him over some black fat Barbie girl,an ex prostitute for that matter.I am going to make sure he realises how much we are in love with each other.

My sister looked at my best friend then me before shaking her head.

Nita:I can't believe in 2020 we still have racists, women who belittle other women and drag them for men.

Me:What are you saying?

Nita:Now I understand why men turn us against each other,we have you with this mentality that we are above other women.

Her:Juanita if you don't want to talk, you can just shut up.

Nita:You are trash,both of you are trash now I understand why Xavier left you.

Me:Why wou-

Nita:I am not the other woman,slap me sister and I will show you what I do to people like you.You are toxic, stupid and racist, can't believe you are my sister.Bloody racist!

She walked out banging the door.

Me:That was a mouthful.

Her:You think?So how are you going to get your man?

Me:I am thinking.

Her:How about offering him a quickie in his office wearing his favourite lingerie?

Me:That is not a bad idea actually,let me try that.

MATEO COSA

Me:I am doing fine Ma.

Her:Have you spoken to your father?

Me:I did.

Her:Mateo,my son don't follow on your father's steps.

Me:Mo-

Her:No,no, I need to tell you this.I made a choice to stay with your father because despite everything he is doing he is your father and he could have taken you away from me.You saw how he treated me.I don't want you to follow his footsteps because they will destroy you,look at me I can't even go out because left ,right,there are enemies.I am trapped in a loveless marriage.Do you want to put someone's daughter in danger all the time?

I suddenly felt guilty,she thought I was different from my father but she was wrong.

Me:I am sorry Mom.

She paused, trying to understand why I was apologizing.

Her:Mateo don't tell me you have fallen in one of his traps, please don't.

Me:I had no choice.

Her:Mateo!Mateo Rodriguez!How could you?You made a promise!What is wrong with you?Your brothers are lying six feet for listening to your father,now look at you!

Me:He said he would let you go.

Her:You believed him?Are you stupid?What happens between me and your father is our business, I have done my best to make sure you are not affected by it,then you go your own way to destroy that.I should have been infertile,all of my children want one thing in life to die young.I wash my hands when it comes to you,all I have to do is hope Briana would do her best not to follow your footsteps. PARIS

Him:Choose any.

Me:I didn't ask you to get me anything though.

Him:Woman just choose.

Me:I don't want to Xavier.

Him:It still your birthday, come on choose something.

Me:So?Seeing you is present enough Xavier.

Him:I know I did you good this morning but I want you to choose here,simple or I will choose.

Me:Cocky bastard.Which one?

Him:Grey?Black?

Me:Gold.

Him:Why did you ask in the first place?We will be taking the gold one.

So I am about to own an iPhone?It should be my birthday everyday then.My phone rang and it was an international call.

Me:Hi.

Mateo:Hey.

Me:Oh no Cosa what do you want?

Mateo:Was just checking up on you.

Me:Why would you out of all people check on me?

Mateo:I like you a lot.

Me:Isn't that just cute Mateo? Look I am very busy, I need to go.

I dropped the call and went to stand next to Xavier at the counter.The cashier literally grinned at us.

Her:You children are so beautiful together.

Him:She is beautiful.

He kissed my forehead.

Me:I thought you were only buying a phone.

Him:The laptop comes with the phone.

Me:You are lying to me.

Him:Please accept them, pretty please.

I just sighed and leaned on his shoulder.

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When we arrived back at the house,we found a car parked in front of the gate.

Him:This is going to be a lot worse.Let's go.

He parked his car on the side,the gate was already opened.I carried the phone as he carried the box of the laptop.The moment we opened the door,there were rose petals on the floor.There were people decorating the dining room.

Me:What is going on?

Him:I wanted to do something nice for you but we are about to face something.

As if on cue, I heard footsteps,Mandy came down in a black lingerie.She looked shocked to find both of us standing there.Oh dear!

Him:You are getting stalker ish Mandy.

Her:Xavier we love each other, please don't let her get between us.

Him:Her? Serious?I am letting you go nicely but you are making this hard for me.

Her:Why would you choose a prostitute over me?

A slap echoed, for a moment I thought he slapped her then I realise it was me.

Me:Say it again and I will show you how black girls deal with people like you.You sound petty and obsessed.

Her:You are going to let her slap me?

Him:Babe don't you want to punch her on the eye?Then scream first so she gets arrested.

Me:That is a very good idea my love, please hold her for me.

Her: I get it she just fresh when you get tired I wi-

Him: Guards never ever let this woman in my house.

They dragged her as she screamed for him.

Me: I feel bad for her.

Him: You are a woman I get it.

Me: Is she going to leave us alone?

Him: I will make sure of that, so our dinner is going to be ready so how about a shower?

Me: I am too tired.

Him: I am here.

He picked me up.

Me: Really?

Him: It is all because I love you.

Me: I love you.

Him: Are you sure you don't want a house?

Me: I want it when I turn 21 and a baby as a cherry on top.

He gasped in shock.

Him: You want my baby?

Me: With your genes! Hell yes!

Him: Then I will give it to you. I think I am in heaven, there's no way someone could be in love this much.

Me: Maybe we are in a dream

only the Lord knows.

HUNTER SANCHEZ

Me: Get him and his four associates to come here.

Him: Yes Boss.

I sat waiting for them to come, they walked in with handcuffs on their ankles and wrists.

Me: Gentlemen.

Mosia: Ah this I have to hear. Why would you be here visiting me?

Me: You know my wife doesn't even know I am here.

Mosia: Are you here to tell me about your wife Mr Sanchez?

Me:When I realised that you are working for Rodriguez I realised I had to do something about it plus I like Vorcan, he is a good kid making a difference.

Mosia:Again why are you here?

Me: You are too cocky for someone who is about to die.

He froze.

Mosia:What is an Italian doing in black people business?

Me:Shona poured his heart to me that's why plus I don't like you at all.Rest in peace gentlemen.

I stood up and headed to the door, I guess they were confused or didn't believe anything I said.The policemen standing outside got in as I walked out.

Me:Make it rain.

They nodded closing the door, I heard the shots as I stood outside.It went silent, I opened the door and looked at the five dead bodies.

Me:Make sure Mosia's wife is dead too.

Him:Yes Boss.

I dialled the number on my phone.

Me:Consider what you asked done, I am sure by tomorrow it will be plastered all over the news.Pleasure.

MANDY

Me:He kicked me out!He was with her!

Nita just sat watching me as I cried.

Nita:Call your best friend Anneliese.

Me:Why do you have to be mean?

Nita:You attacked a woman who was kidnapped with her sister and sold to human traffickers.

Me:What are you talking about?

Nita:You see you are ignorant!You listened to Anneliese without checking what she was talking about.That girl is a victim of men's cruelty and then we have you.Xavier fights for women like her,why would he take your side when it comes to her?I told you that friendship of yours with that girl is toxic but what do I know?After all I was practically raised by a black woman.

Me:You are just trying to make me feel bad for wanting my man.

Nita:I hope he gets you arrested for stalking and harrassing his girlfriend.Heal sister and move on.Aren't you pregnant?Is this why you are pretty?I feel sorry for that child,she or he will be raised to believe that everything is entitled to him or her.

Me: Get out!

Nita:With pleasure sister.

I looked at her as she walked out ,swaying her hips on the side.

MATEO COSA

I looked at the pictures of her smiling for him, I couldn't even sleep because he was haunting me.I couldn't find sleep as I could see his blood all over the floor, I killed him in cold blood.The first time I killed someone yes I felt guilty but as I continued I stopped feeling bad but this time was different.I killed someone's lover,that someone being the one I am in love with.

Mom:She is beautiful.

Me:She is.

Mom:Is this why your father managed to threaten you?

Me:Yes,he said he would leave her alone.

Mom:You know he is going to do the opposite.

Me:I just keep believing him, thinking just maybe.

Mom:I also thought I could kill him.

Me:What?

Mom:I think I forgot to iron my dress for the funeral,let me check that out.

I watch her half run back inside the house. Did she just say she wanted to kill Rodriguez? XAVIER

News Reporter: Five prisoners in Malfoy Maximum Security prison were found dead in their cells. One of them happens to be the ex premier of Gauteng, Dr Zweli Mosia who was sentenced months ago to four life sentences in prison for human trafficking, kidnapping and embezzlement. The matter is being investigated.

Me: That is what I woke up to, this morning.

Liam: Who could have done it?

Me: I have no idea, they beat us to it.

Liam: So I last saw you three to four days ago.

Me: Your point?

Liam: You are trending.

Me: I don't follow gossip columns.

Liam: Everyone is literally on your side one hundred this time.

Me: What are you talking about?

Liam: They are happy that you are dating a black girl, a beautiful exotic black goddess.

Me: What can I say? She is beautiful and exotic.

Liam:Where is she now?

Me:Are you trying to tell me you didn't see her?

Liam:Where?

Me:I will be back right now.

I walked out of my office,Paris laid on the couch with her earphones on,she was reading a book.I lowered myself and kissed her forehead.

Her:No,Xavier you are disturbing me.

Me:Liam wants to see you.

Her:Why?

She rolled her eyes and got up.

Her:I was reading just fine without you annoying me.

Liam:Where was she?

Me:On the couch outside reading.

Her:Hi Liam.

Liam:Hi Ris,I see you are still around.

Her:Only less than three days before I have to go back to Brits.

Liam:You saw the news?

Her:Yes I did and they got what they deserve even if it might make the Brazilian pissed.

Me:We were thinking of finding way to stop him by going to Brazil.His son also studies on the same university as Ris and he has a crush on her.

Liam:You want to threaten a drug lord with his family?

Her:Him and his son don't exactly get along at all,he would do anything not to turn out like him.Anything.We just have to put him in the right direction.

Liam:You want him to kill his father?

Me:No,no we want him to be the one destroying him.As you can see we can't get to Monte but we can get to his son and wife.

Liam:You want to threaten the son not Monte,oh I hear you.That means you have to make sure you are not being followed when you are leaving because he will know.

Her:That is easy.Trust me I lost them many times and they still have no clue how.

I smiled at her as she grinned,she looked at me and winked.

Liam:I am right here.

Me:I know.

Liam:Let me leave before you both strip each other while I stand here.

MONTE RODRIGUEZ

Me:I want to know what happened?

Him:Sir they don't want to give us information except it is someone far worse than you.

Me:Who could be better than me?

Him:I don't know Boss.

Me:How on earth do men get multiple gun shots in prison and no one knows anything?Where is the girl?

Him:She is in Cape Town.

Me:She couldn't have got someone to do this.

Him:We have tracked their movements.

Me:Their?

Him:Her and Xavier Vorcan, they are a couple.

Me:What?

Him:The media says so.

Me:Do you know that the media would do anything to create a story that can sell?I thought you had proof.Get proof damn it!!I don't want assumptions

Advertisement

I want hard proof not these stupid hearsay of yours.

I dialled Monte's number.

Monte:What do you want?

Me:Is that how you talk to me boy?

Monte:I will talk to you anyway I want.

Me:I don't mind breaking your mother's few fingers for that attitude.

Monte:Go ahead break them Father.

Me:There is something I need you to do.

Monte:Who do you want dead now?

Me:Xavier Vorcan.

Monte:Are you trying to get me killed Father?

Me:They should have made a deal with me and none of these people would have died,it is high time they know what I am capable of.That little girl is a nuisance.

RETHABILE (RIRI)

I sat in my new office, finally my dream of having an auditing company was finally coming true. I grimaced when I see the scar on my wrist making me the shirt to cover it. I am trying my best to forget what I went through but sometimes I can't help, I ask God everyday to help me. I look at the frame sitting on my desk, my family smiling at the camera. They are my strength even though I have hurt them a lot.

PA: Sister Boss your meeting is on the way.

Me: Let him in then and please offer him at least a drink, this is a potential shareholder or major client.

PA: Yes Sister Boss.

I try to take a deep breath as I try to think about what I am going to say. The door opens, I look up and the words get stuck in my throat. This man is beautiful.

Him: Good afternoon Miss Boikanyo.

Me: Um Mr Beoana afternoon.

I was expecting an older man not this breathtaking beautiful man before me.

Him: Are you okay?

Me: Sorry I am just nervous.

Him: Do calm down Miss, starting a business can be a stress but you have come so far for someone who just started.

Me:I am trying.

He unbuttoned his jacket,his shirt was half buttoned showing the broad chest.

Him:When I saw it, I knew I had to come here.I need someone who can audit my books plus I would love to invest in a business like this.

Me: Actually I just happen to be planning to sell forty percent of the shares since I am the sole owner.

Him:Please email the prices, I want twenty percent of the shares.

I looked at him shocked.

Him:What?

Me: I don't mean to be rude but how old are you?

Him:Old enough to be your husband.

I chuckled.

Him:And you are young enough to be my wife, that is all you need to know.

Me: It's just that I think I expected another Beoana not you.

Him:My father is the one you were talking to, I was handling other businesses but then I checked you out, I knew I had to meet this breathtakingly beautiful woman.

I am blushing because of a stranger.

Me:So I will send the email.

Him:I forgot to introduce myself.

Me:Rethabile Boikanyo.

He shook my hand sending tingles all over.

Him:Uzile Beoana,in case you decide to stalk me I have a twin,a girl well a queen.

Me:You lie.

Him:I just happen to look like her.Nice to meet you Rethabile.

I was smiling like an idiot while my brain was saying I must run. 41.SEASON FINALE

PARIS

Me:Hi.

RiRi:Hi.

Me:And then?

RiRi:Look at this.

Me:It is a man?

RiRi:He is a twin to her.

Me:Queen Diamond Zalem, that means he is Uzile Beoana.What about them?

RiRi:I am the only one who doesn't know him,he is about to own twenty percent of my company and he is hot.

Me:Heh? RiRi you like him?

RiRi:I don't know maybe but I am scared.

Me:I know but be true to yourself,he might be your soulmate.

RiRi:I know but the fear is uncontrollable.

Me:You need to ask God to remove this load on you and trust me He will,that man is capable of doing the impossible, I attest to that.

She hugs me.

RiRi:You smell like a man.

Me:Let go of me Rethabile.

Riri:Atha was right,she called me few days ago saying you were trendi-

Me:I need to prepare for tomorrow.

RiRi:Did you use a condom?

I swear I saw stars in my eyes as I realised my very first big mistake with Xavier.

Me:Riri I didn't do that with Xavier,come on.

Riri:Did you guys sleep on the same bed?

Me:Yes but we did nothing, I can't be pregnant.

RiRi:You can't be pregnant? Bathabile you slept with him?

Me:No!! am saying I didn't sleep with him because I don't want to be pregnant.

Riri:You would have used a condom mos.

Me:Leave me alone!! am dead worried.

RiRi: You slept with him without a vondom, didn't you?

Me:I can't be pregnant,no,no I can't be.

RiRi:Lucky you I am going to town I will get you a pregnancy test.Serves you right, clearly you lose your marbles when it comes to Xavier Vorcan.

My phone rang, speak of the devil and he shall appear.

Me:Xavier.

Riri stood up laughing and left.

Him:You don't sound happy.

Me:Are you trying to get me pregnant?

Him:Yes.

Me:What the fuck?

Him:I want to make you pregnant.

Me:No,no I don't want a baby now.

Him:If it comes are you going to kill the baby?

Me:No.

Him:Good,if you are pregnant then we will play our parts.

Me:You don't understand do you?I am not ready to be a mother at this age.

Him:I know my love, I made a mistake that is why I made you drink those pills but clearly you forgot.

Me:Ohh those, I did forget them.

Him:You were about to die.

Me:You think?

Him:I love you.

Me:I love you too.

Him:I managed to get hold of Mrs Rodriguez,she is willing to meet with us.

Me:Already?

Him:I want to put this behind us so we can start our lives free.

MONTE RODRIGUEZ

Me:I want you to make sure you track his movements, check out a place he usually spends his time so you can target him.I want a bullet on his forehead.

Him:And the girl?

Me:She will kill herself if she wants to.

The door opens and my personal guard walks in.

Guard:Boss you have a man asking for you.

Me:Who?

Guard:Hunter Sanchez.

Me:That is a shocker,bring him in.

Why would an Italian want to talk with me?The man walks in,there was something dark about this men even other mafias are scared of him.

Me:Mr Sanchez.

Him: Surprisingly you know me but you are messing with my people.

Me:I would never do that.

Him:Why are you keeping tabs on one of my own?

Me:Who?

Him:Paris and Xavier.

I try to contain my surprise.

Me:They don't work for you a-

Him:Someone asked me to protect them and you are pissing me off going after kids.

Me:I-

Him: Mateo and Briana Rodriguez your kids right? You happen to love Briana way too much, imagine her in a coffin.

Me: You are making yourself unnecessary enemies.

Him: Call Briana, Mateo and your wife now Monte.

I looked at him before calling my wife.

Man: Hello.

Me: Give my wife the phone.

Man: No I can't do that.

Him: Put it on speaker. Erin?

Man: Hunter?

Him: I just wanted to prove to Mr Rodriguez I know how to trap a man like him. Monte I have them and you will do me a favour unless you want to die.

Me: What should I do?

Him: Go back to Brazil, confess to your crimes so you can be sentenced to death.

Me: Never!

Him: Prepare three coffins, you have ten hours.

He stood up and walked out. I pushed the table in anger, making it fall with everything. I looked at the broken glass as I tried to call my family, same men answered their phones. No, No!

Me: Do not just stand there! Cancel the hit on Xavier Vorcan! Damn it!

XAVIER

I look at her pictures smiling, damn I am in love with her.

PA: Mr Vorcan you have a visitor.

Me: Who?

PA: Miss Mandy.

Me: Let her in.

Mandy walks in wearing a coat, the moment she close the door, she drops it on the floor showing her black thong. My dick got so hard, I think I will be on this chair for hours. I pick up the phone.

Me: Security get to my office now!

Mandy: Come on Xavier

you do feel the same please.

Me: Did feel the same, point I did that was ages ago.

Mandy: You love me Xavier, you do.

Me: Security make sure she never enters my building again or you will be fired.

Mandy: Xavier please! Let go of me! I will walk, this is not over and you will choose me not her.

Me: Women.

I can't believe I got turned on because of her. Damn! My phone rang, it was an unknown number.

Me: Hi. Hello? What the hell?

All I could hear was silence through the call, so I just dropped it.

.....

I looked at the car following me, it has been doing that ever since I left Stellenbosch. I turned so fast on the left without indicating. The car stopped as other cars blocked its way. I arrived in my house to find two cars parked on the driveway.

Me: This is weird.

I walked inside the house to find a woman and young girl talking while eating.

Me: Hi.

A young man came out of the kitchen and froze when he saw me.

Me:This is weird who are you?

Woman:Bonjour Senor.

I think I came to the wrong house or something is very wrong with my eyes.I watched Mama Nolu came with the coffee.Before I could ask more questions Mr Sanchez walked in talking on his phone.

Him:Xavier I have been waiting for your arrival.

Me:Okay I am not sure but am I dreaming?

Him:Meet Mrs Rodriguez.

Me:That should be Mateo Rodriguez right?

I clicked looking at the boy.

Him:I see you already have a problem with him.

Me:He killed innocent people, breaking Paris in that process.

Woman:Mateo what is he talking about?

Mateo:I-

Me:Not so long ago he killed my girlfriend's best friend and boyfriend while preaching to her that he loves her.

Woman:Mateo what?Talk damn it!

Mateo:I was protecting her because Dad wanted to kill her.

Me:Then why don't you stay away from her?You know what you did to her,why insist that you love her?

Mateo:I wante-

Me:Stay away from her Rodriguez because you won't like what I will do to you.

Him:Let's save the anger for Paris.

Me:What do you mean?

Him:She should be here now, I am sure it's the traffic.

Someone knocks at the door, I rush to open.

Me:Ris.

Her:Hey.

I hugged her before kissing her forehead.She looked at everyone before sitting down.

Her:Mr Sanchez is it working?

Me:What is working?

They explained what was happening.

Me:What makes you think these people are working with us especially him?

Her:If he dates goes against he will have to deal with me.Vou matá-lo,bastardo.(I will kill you, I will kill you bastard).

They looked shocked,well I am shocked but this was such a turn on though.

Me:You speak Portuguese?Why don't you learn Espanol?

Her:Not interested.Mateo after this I want to disappear.Se chegares perto de mim ou da minha familia de novo,eu vou-te destruir,entendeste?(If you ever come come near me or my family again,I will destroy you, you understand?)

Mateo:Entendeste.(Understand).

Me:When did you learn this?

Her:I am a fast learner.

Woman:I am very sorry for what he did, I know it won't change anything at all except bring bad memories.

Her:I understand,he made his choice after his father gets arrested,he must also go to the police or I am definitely willing to kill him.

Everyone tensed looking at her.Mr Sanchez answered his phone and smiled.

Him:It seems like a famous Brazilian drug lord has just handed himself to the FBI,confessing to a whole bunch.

We all sighed.

UNKNOWN

I watched them standing outside the yard talking.He looked different and carefree.He did look happy with her making me worried if I still had a chance.The visitors got in the car leaving them standing outside.He kissed her making me grip the steering wheel in spite,he picked her up making her laugh.I guess I deserve this after all I am dead.I drove away and went back to the flat I have been using for the past few years.I found my best friend sitting at the door.

Her:You went to stalk him again?

Me:No, I went to town.

Her:Look at this app, I just track the whereabouts of my car.

Me:I just had to see him,okay?That man was the man that I loved.

Her:You are dead, remember?You think he is going to accept you back?

Me:I will tell him the truth of what happened.

Her:That his parents threatened to kill the woman who raised if you didn't disappear?Are you serious about turning him against his family?

Me:I love him,okay?He loved me,all I have to do is explain why I had to leave,why I had to act dead.I didn't want to turn him against his family, what is buried under the mat does come out eventually.

Her:So the poor man has moved on fallen in love again but he has to deal with you coming back to his life.

Me:This is just another obstacle,our love is way too strong not to survive this.

Her:Was strong until death did you part, don't forget that.You should have moved on but I know nothing.

Me:Oh no I am getting my man back. XAVIER

i stepped out of the car and punched the password.It has two months after Monte Rodriguez confessed leading to his arrest,FBI were still trying to get more proof even though he was facing death sentence.Mateo hung himself leaving a letter of what he had done,Paris and I were doing just fine.We were planning to spend our Christmas together,she was in my house and I went to get something from the shop.I was about to get back inside the car when the car that has been following me pulled over.I dropped my phone on the ground when I saw the person coming out.

Her:Hi Xavier.

I just stood there staring at her in shock.

Her:We need to sit down and talk about this.

Me;This is impossible,Grace you are suppose to be dead not alive.

Her:Your parents threatened to kill me if I didn't leave you alone.

Me:What?You are lying to me!

She took hold of my hand making me freeze.

Her:I had to do what I had to, I paid for lying to you but I never faked my death, your parents wanted me out of your because I was a destruction and your grandmother said I wasn't Spanish enough for you.My aunt got in a car accident as a warning, I had no choice because the only family O had was about to die.I am sorry.

Me:Why now Grace?

Her:I can't live with myself knowing that you still believe I am dead, I can't do that.

Me:Grace I have moved on.

Her:I know you believe that you have moved on but that is a lie you know that.

She kissed me,somehow I stood there frozen yet I kissed her back.

Me:No,no stay away from me!

Her:Our love is strong Xavier, you can't deny that.We will talk.

She went back to the car, I stood there still confused before getting in mine.I parked it in the garage, I try to calm myself down before getting inside the house.

Me:Mm smells good Mama Nolu.

Nolu:Stay wherever you are!

Me:Where is Paris?

Nolu:She is sleeping on the couch,the headaches are back.

I find her sleeping soundly on the couch, I suddenly feel guilty as I look at her.My family was coming over for Christmas dinner,my grandmother and cousins were coming too.I ran to my room to take a shower.

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Me:Babe are you sure you are okay?

Her:The headaches are not stopping.

The door flies open, the twins coming running to Paris.

Me:They completely forgot about me.

Emilia:Such a drama king.

Me:Nana.

Granny:Xavier.

I kissed her on the cheek,my parents walked in looking like they swallowed a lemon.Was what Grace said true?No ways.

Me: Anyway everyone meet my girlfriend Paris,Ris these are the Vorcans.

I pulled her closer as they looked at her,it was indeed a little tense.

Granny:Does she have any Spanish roots?

Me:No.

Granny:Since when do you date someone without Spanish roots?

Dad:Ma he can't decide who he falls in love with.

Granny:Not if that person is out of our culture, I let you do that, I am not going to let you corrupt my grandson.

Mom:I will not let you dictate my son,he will date whoever he wants to date.

Granny:He should have at least dated a woman of colour a-

Uncle:Ma no!This is why we decide not to invite you to our house, you are controlling and judgemental,here in South Africa you can be arrested for those comments.Trust me if you do get arrested, I wouldn't even visit you.

Granny:She looks young too,might just be a gold digger.

I looked at Paris who held her head while looking at my grandmother,well Mom did tell me it was going to be a disaster.

Her:Excuse me.

She swayed as she stood up.

Her: This is not good.

Mom:Paris!

Boom!She fell right after taking few steps.

Mom:Call an ambulance!

I was panicking yet I couldn't move even a muscle.

RETHABILE (RIRI)

We had to take late night flight to Cape Town after Xavier called to tell us about Paris collapsing. Dad was quiet the whole journey while we were panicking. We found Xavier, his brother and parents sitting in the waiting room.

Dad: Is she okay?

Xavier: The doctors are working with her.

Atha: What happened?

Liam: Apparently she has been complaining about headaches and now she collapsed.

Me: She has been having those for ages.

Xavier: So this is not new? I should have known.

The doctors come talking seriously.

Dr: Miss Paris Boikanyo is out of danger but we do have to talk about her condition.

Me: Condition?

Dr: Yes, it is very dangerous for her not to take her treatment considering this stage.

Mangi:We don't know what you are talking about Dr.

Dad:I understand Dr.

Atha:You do?Dad what is going on?

Dr:I thought you already know,let me leave you so he can explain.

Xavier:Mr Boikanyo.

Dad:While she was doing her eleventh grade,she had few problems like blacking out.The doctors found blood clots in her brain but managed to do damage control.Then on her matric year,she would complain about these headaches,her mother suggested we take her to the doctor again, they found those clots again.They were treated fine but they told us to make sure she comes every two months because she might be developing something.First two times we did that until she got kidnapped.Right after your mother's funeral I took her back to the doctor.

He paused and closed his eyes.

Me:Dad.

He opened them looking teary.

NK:The doctor found two tumors in her brain.

I gasped in shock.

Xavier:What is that suppose to mean?

Dad:She could live for plus minus ten years.

Mangi:You all knew and didn't even bother telling us?

Dad:What were you going to do about it?We just lost your mother and you think I wanted to stress you more?Come on Mangaliso, that is my last born lying on that bed.

Xavier got up.

Liam:Xavier!

He ran after him.I just sat down defeated clearly we are never going to be happy.

PARIS

My head felt so heavy when I woke up,it was silent in the room because I was alone.I remember falling down after I felt too exhausted.A nurse walked in and smiled.

Her:Thank God you are awake.

Me:How long have I been sleeping?

Her:Eleven hours.

Me:Half of a day,is there anyone outside?

Her:Yes my love, your boyfriend already left after finding out why you collapsed.

Me:Ohh? What is going on with me?

My father walks in followed by my siblings.They all felt uncomfortable as they didn't know whether they should touch me or what.

Dad:Baby.

Me:What is wrong with me?I know you know but you did not want to tell me.

NK:You have a tumor well two to be exact.

I could see my whole world collapsing so fast as I understood what they meant.

Me:How long do I have?

Atha:Bathabile.

Me:Oh no this is reality and most probably what will happen to me.

Dad:The doctor said if you are not treated right you might have less than ten.We just have to hope that the specialists coming this January will be able to do the surgery.

Me:Wait what?

NK:We managed to get some specialists to come down for your surgery.

Me:How long were you going to hide this?Were you going to lie about the surgery too?

Dad:How was I suppose to tell you?I just got you back now I was about to lose you again.

Me:Can you please leave?

RiRi:Ba-

Me: Just leave!

Mangi:Bathabile!

Me:Leave!You are not the one with the possibility of dying!Just leave, please.

My heart hurt

I can't seem to have peace nothing wants to go right with my life.

"Prayer is the most powerful thing you could ever have".

Me:I don't know Jophiel, I really don't know what I am doing wrong.If love is my strongest point,why do I keep failing.Am I not praying right? Haven't I asked for forgiveness?Am I covered with too much sins for the Lord to see me?

I cried like I never did before, I was scared that I was going to die.I finally kept quiet closing my eyes as I felt sleep wrapping me in a tight embrace.

GRACE

I watched him as he kept drinking sitting on the bar,it was clear that something was wrong with him.I finally stood up and sat next to him.

Me:You are drinking today out of all days.

Him:Wait you are alive,almost forgot.

Me:Xavier stop drinking and tell me what is wrong with you?

Him:So I am really talking to a ghost?Man I loved you but you betrayed me Grace.

Me:Yes I was sent on a mission to get close to you, falling for you wasn't part of the mission.I should have told you about what was going on.I was scared that you wouldn't understand.

Him:I would have understood Grace, I loved you, everyone has their flaws, I wasn't going to use that against you.I would have been mad but I would have continued loving you still.

Me:I am sorry, I am truly.I was scared that your parents would kill my innocent aunt, I didn't want you to think I was trying to turn you against them.

Him:My grandma can be persuasive and my father very lethal if he doesn't get his way, I understand why they did that.

Me:Can you stop drinking?

Him:No.

Me:Let me take you home.

Him:I want to see where you live.

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Me:This is where I live.

I watched him looking around the flat,my brain was telling me to make a move right now but I was scared of being rejected.I stepped right next to him, purposely touching his waist,he turned to look at me,we stared at each other in silence.I stepped closer and kissed him,first he didn't respond but the fact he didn't push me away made me rub my lower body on him.He groaned before harshly grabbing my face and kissed me.I pulled him towards the bedroom as he pulled my dress up, I pulled his sweater leaving him in only his jeans and shoes.I could feel my clit throbbing as we undress each other,he was so hard I didn't know if he was going to fit in or what. He turned me around, pushing my head towards the chair, I balanced myself,he parted my thighs before rubbing me.I could feel myself getting a little excited,he entered so fast and rough, I screamed.He was so relentless and thrusting deeper and deeper.He paused and pulled me up while he was inside, I looked shocked to find a condom paper on the floor.He pushed towards with him still inside.

Him:Bend down.

I did just that as I laid on the bed with my head on the pillow.He pulled my butt out and took hold of my hair before thrusting again.I was moaning, I was screaming the same time as he drove deeper,in some moments he would make want to scratch him.He groaned pulling my hair painfully,he moved removing the condom and tying before getting another.It was clear he wasn't done at all, I laid on my back with my legs trembling as I stared at the huge dick.He pulled both my legs up, pushing them towards my head, I winced when he entered me again,he was going faster and faster like he was angry, despite that he was hitting the right spot,he didn't even let go as he felt me cum.Instead he made me lie on my side before giving it to me behind while we both laid on the bed.He pushed me up so I could be on top with my back before his face.I wasn't going to disappoint, I moved my hips making him groan while he grabbed them.I put my hands on his knees before getting up and down on his dick.

Him:Fuck.

He grabbed my waist helping me to go faster, I screamed because it was a little painful but the pleasure I felt was driving me insane.He turned me around making me go slower, I felt him getting tight inside,he flipped me so fast.He was doing missionary,he thrust so deeper making me scream but he held me down.We stayed like that before he moved removing the condom again.He came back to bed kissing me this time before pulling the blanket to cover us.At least this was a start, I might be getting him back.
XAVIER

I could hear my phone ringing, I wasn't planning to answer it until I heard someone answering. I opened my eyes to find Grace standing there in shorts and bra.

Her: Sorry Miss he is not available at the moment, I will make sure he calls you back when he wakes up.

Me: Who is that?

Her: I don't know how to pronounce the name, here.

My whole entire world came crashing down on me when I saw 'Bathabile'.

Me: Why would you answer my phone? Damn it I should have not slept with you while my girl-damn it.

Her: We did what we did because we still love each other Xavier, denying is only going to make it worse.

Me: Do not tell me about denying! We should never have done this!

I quickly grabbed my clothes and got dressed.

Her: Here use my car.

I grabbed the keys and ran to the car, I was dead.

Me: Liam where are you?

Liam: We are on our way to your house, bra you have a lot of explaining to do because the call was on loud speaker.

Me: Damn it! Is Paris with you?

Liam: Yes she is.

Damn I screwed up when she needed me, I broke her already fragile trust towards men. I was done for!

.....

We all arrived the same time in my house, I was worried because I was driving someone else's car. I walked out as everyone did.

Mom: Whose car is that?

Me: I borrowed it mine had a little problem. Hey Ris.

Her: Hey.

I hugged her. Her sisters literally stared at me with questioning eyes.

Liam: You are dead.

Me: How are you doing?

Her: Much better, you smell sweet.

Me: No, I don't. Let me.

We walked back inside.

Granny: Is she okay?

Mom:You don't care Mother.

For once Granny kept quiet and didn't answer back as usual.I felt uncomfortable knowing very well what I have done.

.....

Everyone eventually left and went to their rooms, leaving me and Paris,it was weird that she wasn't asking any questions at all.

Her:I will have to go for surgery early on January before the tumors spread.

Me:Did they tell you what caused them?

Her:I was born with water in my head leading to many complications.

Me: That is bad.

Her:I am going to sleep.

Me:Let me help you.

Her:What is my father going to say?

Me:What do you mean?

Her:I am sleeping with him.

Me:Oh.

She laughed and got up.

Her:Aren't you just a baby?

Me:Are you going to ask me where I was?

Her:Do I have to ask you?

Me:I mean a woman answered my phone,so I assumed I would be ignored or something worse.

Her:I am not here to fight with you Xavier, I am not here to monitor your movements at all but shower you with what I hold dear,my love.I can't be screaming and shouting about something I don't know, you want to cheat you are free to do that but I did my part,which is loving you.

Damn I felt like she was breaking up with me.

Me:I-

Her:I heard what I heard in that call, even when you asked who was calling.You are the one who is suppose to decide to tell me what happened.

Me:It was one of the waitresses in the bar.

Her:Then it was the waitress Xavier,good night.I love you.

Me:I love you too.

Why did it hurt more?I felt like she was drifting away from me.My phone rang.

Me:Yes.

Grace:I need my car, I am outside.

I quickly grabbed the keys and walked out, I opened the gate to let her in.She stood before me smiling,she grabbed my hand putting it under her jacket,damn she wasn't wearing a panty.

Grace:You could come with me.

Me:Take your car and leave.

She grabbed me and kissed me before getting inside the car.

PARIS

You know that moment you try to hide your anger?I heard everything they said to each other, everyone else heard the part the woman answered then I turned the speaker off, I heard what they said and the woman dropped the call.I should have known he was too good to be true.As I was stood, I heard the front door open, I looked down the stairs to see him walk out.I went to the window and watched both of them standing outside.Damn I was so naive and stupid.He was even willing to lie to my face, I guess this is going to be my second heartbreak when it comes to love.I refused to cry for three months old relationship.I could not believe how naive I had been

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I got under the blankets,my father was on his laptop.I couldn't help the tears falling from my face to the pillow.

Dad:Baby it's okay.

He held me as I cried in pain of what was happening in my life,Xavier just lied to my face and I still couldn't understand why.

Me:It hurts so bad.

Dad:I am sorry.

.....

When I woke up my eyes felt like they had sand in them.We sat in the table in silence,no one said anything as we ate in silence.Clearly something was wrong, everyone could sense that.

Dad:We thank you for your hospitality,we will forever be grateful.

MrVorcan:We will be with you every step of the way,Paris made a change in our son's life.

I could not help myself but let the tears fall.

Atha:Baby what is wrong?

Everyone looked at me shocked.Xavier tried to touch me but I pushed him away, I couldn't hide my emotions any longer.

Me:You purposely decided to hurt me Xavier,man you made me believe in you.Damn I was so stupid.

Mrs Vorcan:What are you talking about?

Me: How many times?

He looked at me shocked and lost.

Me:I thought I would let you tell me by yourself,after I heard you say that you weren't suppose to sleep with her yet you did.I saw you with her last night yet you didn't even tell me anything.It is okay, clearly this is another lesson learnt.Thank you for taking care of me, making me believe in myself again.This is good-bye, I hope and pray that you get what you want the most..

I wiped the tears before hugging everyone, I was done crying when something goes wrong with my life.

ATHABILE

I stared at my little sister sleeping,she was strong,she had grown up so fast and matured.Sometimes I wish I had taken her place.

Me:Baby, you need to wake up,we are in the airport.

She yawned and got up with her blanket.

RiRi:She slept for thirty minutes and she's acting like it was hours.

Her:Time freak.

We laughed as we got out of the car,she was carrying absolutely nothing, that is what happens when Nkanyezi is around.We walked inside the airport.Paris bumped into this guy, sending both of them flying to the floor.

Mangi:Fly!Fly!Paris flies!

Riri:Look at the guy.

Me:He is white and looks very dangerous for my liking.

Riri:Maybe they are soulmates.

Me:Paris can't be falling for another Xavier.

Riri:Not every guy will be Xavier.

NK:Paris is not going to fall for another white man,she can't jump from white to white.

Mangi:She must try black too.

The guy dusted himself in annoyance as Paris picked up her sweets.

Her:You should have watched where you are going.

Him:I should have done what little lady?You fucken bumped me.

Her:Blah blah watch where you are going damn you.

He looked livid as he stared at her picking up her jelly beans.

Her:Look I have to eat them while I got them from the floor and you want me to apologize for bumping,men can be cruel sometimes.

She looked teary as she picked them up, the guy's face softened a bit before pocketing himself.

Him:Lucky you I have them.

He gave her a packet of jelly beans,she hugged him before leaving us behind.

Me:She doesn't even say thank you.

Him:Clearly she's going through something.

Mangi:Let's get going.

.....

Her:Home swee-my iPhone!Oh shit I lost a freaking iPhone.

Me:Let me call it before getting it blocked.It is ringing.

It rang then went straight to voicemail.

Her:Again.

Me:Hello.

Man:Hi Miss, I am sorry do you perhaps know the owner of the phone because she lost it?

Me:She is right here with me actually, I am her sister.

Man:For now,I am out of the country and I will be back in three weeks and I took it with me.

Her:Sorry Sir are you the one I bumped?

Man:Yes.

Her:I need to access some documents in the phone and I can't do that unless you give me permission.

Man:Your phone has a password.

Her:What is your name first?

Man:Julio Caesar and yours?

Her:Paris.Look Mr Julio Caesar I don't want to bother you and-

Man:You need a helping hand little lady, don't refuse it let me do what you want.

Her:Thank you so much.

Me:We will call you back in fifteen. XAVIER[3 WEEKS LATER]

We flew to Mpumalanga for Paris's surgery,her phone was unavailable always answered by a man.I fucked up big time and I didn't know what to do to make things right.I couldn't believe how fast I hurt her,three beautiful months down the drain.We stepped inside the hospital in silence,we found her family sitting outside the room with her lying on a stretcher bed.

Mom:Hey honey.

She looked at us with a smile, she was getting beautiful maybe it is because I haven't seen or heard from her to nearly a month.

Dad:You are doing just fine.

Her:A little nervous.

Voice:I am here!

Atha:He is hot.

I turned to look at the man, I gasped along with my parents as we stared at him,his expression went from smiling to dark as he looked at us.

Mom:What are you doing here?

Atha:We invited him.

Dad:This man is very dangerous.

Him:Hello to you too.

Me:What are you doing here Caesar?

Him:I have been answering your calls for weeks,now you look surprised.

Dad: Give Paris her phone and leave.

Her:Good people you are all here for me not the way around.

Him:Xavier should be worrying himself about Grace being back in his life.She was suppose to stay buried.

Her:Mr Caesar please sit down,Spain is very far.

Him:Thank you my lady.

I wished to slap the smiles from their faces.

Dr:It is time.

I watched as the nurse pulled the the stretcher bed inside the room,it was heartbreaking seeing clenched her fists in fear of not coming back.I sighed before sitting down.

Liam:I am not saying anything is wrong but who is that?

Him:I wouldn't be surprised if anyone didn't tell you about me,rotten apples do get thrown out.

Dad:You did that to yourself Julio,we never made you go the wrong way.

Him:I didn't need your judgement when all I did was protect you Miguel.

Me:From what?

Him:You didn't tell them about how you made a deal with the Russians?

Liam: Russians?

Dad: What are you doing here?

Him:So I guess he only told you about the part I almost murdered his ass,or the time I blew up his car.I was angry that I was the one having to pay for what he did.Your father made a deal to supply Russians with girls,he delivered two times then stopped when some started talking,a new deal was made and I had to work for them.

Liam:I still don't understand who you are.

Him:Look at me and tell me why do I look like your father or even you for that matter?

Me:You also tried to have me killed.

Him:If I wanted you dead, you would have been dead,brother.

Mom kept quiet and didn't say anything.

Him:Did your grandmother tell you she married a Russian?That is why your father made a deal with your grandfather,trust me that is why she wants you to marry Spanish people because she married a Russian mafia who didn't want her but wanted the girls she was harbouring.

Me:This is not what they told us.

Him:The Vorcans and lies, they gave me up so fast without even having to think about and yet they are fighting for damned rights of others.

Mom:What was I suppose to do Caesar?

Him:You should have been my mother not my seller, you didn't even argue with them,Mother.

Liam:Huh?

Him:That's right I am your oldest brother not this twat who thinks the world owes him something.You piece of nothing!Say shit, I promise to kill you this time.

Mom:Julio Caesar please calm-

Him: You dare touch me woman, I will do more than slapping you. I didn't come here for you, don't bother me and I won't kill anyone.

The theatre door opened as a nurse walked out, shouting for another doctor. She disappeared coming back with another. We stood there worried.

ATHABILE

We literally sat quiet as the Vorcans argued with each other, we were shocked that the man was one of them. He was too different, looked very dangerous too, he didn't smile fully

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to be honest he was much worse than Xavier. What worried me is that he didn't even deny trying to kill them. Same time we have been here for nearly half a day and there was no one telling us anything about Bathabile. The theatre door finally opened and finally the doctors walked out.

Dr: The surgery was a success.

We sighed in relief.

Xavier: Can we see her?

Dr: I am afraid that cannot happen, we almost lost her in there. We hit too many complications where she had a seizure, we had to do damage control since she started bleeding in wrong places. We have to make sure she is out of danger before letting you see her.

Dad: Is she going to be fine?

Dr: Your sister is a fighter believe in her.

Julio Caesar stood looking at us, like as if he was reading us or something.

Him:Here is her phone.

Me: Thank you for coming too.

Him:She is a special little lady even though she fell for the wrong Vorcan,Xavier will never stop cheating it's in his blood.A chip off the old block.

Me:This thing called a heart betrays us most of the time make you fall for the worse.

Him:I never fell in love so I wouldn't know.Give her my greetings, I have to go somewhere.

Me:Again thank you.

He flinched when I hugged him, like I was doing a very foreign move.I just needed the hug that's all even if he moved fast.

Me:I am sorry I didn't mean to make you uncomfortable.

Him:I am not used to that.

He clicked his tongue as he went past his family, everyone only noticed now that he had a whole army with him.Mrs Vorcan stared with tears falling down as he walked out.

RiRi:I thought Xavier was it,now I am not sure anymore.

Me:Baby fell for him though.

RiRi:I know that but this guy is all types of danger,yes Xavier looks dangerous but isn't,he is a serial cheater too but I am not saying him and Paris don't deserve a second chance.

Mangi:I am not letting my little sister make the same mistake twice,men don't change unless they love you.Xavier went to that girl knowing very well he just promised to love Paris yet he spent time with the other woman while my baby laid in a hospital bed.What is going to make him change? Clearly her love for him didn't make him stop what he was doing with her.She can forgive but don't go back to him,she is too young to accept that kind of nonsense,whereas if it was vice versa he would have walked away fast too.I refuse to let my sister be subjected to that.

Xavier looked ashamed as he looked down but this was reality of what has happened.

JULIO CAESAR

I sat on my chair spinning around in boredom before taking out my laptop.I stared at the surveillance cameras of the hospital, they were still sitting outside waiting for her to wake up.I go back to the pictures I took from her phone,she was beautiful.There was something about her beside the fact she was in a relationship with my brother.Sometimes I hated when everyone mentioned my surname,my parents gave me to my grandfather because he was threatening to destroy everything they worked for unless they gave me to him to be his successor.They didn't even ask me how I felt and I was just ten years old,confused as to why I had to go to Russia.My grandfather was a ruthless Russian mafia and it still beats me how grandmother fell for him.She is the only one who visited me in Russia,as for my parents I was no longer their son.Grandfather told me everything making me grow up with hatred, I wanted them dead but I couldn't do that.

Voice:Boss!

I closed the laptop and looked up.

Me:Blanco.

Him:She is here.

Me:Bring her in.Hello Grace.

She winced and tried to walk out.

Her:Please I need more time.

Me:I sent you years ago but no Grace, you didn't do what I asked you to do, instead you got in my brother's bed.

Her:No Sir.

Me:Are you trying to say I am lying?

Her:No,no Sir.

Me:Do you have my files?

Her:No Sir.

Me:Why did I send you to Xavier?

Her:To retrieve the files that prove that the Vorcans made a deal to supply the Russians with girls.

Me:Did you get it?

Her:No Boss.

Me:Why?

Her:I fell for Xavier.

Me:I hate dead weight.Blanco give me your gun.

Her:Sir please.

Me:Do not move bitch or I will be shooting your head.

The gun echoed along with her screams, I shot her knee.

Me:Now learn how to crawl back to him.Get her out of my office!

I think I should have gotten those files myself, sending a fucken woman on a mission was a waste of my time.I opened my laptop in anger, I calmed and stared at this young girl before picking up my phone.

Me:Hey it's me,Julio Caesar Vorcan.You are a neurologist right?Good I need you to find me the best neurologists in the entire world,today and I want them to fly to South Africa tomorrow morning.You have ten hours to do that.Good start working.

I don't know what I was doing but this was strange, I destroy people not build them but here I was helping. XAVIER

I looked at the pictures,I tried calling,I tried sending messages instead I got blocked by Paris.Who could have known I could fuck up someone I held dear?I made mistakes of cheating on her, I don't even know which betrayed the other, between heart and lust.In a short period of time I ruined everything by thinking with my dick instead of my head.Someone knocked.

Me:Come in.

She walked inside using crutches.

Me:And then?

Her:I did what I had to do to protect you but you never appreciated any of it Xavier.I got short not because they wanted to kill you, they were sent to kill me not you.I wasn't sent to kill you, I was sent to find the contract your parents made with your grandfather.

Me:I really don't care why you were here, you always fuck up my life every time you are around.First I had to live with the fact you were shot right next to me,now because of you I lost the woman who loved me purely,not because of my money but me, wholeheartedly something you never did.You loved the idea of having me by your side, not in love with me.Grace go back wherever you came from, you are good as dead, please don't come back here or I will be telling the police how you faked your death.

Her:Take me to prison okay? I'd rather stay there than face your brother again.

Me: Security please come and get a lunatic in my office.

Her:You are going to face him yourself,this time there will be no one shielding you from him.You are on your own bastard!!In fact all you deserve to die for everything you have done to people then hiding behind the organisation.

Me:Get out!

Her:You piece of nothing!! I gave up my life for you!! I shielded you from Julio Caesar but you don't give a damn about that!You are trash you bastard!You promised that young girl the world but you couldn't even give her Cape Town, you manipulative bastard!Made her feel like she was the one yet you cheated on her the moment you got a chance just like you did to me.Oh yes I know you cheated on me you conniving bastard!

Me:Where the hell is the security?

Her: You weak bastard!Fuck you pussy!

The security walked in as she stood at the door.

Her:I am leaving you piece of shit, promising girls something you can't afford.You bastard!

She walked out swearing, leaving me with my own thoughts.Some of the things she said were kind of true.

Me:Who am I kidding? Everything she said was true about me.

Liam walked in.

Liam:That was a mouthful.

Me:Nothing but the truth.

Liam:I feel for you brother,the crazy women you have are beyond.

Me:Only Paris didn't go banshee on me.Man I ruin every beautiful thing.

.....

I was driving back home when I came to cross roads, I was crossing the road,there was a truck on my right side waiting for me to cross.The moment I got in the middle it moved so fast confusing me,then I saw the driver,Grace.The truck collided with mine, hitting right on my door,pushing me to the oncoming traffic.My car collided with another as the truck still pushed me, I was trapped,the steering wheel on my stomach.The windscreen fell on me as I could feel myself get a little lighter.I guess I am paying for my sins now.

PARIS

Atha:The video is trending Bathabile.

Me:Trust me I feel sorry for him, I mean no matter how much he hurt me I could never try to kill him.

RiRi:The woman literally said he deserved it because of all the women he hurt.Some women are role models trust me.

Me: Rethabile no!

Atha:Thank you RiRi.

Me:You guys are cruel.

RiRi:I am not about to lie, what you do wrong to someone today will come around one day far worse.

Me:Preach sister!! love you gu-

The intercom rang,we looked at each other.

Me:The Royal House.

They laughed.

Man:Sorry Miss, I have a delivery for Miss Paris Boikanyo.

Me: Who is it from?

Man:It's from The House of Jange Jewellery.

Me:I am coming.

Atha:The House of Jange?

I ran to the gate and looked at the man confused.He looked way to fit and dressed in swag pants to be a delivery man.

Me:You look too dressed to be a delivery man.

Him:How do delivery man look like?

He grinned.

Me: Definitely not like, you are wearing the latest clothes by Nike and damn you are driving an AMG.

Him:You are fast but I was asked to deliver this by The House of Jange Jewellery.

Me:This box looks too big for jewellery.

I signed before taking the box.

Him:Such a beautiful black girl.

Me:Thank you.

He smiled before getting back in his car,the moment it got on the road,the two cars parked on the side of the road followed.Weird.

Me:So guys should we?

Atha:This is a lot!

Me:Heavy too!

We opened the box to find a jewellery box,boxes of chocolates, and a plastic.

RiRi:Weaves?Oh my god they look expensive!

Me:Okay, necklaces and earrings,all sort of chocolates

okay who did this?

Atha:Whoever did this must be my second husband.

Me:There is a card."You mentioned on Facebook that you would love some weaves to cover your short hair,so I got you them,the necklaces and earrings match some of your few dresses, I didn't stalk you, I saw the pictures in Facebook.Chocolates just a souvenir"umm this is weird.

RiRi:Did he leave any name?

Me:VJC.

Atha:Victor Junior Cole.

Me:Vukile Jonas Cele.

Atha:That was good.

RiRi:Vuyani Joseph Cirha.

Me:Hayi,hayi Rethabile.(No,no Rethabile).

Riri:Asimazi nathi nje.(We don't know him though).

Atha: Viviparous Just Call.

We burst out laughing,waking up Siboniso.

Him:Aunty where is Dad?

Atha:To get meat my love.Are you hungry?

Him:Yes.

Riri:Stay still pregnant lady, I will get him something to eat.

These are the little moments I love sharing with my family.Our Easter together in peace.I felt bad for what happened to Xavier but there was nothing I could do about it.Me and him were done, I wasn't sure about checking on him because I couldn't bring myself to feel the pain again.It has been months last time I talked to him,well the last time was in the hospital.I had to accept that me and him were not meant to be.

RETHABILE

We were all sitting chatting and enjoying our Easter weekend.My phone vibrated."Open the gate".

Me:Huh?

I quickly dialled his number in confusion.

Him:I am outside.

Me: Weren't you joking?

Him:No.

I looked at everyone,how on earth was I going to explain this!

Me:I am coming.

I walked out as the gate opened.

Me:One,two,three,four and five!I didn't take him serious, I didn't.

I bowed when the King and Queen walked out.

Her:Don't be silly my love we are here to bow to you.

Me:He didn't tell me he was taking everything I said serious.

Him:You did say that the only way for me and you to be engage is if I come to your home with my family ask your family to let me ask you to marry me.

Me:I was joking Uzile, joking.

Him:We are getting engage today my love, I will always listen everything you are saying to me.

I suddenly realised that I was in my nighty in front of the Royal family.I led them inside with my teeth clenched,damn I was dating a psycho.

Dad:Woah!

Everyone stood up in shock.

Paris:A Royal Family?

That is when they decided to bow ,confused at the same time.

Her:No,no please get up.

They bowed and my family looked at them like what the fuck.

Granny:Get up and make tea for our guests!

Uzile: Actually we have some drinks and other things we would love to share with you.Just show the guards the way to the kitchen.

My aunt, cousin sisters and us sisters got in the kitchen to get the glasses and biscuits.

Paris:What the hell?

Me:I told him what you said.

Atha:You told him what this weird little sister of yours said?I give up on you, I got dumped for listening to her and you did listen to her.

Aunt: Thank you Bathabile, we finally meet her secret boyfriend.

We walked back to the dining room, offering everyone drink and biscuits.

Dad: We didn't even know we were going to have visitors.

King: We didn't even know we were coming here until two days ago, my brother-in-law ambushed us knowing very well the Queen will do it without even thinking.

We chuckled.

Her: Aren't you dramatic Milani? You begged me to help him.

King: Oh love we will talk about this backstabbing in Zalem.

Oh damn these two were just cute.

Dad: What exactly brings you here?

Her: My twin brother fell in love with one of your daughters, he just came back one day saying he has found his wife. As usual we didn't take him serious until he told us that they were in a relationship.

King: A month ago he told us he wants to get married, we thought he was getting ahead of himself until we finally saw RiRi and read her story. Now we understood why. Two days ago he tells us that she said the only way they could be engaged is if he comes here with us and ask all of you for her hand in marry.

Everyone laughed.

Granny: That sounds like the last born of this house, she always gives advices that put people in trouble.

Dad:I have never heard something like this, you have already showed the lengths you would go, to make her happy.I don't need more convincing,go on your knee and propose.

Me:What?

He walked towards me before going on his knees.

Him:I know your mind is trying to find a way to get out of this, you don't want to believe that I want to spend a lifetime with you.I want to try with you, I am not perfect I know but for you I will be an angel.Sometimes I have to wake up and remind you that I am still here and my love is here, I want to do that forever.I want you to face your problems with me on your side, I want us to help anyone together, I want to be with you Rethabile Boikanyo.Believe me when I say I love you.Please continue making me happy and accept my proposal to marry you.

Me:Ye-s.

Everyone clapped as he put the ring on my finger, I was crying because I was happy.I was taking a huge step but I was in love. XAVIER

Dr:Sir we treat those kind of nerves,not replace them, what you are asking us to do is to try and kill you.I am sorry.

Me:Find something!You are not the one stuck on this wheelchair!

My guard wheeled the wheelchair,the nurses looked at me with sympathy, I hated the looks they were giving me.I was stuck on a wheelchair for the rest of my life because of the mistakes I made.Grace pleaded to attempted homicide, I never took her as that type of person, I did that to her.I should have known better, I lost the woman who loved me unconditionally,she was getting more beautiful each day.I guess I assumed she would forgive me the first time I cheated, I guess she knew her worth and wasn't going to stick around and find out if I was going to do it again.Now I had to adjust being on a wheelchair at thirty seven.Who would have known?I found everyone in my house.

Mom:Hi.

Me:What is going on?

Dad:A lot has happened this year Xavier,we have been down a couple of times but we didn't give up.We made mistakes that we are not proud of,we need to learn from them.

Mom:We know we hid a lot of secrets from you, thinking we were protecting you.We were suppose to tell you those secrets so you kids can learn from them.I lost your twin because of those mistakes, when helping someone you have to be careful, you could be taking a snake out of its hole.We did things we are not proud of,not because we wanted to but at that we thought we had no choice.

Dad:Everyone has a choice children,we practically sold Julio Caesar to my father knowing very well what he was capable of.The man was destroying what the Vorcans worked for,we should have stood our ground cause he was just a child.We are not proud of the choice we made because he was raised to kill and ask later.

Mom:I am sorry if I came out perfect yet I wasn't, I blame myself for how Xavier treated all these women.I should have said something instead of shaking my head, I was suppose to yell or scream instead I kept quiet.I am very sorry my children.

Me:It is okay,we are all paying for our sins.

Liam:Well one last thing,we have a guest.

Paris?

Me:Who?

He walked out, this guy here doesn't smile at all,every time I came across his pictures I couldn't believe he was my brother.He looked lethal.

Me:I need to apologize to you Julio for assuming you wanted to kill me.

Dad:Well he did try to kill me.

Him:It is fine, I am fine with everyone.I couldn't kill you because in the end we are all family

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no matter how much we hurt each other,we should never give up on each other.

Liam:Well spoken brother.

His phone rang.

Him:Yes?Have you gotten her size?Umm four dresses,black,umm whatever colour you think will suit her.Make it snappy.

Mom:So?

He looked at us confused.

Him:Why are you guys looking at me like that?

Dad:Who is she?

Him:Oh fashion designer.

Sofia: Designing clothes for who?

Him:We are cool not enough for you to stick your nose in my business.

Ouch.

PARIS

Me:I know you are not a delivery guy for sure but you don't want to tell me who asked you to deliver these.

Him:Miss Paris I follow orders given to me,if I am told not to say anything I don't.

Me:At least one clue.

Him:Dangerous.

Me:That is no clue!Snakes are dangerous.

Him:Tall.

Me:You are tall.

Him:VJC?

Me:Do I know anyone with a name that has v in it?No,okay let me ask about your name.

Him:Blanco.

Me:You are not from around here, your skin is tanned but your hair is silky, means you are from other country.Are you English?

Him:Nope.

Me:Do you speak Afrikaans?

Him:I have no idea what is that Miss.

Me:What do you speak?

Him:English.

Me:And?

Him:English.

Me:But your English is funny.

Him:You should be a lawyer.Let me leave before I let something slip.

He literally ran back to his car as I dragged the suitcase, I wasn't going to return the gifts.I was unfortunately home alone,well my father has been disappearing a lot, RiRi still lived with me and Dad but she went on some business conference.Mangi worked in Gauteng, newlywed too and Nkanyezi was with his adopted son with another future Mrs Boikanyo.Okay all my siblings are in love,Atha on maternity leave with her newborn baby girl.Then me I just finished my first year,three more to come.I have been receiving gifts every two weeks ever since I came out of the hospital months ago.

Me:Holy shit!

I looked at the four dresses, I immediately got dressed, they fitted just perfect.I should be panicking that this person knew my size but I was enjoying this.

Me:Accepting gifts from strangers is dangerous Bathabile.But it's Gucci and-and they are expensive.You will be kidnapped again.Lord forgive me but please protect me.

My phone rang and it was a private number.

Me:I don't work in case you are selling something and I just turned 16,this call is recorded in case you insult me.It is private but my service provider will track you.Hi.

Him:Hello Paris.

I trembled and I don't even know why.

Me:Who are you?

Him:Do the dresses fit?

Me:They do and who are you?

Him:I am hurt you don't even remember me.

Me: Sorry, maybe you slipped my mind.

Him:Julio Caesar Vorcan.

Me:Oh I remember you now, you had my phone which your brother bought.

Him:Should I buy you a new one?I am not sure about using the phone your ex bought you.

Me:Aren't you getting ahead of yourself?For a moment I thought you were a normal person but you sound controlling.Again what exactly do you want from me Mr Vorcan? What is a man your age want

from a twenty one year old? Thinking I will fall for you as I did with your brother?Come on, I maybe be naive but I am not stupid.

I dropped the call in anger.

Me:Men, typically of them.

I folded the dresses back inside the suitcase, I grabbed the jewellery and put it back inside the suitcase.Blanco will be leaving with everything next time.

JULIO CAESAR

The line went dead,she did not.I walked back inside.

Me:Damn it!

Xavier:Are you okay?

Liam:What happened?

Me:Actually let me ask you something.

Xavier:What?

Me:If I were to date one of your exes what would happen?

He kept quiet like he was thinking about something.He stayed for too long and it was getting annoying.

Xavier:I know exactly who you are talking about and I am fine with it,she wasn't mine to keep.

Liam:Who?

Us: Paris.

Paula:Damn I need to talk with her, she is golden.

Mom:Such a sweetheart.

Me: First I met her she shouted at me for the fact she bumped me.She gave me a mouthful.

Dad:You must be talking about another Paris.

Xavier forced a smile, I was just doing human thing asking him otherwise I was going after Paris whether he liked it or not.

Me:Well I guess she doesn't like me that much.

Mom: Unlucky you then. PARIS

Me:You should be able to voice out what you feel.

Lulu:I know but men are unpredictable,one moment they want you and next don't.

Busi:As Bathabile said Lulu, honesty in a relationship makes things light.If he doesn't want to hear what you think or feel,leave him.

Me:For example I kept quiet hoping he would spill everything instead I got"Are you okay?".He pretended like he didn't do anything wrong at all.

Busi: Keeping silent makes everything go wrong,tell him that you don't like what he keeps doing.

Lulu:I hear you guys.

Busi: So you guys I saw this car when I was coming to school-

Me:Another sugar daddy?Busisiwe I wash my hands.

Lulu:What did you do?

Busi:It gets in and I follow, I pretended to pick up something from the ground as he walked out.Oh my lord, I saw all kinds of sexy in one man.

Lulu:I can never be you.

Me:How much did he give you?

Busi:That is the thing,he didn't even notice me,he asked for the BEd department and left.No thank you,worse I am freaking hot today.

Lulu:Someone literally survived your flirtation strategies,he needs a bottle of Bells.

Me:Maybe he is already in love.

Busi:No man should be able to resist this.

Lulu: There's already a man resisting your ass.

Me:I have to see him.

Busi:That is his car.

Lulu:If that is his car then I am helping you.

Busi:He is not that old you know.

Me:You can link us with his friends.

I was left with two and half years before I finish my degree.

Busi:He is coming.

We sat on the ground pretending to talk as the man approached,we were not far from where his car was parked.

Lulu:Paris you are crazy.

Me:Why do I have to crazy? Say Busi you are crazy.

Busi:You are both psychos.

Me:Witch.

Lulu:Busi is a bitch.

Busi widened her mouth and whispered.

Busi:He is coming.

Him:Ladies.

Me and Lulu just continued looking at Busi.

Busi:Gentleman.

Him:Are you really that tired to sit on the ground?

Busi:Very tired.

Him:I heard a very familiar name,a name of one of the most beautiful girls I met last year.

We had to turn,we wanted to know which name.I froze in shock,he looked surprised to see me.

Him:Paris.

Me:Umm Mr Vorcan.

Busi:He is a Vorcan?

Lulu:He heard Paris.You have a lot of explaining to do.

Busi:You will find us in the cafeteria.

Me:Why are you leaving me?

Busi:I am going fishing again, you took my fish remember?

Lulu:I am not fishing!

I watched them as they left me still sitting on the ground.

Him:Let me help you.

He pulled me up,his hand rested on my waist,this was awkward so I moved.

Me:Thank you.

Him:I am not stalking you okay?

Me:Ok.

This was very awkward, I just kept quiet and started calculating trees.

Him:You still beautiful.

Me:Thank you.

This was really hilarious,he was not really talking something I found very weird.

Me:You are staring.

Him:I am trying to understand why I can't talk to you and I want to know why you are not biting my head off like you did.

Me:I can say anything on the phone.

Him:This foreign to me,all these years I used women for sex nothing else.I mean I don't know about relationships.

Me:I don't know about them too, I got burnt in all of them.

Him:I hate explaining myself but I don't know, something makes me uncomfortable around you.Not in a bad way but makes me excited, I don't think that is healthy at all.

One would swear I was talking to a virgin or someone that never fell in love.

Me:Okay you are weird,very weird and um I don't know what to tell you.

Him:Can we sit inside the car?

I hesitated before going around to the passenger door.

Me:Ask your father or a friend?

Him:He said I was in love something I shouldn't do.

He looked like he was in despair, I felt bad because from what I know he doesn't know that much about love.Poor guy looked like he was about to blast.

Me:I know how it feels to only know pain, making it hard for you to differentiate between love and hate.I know you think it is too late for you to fall in love.

Him:Me falling in love?This must be a joke!

I jumped,he looked at me and sighed.

Him:I am sorry-what the hell?I am apologising.

I burst out laughing,he looked at me grinning.

Me:I never met a weird man, you are telling me this and that,most important you are feeling this so you are not sure what is it.

Him:I was fine then I met you, everything changed

Advertisement

damn I even collected neurologists to treat you.

Me:What are you talking about?

Him:You know I caused that accident in Cape Town.

Me:What?

Him:I know you might have died but I had to stop the car,well some woman asked me to do that and I did.The way it rolled I thought you weren't coming out alive.

Me:Jophiel.

Him:You know her?

Me:She is an archangel.

Him: Impossible.

"Her:Both of you are loved which means you are meant to heal each other, your angel let what happened to you so she can bring you closer to someone whom she believed needs you."

Me:Both of you are loved which means you are meant to heal each other, your angel let what happened to you so she can bring you closer to someone whom she believed needs you.

Is it possible I helped the wrong person?I was close alright, I didn't know I had to find him.Somewhat I actually believed that I was suppose to help him.

Him:Huh?

Me: Nothing.Friends?

Him:Okay?

Me:Now what can we do as a friends?

Him:A bar.

Me:I don't drink and I am not a fan of crowds.Tomorrow find a way to my home we are going out to eat,I am sure Blanco will lead you.

I just squeezed his hand,he looked at me shocked, I was just assuring him that I will help him.I don't know what I will be doing but I was determined to make him see what humanly feelings are like.Oh my goodness I sound like a therapist?To thirty something man.

JULIO CAESAR

Me: Which tie?

Blanco stared at me in shock.

Him:Caesar since when do you were ties?

Me:I am going out here with her.

Him:Well she said do not overdress, you are doing that.

Me:I am not sure about wearing this suit either maybe I should change to my jeans.

Him:Really?From what I know about her,she doesn't judge.Calm down and go on the date with your usual clothes.Didn't you say it's a friendly outing?

Me:I know what I said.

My phone rang.

Me:Paris.

Her:Do not come here in your suit, I repeat do not,wear jeans and a T-shirt.

Blanco looked at me laughing.

Me:Okay.What?

Him:Remind me when I was sixteen.

.....

I sent her a message that I was outside. She walked out wearing boyfriend jeans and a vest, looking beautiful as usual. I opened the door.

Me: You look beautiful.

She looked at me and smiled.

Her: You are so gorgeous.

Me: What the hell?

Her: You handsome. Say thank you.

Me: Thank you. Where are we going?

Her: I will give you directions the moment we get to town.

.....

This was crazy, I was being thought by a child on how to talk to people.

Her: Smile a bit I am not going to hurt you.

I looked at her shocked.

Her: You helped me a lot of times and I am forever grateful for that. See? You just smiled.

Me:I certainly didn't.

Her:How old are you?

Me:Thirty nine.

Her:Damn you old.

Me:Says the twenty one year old teaching me manners.

Her:I don't know what I am doing but I believe I was suppose to help you not Xavier, I mean I made a little change in his life but he stayed the same.

Me:Do you wish to go back to him?

That hurt even thinking about it.

Her:No,no I don't wish to go back.The love I had for him disappeared so fast amazing me, I thought I would be mourning but instead I continued like it never happened.

Me:Maybe you were never really in love with him.

Her:Sometimes I think that but enough about him so what about you?

Me:You don't want to know.

Her:Tell me.

Me:Well I grew up in Russia,raised by a bunch of nannies who did everything for me.I went to the most expensive schools there,by sixteen I knew how to use a rifle,by eighteen I already murdered ten people and twenty I took over from my grandfather.

Her:Tell me you are joking.

Me:I was trained to lead one of the most dangerous mafia so I am not joking.Love was weakness and never a strength, I have enemies that would do anything to hurt me but unfortunately they still can't get to me.

Her:Are you saying you never fell in love?

Me:I did on my late twenties but I found out she was fucking me up so I killed her.

Her:You know what I don't want hear anymore of this.

Me:You asked.

Her:Is that why you have soldiers as guards?

Me:Most definitely.

Her:And Blanco?

Me:My best friend.

Her:Can I be your best friend then?

I chuckled,this child was crazy.

Me:He is a very jealous man, doesn't like to share.

Her:Oh no he is going to listen to me.

She got up and stretched since we were sitting on a bench in a park.

Her:Stay here, I will be back.

I watched her as she walked towards the shops.One of the boys who kept glancing at us came and sat down.

Him:Is she your girlfriend?

Me:No.

Him:I used to date her.

This was interesting.

Me:Nice.

Him:A total fat bitch who thought deserved the best.

Something moved in me, I heard screams but I didn't stop as I threw fist after fist.No one was doing anything to stop,some were recording as I beat him up.I felt a soft hand on my back, I turned so I could beat whoever only to see her looking at me scared.I looked at the bloody hands,the boy looking lifeless on the ground, I got up as she pulled me towards the car.My guards were already out for everyone to see.She was carrying a plastic, I realise she went to get us something to eat.I felt guilty as she kept quiet.

Her:Take us where he lives.

Her voice trembled a bit, I felt ashamed that I couldn't control my anger, I could have killed him. JULIO CAESAR

We arrived at the penthouse in silence,Blanco looked at us shocked.

Him:What happened?

Her:Hello to you too.I don't know, I left a second to get us something to eat then I hear screams.I get back to find him beating a hell out of this guy.

Me:Your ex boyfriend.

Her:Wait what?You were beating him for being my ex?

Me:He said something I hated,first he was body shaming you then has the nerve to tell me you were a bitch and entitled.

Her:Beating is not the way to solve things Julio Caesar.

Me:It is what I know best.

Her:Are you going to beat people who say bad things about others?

Me:Yes.Why don't you just spit it out?

Her:Spit what out?

Me:You wish you never went there with me, anywhere for that matter.

Her:I am here, aren't I?

Me:Oh no you are scared that I might beat you up or threaten to kill you, don't worry I won't do anything to you.Blanco will take you home.

PARIS

I watched him disappear down the passage.I couldn't leave at all,yes I was scared but not enough to leave him.He was making progress then that stupid ex of mine had to ruin everything.Why am I still here? My heart couldn't let me leave.Blanco stared at me curiously.

Me:What?

Him:You are not leaving.

Me: Asking?

Him:I can see that you don't want to leave but you are scared to make him more angry,trust me one thing I know for sure he wouldn't hurt you.Let me disappear,down the passage on your left is his suite.

Me:Any first aid kit?

He went to one of the rooms and came back with a bag.

Him:I will see you around.

I walked down the passage, I find the room empty but the clothes were on the floor.I knocked at what I believe was the bathroom.

Him:In.

I find him in the bath tub with his eyes closed.

Me:Do not take too long.

Him: What are you still doing here Paris?

Me:I am not leaving Julio Caesar, you can go hang yourself but I am not leaving.

He opened them and looked at me in shock, okay maybe I shouldn't have said that.

Him:You are scared.

Me:I am only human after all.

He stood up.

Me:What the fuck?

Him:You know how a dick looks like, don't patronize me.

Me:That doesn't mean I want to see you naked.

I walked out of the bathroom with my eyes closed.

Him:I am decent.

He was wearing only boxers,the tattoos provided the dangerous look.

Him:You are staring.

Me:Let me see your fist.

He sat down as I looked at them, they looked fine except the nasty bruise on his chest.

Me:I am just going to rub this part and your fists.

He sat in silence not even wincing as I rubbed him,he was staring at me.I was sweating and I felt a little hot,this was wrong and I shouldn't be thinking about this with Xavier's brother around.I am whore!He held my wrist.

Him:What are you doing to me?Why do I want to do things differently because of you?

I looked at him,his lips were inviting.You know what we will talk about this tomorrow.I stepped between his legs and lowered my face towards his,I kissed him and he followed suit with his hands on my waist.He moved back,laying on the bed with me on top of him.He pulled my vest up leaving me in my bra,he paused and looked at the scars.

Him:Good thing he is dead.

I chuckled a bit,he pushed me up before laying me down.He took my shoes and socks off before getting between my thighs and kissed me.The kisses were mind blowing,he took my bra off before grabbing my nipples,his hot mouth making me moan.I couldn't believe I just moaned because he was sucking my nipple.Did I do that with Xavier?

Him:I am just getting started.

✓48.SEASON FINALE CONTINUATION

JULIO CAESAR

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Him:I am just getting started.

[REMOVED-FIND IT IN THE GROUP SBAJ PALACE]

JULIO CAESAR

Me:What do you mean a whole container was retained?

Him:Someone told the police where to find it.

Me:Silva tell me something,why did I hire you?

Him:To make sure nothing goes wrong?

Me:Now you and your team flew from Cape Town to tell me that one of my containers have been retained because someone is a snitch.

Him: Yes sir.

Me:Blanco can I borrow your gun?

They looked scared.

Me:This is how we are going to do this, you are going to take this gun and you are going all six members of your team dead then shoot yourself.

Him:Sir we-

Me:Blanco make sure they do that and Manuel find me someone to get my container back intact or this fucken South African police will be burying its members soon.

They stared behind me in surprise, I turned to find Paris standing there embarrassed because she was only wearing my shirt whereas I was on my sweat pants. I stepped closer kissing her forehead.

Me: Aren't you just beautiful?

Her: Leave me alone.

Me: Give me a moment I will prepare you something to eat.

Her: Thank you.

They looked stunned by my behaviour.

Me: Blanco make sure they do what I want. Manuel I don't want to hear stories.

JULIO CAESAR

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Me:Blanco make sure they do what I want.Manuel I don't want to hear stories. JULIO CAESAR[6 MONTHS LATER]

Her:I am not saying you need to throw a party in order to celebrate your birthday.

Me:What am I suppose to do?

Her:Let me go with Blanco and I will show you when I come back.

Me:No.

Her:Why not?

She was lying on my chest as we laid on the couch watching a movie.Very cheesy right?After we slept together she tried to avoid me but I didn't let her, I was in too deep and I wasn't going to let her slip between my fingers.

Me:Please stay here, I love having you in my arms.

Her:You asked for it.Blanco!

He came running.

Him:What?

Her:My stomach hurts and I can't move,he doesn't want me to move.

I looked at her acting.Blanco pulled her up and brushed her stomach.

Him:Are you pregnant?

She paused and looked at him, she pushed him away.

Her: I was just removing him from me.

Him: What?

Me: She wants to go shopping for me.

The intercom rang.

Me: Yes?

Voice: Sir your family is here.

Me: What?

Voice: Yes Sir.

I looked at Paris who looked stunned.

Me: Let them in.

Now I didn't know how this was going to play out, Paris was here with me in Cape Town and none of them knew.

Them: Happy birthday!

I just chuckled as they sang, our relationship was improving well they didn't know it was all because of Paris.

Liam:Paris hi.

Everyone looked at her shocked to see her,well this is going to be the longest weekend of my life.

Mom:I didn't know that you were here.

Me:So Paris you were saying?

She looked at me confused.

Blanco:The shopping.

Her:Where are my shoes?

Me:Here.

Everyone looked at us confused,as if on cue Xavier drives in with his wheelchair.

Him:Paris?

She literally looked at him like a normal person.

Her:Oh hey Xavier, please let me pass I have some shopping to do.

Paula:For the birthday boy?I am coming.

Actually all the women literally decided to all leave.

Dad:Are you and Paris in a relationship?

Me: For the past thirteen months.

Him:What?I didn't take you serious the first time, I thought you were joking.

Me:Why would I joke with you?

Dad:Caesar no.

Me:It is the truth.

Him:Paris just jumped from brother to brother.

Me:The last person who said something close to that laid in hospital for a month, I don't think you want to lose your hands.

Him:I am in this wheelchair because of you,Grace was sent by you.

Me:So I also sent you two feelings for each other?

Dad:Can we calm down?

Me:Oh no I want to hear him shift the blame to me.Did I also send you the mentality to use women?Why are you quiet brother?You lost Paris on your own,on the same day she needed you the most you cheated on her.I made you do that?

Him:My life would have been better if you didn't send that psychopath.

Me: Yeah I did now what are you going to do about it?

Him: I should have hunted you like the dog you and killed you damn it.

Me: Says the pussy stuck on a wheelchair for the rest of his life, you are selfish brother. You cheat and expect women to forgive you but when they do that to you, I mean you don't even consider listening to them. Unlike you I own up to my mistakes.

PARIS

Sofia: So you and Caesar?

Me: Um.

Paula: I don't care what my brothers do, I don't care if they marry the same girl but I love this child here.

MrsVorcan: My only worry is Xavier's reaction towards this.

Maria: He ruined everything by himself Ma, you can't keep condoning his behaviour. He cheated on a woman he said he loved, damn we believed him. What if Paris's real soulmate is Caesar? And in order for them to find each other was through Xavier?

Sofia: I mean look at me for example, I dated the nephew and ended up marrying the uncle. We can't avoid the people we are meant to end up.

MrsVorcan: Julio is a trained assassin and Xavier acts blindly when angry.

Paula:Let them kill each other then.

We got everything we wanted before going back to the house.Xavier sat in silence,Julio looked pissed and everyone looked uncomfortable.I went to the kitchen trying to avoid this issue.

Him:There is no way that you love my brother, you are just getting back at me.

Me:Really? You think what I am doing is to hurt you?My life didn't end with you Xavier.

Him:Explain this,why him?

Me:I realised a lot of things with him, I noticed you never loved me Xavier.

Him:I loved you!

Me:You didn't even blink twice before cheating on me on Christmas day

then you lie to my face.You know what is worse?You told your sisters that I blocked you,Xavier you didn't even apologize what you did to me.You thought I would come back asking why but I didn't.I know what my sister went through after begging a man.You did me wrong, not me.

Him:I love you.

Me:That is funny Xavier, you want to destroy me more, you just cannot let me be like you never existed.If your brother cheats too, I won't be asking no questions I will leave him too.

Him:You cannot date him!You can go for anyone else but not him.

Me:Why not him?

Him:I know what I did wrong Paris, I regret it and I was wrong for hurting you like that.I love you, I really do and I can't bear the thought of you with my brother,it can be anyone just not him.

Me:You sound selfish and entitled Xavier, your brother deserve to be happy too.I thank the Lord for giving me strength to stay far from you,damn you are not the man I thought you were.You are truly a jackal in a suit, conniving and manipulative,if something goes wrong for you,no one else should get it right.

I packed everything ignoring him.I was about to pass him when he grabbed my hand.

Him:I am really sorry Paris.

Me:You know it is a little too late,get your hands off me.

Julio walked in,he let go before wheeling himself back to the lounge.

Julio:You good?

Me:No.

He hugged me, I took a deep breath and leaned on his chest.

Julio:Now?

Me:Close.

Julio:You are behaving like a child.

Me:Not my fault.

Julio:Guilty as charged.

Me:You are forty,damn you old.

Julio:We should get married.

Me:We should be getting married.

.....

Everything was less tense now,Xavier did talk here and there.We all sat chatting in the dining room.

Julio:I would like to take this moment to thank you all for coming here.This has been a long journey for everyone and we are still learning to be around each other.I had my own therapist all these months making me realise that falling in love was beautiful.Yes I know how Xavier loved her and I am sorry for falling for her, I can't imagine a day without her.She is my strength and pillar,she made me see life in a different way.The age is something that I don't worry about the love I have for her is beyond this world.Come here.

I got up and stood next to him.

Julio:I don't want you to think you have to choose between me and my brother, I know you love me purely.Today I want to go on my knees and ask for your hand in marriage.

I froze, trying to understand what was going on.

Me:Yes.

I whispered making everyone laugh.

Xavier:Can I say something?! I am really sorry for every word I have said, each thing I have done, I realised right now that she is more happy with you.Clearly I wasn't the one her guardian sent her to help.I am really sorry.

He was crying which shocked all of us. PARIS[15 YEARS LATER]

Hayle:You found your happily ever after Mrs Vorcan.

Lesedi:Can I grow up and be like you?

Zayn:So Mam you are saying cheats if someone you should let them go?

Hayle:Come on Zayn you were not raped, you opened the girl's thighs with your eyes working just fine.

Bobo:So Mrs Vorcan do angels exist?

Xabiso: Actually Mrs Vorcan I admire you for the fact that you managed to stand up for yourself.

Greg:X no,she won't like you.

Zayn:Mrs Vorcan is married.

Faith:You have no shame hitting on your teacher!

They started arguing, while I laughed.

Me:Okay guys we have few minutes before school ends,let me say this.Stand true to who you are and you won't have to change yourself to please someone else.In this world not everyone is here to do good some are here to destroy you.Do not keep quiet that is why I gave you my number,hiding pain will destroy you.Thinking you are alone is the worst mentality you could ever have.I am here for each and one of you.Now the school is out.

Them:Goodbye Mrs Vorcan.

Me:Bobo please help me with the books.

Bobo:Yes Mam.

We walked out to my car and put the books on the back seat.

Me:Thank you my love.

Bobo:Welcome Mam.

Me:Here I want you to buy yourself airtime.

Bobo:This is two hundred rands Mam!

Me:I know.Bye.

She looked stunned.

Me:Call me anytime of the day or night.

.....

I park my car outside before getting inside.

Me:I am home!

Lina:Mommy I need to talk to you.

Julian:Lina stop harrassing Mom she's tired.

Me:You guys where is my prince?

Lina:Mom Julian ate his porridge along with Dad.

Me:What?

Julian:Dad said it was nice and you promised not to tell.

Lina:Well too bad.

Julian:Such a bad sister.

Me:Julio Caesar!Where is my baby!

Lina:He is in a meeting with him in the dining room.

I walked in the dining room to find three men with Julio and baby Brandon on his arm.

Him:Mama!

Me: Gentlemen.Baby.

I pick him up and look at Julio.

Julio:I did not do whatever they said I did.

Me:What are you talking about?

Julio:Oh no!Lina,I thought she said she was going to report.

Me:And she did.You ate my child's porridge

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I understand why I always have to buy it all the time.Baby did Daddy eat your food?

Him:With Julio, they said that I was full.

We burst out laughing.

Me:He is going to buy pizza.

Julio: Gentlemen we will talk.

They get up and leave.Julio kisses me.

Me:What?

Julio:I missed you and kids are stress, your fourteen years old Julian asked about sex, your eleven years old asked about periods.And this one has been screaming his lungs out saying he doesn't want me as his babysitter.Can I not pick them up ever again?

Me: You always say that yet you wake up in the morning and take them to school and you pick them up late, you complain when I arrive.

Julio:They are stressful but I don't want to miss one single thing in their lives, I want them to know that I am here.

Lina:I love you Daddy and Mommy.

Julian:I love you Mom,Dad we're cool.

Julio:I love you too Mama's boy.

We hug each other in silence.Here was my happily ever after.I fell too many times but I got up and fought.My name is Bathabile Paris Vorcan and this was my story.

THE PRODIGAL SON IS STARTING ON MONDAY.

IT IS FICTION REMEMBER

.....**The End**.....